Feb. 1 Jennifer Swanson, Brandon Clark

Feb. 2 Todd Carriker, Roxy Moorman

Feb. 5 Lee Andeway

Feb. 7 Tyler Brockman, Rachel Kelderman

Feb. 9 Jim Veldhuizen, Eloise Sloan, Marcus Messamer, Liam Wilker

Feb. 10 Sharon Staton, Elaine Eveland, Jan Mayer

Feb. 11 Tonia Edmundson

Feb. 13 Angie Shrader

Feb. 17 Stan Herr

Feb. 18 Dave Porter, Amanda Hoy

Feb. 20 Mike Foster, Delia Lahner

Feb. 21 Mily Michel

Feb. 24 Gina Nielsen, Taylen Parker

Feb. 25 Jason Herr

Feb. 26 William Kminek

Feb. 27 Joan Benscoter

Feb. 28 Peg Hook, Rita Hoogheem, Lucy Canfield

Feb. 29 Lylah Hughes



The Finance Committee Report



December 2023 income	\$ 29,363.96		
December 2023 expense	\$ 12,259.55		
	\$ 17,104.41		
Total yearly income	\$323,629.26		
Total yearly expense	\$246,469.87		
	\$ 77,159.39		



January 7 Worship Attendance - 72 (+16 FB)

January 14 Worship Cancelled Due to Weather

January 21 Worship Attendance – 78 (+18 FB)

January 28 Worship Attendance – 96 (+12 FB)

Chimes

Vol. 44 No. 1

January 31, 2024

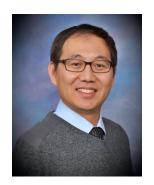




Central United Methodist Church 201 North Market St., Oskaloosa, IA 52577 641-672-2564 centralum201@gmail.com Dr. Rev. Jihoon Lee, Senior Pastor

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

Isaiah 58:6



A Message From Pastor Jihoon Lee

Dear Friends of Atonement.

In a few weeks, we step into Lent, a season of reflection and penance for the church. While mid-February usually exudes feelings of love and romance, the church is poised to reflect on her own faithfulness. In the face of the season traditionally marked by affection, we collectively ponder our shortcomings, acknowledging instances where our love for God and adherence to His will may have faltered. Our thoughts delve into mortality —"from dust you came, to dust you shall return." We also contemplate the sacred sufferings and death of Jesus Christ on our behalf. Let the ashes come!

We are not fixated on morbid thoughts. Our intent is not to dwell unduly on chilling thoughts of our transience, but to engage in a beneficial contemplation of our mortality. This reflection readies us to embrace the life God offers through Christ, fully understanding its profound meaning. Thus, between the day of Jesus' transfiguration and the joyous Easter festival, we embark on our forty-day Lenten journey. This year, our solemn reflection on unfaithfulness, lack of love for God, and mortality coincides with Valentine's Day, adding a touch of irony.

The term "Lent" traces back to the Old English word for "spring." Described as "spring training" for Christians, it serves as instruction in repentance, faith, and holy living. Kept as a time for devotion and self-denial since the 4th century, Lent connects with a forty-day fast leading to Easter.

Today, some Christians observe Lent by sacrificing a comfort or habit, symbolizing self-imposed simplicity—perhaps forgoing a favorite food, quitting smoking, or limiting sweet indulgences. Considering a break from our technology addiction could benefit us collectively. Regardless of our chosen observance, the paramount focus remains on Christ and discerning how He calls us, both individually and collectively, to work for the Kingdom of God, spreading the Gospel of Christ.

Lent extends an invitation to us and all people to return to the Lord our God. As the prophet Joel said, "Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity" (Joel 2:13 NIV). God's grace isn't contingent on foregoing meat on Fridays, nor is His mercy dependent on a 40-day sacrifice. God's grace and mercy flow abundantly through Christ, who sacrificially gave His life for us on Good Friday. As we step into the upcoming season of Lent, let us rejoice in God's boundless grace and mercy, a divine gift revealed through the redemptive work of our Lord Jesus Christ

May you find abundant blessings in your reflections on the humble and repentant nature of the Lenten season, all the while contemplating the immense love God holds for you through the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Pastor Jihoon Lee



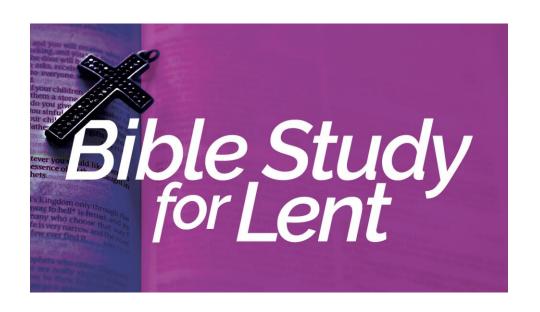


BRING YOUR SPARE CHANGE THE LAST SUNDAY EVERY MONTH

Let us know of worthy causes you would like the kids to consider supporting!!

GREETERS NEEDED

We are going to start having greeters in the Narthex prior to service each Sunday starting February 4th. If you are interested in being a greeter, please contact Elaine Eveland at 641-295-4738 to schedule your Sunday.



02/14 02/15	Ash Wednesday Thursday	Jonah 3:1-4:11 Psalm 102
02/16	Friday	Deuteronomy 7:12-16
02/17	Saturday	Deuteronomy 7:17-26

Week 1

02/18	Sunday	1 Corinthians 1:18-31
02/19	Monday	Deuteronomy 8:1-20
02/20	Tuesday	John 2:13-22
02/21	Wednesday	Hebrews 3:12-19
02/22	Thursday	John 3:16-21
02/23	Friday	John 3:22-36
02/24	Saturday	Deuteronomy 11:18-28

Week 2

02/25	Sunday	Mark 3:31-4:9
02/26	Monday	Romans 1:1-15
02/27	Tuesday	John 4:43-54
02/28	Wednesday	Jeremiah 3:6-18
02/29	Thursday	Romans 2:12-24
03/01	Friday	John 5:30-47
03/02	Saturday	Jeremiah 5:20-31

Week 3

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03/03	Sunday	Jeremiah 6:9-15		
03/04	Monday	Jeremiah 7:1-15		
03/05	Tuesday	John 7:37-52		
03/06	Wednesday	Jeremiah 8:4-7, 18-9:6		
•		Romans 5:12-21		
03/08	Friday	Jeremiah 11:1-8, 14-17		
03/09	Saturday	Psalm 149		
Week 4				
03/10	Sunday	Galatians 4:21-5:1		
03/11	Monday	Jeremiah 16:1-21		
03/12	03/12 Tuesday Romans 7:13-25			
03/13	Jeremiah 18:1-11			
03/14	Thursday	John 6:41–51		
03/15	Friday	Jeremiah 23:1-8		
03/16	Saturday	Romans 9:1-18		
Week 5				
03/17	Sunday	Mark 8:31-9:1		
03/18	Monday	Romans 9:19-33		
03/19	•			
03/20	•			
03/21	•			
03/22	Friday	Romans 11:13-24		
03/23	Saturday	Psalm 31		
Week 6				
Trock o				
03/24	Sunday	Matthew 21:12-17		
03/25	Monday	Jeremiah 11:18-20; 12:1-17		
03/26	Tuesday	Philippians 3:15-21		
03/27	Wednesday	Jeremiah 17:5-10, 14-18		
03/28	Thursday	John 17:1-26		
03/29	Friday	John 19:38-42		
03/30	Saturday	Job 19:21-27a		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
**************************************	FEBRU 2024	JARY		1 8:30- Little Creations PS	2 8:30- Little Creations PS	3
4 Communion Sunday 9:00- Youth Bell Choir 9:30- Worship/KMZN 10:30- Fellowship Time Sunday School	5 8:30- Little Creations PS	6 8:30- Little Creations PS 7 pm- Al Anon –Library	7 8:30- Little Creations PS 6:00- Education Committee 6:00- Finance Committee 6:00- SPRC 7:00- Choir Practice	8 8:30- Little Creations PS	9 8:30- Little Creations PS	10
9:00- Youth Bell Choir 9:30- Worship/KMZN 10:30- Fellowship/ Sunday School	8:30- Little Creations PS	13 8:30- Little Creations PS 7 pm- Al Anon –Library	14 Ash Wednesday8:30- Little Creations PS6:30- Ash Wednesday Service	15 8:30- Little Creations PS	16 8:30- Little Creations PS	17
18 9:00- Youth Bell Choir 9:30- Worship/KMZN 10:30- Fellowship/ Sunday School	19 8:30- Little Creations PS	20 8:30- Little Creations PS 7 pm- Al Anon –Library	21 8:30- Little Creations PS 6:30- Ad Council 7:00- Choir Practice	8:30- Little Creations PS	23 NO PRESCHOOL	24
25 Noisy Offering HAT SUNDAY 9:00- Youth Bell Choir 9:30- Worship/KMZN 10:30- Fellowship/ Sunday School	26 8:30- Little Creations PS	27 8:30- Little Creations PS 7 pm- Al Anon –Library	28 8:30- Little Creations PS 6:30- Worship Committee 7:00- Choir Practice	29 8:30- Little Creations PS		



Acolyte Schedule:

February 4
February 11
February 18
February 25
March 3

Jackson Lahner & Nyla Canfield
Norah Foster & Bennett Foster
Lucy Canfield & Gemma Lahner
Nyla Canfield & Lucy Canfield
Jackson Lahner & Nyla Canfield

Please put these dates on your calendar. If you are unable to help on a Sunday you are scheduled, please ask one of your friends to fill in for you.

Thanks!