

Getting ready....Building our church...Building our faith!

It is almost Lent after a nice and long Epiphany season. I say nice, because it gave us all time to enjoy the “lights” of Christmas that extend into the long winter season of early darkness and late mornings. Yes, my Epiphany tree is still up until Ash Wednesday! You noticed too, just like after Easter, we leave the pew torches up so we can enjoy more light. I get tickled when every so often the Paschal candle accidentally gets lit as well. I like to see it lit unexpectedly and not due to a death, baptism, or Easter celebrations. Thank you for the light! We love it and we need it!

After 2+ years, we finally have all our teams together. Pastoral Care and Liturgical Arts and Design teams are up and running! We are beginning a pastoral visitor schedule to make sure those that cannot make it to church; connect with us. This may also include home communion. We hope to share information, learn how we can be supportive, and make visits once a month. We are also going to put into place an emergency phone list. This will only be used if there is a sudden death, a sudden cancelation, disaster, or an emergency pastoral issue. We are also in the process of starting up a prayer ministry either by phone or by people meeting to pray. This ministry is for all of us. Those of us interested in being a visitor, attended a session on “How to make a pastoral visit.” We now have a great team of visitors! Please remember; if you know someone who needs pastoral support from me or another member, please let me know! Prayer is powerful as are supportive visits. We are called to take care of one another and this is how we do it as a church.

Our Liturgical Arts and Design Team has been busy planning our Lenten worship service. This team consists of Brenda Tremblay (music), Linda Krutchen-Merring (altar), Larry Tallman (music and creative readings), Jessica Longstreth (youth and creative readings), and Janet Brodessor (art/space). These folks have specific gifts to offer as we collaborate to provide thoughtful, beautiful, engaging, and spirit filled worship! If you are interested in offering your gifts in these ministries, please see me! All our teams would value new members, which always generates new ideas and more support in all areas of our church life. We will be seeking your input on our ministries and our worship as your Strategic Design Team and vestry begin to prepare for focus group meetings.

As we prepare for Lent—Ash Wednesday is March 9th with services at 12 noon and 7:00 PM., would you please consider attending our Lenten program called “Embracing an Adult Faith?” It will consist of a simple fellowship meal followed by a short video clip on a Christian topic followed by small group discussions. If you can’t attend the meal, come for the program!

The time we all spend together *outside* of our worship experiences forms a more solid faith-based community of people that are *engaged* with their faith and are willing to engage in conversations around God and our religion. I am looking forward to Lent and our offerings!

(more)

I love Lent because it gives us all a really good excuse to slow down and pay attention. Pay attention to your emotions, your health, your spirit, and your daily life. What is missing? What needs some attention and loving care? These are important questions as we take this 6-week journey with Jesus to understanding why we need to seek forgiveness of ourselves and others and embrace the grace and mercy of God through Jesus. Lent is a good season for reflection and new life.

Krista+