

Peralta Methodist Church

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Going Beyond Our Walls to Build God's Kingdom

On February 14 we begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent is a 40 day period, excluding Sundays, during which Christians prepare themselves spiritually for the commemoration of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. Beginning in the second century, Christians would undergo a brief period of fasting and prayer in preparation for Good Friday and Easter. By the fourth century the period had been extended to 40 days to coincide with the 40 days that Jesus fasted and prayed in the wilderness at the beginning of his ministry (which coincided with the 40 days Moses and Elijah fasted in the Old Testament).

The season was originally called "the forty days" but later came to be called Lent - from the Old English, *lengten*, a reference to the lengthening of the days that happens in the springtime. It was common to fast from meat and dairy products during Lent, so on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday communities would cook all of their meat and dairy products, making pancakes and other elaborate meals - these parties became known as "carnivals" from the Latin *carni vale* - which means "farewell to meat." This also became known as *mardi gras* which comes from the French for "fat Tuesday" - an appropriate name because on that day everyone "pigged out"!

Lent was the season when Christian converts made their final preparation for receiving their baptism and first communion at the Easter vigil. It was also a time of repentance for those who had abandoned the faith during the persecutions. The season is a time for more intense and intentional spiritual growth during which we remember the message, the life, the suffering and death of Christ.

We'll begin Lent a bit early this year on February 11 - this weekend we'll kick off a series of messages and worship services focused on "the Lord's Prayer." We'll discover what Jesus meant when he shared it with his disciples over 2000 years ago. We'll learn why this prayer was actually radical and controversial in its time. And, we'll unpack its relevance for our lives today. Then on Wednesday we'll hold our annual Ash Wednesday Service. At this service we write out our prayers of confession and then burn them following the service. We are also marked with the ashes as a sign of our desire to repent of our sin and follow Jesus.

This year I want to invite you to do **three** things this Lent: **1.** Be in worship every weekend (if you are out of town or sick, join us by live YouTube stream), **2.** Read your Lenten Devotional daily and reflect upon their meaning for your life, **3.** Fast something as an expression of your faith and identification with Jesus' suffering.

Plan on attending the Ash Wednesday Service is **Wednesday, February 14 beginning at 6:30 pm** in the Sanctuary. It will be a powerful service as we begin the season of Lent with prayer, worship, confession and the imposition of ashes.

Pastor Manish

AFTERSHOCK-YOUTH

Turning the hearts of youth and families to God and each other.

The AfterShock Youth went to feed the homeless around Albuquerque the Friday before Christmas. Twelve of us met to make 100 sack lunches, and the Blaine's donated 50 blessing (hygiene) bags. We also had many blankets, sleeping bags, socks, gloves, and even some small dog food bags to pass out. Yes, there are many homeless right here in Los Lunas, however, they are much more spread out and difficult to find. Plus, just the Tuesday prior, many of them were served down by the river. Even in Albuquerque, they were more difficult to find in numbers than in the past, due to the city dispersing them more regularly and several parks having been shut down where we used to serve them. We found a woman under a bridge around 1st and Lead, sleeping on the sidewalk on a piece of cardboard, dressed only in her clothing with a light jacket. When we handed her the food and a large heavy comforter, she got the biggest smile as she wrapped the blanket around herself. We found many tents around certain areas, and all were grateful for the service we provided for them. Finally ending up at Central around San Pedro, we parked in a large parking lot near the bus stop with a large crowd. As the youth were serving them, a security guard drove up and demanded that we leave, "no homeless or serving of the homeless was allowed on the property". This is due to the mess that people leave in the parking lots, and the owners may be fined. As the youth were still serving people, we let them know that we had to leave and couldn't give out food and blankets, the youth responded with an "OK" as they kept on handing out goods. I reiterated that we had to leave, and again got an "OK" as they continued to serve the last person. One had to smile at their gentle defiance faced with the needs before them. We moved across the street to a Circle K, and as the youth were serving a great crowd again, I went inside to ask permission to serve food and blankets, and the cashier gave her permission. Yet again, outside, a security guard stated that the owner did not allow any charity work on the property and asked us to leave. We let him know that we were almost out of supplies and would leave as soon as we were able to, and he agreed. All in all, it was a humble experience, and all the youth were blessed to be a blessing. Thanks to the congregation for your donations and support of this ministry.

IGNITE 2024 is coming up quickly, February 3. We expect around 100 youth from around Valencia County to come and lead worship and workshops designed to touch their lives for Christ. Please continue to pray for our youth and leaders for this event. Thanks to this congregation for allowing us to meet here at PMC.

We are also taking pre-orders for the missing year (2021) design from the covid year that Ignite did not happen. Our own Abby Altobello won the design. Shirts are \$15 and you need to place your order in the Narthex before Feb 3 if you would like a shirt. See Marlow for more details.



February – John Dutil
February 5 – Jane Owensby
February 5 – Carole Caswell
February 7 – Don Jensen
February 13 – Jay Smith, Jr.
February 14 – Dorothy York
February 15 – Danielle Meyer
February 17 – Roberta de la Rosa
February 17 – Jeremy Smith
February 24 – James Phillips
February 26- Bobby Green
February 27 – Wendy Honeyfield
February 27 – Amy Valigura
February 27 – Jess Davis

February 14 – Larry & Melodie Huff
February 16 – Gustavo & Renee Garcia
February 22 – Andrew & Danielle Ortiz



February meeting days for GriefShare are February 8th and 22nd at 1:00 pm in the Conference Room. Starting Jan 25th, we began the video series with #1 and will continue with #2 and #3 in February. This group is open to anyone. For more information please call the church office.



The Sunday School class meeting in the Conference Room on Sunday mornings at 9:45 am will begin a new study series on February 4th. Please join us! The book we're studying is:

"The Great Disappearance" by Dr. David Jeremiah. This focuses on the rapture and the end times.

Valentines Day Prayer

Thank you God for
Those who love me unconditionally

Teach me to

Express love well

And to love myself

Send me strength to love
when times are tough

Standing on your promise that Love
endures all things.

Amen

www.prayerideas.org



PRAYER WARRIORS

Please be in prayer for each of these in our continuing prayer list. If you know of anyone else who needs to be added, please call Ruth or the church office, 865-9334. If you would like to be a part of Prayer Warriors, please let us know.

Our Freedom Abundant Grace Free Store Rev. Manish Shirley Nadia M Ruth Romero
Lynn Schultz Erma Ward Mike Heppler Cheryl Huber Dan McCarty Bill Lynch
Don Gleichman Lois Meadors Dorothy Marta Daniel Gurule Conrad Joseph Hughes
Cure for Cancer Donna Duke J'Amy Creel Jim Kubisak Diego Joleen Baughman
Karen Fastnacht Nate Meyer USA Leaders Larry & Melodie Huff Michael Garrison
Richard & Linda Darnell Lori Buvinghausen All Caregivers Anne Cassidy-Vigil Beth Barnett
All military & their families Jay & Marilyn Smith Don Taylor Ted George
Bruce & Cindy Walters John Dutil Veronica Garcia



Peralta Methodist Women, Mary Circle

Mary Circle will meet February 13, 2024

At 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

In addition to devotion and prayer time,

we will be sending valentines to shut-ins and others.

Please join us!

All women at are cordially invited!





WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

Imposition of ashes available

between 10 am and 12 noon in the Sanctuary

For the convenience of those who prefer not to drive at night

Ash Wednesday Worship at 6:30 pm - Sanctuary

PSALM 23

(found online, unknown author)

I've wondered what this part of the Psalm meant 'He anoints my head with oil'. I thought it was figurative language for God keeping the Psalmist healthy. But here is a parallel to consider:

Sheep can get their head caught in briars and die trying to get untangled. There are horrid little flies that like to torment sheep by laying eggs in their nostrils which turn into worms and drive the sheep to beat their head against a rock, sometimes to death. Their ears and eyes are also susceptible to tormenting insects. So, the shepherd anoints their whole head with oil. Then there is peace. That oil forms a barrier of protection against the evil that tries to destroy the sheep.

Do you have times of mental torment? Do the worrisome thoughts invade your mind over and over? Do you beat your head against a wall (figuratively) trying to stop them? Have you ever asked God to anoint your head with oil? He has an endless supply! His oil protects and makes it possible for you to fix your heart, mind and eyes on Him today and always! There is peace in the valley.

May our good, good Father anoint your head with oil today so that your cup overflows with blessings. God is good and He is faithful!



There is still time to request a giving statement for your donations to the church made in 2023. Simply fill out the form when you attend worship – or call the church office at 865-9334, to make your request.

Printed giving statements will be available for PICK UP on/about the 2nd Sunday in February.



**Crafty Ladies will meet on February 6th and 7th
in Fellowship Hall
from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.**

We are looking for people who can work with wood for small and large projects. We're thinking of items like benches and toys that are made from wood.

If you are willing and available, please come by during our meeting to discuss the possibilities. THANK YOU!

We're seeking donations of wooden headboards and footboards from beds. If you need help getting those items to the church, please contact Kelley Green, Kaye Groves or Bernice Hughes to arrange for a pick up. If you're able to deliver the donations, please come on one of our work days (the first Tuesday and Wednesday of each month).



Every Tuesday during Lent, there will be a prayer/devotional breakfast in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 am. This will begin on February 20th continuing on February 27th, March 5th, 12th and 19th. Everyone is welcome to attend!! Invite someone to join you, too.

Lenten Prayer

GOD OF GOODNESS AND MERCY,

**HEAR MY PRAYER AS I BEGIN THIS LENTEN JOURNEY WITH YOU.
LET ME BE HONEST WITH MYSELF AS I LOOK INTO MY HEART AND SOUL,
NOTICING THE TIMES I TURN AWAY FROM YOU. GUIDE ME AS I HUMBLY SEEK
TO REPENT AND RETURN TO YOUR LOVE.**

**MAY HUMILITY GUIDE MY EFFORTS TO BE RECONCILED WITH YOU AND LIVE FOREVER
IN YOUR ABUNDANT GRACE.**


**TRANSFORM ME THIS LENT, HEAVENLY FATHER. GIVE ME THE STRENGTH TO
COMMIT MYSELF TO GROW CLOSER TO YOU EACH DAY.**

AMEN.





FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Jan 30 4:30 Fitness #203 Auditorium reserved 6-8 pm	Jan 31 4:30 – Fitness #203 5 – Kids’ Choir 5:30 – Bible #101 6 – Choir 6 – Girl Scouts, Educ. Bldg. Auditorium reserved 6-8 pm	1 4:30 – Fitness #203 Auditorium set up for Fri/Sat	2 Memorial Service 11:00 am – Reception Auditorium 4:30 pm IGNITE set up Educ Bldg/ Sanctuary/ Community Bldg.	3 IGNITE Youth event 8:30 am to 5:30 pm Educ Bldg, Sanctuary, Community Bldg.
4 8:30 – Worship 9:45 – Sunday School 11:00 – Worship 3:30– Bell Choir 6 pm –Youth Group	5 9:30 am –Soulkeepers, Conf Rm 10 am- Food Pantry 5:30 – Cubs scouts Auditorium 7 pm Scouts, Educ Bldg & #204	6 9 am – Crafty Ladies, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen 4:30 – Fitness #203 6-8 – Auditorium reserved	7 9 am – Crafty Ladies, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen 4:30 – Fitness, #203 5 pm – Kids’ Choir 5:30- Bible Study #101 6 pm -Girl Scouts – Educ. Bldg. 6 pm – Choir rehearsal 6-8 pm – Auditorium reserved	8 1 pm – GriefShare, Conference Room 4:30 – Fitness #203 6-8 – Auditorium reserved	9	10 Threads of Love, Fell Hall, 10-30 am
11 7 am - Methodist Men Study & Breakfast, Fellowship Hall 8:30 – Worship 9:45 – Sunday School 11:00 – Worship 3:30 – Bell Choir 6 pm – AfterShock Youth	12 10 am- Food Pantry 5:30 - Cub Scouts, Educ. Bldg 7:00 – Scouts, Educ Bldg & #204	13 9:30 am – Mary Circle, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen 4:30– Fitness #203 6-8 – Auditorium reserved 6:30 – Girl Scout Svc Unit – Fell Hall	14 Valentine’s Day  Ashes may be received between 10 am and 12 noon ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 6:30 pm 4:30 – Fitness, #203 6 pm – Girl Scouts, Educ Bldg 6-8 pm – Auditorium reserved	15 4:30 Fitness #203 6-8 – Auditorium reserved	16	17
18 8:30 – Worship 9:45 – Sunday School 11:00 – Worship 3:30 – Bell Choir 6 pm – AfterShock Youth	19- Presidents’ Day holiday OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 am Soulkeepers, Conf Rm 10 am – Food Pantry No- Cub Scouts, 7 pm – Scouts, Educ Bldg & #204	20 7 am – Lenten breakfast, Fell Hall Auditorium & Kitchen reserved 8-1 NMSU, 4:30 Fitness 6-8 – Auditorium reserved	21 4:30 – Fitness, #203 5 pm – Kids’ Choir 5:30 –Bible Study #101 6 pm – Choir Rehearsal 6 pm – Girl Scouts, Educ Bldg. 6-8 pm – Auditorium reserved	22 1 pm – GriefShare, Conference Room 4:30 Fitness #204 6-8 – Auditorium reserved	23	24
25 7 am – Methodist Men Study & Breakfast F.H. 8:30 – Worship 9:45 – Sunday School 11:00 am – Worship 3:30 – Bell Choir 6 pm – Youth Group	26 10 am – Food Pantry 5:30 – Cub Scouts, Education Bldg.	27 7 am – Lenten Breakfast, Fell Hall Auditorium & Kitchen reserved 8-1 NMSU, Ext Svc 4:30– Fitness, #203 6-8 – Auditorium reserved 7 pm - Order of Arrow, Fell Hall	28 4:30 – Fitness, #203 5 pm – Kids’ Choir 5:30 -Bible Study #101 6 pm – Choir Rehearsal 6 pm – Girl Scouts, Educ. Bldg. 6-8 pm – Auditorium reserved	29  4:30 – Fitness #203 6-8 – Auditorium reserved	March 1 Order of Arrow, Community Bldg 6 pm through Sunday Morning	March 2 Order of Arrow, Community Bldg through Sunday Morning