

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Feb. 18th

Children's Sunday School, 9 am, Wesleyan Hall

Sunday, Feb. 18th

Adult Sunday School, 9 am, Susanna Wesley

Sunday, Feb. 18th

Sunday Live Worship, 9 am, Prayer Chapel

Sunday, Feb. 18th

Sunday Live Worship, 10 am, Sanctuary

<https://www.youtube.com/user/PiratesoftheColumbia>

(Click the "LIVE" link in the tool bar to see recent worship services, as well)

Monday, Feb. 19th

Church office closed in observance of President Day

Monday, Feb. 26th

Joyce Norman's Memorial, 11 am, Sanctuary

With a reception to follow in Ida Payne

Saturday, March 2nd

Holly Daze Workshop, 9 am, Susanna Wesley

Saturday, March 2nd

George Boice's Memorial, 11 am, Sanctuary

With a reception to follow in Ida Payne

Saturday, March 9th

Pat Phillips' Memorial, 11 am, Sanctuary

With a reception to follow in Ida Payne

Saturday, March 23rd, 9 am - Noon

All-Church Clean Up

See information below

Sunday, March 24th, 10 am, Sanctuary

Palm Sunday Service

See information below

Friday-Sunday, March 29th - March 31st

Easter week schedule

See information below

This Sunday marks the first Sunday of Lent. Some of us gathered in the sanctuary on Ash Wednesday, and heard the traditional invitation to observe the “Lenten Disciplines”: “I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a Holy Lent: by self–examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self–denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.” During this season some of us make commitments to observe those disciplines, others add patterns to their lives during Lent, others find creative ways to shake off the things that so easily find their way into our lives and make it difficult to live as disciples of Jesus. Some took a simple stone away from the Ash Wednesday Service to keep in our pocket as a gentle reminder that God is at work in the world at something bigger than just ourselves.

In my experience Lent can be either a holy and renewing time, or just as easily become a frustrating and difficult season. For me the truth that keeps me afloat during this season is at the end of this season there is an empty tomb. The work of Jesus in us and in the world does not hinge on the fact that I was able to fast from drinking diet coke for 40 days, or that I missed my daily scripture reading 4 days in a row. Easter happens because God loves us! In the story of the Gospel, there is account after account of people falling short, of people buried in misconceptions, in anger, in lies and selfishness. In the penultimate event of the Gospel, even the powers that be put Jesus to death! Even in the moment where it seems all is lost... on Easter Morning... **LOVE WINS!**

During the season of Lent I will be preaching a series entitled “Love Wins!” as we make our journey towards Easter. I pray that as we all take steps to throw off the things that so easily bind us... the things that keep us from fully experiencing God’s love and presence in our lives, we can celebrate that through this journey of Lent... **Love Wins!**

See you in church friends!
Pastor Mark

All-Church Clean Up

There is an all-church clean up scheduled for Saturday, **March 23rd from 9 am to Noon**. We will be cleaning the Sanctuary, kitchen, entry way, Susanna Wesley room, Sunday school rooms, windows, and outdoor landscaping. **"We will have coffee, pastries, and prayer to start at 8:30 am. Actual work will start at 9:00. Sign -up sheets are posted on the Bulletin Board next to the Welcome Desk. Please help our Facilities Team with your time and talents!"**

Palm Sunday

The Palm Sunday service will be on **Sunday, March 24th at 10 am**, and for all who want to participate, there will be a Palm Sunday Parade that meets in Wesleyan Hall at 9:45 am.

Upcoming Easter Week Schedule

Friday, March 29th, Good Friday Service, 7 pm

Saturday, March 30th, Easter Egg Hunt, 9 am

Sunday, March 31st, Easter Sunrise Service, Columbia Park, 6:30 am

Sunday, March 31st, Easter Sunday Worship Service, 10 am