



# BARTLETT CHAPEL NEWS

February 2021

## What in the World is Lent?

Growing up in a blue-collar neighborhood, probably poorer than I knew and understood—but everyone I knew was in the same boat—there were a whole bunch of kids who were the same age. We attended the same school, usually walking together, playing football and baseball in the field by our house or in the biggest backyard, spending the night at one another's homes, and generally having lots of fun, with an occasional terrorizing of the neighborhood!

There was a certain time of the year when some of my friends would talk about what they were giving up for Lent. I had never heard of Lent, didn't know anything about it (our family did not attend church at that time), and the more I heard about it from my buddies, the less interested I was in the whole issue of Lent. I did not want to give up chocolate under any circumstances! Still don't.

Later, as I went to seminary and made the decision to become a part of the Methodist movement and church, I learned a whole lot about Lent that I really did not know and understand. The church I would finally attend as a youth did not talk about Lent, practice anything about Lent, or observe Lent. So, maybe you are more like me when I was a kid and wonder just what in the world is Lent and what is the big deal about Lent?

Glad you asked!

Lent is that season of forty days, not counting Sundays, that begins on Ash Wednesday, forty-six days before Easter. This has probably been observed since the very beginning of the church, although it was not "*formalized*" until the Council of Nicea in 325 CE. By the way, as you know, Easter is a movable holy day that is the first Sunday after the ecclesiastical full moon that occurs on or soon after March 21<sup>st</sup>. (No extra charge for that information.)

Lent is that season when the Church focuses upon the life and ministry and teachings of Jesus. It is a time when we become even more focused on recalling the truth of why Jesus died, which is to redeem us and the world of our sin. Because of the death and resurrection of Christ, our lives can be redeemed and renewed as we are given the gift of God's salvation and mercy, and by God's presence in our lives, live our lives for Christ. We can turn away from destructive ways and sin, and follow the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

The season of Lent should also be a time when we take a good look at our own lives and re-evaluate our lives—where we are, what we are, who we are, and who we are becoming. This time of reevaluation should lead us to grow as we become more faithful and passionate followers of Jesus Christ.

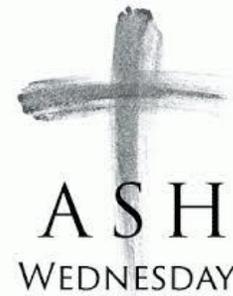
Traditionally, during Lent, people give up something. Some folks give up chocolate (which I will never understand!), while others give up cigarettes, sweets, caffeine, alcohol, television, or some other items you would sort of miss, but feel you should give up anyway. Another concept is to not give **UP** something but to give **TO** something. Giving one's self to something may mean when we become a part of a ministry to others, such as the Food Pantry. We may set aside some money by forsaking a meal and contributing what is saved to something that serves others. Or we may make more of an effort to connect with those closest to us.

Lent is first and foremost a time when we remember and focus on Jesus. We remember his sacrifice for us on the Cross. We remember his life, words, and actions. We remember who He has called us to become and we seek to follow Him.

These forty-six days will come and go whether we observe Lent or not. But wouldn't it be a real blessing to God, the world, and to our own lives if we chose to "*Observe a Holy Lent*" this year? To grow in our commitment to Jesus and to being the person Christ calls us to become? To grow, not in giving up chocolate, but in those things we know in our hearts we need to give up, and growing deeper in the love of Christ?

I challenge you and myself to do just that in these next forty-six days, starting with Ash Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. I will use the Sundays of Lent to challenge all of us (myself included) to look deeper into our hearts and lives and give up those things that hinder our journey with Christ. I invite you to join me. Let's see where we end up at the end of this season of Lent.

**Happy Lent 2021!**  
*Pastor Jeff Reed*



Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday, which is the beginning of the season of Lent. On that day, Pastor Jeff will post a devotional online, which will be available through the church website as well as the church's Facebook page. Also on that day, there will be two opportunities for a "drive-thru", during which Pastor Jeff will do the imposition of ashes on your forehead. This event will take place at the canopy at the main entrance from 1:00pm to 2:00pm and from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Also at this event, Pastor Jeff will distribute sealed communion cups for use on Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>.



## **Sunday Morning Worship**

We continue to have worship primarily *online* on Sunday mornings. The building doors are unlocked during worship, so if you are not able to worship with us online, you are welcome to join us in the sanctuary. We ask that you follow health and safety protocols while you are in the building: wear a mask, wash your hands, and maintain social distance.

## **“Talk-Back” Time with the Pastor**

All are welcome to attend “Talk-Back” Time with the Pastor *online*. This session is broadcast on Facebook Live weekly on Sunday mornings approximately 10 to 15 minutes after the conclusion of the worship service. During the session, we discuss that day’s sermon. Join the conversation by sharing your thoughts and questions through the comments section on Facebook Live.

## **Adult Sunday School Class**

All are welcome to attend our Adult Sunday School class, which will begin meeting in-person weekly on Sunday mornings on Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. We will meet in Fellowship Hall, beginning at 10:15am. We will be discussing the video series *He Chose the Nails: What God Did to Win Your Heart* by Max Lucado. Due to copyright issues, this class will not be available online. If you have questions about the class, please contact Joanna Sell.

## **Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study**

All are welcome to attend our Adult Bible Study, which will begin meeting weekly on Wednesday evenings on Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. If you are attending in-person, we meet in Fellowship Hall, beginning at 6:30pm. We request that you wear a mask. If you are attending online, we will post on Facebook prior to that evening whether we will be broadcasting through Facebook Live or Zoom.

## **Sunday School Class for Kids, Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Children preschool age through fifth grade are welcome to participate in our online Sunday School class through Zoom. The class meets weekly on Sunday mornings at 10:30am and is led by Pastor Julie. The Zoom link is available on Facebook on Sunday mornings, in the post containing that morning’s order of worship as well as in a separate post at 10:20am. If you have questions about the class, please contact Pastor Julie.

## **Rooted Youth (Jr High/Sr High)**

Youth group will meet on Zoom on the following Wednesdays, beginning at 6:30pm: February 17<sup>th</sup>, February 24<sup>th</sup>, and March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Beginning Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, youth group will meet in-person at the church every Sunday, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Masks will be required. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Julie.

## **Barnabas Ministry**

February is a great month to remind your student of how deeply God loves them. You might encourage them to read scriptures about God’s perfect love and the love he desires for us to have for others. Continue to pray faithfully for your student. Thank you for serving our students as an encourager! Contact Linda Reed if you have questions.

## **Bartlett Women in Ministry**

The Bartlett Chapel Women in Ministry have suspended in-person meetings. A timeline for returning to the regular meeting schedule will be announced at a later date. When we do return to meeting in-person, all women of the church are welcome and encouraged to join us.

## Small Groups

Are you interested in joining a small group? Small groups help people connect in relationship, so they can grow spiritually. Studying God's Word, striving to become more like Jesus, and making God's love real are the focus of Bartlett Chapel's small groups. These groups typically meet every week or every other week, discussing a book and/or video Bible study. Currently, during COVID, some of our groups are meeting through Zoom and other groups are meeting in-person while maintaining safe COVID protocols. We have also created new small groups, both Zoom-based and in-person. The invitation to join a small group is open to everyone! To those who do not live locally and join us regularly for worship through Facebook Live, please consider joining us in small group fellowship by joining one of our Zoom groups. We would love to have you! Many of our groups will begin a Lenten study soon, selecting from titles which include Adam Hamilton's *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life*, Max Lucado's *He Chose the Nails: What God Did to Win Your Heart*, and Mike Slaughter's *Renegade Gospel*. More information about small groups can be found on the church website, by selecting 'Small Groups' on our homepage. If you are interested in participating or have questions, please contact our Small Group Coordinator, Todd Griffith, at either 317-908-7121 or tgriffith@ecolab.com.

## Food Pantry Donations

Looking for an opportunity to help others? Shared Blessings Community Food Pantry is in need of the following items:

- Peanut butter (small jars)
- Jelly
- PopTarts
- Granola bars
- Breakfast bars
- Canned soup (chicken noodle, tomato, vegetable, Campbell's Chunky soups)
- Canned pastas (ravioli, SpaghettiOs)

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Kleenex tissues
- Laundry soap
- Clorox wipes

The donation cart is located inside the center door of the entrance under the canopy from 9am to 4pm each day. Please place your donations in the cart, and we will deliver them to the pantry. Thank you for your generosity!

## Donations for Buddy Bags

Buddy Bags is a Bartlett Chapel mission outreach to students at one Avon elementary school whose families are unable to provide nutritious meals during the weekend. We are collecting donations of the following items for this program:

- Shelf-stable packaged lunch and dinner items
- Pudding cups
- Fruit cups
- Individually packaged cereals
- PopTarts

The donation cart is located inside the center door of the entrance under the canopy from 9am to 4pm each day. Please place your donations in the cart, and we will include them in the Buddy Bags. Thank you for your generosity!

## Thank You

Dear Bartlett Chapel,

We appreciate your support in 2020. Because of people like you, Strong Missions continues to empower others through programs for feeding, education, sports, arts, construction and entrepreneurial training. Your donations truly make a difference and we appreciate your generosity.

~Strong Missions

## Our Military

Please remember our military and their families in your prayers. Current Bartlett Chapel military service people are:

Maddy Alspaugh	Tom Palmer
Zachary Carmichael	Jeremy Sherman
Jessica Cumbie	Ryan Shotts
Jonathan Cumbie	Shawn Weir
Jeffrey Houser	

The Bartlett Chapel church family appreciates you and thanks you for your service.

If you have a name of a service person you would like to share, please contact the church office.

## Our Homebound Members

Martha Clift	Dorothy Roberson
Jeff Hershberger	Lee Schaeffer
Marlene Jones	Rod Sieck
Rex & Kay McClain	Sharon Taylor

## Prayer List

Jeff Hershberger and family

Kelley Franklin

Mike Jenkins

Jerry Sparks

Margaret Brooks

Marty Himsel

Mary Luhman

Pat Bostic

Susi Thibodeaux

Laura Myers's son, Jim Myers

Bob Gentry

Barb Kolsto's sister, Kathy Schaefer

Paul and Ginny Morton's daughter, Stephanie Reinbold

Tim and Carol Mongan

Mary Jane Hartung

Jerry Weakly

Tim and Carol Mongan's granddaughter, Sarah Thyen, and her newborn baby

Ruthanne Tsakrios's daughter, Nikki Barnes

Dorothy Shute's friend, Lori

Brenda Wyant's friend, Mike

The family of Tom Hook, son of John & Nancy Hook, with Mission Aviation Fellowship

Ray Patterson's nephew, Patrick Patterson

The family of Larry Pensinger

Pastor Julie Macy

## February Birthdays

4<sup>th</sup> Cooper Houser  
Heather Kilburn  
5<sup>th</sup> Dakota Mains  
6<sup>th</sup> Mitzi Griffith  
Andrea Speas  
7<sup>th</sup> Cheyenne Wildman  
16<sup>th</sup> Jill Williams  
18<sup>th</sup> Jamie Burns  
Jeff Hershberger  
23<sup>rd</sup> Ginny Morton  
28<sup>th</sup> Jeff Bell  
Barbara Owens

## February Anniversaries

None

## March Birthdays

2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Whitesell  
5<sup>th</sup> Colton Knight  
8<sup>th</sup> Corinne Wagner  
9<sup>th</sup> Kelley Franklin  
Kirsten Mains  
10<sup>th</sup> Erin Murray  
11<sup>th</sup> Earlene Niemeyer  
13<sup>th</sup> Ruth Ann Franklin  
14<sup>th</sup> Pam Ware  
15<sup>th</sup> Caslyn Whitesell  
17<sup>th</sup> Westley Rembold  
18<sup>th</sup> Linda Reed  
21<sup>st</sup> Lori Cordry  
22<sup>nd</sup> Nehemiah Smith  
23<sup>rd</sup> Dave Griffith  
24<sup>th</sup> Marlene Jones  
25<sup>th</sup> Warren Sherman  
26<sup>th</sup> Emma Speas  
27<sup>th</sup> Morgan Griffith  
Jim Murray  
29<sup>th</sup> Jim Sell  
Dave Speas  
Jani Weir

## March Anniversaries

1<sup>st</sup> Pastor Darrell & Mary Harris  
Keith & Susan Kiefer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jerry & Jeani Weakly  
20<sup>th</sup> Joe & Naomi Thurmond

## Ways to Give Financially

As you continue to support the church through your giving, you may do so in one of the following ways:

**Give in the building.** There are offering boxes at the rear of the sanctuary in which you may place your contribution.

**Give online.** Visit the church website at [www.bartlettchapel.com](http://www.bartlettchapel.com). Select “Online Giving” from the menu options and you will be directed to a page where you can make your contribution.

**Mail your contribution.** Send your contribution to the church through regular mail to 4396 E Main St, Avon, IN 46123.

Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity in your contributions to the ministry of the church!

## Connection Card

Our connection card is now available in two forms:

**Online.** There is a link to our connection card in the Facebook post at 8:45am on Sunday mornings (the same post that contains the order of worship).

**In the building.** If you are not able to join us in worship online and you join us in the sanctuary, the connection cards are in each pew in the holders containing the offering envelopes.

Completing our connection card gives you an opportunity to share updates and prayer requests as well as allows us to remain connected to you!

## Contact Information

**Pastor Jeff Reed**, *Senior Pastor*  
[pastorjeff@bartlettchapel.com](mailto:pastorjeff@bartlettchapel.com)

**Julie Macy**, *Associate Pastor & Youth Pastor*  
*Children, Youth & Family Ministry*  
[pastorjulie@bartlettchapel.com](mailto:pastorjulie@bartlettchapel.com)

**Lori Cordry**, *Administrative Assistant*  
[lori@bartlettchapel.com](mailto:lori@bartlettchapel.com)

You may also reach us by phone by calling the church office at 317-745-2504. If we are not available to speak with you, please leave a message and we will return your call. Phone messages are checked several times daily.

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**BARTLETT CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**4396 E Main St, Avon IN 46123**

**[www.bartlettchapel.com](http://www.bartlettchapel.com)**

**[facebook.com/bartlettchapel](https://facebook.com/bartlettchapel)**

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