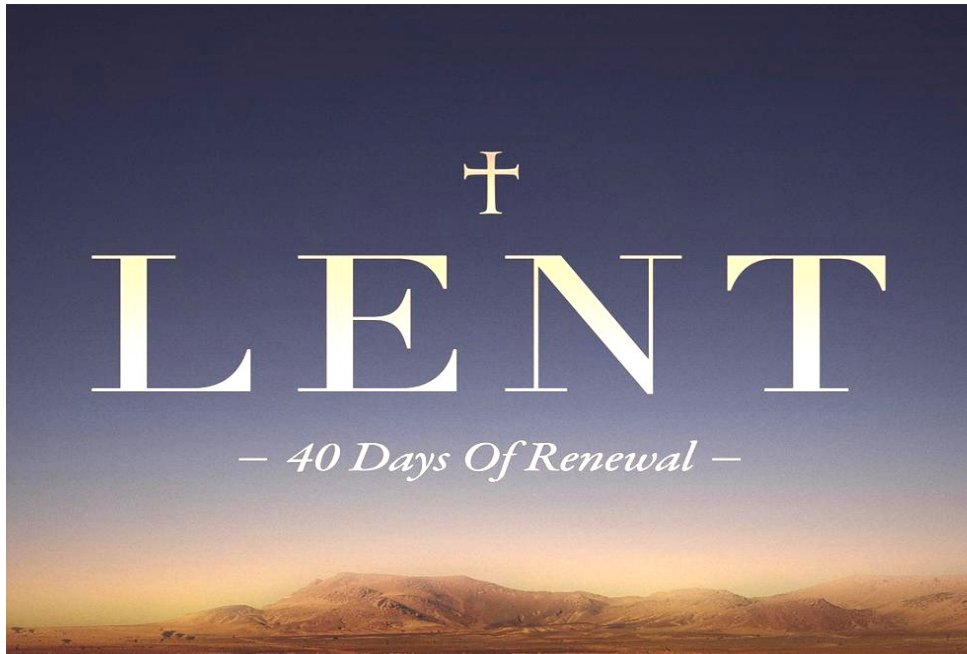


Humline

February 2023

Fasting for Lent



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Love = Sacrifice + Commitment

by Pastor Jacob Eun

February is the month of love! But somebody said, “No wonder it is the shortest one in the calendar!” We can laugh about it but at the same time, it has a grain of truth. Yes, the human love can be limited and may not be everlasting but God’s love is unconditional and eternal. Because God first loved us, we have the perfect example of what true love looks like when it talks and walks.

The great and first commandment from God for us calls us to love God with all that we are and with all that we have. The second is to love our neighbors as ourselves. Therefore, God’s love is a triune love that involves three parties: God, neighbors, and self. These two greatest commandments can be reworded into following questions: What is your response to God’s immense love for you? How will you translate and express your personal salvation to God and to others?

Love is both commitment and sacrifice. Commitment is something that you have promised to do while sacrifice is something that you do for the person you love. Often, sacrifice seals commitment. We are entering the season of Lent, beginning Ash Wednesday (2/22). It is a time of prayer (commitment), fasting (sacrifice), and give (love) in preparation for the celebration of Easter. During this 40 day journey of commitment and sacrifice, I invite you to think about what commitment will express my love for God and for others and what sacrifices will help me seal my commitment of love.



Do You Want to Fast this Lent?

Why do people give things up during Lent? Millions of people do this during Lent as a sign of sacrifice and to test their self-discipline, in hopes to bring us closer to God as well as to remember and participate in Jesus' sacrifice and suffering in his journey to the cross. Some people give up chocolates, TV, social media, meat, etc. But I believe Pope Francis gives us a better list of things we can sacrifice. Pope Francis tells us how:

Fast from hurting words and say kind words
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
Fast from anger and be filled with patience
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope
Fast from worried and have trust in God
Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity
Fast from pressures and be prayerful
Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate
Fast from grudges and be reconciled
Fast from words; be silent and listen

Fasting is not about how strong we can be, relying on our own capabilities and resilience. It is not about proving what we can do. But it is about embodying a Christ-like lifestyle not just for 40 days of the year but throughout our whole life. May this Lenten journey be a meaningful one for all of you.



Monday Bible Study

Wisdom Literature: Key to Understanding Life

1.30 Proverbs

Skim through the book and ask whether we should consider these proverbs as promises and thus, put our trust in them.

2.6 Ecclesiastes

There are two voices in this book: teacher and author. What are their messages to us on good life?

2.13 Job

Ask these three questions: Is God just? Does God run the universe on the strict principle of justice? How is Job's suffering then to be explained?

2.20 No Bible Study

2.27 Song of Songs

What are love poems doing here? "The Song is a divine affirmation of love and an acknowledgement of the pain that often accompanies it."

– Tremper Longman, The Song of Songs



February and March Worship Series

February Worship Series: Sin in Us

The Bible has a lot to say about how messed up we humans are. Only the first three pages are where everything is perfect. And the rest of the Bible is about our failures and mistakes, but God's faithfulness that reconciles us. The Bible uses three words to offer us a deeply profound diagnosis of human nature.

The three words are: sin, transgression, and iniquity.

- | | | |
|------|------------------------|---|
| 2.5 | 1. Sin, Khata | Genesis 3:4-5 & 4:5-9 |
| 2.12 | 2. Iniquity, Avon | Psalms 51:1-2 & 2 Samuel 11:1-5 and 12:1-13 |
| 2.19 | 3. Transgression Pasha | Psalms 32:5 & Matthew 26:33-35 |

Lenten Worship Series: Beauty for Ashes

When we give our ashes, which symbolize our mortality and sin, Jesus trades ashes for beauty. So each week, we will look at stories of women whom Jesus encountered during his ministry. Reading these stories will help us realize how life-saving and liberating his encounters were to these women when they gave their ashes.

- | | | |
|------|---|--|
| 2.22 | Ash Wednesday | 7pm
Matthew 6:1-6 & Luke 18:9-14 |
| 2.26 | 1. Caught in Adultery | John 7:53-8:11 (NIV) |
| 3.5 | 2. Stealing a Healing | Luke 8:40-48 (NIV) |
| 3.12 | 3. Being and Doing | Luke 10:38-42 (NRSV) |
| 3.19 | 4. Crippled for 18 Years
(Pastor Jacob absent) | Luke 13:10-17 |
| 3.26 | 5. Woman by the Well
(Pastor Jacob absent) | John 4:7-15 |
| 4.2 | Palm Sunday | John 12:1-8
The House was Filled with the Fragrance |

Capelinha: Methods—A Learning Methodists

by Karen Ernst da Silva

February 2023

*So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace
along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 2 Timothy 2:22*

I recently read that the name Methodist comes from "the methodical devotion and study of Christian faith." Just as I have methods and processes in all of my learning: painting, writing, teaching, golfing, I have methods in learning about my faith. An awareness of that process helps me deal with obstacles. I know that what matters is my commitment. Sharing this may help others think about their methods.

I call myself a "learning Methodist."

Establish a foundation: I have been a Methodist all of my life: baptized in the church, attended Sunday school, committed to memory The 23rd Psalm, Apostle's Creed, and Lord's Prayer, went to confirmation class, and was given a Bible to commemorate becoming a member of the High Street Church in Muncie, Indiana. This solid foundation made possible further adult learning. Believe first then learn to understand.

Be Inspired: My adult learning began in 2005 in Vales, Portugal, the village of my husband. While there I regularly attended mass with my friend Edite. I recognized the order of service, at the same time felt comfortable in not kneeling or crossing myself. This respectful confidence came from knowing why I did things. I sensed that the church brought community, hope, and tradition to the people. For many it was the center of their life and God was present in the everyday. I wanted this for myself so after a 25 year hiatus, I returned home to find a church.

Become a Member: Belonging to a church provides me with a community. Huntington United Methodist Church in Shelton, CT is my church "home." While spending winters in Florida, Cape Coral First United Methodist Church is my home away from home. I give through my membership and I receive by having a place to learn and worship.

Write and read: I take notes and draw in my journal at church. This helps me focus, remember what I hear in the sermon and connect it to my own life. I often write brief essays ("Capelinhas") to explore my faith pilgrimage and then I share those with my congregations. I start each day with prayer and reading scripture provided by the Upper Room, and often copy these into my journal. Daily focus on scripture helps me extend my search for appropriate scripture when I am concerned with anxiety,

judgment, envy, rest, love, and more. I am comfortable with the idea that the more I learn the stronger my faith becomes and more questions arise: miracles, saints, sin, grace, forgiveness and more. In our modern world of today faced with concerns and differences about culture and acceptance, my faith guides me.

Live with commitment: In painting, playing golf, in any area of learning, when I put into practice what I have learned I know I will experience failure, questions, and concern about what I want to achieve. Commitment to my methods and continued learning helps me live out my knowledge. I humbly practice my faith daily.

I am a learning Methodist.



painting by Karen Ernst da Silva

Snippets of Our Church





CT District Virtual Mini Clinics

The Connecticut district is committed to providing all of our Cooperative Parishes with access to the tools for continued success in the months ahead. Mark your calendars and get to acquire tools for the journey to greater understanding. Anyone can join.

<https://ny-reg.brtaapp.com/2023CTDistrictRESOURCINGEXPERIENCE71>



**CT DISTRICT CHURCH
2023 "VIRTUAL" RESOURCING
EXPERIENCE**
"From the comforts of home"




"MINI CLINICS"

"In Connecticut, After God, We Put People First"

Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester
CT District Superintendent

LINKING CONFERENCE RESOURCES TO THE CT CHURCHES

Building the Branded Church: What it Means, Why it Matters and Where to Start
February 19, 2023 - 2:00pm-3:00pm



Presented by
Conference Resource Expert

Lisa Isom

ZOOM LINK TO FOLLOW

Equipping your church to respond to Local & International Disaster
February 23, 2023 - 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm




Presented by
Conference Resource Experts

Tom & Wendy Vencuss

ZOOM LINK TO FOLLOW

Ministry Success in Cross Racial Cross Cultural Appointment
February 25, 2023 - 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm



Presented by
Conference Resource Expert

Doris Dalton

ZOOM LINK TO FOLLOW

Equipping you to Lead the SPPRC, Finance & Trustee Committees in Cooperative Parish
February 26, 2023 - 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm



Presented by
Conference Resource Expert

Ric Hanse

ZOOM LINK TO FOLLOW

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
ALL CLERGY - ALL LAITY

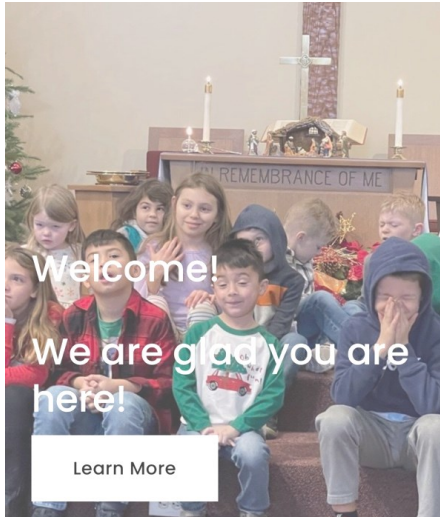
REGISTRATION FOR SEVERAL OF THESE EVENTS IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED

Questions? Office Phone: 914-615-2227

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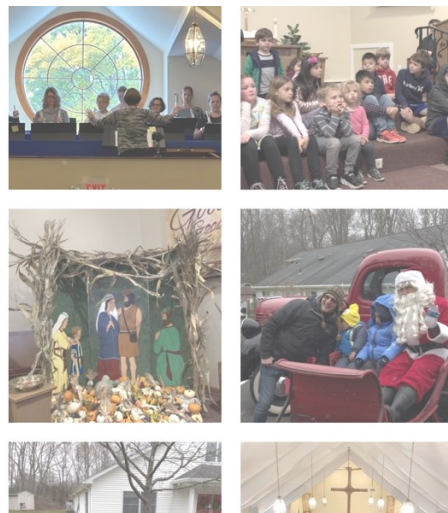
New Website
www.huntingtonumc.org

We have a brand new website (same web address, with a whole new look)! Our website will have our worship videos, newsletters, upcoming events, ministry opportunities, and many more! Please take some time to visit our website.



Souper Bowl Sunday

In preparation for this year's Super Bowl taking place on February 12th, the Missions & Outreach Committee invites you to join



Movie Night with Susanna Wesley School

Friday, February 24, 2023 at 5:30pm (doors open) and 6:00pm (movie)

HUMC and SWS invite you and your family and friends to a movie night! We will be showing Sing 2. A sign up link will be available for an rsvp. Please check our website, www.huntingtonumc.org, for more details.

















































MY 2023 LENTEN CALENDAR—40 CROSSES

This Lent I will show my love for Jesus by doing something for him each day. To show what I have done, I will color a cross each day to match one of the good deeds below.

- GREEN CROSS - I said an extra prayer.
- PURPLE CROSS - I helped someone.
- RED CROSS - I did something good that was hard for me to do.
- YELLOW CROSS - I did what I was supposed to do without being told.

Signed _____

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			February 22 	23 	24 	25 
February 26 	27 	28 	March 1 	2 	3 	4 
March 5 	6 	7 	8 	9 	10 	11 
March 12 	13 	14 	15 	16 	17 	18 
March 19 	20 	21 	22 	23 	24 	25 
March 26 	27 	28 	29 	30 	31 	April 1 
April 2 	3 	4 	5 	6 	7 	8 

Mark Your Calendar

Weekly Meetings/Events

Mon	Adult Bible Study	7:00pm	HUMC
Wed	Bell Choir	7:15pm	HUMC
Sun	Choir	11:00am	HUMC

* No Bible Study on 2/20

Mark Your Calendar!

February	First Day of Black History Month		
2.4	Sat	Pastor's College	
2.5	Sun	M&E	11:00am HUMC
2.12	Sun	Scout Sunday / Souper Bowl Sunday	HUMC
2.19-21	Korean Pastor's Winter Retreat		
2.22	Wed	Ash Wednesday (First Day of Lent)	
2.24	Fri	Movie Night (with SWS)	5:30pm HUMC

Happy Birthday (February)

11 Amy Miller	13 Steven Peiffer	14 Timothy Tyler
15 Sandra Smart	26 Donna Graham	29 Adeline Poach

Happy Anniversary (February)

11 Amy Miller	13 Steven Peiffer	14 Timothy Tyler
15 Sandra Smart	26 Donna Graham	29 Adeline Poach

Announcements

Welcome

1. If you need to schedule a time with Pastor Jacob, you can reach to him at 203-615-3214 or leadpastor@huntingtonumc.com
2. Join us for worship on Sunday at 8:30am (in-person) or 10:00am (in-person, Zoom, and Youtube). Meeting ID for Zoom is 867 9342 7439 and Youtube, search Huntington United Methodist Church.

Ministries

1. We are looking for a new children's ministry minister. More details about the job, please contact Pastor Jacob at leadpastor@huntingtonumc.org or at 203-615-3214.
2. We need volunteers for Usher, Altar Guilds, Choir, Chime Bell Choir, Sunday School, and other ministries. Please let Pastor Jacob know if you are interested.
3. Meal Train is here to help. Please contact Pastor Jacob or Membership and Evangelism co-chairs Amanda Wetmore (akovacs38@gmail.com) or Kate Kieley (katekieley@hotmail.com) for more information.
4. Spooner House Meals. We have just posted our new 2023 sign-up sheet. Contact the church office for the sign-up link.

Announcements

1. Pastor Jacob will be attending the Korean Pastor's Winter Retreat from February 19 to 21 (Sun to Tue). There will be no Bible Study on the 20th of February. And he will be away for his trip to England with Bishop Bickerton and his ordinands from March 19-26 (Sun-Wed). Please keep Pastor Jacob in your prayer and also church leaders who will fill the pulpit during his absence.
2. We have a brand new website (same web address, with a whole new look)! Please take some time to visit our website. (www.huntingtonumc.org)

Upcoming Events

1. We have a movie night with Susanna Wesley School on Friday (2/24). Please check our website for more details.

Huntington United Methodist Church

Mailing Address:

338 Walnut Tree Hill Road, Shelton, CT 06484



For any questions, comments, or changes, please contact us at 203.929.5545 or office@huntingtonumc.com