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Martin United
Methodist Church
WEEKLY
.....
NEWS



LENT

As We Live Into Lent

Each year I get questions about Lent. What is it? When is it? WHY do we observe it? Isn't it a Catholic thing? I thought perhaps we might tackle few of these queries. Starting with the last question, the answer is no and yes. Lent is not distinctly Catholic and it has long been a practice in the Protestant tradition; however, since

the Protestant tradition was born in the early 16th century out of the Catholic Church, Lent does have its historic roots there. Lent is a season of the Christian Year where Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God. Are you searching for something more? Tired of running in circles, but not really living life with direction, purpose or passion? Lent is a great time to "repent" -- to return to God and re-focus our lives to be more in line with Jesus.

When is Lent? It's the forty days before Easter. Lent excludes Sundays because every Sunday is like a little Easter. Basically, it's about one-tenth of a year (like a tithe of time). **Mardi Gras** is the day before Lent, which begins with **Ash Wednesday**. This year it's from March 6 (Ash Wednesday) – April 21 (Easter).

Mardi Gras? What does that have to do with JESUS?? Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday." It is the day before Lent begins. Since Lent always starts on a Wednesday, the day before is always a Tuesday. And it's called "Fat" or "Great" because it's associated with great food and parties. In earlier times, people used Lent as a time of fasting and repentance. Since they didn't want to be tempted by sweets, meat and other distractions in the house, they cleaned out their cabinets. They used up all the sugar and yeast in sweet breads before Lent started, and fixed meals with all the meat available. It was a great feast! Through the years Mardi Gras has evolved in some circles in ways that have little to do with preparing for the Lenten season of repentance and simplicity, but Christians still know its origin and hang onto the true spirit of the season. *We will celebrate Mardi Gras with a Pancake Supper on Tuesday, March 5 in Wooton Hall.* There will be games available to play with your family and friends and festive music. You are invited (encouraged even) to wear fun (and appropriate) Mardi Gras themed clothing. Come and go: 5:00-7:00 pm. No charge.

So the real beginning of Lent is Ash Wednesday? Yes. Ash Wednesday, the day after Mardi Gras, begins with a service where we recognize our mortality, repent of our sins, and return to our loving God. We recognize life as a precious gift from God, and reorient our lives more fully towards Jesus Christ. We may make resolutions and commit to change our lives over the next forty days so that we might be more like Christ. In an Ash Wednesday service, the pastor marks the sign of the cross on a person's forehead with ashes. While the ashes remind us of our mortality and sin, the cross reminds us of Jesus' resurrection (life after death) and forgiveness. It's a powerful, non-verbal way that we can experience God's forgiveness and renewal as we return to Jesus. *We will gather for our Ash Wednesday service at 6:30pm on March 6.*

Why ashes? In Jewish and Christian history, ashes are a sign of mortality and repentance. Mortality, because when we die, our bodies eventually decompose and we become dust/ dirt/ash/whatever. Repentance, because long ago, when people felt remorse for something they did, they would put ashes on their head and wear "sackcloth" (scratchy clothing) to remind them that sin is pretty uncomfortable and leads to a sort of death of the spirit. This was their way of confessing their sins and asking for forgiveness.

Where do the ashes come from? On what we now call Palm Sunday, Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem while people waved palms and cheered him on. Less than a week later, Jesus was killed. The palms that were waved in joy became ashes of sorrow. We get ashes for Ash Wednesday by saving the palms from Palm Sunday, burning them, and mixing them with a little water (like tears) or oil. It's symbolic.

I invite you to take advantage of the opportunity to experience Lent for yourself. Come and share some pancakes with your faith family on March 5 and then gather

in worship the following evening to start the journey. And what a journey it can be!

Peace and grace,

Pastor Lara

aka "The Vicar"

MARTIN UMC

PANCAKE DINNER WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS



**FAT
TUES
DAY
MARDI
GRAS
PAN
CAKE
SUP
PER**

**TUESDAY
MARCH 5**

MARTIN UMC
WOOTON HALL
5:00-7:00 P.M.

**DONATIONS
ACCEPTED**

BOARD GAMES
AVAILABLE
FOR PLAYING

**PLEASE JOIN
US FOR THE
BEGINNING
OF LENT ON**

ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 6 AT 6:30 P.M.

SANCTUARY

2621 BEDFORD ROAD, BEDFORD, TX 254.354.9038

MARTINMETHODIST.ORG

MARTIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ashes

to GO



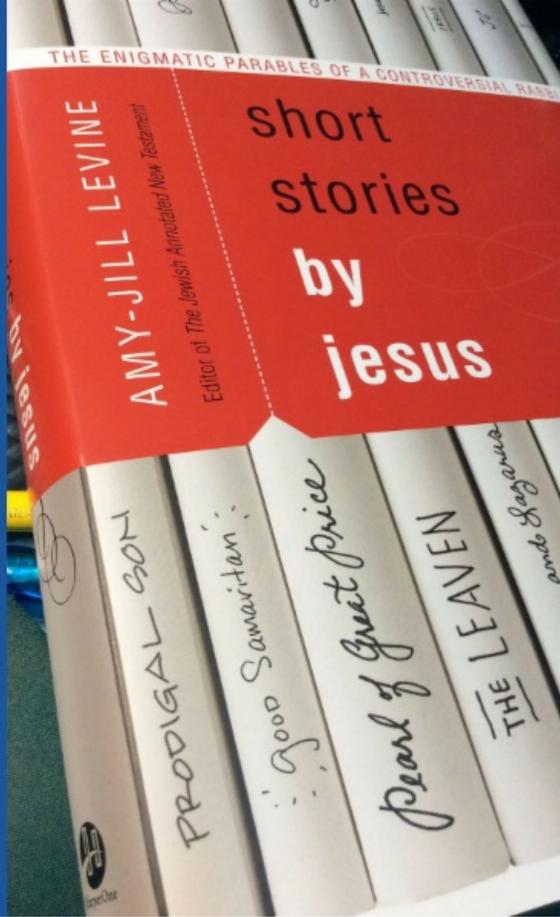
MARCH 6TH

7:30AM - 9:00AM

4:00PM - 5:30PM

ON THE CORNER OF MURPHY AND COBLE CT.

www.martinmethodist.org



JOIN US
TONIGHT!

WEDNESDAYS WITH PASTOR LARA

"Short Stories by Jesus:
The Enigmatic Parables
of a Controversial Rabbi"

Apple Corps Classroom
6:00-7:00 pm

* EACH SESSION STANDS ALONE



FEB. 16 RAMP BUILD

Whatever good things we
build end up building us.

Jim Rohn

Martin

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

presents

The Gold 'n Ivory Duo



Janice Spooner, Flute

Rhapsodies



BLUES!



Melanie Wright, Piano

**Gold 'n Ivory Duo
in Concert
4:00 p.m., Sunday, March 3
Sanctuary
Wm. C. Martin UMC
2621 Bedford Rd, Bedford, TX**

**MARTIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2621 BEDFORD ROAD • BEDFORD, TX, 76021
MARTINMETHODIST.ORG • 817-354-9038**

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY CLASS

**OPEN TO THE
COMMUNITY!**

Every Tuesday morning
from 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM
Room B7

Bring food if you wish. Coffee is
provided. Study Book is available
for purchase

Lenten Study : "Seven-Mile Miracle"
NYT Best selling author: Pastor Steven Furtick
March 5-April 16

CRAFT FAIR

Attention Vendors:

Martin United Methodist Church
2621 Bedford Road, Bedford
is having their **sixth Craft Fair!**

Date: March 30, 2019

Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

For an application and further information,
Email: journeymumc4@gmail.com

Accepting applications through March 4th

Wilderness Time

Season of Lent, the Youth will have a Wilderness
Experience camping @ Lake Whitney State Park
March 29th-31th

Deuteronomy 2:7- "For the Lord your God has blessed
you in all the work of your hands. He knows your going
through this great wilderness. These forty years the Lord
your God has been with you. You have lacked nothing."

To Register- Contact Faiana Funaki
817-354-9038 ext. 2224 or
email- faianaf@martinmethodist.org

HEARTS *on fire*

**SPAGHETTI DINNER AND CAKE AUCTION
BENEFITING MARTIN UMC YOUTH MISSION TRIP**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 23
5:00 - 8:00 P.M.**

**LOCATION
SOUL
FOOD**

TICKETS

**\$10.00 / ADULT
\$5.00 / 12 & UNDER
\$25.00 / FAMILY**

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT MARTIN UMC YOUTH
ATTENDING THE 2019 CTCYM MISSION TRIP: RE:DEEM.
YOUTH WILL TRAVEL TO THE TEXAS & LOUISIANA
GULF COAST FROM JUNE 16TH – 22ND.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT FAIANA FUNAKI
FAIANAF@MARTINMETHODIST.ORG
817-354-9038, EXT. 2224**

 **Martin**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**FEBRUARY
PRESCHOOL
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

9:45AM IN C5

FEBRUARY 3RD

JEREMIAH - JEREMIAH 1:4-10

FEBRUARY 10TH

THE DISCIPLES - LUKE 5:1-11

FEBRUARY 17TH

THE BEATTITUDES

LUKE 6:17-26

FEBRUARY 24TH

JOSEPH FEEDS HIS FAMILY

GENESIS 45:3-11

FEBRUARY IN SON CITY

In everything do to others
as you would have them do to you.
(Matthew 7:12)

Sundays at 9:45 a.m.



YOUTH MISSION TRIP

CTCYM 2019

RE:DEEM

CTCYM ANSWERS CHRIST'S CALL TO BECOME HIS HANDS AND FEET TO A WORLD IN NEED

JUNE 16-22, 2019 - TX & LA GULF COAST
JULY 14-19, 2019 - CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE

REGISTER ONLINE AT CTCYM.ORG

JUNE COMBO TRIP ONLY

FOR MORE INFO- CONTACT FAIANA FUNAKI

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

LEARNING LINK
AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING
READING AND MATH TUTORING, SNACK,
AND FUN! 1ST-6TH GRADE
4:00-6:00 P.M.

m&m KIDS & m&m MINIS
MUSIC AND MISSION
FOR KIDS PRE-K THROUGH 6TH GRADE
WEDNESDAYS 6:00-7:00 P.M.



Learning Link After School Tutoring

MARTIN UMC CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY IS PROVIDING
HOMEWORK HELP AND
TUTORING FOR KIDS K-6TH
GRADE. SERVANTS ARE
NEEDED TO FOR THIS
MINISTRY ON WEDNESDAYS
FROM 4:00PM-6:00PM

Email Terre McGill at
terrem@martinmethodist.org to find out how
you can get involved.

STUDENT MINISTRY ON SUNDAY

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

TIME- 9:45 AM
WHERE- YOUTH ROOM



IGNITE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP
TIME- 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
WHERE- YOUTH ROOM



Give the gift of flowers to those on our weekly prayer list
& have a special event recognized in the bulletin.
Stop by the office to fill out the floral book, or email
deannam@martinmethodist.org

Sanctuary Floral Arrangements 2019

\$35.00 per arrangement

BRANCHES just started our “Why Do We Believe What WE Believe” study on Sunday with a quick look at the first section of Martin Thielen’s book “What’s the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?” You can find the book at Cokesbury or on Amazon. Go ahead and order it then read Part One - that will get you all caught up and just a little bit ahead. We’ll be working through the book plus using other resources until Easter. And soon we’ll be observing Lent in our own special BRANCHES way so please, JOIN US! We meet in Room B4 each Sunday at 9:45AM.



Peacemakers Quilting Group
Every Monday 10 a.m. ~ 1p.m.
Room B7

✱ Bring your lunch, bring your project.



Various studies and times during the year. Tuesday evenings.

FELLOWSHIP AT MARTIN

WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

Check out the full list at www.martinmethodist.org

Morning Glory Circle
First Wednesday of the month
9:30-11 a.m.
C11a

Peacemakers Quilting Group
Every Tuesday
Noon to 3 p.m.
Room B7

Prayer Concerns

Members:

Samantha Bradley, Glen Dow, David Fyfe, Kyle Kunz, Alilia Kongaika, Walt Milligan—success at his new job, Susan McCumber, Catherine Ross, Britney Weaver

Family & Friends:

Jack Bickhard, Twila Boyd, Gwen Caylor, Cory Chalk, Todd Chalk, Dennis DuBose, Nita Fifita, Edgar Hough, Steve Johnson, Katherine Lee, Craig McCall, William Mick, Sandee Montignani, Larry & Sheryl Nickols, Kristin Norenberg, Bob Penick, Claudie Roper, Bill & Dorothy Standley, Dan & Linda Weaver's daughter, Marjorie, Dr. Terry Welke, Mary Wentzel, Andrew Yoro, J.R. Yoro, Lindsay Yoro, Christy Young,
The Delegates to General Conference
The people who have health problems

