



The Open Door

a newsletter of

Memorial United Methodist Church

office@mccookumc.org

105 East E Street McCook, NE 69001

308-345-2445

FEBRUARY 2015



**ASH
WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 18TH**

Ash Wednesday Service will be at 7:00 p.m. with the Confirmation Students leading the worship service. The NOW Committee will be hosting a soup supper prior to the service at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.



UMYF

This past month the youth group enjoyed the holiday season by serving in the community along-

side you ringing bells for the Salvation Army. There was quite the show too from some of the girls as they sang Christmas carols to the customers coming in and out of Walmart. That talent level is incredible as well! The guys however had incredible talents when it came to ringing the bells. I even saw some of them ringing multiple bells at a time. Way to go fellas!! We also enjoyed our annual Christmas Party which was hosted by the Griger's for the 2nd year in a row. We had 39 students filling up their entire basement and a bunch of snacks to eat while we enjoyed the fellowship and a Christmas themed activity. We finished the night with the highly popular White Elephant gift exchange (the nice version). Next year we plan to have an Ugly Christmas Sweater Party! In the future months we have a few big activities coming up. About the time you are reading this we will probably just be completing Souper-Bowl Sunday and the kids are all working hard this year. Not only are they working to memorize the skit, but they each are responsible for putting the service together. For example, whoever reads scripture actually put in the work to find the scripture to read. It was not provided for them, so I am very proud of how hard they are all working on this. A couple more big events that are coming up are, Dare 2 Share, and the infamous Ski-Trip. We are very much looking forward to both and can't wait to share the pictures and stories when we return. Stay tuned for more updates next month! In Him, Pastor Chris.





Lent is nearly here. For many Christians, the season of Lent is an opportunity to reflect on the sinful nature of humanity and to make a more concerted effort to grow spiritually, and to try to become more of what God created us to be. There are religious traditions which do

not observe Lent. I don't understand how someone can not observe a season that is there, there's no getting around it. That is paramount to saying 'I'm not going to observe winter this year.' Perhaps what they mean is that they don't 'celebrate' Lent or do anything in particular during Lent. There is no getting around it-Lent exists whether or not we do anything about it. Some might ask why we need a certain season to repent or reflect – that we should be doing those things all year long. This is true, we should repent and reflect on a daily basis. The same question could be asked of Christmas – why set aside a particular day to celebrate the birth of Jesus – shouldn't we celebrate his presence each and every day?

Lent is the forty day period of time (not including Sundays) prior to Resurrection Day. The season of repentance and reflection begins each year on Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday in and of itself is set aside as a time for us to reflect on our own mortality and to be reminded that the world doesn't revolve around us. We are made from dust and to dust we shall return – but in the midst of that journey we remember that God is with us and loves us unconditionally.

For our church, the Lenten season will begin on Ash Wednesday with a Soup Supper in the Fellowship Hall, followed by worship at 7:00 p.m. The service of worship, which will be led by our confirmation students again this year, will include the imposition of ashes and the sacrament of Holy Communion. The Ministerial Association will again be sponsoring Lenten Services each Friday during Lent beginning at 12:05 p.m. The services this year will be held at St. Alban's Episcopal Church (509 West 1st) and will be followed by lunch. Beyond worship services, I encourage you to sign up for a small group. This Lent we will be exploring the "6 Things We Should Know About God." This study will take us through Lent right into Holy Week, where our season will culminate with worship on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and finally on Easter Sunday. Don't miss out on the opportunities before us to make this a Holy Lent – lest our Easter Sunday will leave us feeling like the tomb – empty. See you at church

A small, handwritten signature in red ink that reads 'Doug' is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Library: How big are your prayers? Do we dare pray for what we would say is outrageous or impossible? How big and how powerful is our God? Are we limiting our God with our small prayers? The bible says "you have not because you ask not", "ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find". Author Mark Batterson has written a book called "The Circle Maker". He starts out with the legend of "Honi, who lived outside Jerusalem in first century BC. The country was suffering under a great drought, and as legend has it, Honi drew a circle around himself in the middle of the market place and dropped to his knees and raised his hands to the heavens. He started to pray to God for rain, and continued to pray and vowed not to leave that circle until God would send rain. God did send rain. At first, a few drops. Honi continued to pray for more rain. God sent more, a sprinkle, then a torrential down pour. Then the rain settled down and came as a calm peaceful quenching shower that could soak into the earth. The moral of the story? Honi prayed. Honi believed. Honi wasn't afraid or doubtful. God is omniscient! We need to pray, and believe God for extraordinary works! We need to be bold and pray for our families, our jobs, our neighbors, and our dreams! Yes God even wants us to pray for our own dreams. He enjoys giving good things to his children! God wants us to believe in him, communicate with him, and rely on him! Lets pray, lets draw our own circles! Stop by the church library and check out this book or browse the shelves and see what we have to offer.

Youth Advisory Board: Met on December 21st. Dare-2-Share will be February 27-28 in Arvada, CO. A church has been contacted and arrangements made to stay there. Tickets have been purchased in advance. They are looking into an appropriate mission for that area as well. The ski trip is March 12-14. They will be going to Eldora. Chris has been working on a mission trip to Arizona in May. It will involve **work on a reservation. Tammy Pochop will lead the skit for "Souper" Bowl Sunday. They are looking into dates for the Dessert Auction. A sponsor covenant was handed out and Chris asked that they all take it home and review it. Discussion was held on election of new officers. The Loker's are going off the board. Dirk and Sandra Gray volunteered to become the treasurers, Katie will stay on as secretary and Stacey and Janie will co-chair until August, when Stacey will take over. Chris handed out the weekly sponsor rotation calendar. Next meeting will be January 11th at 4:30 p.m.**

Worship: I want to give a BIG THANK YOU to all of those who volunteered during our Christmas season as they helped make our services so successful. We are back to our regular schedule of Those Guys the 1st and 3rd and the Significant Band 2nd and 4th Sundays. We are looking ahead to the Lent season which starts in February.



Sunday, February 1st will be "Souper" Bowl Sunday with the youth leading both worship services and then they will be serving potato, chili and chicken noodle soups in the fellowship hall following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. A free-will offering will be taken, with all proceeds being split between the Pantry and Community Supper!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

February Birthdays:

Evelyn Baumann	Mel Holsten	Keagan Reece
Neola Blake	Devona Houghtelling	Angie Samway
Mason Boyd	Eli Kehler	Jake Schlager
Wayne Bryant	Arleigh Kincaid	Elaine Skiles
Bricen Campbell	Kyle Kinne	Madison Snyder
Christina Cappel	Jean Kirkus	Ian Spearman
Cindy Dame	Bryn Lampe	Esther Steinke
Mary Dueland	Tom Lentz	Norma Stevens
Bob Elder	Kerri Long	Bettye Stewart
Cameron Foster	Rick Loos	Vonnie Tiller
Travis Fries	Brenda McGuire	Bryceton Trew
Todd Graves	Jaci Meyers	Ray Tuller
Marsha Greeley	Wyatt Meyers	Laura Walter
Esther Hampton	Megan Miller	Jaxyn Warburton
Delores Henton	Christian Olson	Otto Weigel
Greg Hepp	Lanie Overton	Layton Winters
Dominique Hixon	Karla Polly	
Ryan Hixon	Mariah Poore	

February Anniversaries:

Don & Pam Ahlers
 Eric & Tracey Fisher
 Kip & Penny Johnson
 Mike & Dianne Kugler
 Tom & Mika Lentz
 Walt & Brenda McGuire
 Roger & Susan Moreau
 Merv & Bev Schliefert
 Tim & Terri Stevens

www.mccookumc.org
office@mccookumc.org
 (308) 345-2445
 Office Hours are
 Monday-Thursday
 8:00-3:00 p.m.

If the McCook Public Schools close due to inclement weather, the church office will also be closed and all activities for that day/night are cancelled. If the schools have a late start due to inclement weather, the church office will follow the same schedule.

PENNY MARCH TOTALS

as of January 11, 2015

\$186.52



Is your heart open?! Starting this lent season everyone will have the chance to continue with their small group or join a group as we begin a new series “6 Things We Should Know About God”. Come learn how God’s qualities effect each of us! Signup will continue through February 1st. You will be able to sign up after church service on Sundays or you may contact Kelli

Jensen at 308-340-1011. *Philemon 1:6 - I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ.*



Pantry collection
item for February

CANNED FRUIT

FEBRUARY 2015

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

8:15/10:30 am Worship
 9:15 am Coffee
 9:15 am Sunday School, YC
 6:00 pm Significant Light, S
 6:00 pm Jr. High UMYF
 7:00 pm Sr. High UMYF

MONDAY

TUESDAY

9:30 am Prayer Class, Adult SS Rm

WEDNESDAY

6:15 pm CHIPS, Adult SS Room
 6:15 pm Faith Weavers, FH
 6:15 pm Confirmation, YC
 6:15 pm WORD (9-10th), YC
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir, S
 7:30 pm WORD (11-12th)
 8:00 pm Master Ringers, S

THURSDAY

5:30 pm Community Supper, FH

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 "Souper" Bowl Sunday	2	3	4	5 6:30pm Trustees, L	6	7 6pm Singles
8 6pm Flex Your Faith Yoga, FH	9	10 10am Hillcrest 6pm Care Team	11 9am Willow Ridge 8pm Ad Council	12 12pm UMW Exec, FR 1:30pm UMW General, FH	13 1pm Wings of Hope, FR	14
15	16	17	18 6pm Soup Supper, FH 7pm Ash Wednesday Service, S	19	20	21 6pm Singles
22 6pm Flex Your Faith Yoga, FH	23 7pm NOW, L	24 2:30pm UMW Bingo, Hillcrest	25 1:30pm Sarah Circle	26 1:30pm Esther Circle, FH	27 Dare-2-Share	28 Dare-2-Share

newsletter/calendar info online at mccookumc.org



MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
105 EAST E STREET
MCCOOK NE 69001
308-345-2445

**NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 34
McCook NE**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Happy
Valentine's
Day



FEED HIS FLOCK - COMMUNITY SUPPER

Thanks to all who helped with the Community Supper this past year..what a service. We served 4957 meals this past year. We are in need of people to deliver meals on Thursday night. The meals are ready around 5:00 p.m. and it takes about 30 minutes to deliver. If you could possibly give it a try that would be great!!! Call Marilyn Anderson at 350-0438 or 345-5602. We have around 30 shut-ins we deliver to every week and it is divided into sections so no one has to go clear across town. Thanks for your help.



Little Blessings Preschool

Little Blessings Preschool is looking for substitute teachers. If you would like to fill in on occasion please visit with Traci Wiemers, 345-6335. We are still collecting Campbell's and Sunny D labels. We no longer save Schmicks receipts. Thank you for your support in our Children's ministry!