

Happy

March

MWC

CHURCH NEWS

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR



By the time you read this, it may be March. We are all ready for spring, but the weather reports tell us we have at least two more winter weekends. We look forward to the celebration of Christ's Resurrection, but Easter comes in April this year, so our focus this month is on Lent.

Lent has been celebrated since around 200 AD as a time of soul-searching and preparation for the Resurrection celebration. The 40 day format reminds us of Jesus' 40 days of temptation in the wilderness. Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 PM, Wednesday, March 5. Please join us for this reverent and challenging start to the season.

Most people associate Lent with giving up something—a favorite food, television show, or other pastime. The more important element of Lent is the conscious effort to open our lives more fully to Jesus Christ. So . . . plan on giving up something that you know is not helping you become more like Jesus. But, more importantly, take on some new spiritual discipline, such as daily Bible reading, writing daily in a spiritual journal, daily exercise with someone who can challenge you spiritually—or let God show you what you need most.

Our sermon series for Lent will be on "Hindrances to Holiness: Conquering the Seven Deadly Sins." Any sin is deadly, and there are more than seven, but A Fourth Century Christian in the Middle East, John Cassian, developed the concept as a means of helping people grow. This may sound like a "downer," but the flipside of every "deadly sin" is one of the Fruits of the Spirit or another beautiful Christian character quality. The concept has been used by artists, preachers, and philosophers through the centuries as a challenge to self-examination and repentance.

We have been pleased to welcome new people to our fellowship recently, and after six weeks of focus on "Welcome" on Wednesday night, we are eager to welcome YOUR friends. The last Sunday of the month, March 30, has been designated a national Friend Day, encouraging every church member to bring a friend. Your friends are welcome any time, but start NOW to invite people for that day. Stay tuned for more information about our Friend Day plans. Have a blessed March!

In the Love of Christ, Pastor Dwight T Gregory

Ash Wednesday

The entire church community will meet for an Ash Wednesday service this

Wednesday at 7PM. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten Season. During the service the sign of the cross will be placed on either the forehead or the right hand of each person. The ashes are from the burnt palm leaves of the previous year's Palm Sunday and reserved for this sacred time. Hymns, prayers, Scripture readings and the Lord's Supper will all be part of the service.

On March 9th we will unite with other Free Methodist churches to help set the captives free. There are more slaves in our world today than in any other time in history. Real slaves—held by violence, unable to walk away, doing things they don't want to do. Funds raised on this Sunday will be used to support four Free Methodist organizations that are working to set people free in Colombia, Nepal, Taiwan and elsewhere.



We would like to thank Pastor Jeremy for all the hard work and hours he put into updating our website. You will want to check it out and tell all your friends about the upgrades and advancements that have been made!



http://www.midwestcityfmc.com



Bring a friend Sunday

If You Invite Them, They Will Come

March 30, 2014

The Bulletin Board

→ Don't FORGET!

TRUSTEES MEETING

On Monday, March 3rd at 7PM the Board of Trustees will meet for the first time in 2014. If you have questions regarding property maintenance issues contact Pastor Dwight at 778.9460.

CHURCH MISSION PROJECT

The Missions Committee is planning an all-church mission project for all ages on Saturday, May 10, 2014, from approximately 9:00AM-1:00PM. Please save this date! More details concerning the project when finalized. If you have any questions please contact Becky Baer.

Building Renovation

"For the Next Generation."
The Building Committee has been busy with plans, and we are SO close to reaching our goal of \$50,000 in new giving, to allow us to take the next step. Keep praying, keep giving, and expect to hear more this month!

Mid America Conference Women's Retreat

We hope all ladies plan to attend the Women's Retreat on May 2-4, 2014, at Fin and Feather Resort. The cost is \$120 which will cover meals and lodging. Our speaker is Sabra Dyas. You won't want to miss it. All the details and a registration form are in our Brochure. For more info contact Lori Schroyer or Tamara Bingham.

International Child Care

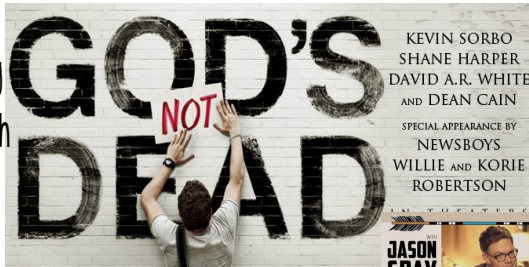
For several years we have sponsored a child through International Child Care of the Free Methodist Church. March's missions offerings will go toward paying for an entire year of sponsorship. But here is another challenge can we raise enough for two kids? Will some Sunday School classes, families, or individuals choose to sponsor a child? The Missions Committee is challenges you learn more about International Child Care and teach your children. Pick up a brochure in the Lobby or www.childcareministries.org.

CHILDRENS CHURCH
Children's Church will begin on March 9th. This is similar to the adult service and is geared towards kids.

A memorial service on February 17th celebrated the life and faith of our beloved long-time member Jack Smith, who passed away on February 8. Please continue to pray for and show special love to his family during these days.

Youth events

We will go see this movie during Spring Break. Contact Sarah Baird if you would like to see this movie.



K-Love Listener Appreciation Concert

Where: Southern Nazarene University
When: Friday, March 7:
Doors open at 6PM, Concert 7PM-10PM
Who: Jason Gray and Unspoken
What to bring: Money if you want to get any merchandise, yourself, and friends

We will meet at the church at 5:00PM to head to Bethany. This will be a great time together with brothers and sisters in Christ from the surrounding area.

Along with high school students going to FMYC this summer, the middle school students will be attending Durley Young Teen Camp in Greenville, Illinois. Young Teen Camp is a week for middle schoolers from across the Midwest to come together for fun activities, late night games, making new friends and an opportunity to encounter the living God and learn what it means to truly LIVE! We are attending this camp along with the middle school students from the McPherson Free Methodist Church June 16-20. If you are interested in attending please let Sarah Baird know and she will get you more information.

