

The Crier

February 2023

St. Philip's United Church of Christ

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished." --Matthew 4:1-2

Greetings St. Philip's UCC!

While some of us are still taking down and putting away the last of our Christmas decorations, in the blink of an eye, here we are about to enter the season of Lent. It's a kind of whiplash of seasons, transitioning from the joy of Christmas and the wonder of Epiphany into the more somber season of Lent.

In the tradition of Jesus' forty days of prayer and fasting in the wilderness, just after his baptism and just before he begins his public ministry, we continue to set aside forty days, six weeks, leading up to Holy Week and the celebration of Easter. Some may uphold the tradition of fasting, or of giving up something, for those forty days, as a reminder of the ministry of Jesus. Some may spend extra time studying the scriptures as an intentional way to pay attention to their spirituality during these forty days. Some may engage in a devotional or prayer practice, as they set aside these forty days to listen deeply for God's whisper. Some may find extra ways to serve and volunteer and give during this season of Lent, leaning into Christ's call to love our neighbors.

There are all kinds of ways to mark the season of Lent in our daily lives, and there's no right or wrong way to do it. Every year we make our way from the parade of palms, to the last supper, to the cross, to the tomb, and, finally, to the resurrection. It's a lot to take in, no matter how many times you've made the journey through Holy Week. It's so much, in fact, that we spend forty days preparing our hearts to reimagine it again every year.

How will you observe the season of Lent in 2023? Maybe you do the same things every year. Maybe every year you try something different. Maybe you've never been intentional about marking these forty days in the liturgical tradition. It's really not so much about **what** you do; it's really more about **why.** Whether it's Bible study, or boosting your prayer life, or giving something up, or looking for opportunities to serve, or any number of things you might tangibly "do," the most important part is the "why." If you're seeking to lean into and grow your relationship with God, to better understand your faith and spirituality, to connect deeper with Christ, to be more intentional about being a part of the Body of Christ—the Church, to prepare your heart for the agony and ecstasy of Holy Week, or to learn how to follow Jesus ever more closely and live into God's kingdom of love and grace, well, you're certainly on the right track!

However you spend this season of Lent, whatever ways you find to mark these forty days, may it be full of meaning, expand your faith and understanding of God's grace, and draw you ever nearer to the light and love of Christ.

Lenten blessings, friends. May our journey through the wilderness lead us together to hope and joy!

Peace and prayers for the journey ahead,
Pastor Laura

St. Philip's Mission Statement

*St. Philip's United Church of Christ is a loving
Christian community believing in
Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit*



St. Philip's Vision Statement

**Our
Vision
Statement**

We are called to the body of Jesus Christ, with:
Minds to study God's word,
Mouths to proclaim the Gospel,
Eyes to see the needs of others,
Arms to welcome all,
Hearts big enough to share God's love with all God's children.

February Birthdays

Happy Birthday to our members who will be celebrating a birthday in February.

The following words will be heard on the 1st Sunday of each month....

*"Happy Birthday to You!,
Happy Birthday to You!,
Happy Birthday Everybody!,
and God Bless you!"*

JoAnn Leber	1
Rachel Fischer	3
Lily Swanson	3
Elizabeth Vogt	9
Heather Hemingway	
Harvey	12
Dustin Knoll	14
Kathy Vogt	17
Wes Cummings	18
Harrison Fischer	18
Gavin Armistead	20
Cara Holdener	21
Virginia Hladnick	23

Emily Mikusch	27
Joan Hemingway	28
Dave Schiele	28



Contact the Pastor



Feel free to contact Pastor Laura anytime:

Cell (314) 452-0785

Office (314) 843-5100

or email

lmignerone@gmail.com



Gail Avery

Grace Heady

Pam Kelly

Marilyn Milne

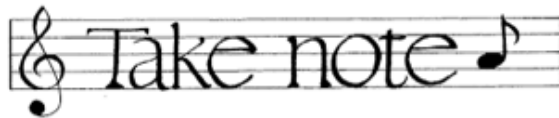
Jered Nagle

Shirley Nottelmann

Paul Shrout

Lily Swanson

Paula Williams



Choir Rehearsals - Meeting dates

February 5 and 19 after Worship

The Choir rehearses the Anthem and Hymns for the upcoming Sunday worship service. New members are always welcome. There is no audition - anyone with a love for music and a desire to sing is invited to join. Rehearsal lasts usually about an hour and we always have fun! Contact Mike Orzel, our Music Director, for more information.

PRINTER CARTRIDGE RECYCLING

Thank you for bringing your used Canon and HP cartridges to church for recycling. Please continue to put them in the collection box in the entry space.

WORSHIP LISTENING DEVICES

Listening devices used during worship are now available in the Admin Assistant Office. You can find them as you walk in the door to the right.

IN CASE OF SNOW...

If worship services are canceled due to inclement weather, please watch for the announcement on Channel 2 or 11. We will be listed as:

St. Philip's UCC

As a courtesy, please call anyone you know who might need this information.

Cancellations will also be posted on Facebook.





A worship service including the imposition of ashes and holy communion will be held on Ash Wednesday, February 22, at 2:00pm, at St. Philip's UCC. All are invited to participate!

LOGOS WINTER SCHEDULE

We will meet on:

February	March
8	1
15	8
22 (Ash Wednesday)	15 (tent.) 29

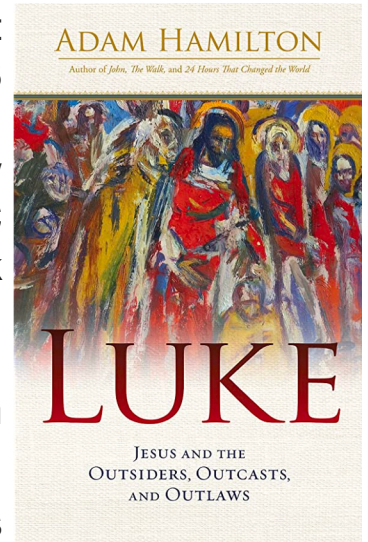
We will not meet on March 22 due to Spring Break.

Feel free to invite friends and let me know if you have any questions.

Andrea

Lenten Book Study!

On Tuesday evenings, at 6:00pm, February 28 through April 4, we will gather via Zoom with new friends from St. John UCC (St. Clair) for a weekly book study: "Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws" by Adam Hamilton.



Each week, we will discuss one chapter, finishing the book during Holy Week just before Easter.

Of course, the discussion will also be accessible each week even if you don't want to read the book--all are invited to participate, whether you're a reader or not!

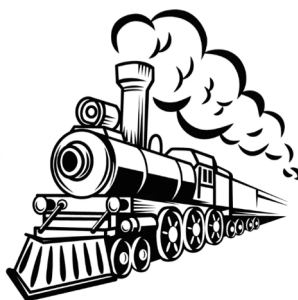
Books are about \$20 on Amazon--feel free to order a copy on your own, or let Pastor Laura know to order one for you (please pay the church through the offering plate with \$20 with "Lenten Book Study" noted on your check or envelope--if the expense exceeds your budget, but you'd like a copy, please talk to Pastor Laura and we'll work something out).

We'll discuss chapter one on February 28. The Zoom link will remain the same, and will be emailed each week during the study. Contact Pastor Laura with questions. Hope you will join us!

SAVE THE DATE

You and your family are invited for a fun afternoon of fellowship at the Museum of Transportation on Sunday, March 19.

More details to follow!



OUTREACH MINISTRY NEWS

Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 22. This year we will collect food items, clothing items and cash donations for **Isaiah 58 Ministries** which supplies emergency provisions through their Food Pantry and Thrift Store.



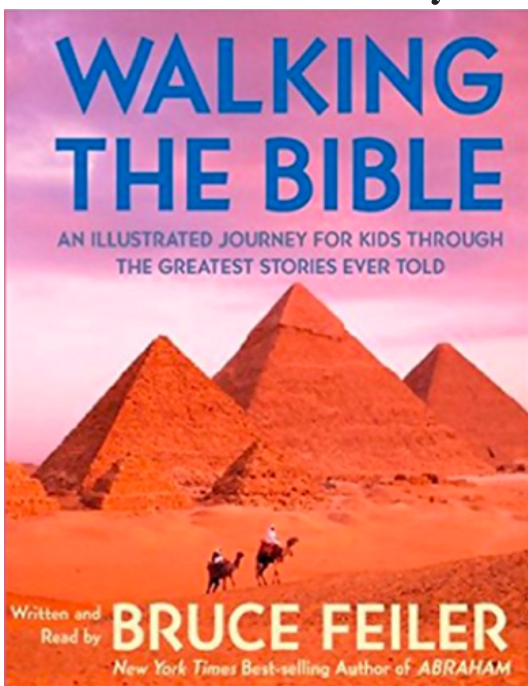
Clothing items should be clean and in good repair. Clothing and shoes for all ages is needed, particularly larger sizes for older Men and Women. Storage Space is limited so only clothing for the upcoming seasons of Spring and Summer is currently needed.

Food Items needed most include: Sardines, canned chili, cooking oil (48 ounces or smaller), Peanut butter (smooth type), Shelf-stable milk, and Deluxe Macaroni and Cheese (the kind that does not need milk and butter added).

Additional items currently needed most include: dish soap, shaving cream, razors, toilet paper and pater towels. Any non-perishable food items are accepted. A poster in the Gathering Space will list other items needed most.

We hope to schedule a Mission Moment with a Isaiah 58 staff member during Lent. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

Tour the Holy Land without Leaving St. Louis!!!



Join us after church on Sunday February 12 to watch the first episode of Walking the Bible by Bruce Feiler, featuring his epic journey by foot, jeep, rowboat and camel through the settings for the greatest stories every told.

You will see Mount Ararat, where Noah's ark landed, trek to the desert where Abraham first heard the words of God, and scale the summit where Moses received the Ten Commandments.

And, you can do this for FREE, in the company of good friends and the comfort of St. Philips Church! Snacks and childcare will be provided.



Please wear your name tag during worship.

Thank you!

LUNCH BUNCH

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - noon

The next Lunch Bunch outing will be held on Wednesday, February 8. Come join us at noon at Three Kings Pub located at 40 Ronnie's Plaza, close to Ronnie's Theater.

See the PINK sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and sign-up by Sunday, February 5 or contact Jan Freese at 636-256-9488 for reservations at 314-843-0183.



BOOK CLUB



**Sunday
February 26
10:15am**

Our February Selection is *Midnight Library* by Matt Haig, an award-winning novel about being caught between life choices, regrets, despair and ultimately discovering the potential your life has to offer. Several Book Club members have already read this book and give it a grade of A+. We will meet to discuss it on February 26.



Consider joining Book Club, or just reading this book with us. We meet after church, share a potluck lunch, and always have a good time. Copies of the book will be available after January 29, or can be delivered to your house upon request.



Dear St Philips UCC Family,
Thank you for the lovely
sewie & danish, coffee after
my moms sewie. She loved
her church so much.
Love
The Fischer
& The Finnesen

December 2022 General Fund Summary

Receipts

Sunday Offering	10,069.00	
Interest Income	183.63	
MPR Rental	25.00	
Early Childhood Center	<u>9,500.00</u>	
Total		19,777.63

Expenses

<u>Spiritual Life Ministry</u>	71.40	
Learning Ministry	371.55	
Financial Ministry	1,909.75	
Outreach Ministry	200.00	
Congregational Life	59.20	
Church Property Ministry	7,823.03	
Personnel	<u>4,948.93</u>	
Total		<u>15,383.86</u>

December Surplus	4,393.77
Previous Balance	<u>7,538.06</u>
December 31 Balance	11,931.83 =====

December Building Fund Summary

Beginning Balance	6,140.23
Building Fund Offering	354.00
Capital Improvement Fund	<u>(417.00)</u>
December Ending Balance	6,077.23 =====

December Improvements Offering Summary

Beginning Balance	294.37
December Offering	189.00
Amount applied to gutter installation	<u>(483.37)</u>
December Ending Balance	0.00 =====

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 9:30 Sunday Worship In-person & Facebook 9:45 Sunday School In-person 10:15 Choir Rehearsal	6 7:00 Church Council Meeting	7	8 noon Lunch Bunch @ Three Kings Pub 5:30 LOGOS	9	10	11
12 9:30 Sunday Worship In-person & Facebook 9:45 Sunday School In-person 10:30 Tour Holy Land Presentation	13	14	15 5:30-7:00 LOGOS (tentative)	16	17	18
19 9:30 Sunday Worship In-person & Facebook 9:45 Sunday School In-person 10:15 Choir Rehearsal	20	21	22 Ash Wednesday 2:00 Worship 5:30-7:00 LOGOS	23 6:30-9:00 Quilters	24 March CRIER Articles Due	25
26 9:30 Sunday Worship In-person & Facebook 9:45 Sunday School In-person 10:15 Book Club	27 4:45 ECC Board Meeting	28 6:00 Lenten Book Study				
FEBRUARY						