

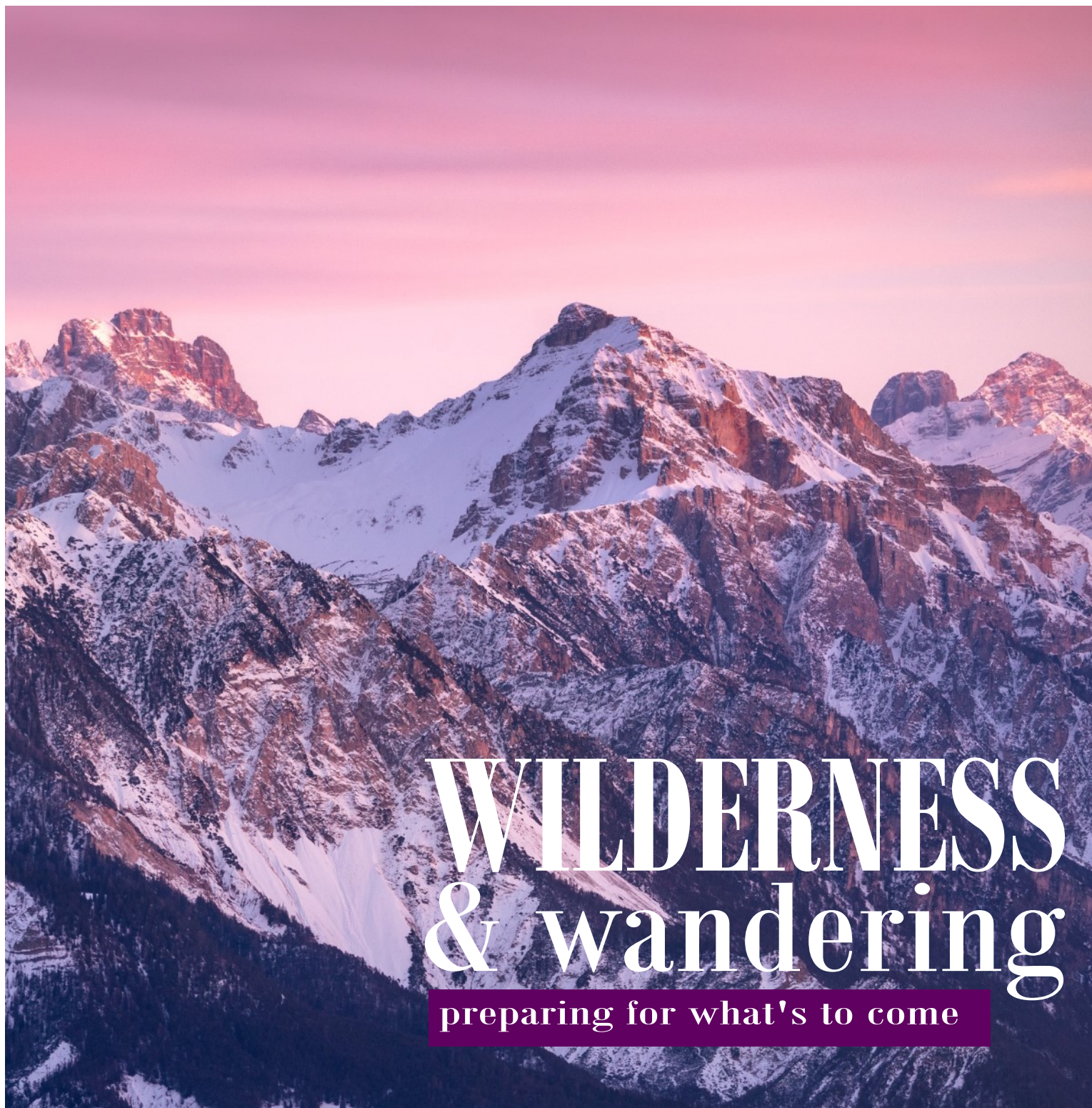


The **VISITOR**

A monthly publication of St. Luke's Methodist Church - Kilgore, Texas

February 2024

Issue 2



WILDERNESS & wandering

preparing for what's to come

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on all things St. Luke's

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<https://www.instagram.com/stlukeskilgore/>

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<https://www.facebook.com/stlukesyouthkilgore>

St. Luke's Kids

<https://www.facebook.com/stlukeskilgorekids>

St. Luke's MDO

<https://www.facebook.com/stlukesmdo>

Subscribe to our YouTube page

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Sign-up to receive our emails

<https://stlukeskilgore.org/newsletters/>

Watch Worship Live

<https://stlukeskilgore.org/watch-live/>

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**Rev. Dr.
Allison
Andrews**
Sr. Pastor

WILDERNESS & WANDERING

Suggested Reading, "The Temptation of Jesus": Luke 4, Matthew 4

It has taken me almost a year and a half to navigate the Kilgore area. (I know, it's pitiful!) As most of you realize, and have probably said behind my back, "She couldn't find her way out of a paper bag!" I agree! In fact, I readily admit that I am directionally challenged. Google maps is my friend! On a jaunt from Dallas to Tyler, I once argued vehemently with my husband that I knew with "every fiber of my being" that we were going the opposite direction required. Of course, I was wrong. From that time forward, much joviality has occurred over "my fibers."

This trait is humorous, until it's not..... The stress I experience when I am in a car and aware that I'm lost is significant to the point that I will call someone and ask them to talk to me until I know I'm on the right track again. My daughter Caroline recently remarked to me, "I don't know how you manage." It was a shock to my system that my child, who I successfully delivered to school and all events for over 16 years, now sees me as the one who needs help getting around. **And here-in lies the spiritual paradox: God asks us to move away from familiarity** and the comfort of others so that we might hear Him more acutely and understand ourselves and our faith more deeply. Getting lost is terrible, but finding God in new places is empowering!

Yes, to wander and not know where you are is a very desolate and unnerving experience. Because most of us feel this way, we don't see the value of the Lenten call to explore and even electively choose isolation over a destination. As we approach the forty days of Lent which lead to Easter, we are reminded that at times we must choose to wander into challenging and uncharted territory. The model for this is the story in which Jesus inaugurated his ministry only after he detoured off of the beaten path and chose a wilderness which afforded him space, quietude, meditation and denial. It was in that experience that he discovered and demonstrated his mission and resolve to follow the lead of his Father, over and against the grandiosity and ease offered by Satan. We understand, therefore, that the forty days of Christ in the desert is a template for his followers to incorporate. In the desert experience and all of the other examples in which Jesus sought to find solitude for prayer and removal, the lesson is clear that faith, growth, and obedience requires an element of walking into the unknown, the unoccupied, the uncluttered, and the uninhabited places and moments.

What am I suggesting?

- 1) Let's choose a different path during Lent, and let the twists and turns lead you to God.
- 2) Embrace "wilderness moments" in which you are set apart and open to new realities and truths about yourself and God.
- 3) Find moments to hear the voice of God, as opposed to the opinions of the world.
- 4) Deny yourself the distractions you typically use for temporary ease, and replace those practices with spiritual habits of worship, scripture study, prayer, and fasting.
- 5) Let your mind and your voice rest. Listen for what God would have you know.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children 4yrs-2nd Grade are invited to children's church during the 10:30am worship service on the 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays of the month. After the Children's Message, kids are invited to walk with Mrs. Debbie to the Chapel.

The 1st Sunday of each month we celebrate Holy Communion. Your family is encouraged to take communion and worship together.



Debbie Nicholson
Children's Ministry
Director

4 REASONS a child should participate in children's church

1. Children grow in their love for God and Jesus Christ.
2. They begin to learn how and why we do certain parts of worship services.
3. Children can ask questions about anything that is done.
4. They began to learn about appropriate behavior during a worship service.

MARK YOUR Calendar FEBRUARY

- 2 Parents Night Out
6:00pm-9:00pm
- 4 Family Valentines Party
2:00pm
- 14 Ash Wednesday
Children's Choir & Dinner
NO Bible Study
Worship 6:00pm
- 18 Third Grade Bible Sunday
- 25 Children's Choir performs
8:30am Worship

Please see the calendar on page 10 for a complete list of this month's events and meetings.

ST. LUKE'S KIDS



Parents Night Out

Fun, Food, and Fellowship + date night for mom and dad.

PNO will take place the 1st Friday night of each month, February through May. It is from 6-9. Cost is \$15 per child. They will have pizza for supper as well as a snack before leaving. You will need to pre-register online. Registration opens on January 19, at 8am. This will let us know how many kids and what age of kids will attend. This helps us plan for food, have enough caregivers and plan appropriate activities. You may pay online or when you drop your children off. See you February 2.



ST. LUKE'S YOUTH



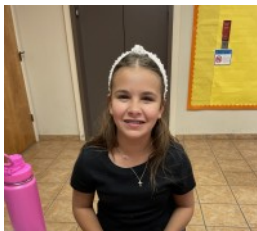
Rev. Wade Skinner

Associate Pastor
of Youth
& Families

MARK YOUR *Calendar* FEBRUARY

- 11 Superbowl Party
6:00pm-8:30pm
- 14 Ash Wednesday
Ashes @ Whataburger
7:00am
Children's Choir & Dinner
NO Bible Study
6:00pm Worship

Please see the calendar on page 10 for a complete list of this month's events and meetings.



The Family Who Repents Together Stays Together

The Bible's notion of repentance has the power to change our culture and our family dynamics by freeing us from the guilt of sin and the need to penalize others for their sins against us. In the New Testament, translators render the English word "repentance" from the Greek word metanoia which refers to a "turning about." Think of it as an "about face." This turning about first requires an inner heart change. To turn away from sin, you have to first recognize that your desire for something has replaced your desire for God. The Bible calls this idolatry. So, sin can even include desiring good things too much. When a desire for anything replaces our desire for God, we have made that thing an idol. Repentance requires confessing our inordinate desires for good things as well as confessing our desires for bad things and turning away from those things toward God in faith.

So, repentance also requires faith. The only way to truly repent of your sin is to trust that God's payment for your sin in the death of God's perfect Son is enough. You don't have to do anything else! You don't have to work at paying God anymore. Jesus lived the perfect life of obedience that you could never accomplish and died the death you could never endure and when you put your faith in him alone, you are free to obey him out of love. God's love and approval of his children is based on the finished work of Christ and is not conditioned on our obedience. This is the Gospel. True "conversion" (which is another name for repentance) involves being transformed from a life enslaved to doing good deeds as payment for your sins to living a life of forgiveness. You can forgive others freely without penalizing them only when you know that God forgives you on the basis of Jesus, not because you are "sorry" or because you go to church or do good deeds. How differently our families and our culture would be if we embraced a life of "repentance" like that.

Ash Wednesday

beginning the journey



Join us as we begin the journey through the wilderness as we make our way to the Cross of Easter morning.

Wednesday, February 14

7:00am

Ashes at Whataburger

This tradition was started by our youth, but all are invited to join us for a short devotion and the imposition of ashes before you head off to work or school.

5:15pm-6:00pm*

Dinner

\$6 for adults | \$3 for kids under 12

note children's choir & youth pick up will still happen.

6:00pm

Ash Wednesday Worship

Following dinner, join us for worship and the imposition of ashes in the Sanctuary.

Lenten Devotional Book

We are compiling devotions from our members to put together a Lenten Devotional book to help guide us through the Lenten season. Be the lookout for your booklet in the mail, or pick one up from the church beginning February 10



1

What is Lent?

Beginning on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Easter Sunday, Lent is marked by 40 days on the Church calendar where the faithful are called to purify and renew themselves spiritually.

"Lent is a time to prepare for the renewal of our life in the Resurrection, and a renewal of our baptismal experience of Jesus and our Risen Lord,"

What is Ash Wednesday?

2.

Christians are called to attend worship and receive ashes marked on their forehead in the sign of a cross. The ashes are made from the remains of the burned palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday services. It is also recommended Christians fast on Ash Wednesday, abstaining from meat.

Note the significance of the ashes, as it is symbolic of freeing ourselves from the unnecessary, as "remember you are dust and to dust you will return."

Traditionally, Ash Wednesday prepared Catholics for baptism and the reconciliation of penitence.

The imposition of ashes was a sign of entrance into the state of penitent. This is way before confession existed. People who committed major, not just mortal, sin were enrolled into penitence which meant they had ashes imposed and stood at the back of the church and did not receive the Eucharist until they were reconciled on Holy Thursday.

LENT

The reasons for the season

Next to Advent and Christmas, Lent is one of the most celebrated and revered seasons in the year of the Catholic Church. Almost everybody knows the basics about Lent: that it begins on Ash Wednesday, lasts several weeks in which people routinely "give up" something, and concludes on Easter Sunday with a celebration of the Risen Christ. But how many people, both practicing Catholics and otherwise, know about the meanings and history behind many of our Lenten traditions?

Why do we "give up" something during Lent?

3.

Many Christians make personal sacrifice pledges to themselves during Lent, such as giving up chocolate, alcohol or coffee. But with that sacrifice should be a pledge to give something of yourselves, to walk in the path of Christ. For us to be renewed, (we) have to take some kind of spiritual journey, or I call, a spiritual workout. If you want to work out and get healthy, you go and you train. This is a spiritual training time, and therefore, makes a person healthier. That's part of it, but another part of it is dieting and fasting. There's a difference between abstaining and fasting, such as abstaining from certain types of food like meat on Fridays, while fasting is limiting the amount of food you take. Downsizing is another good word. That's one aspect, which leads to renewal.

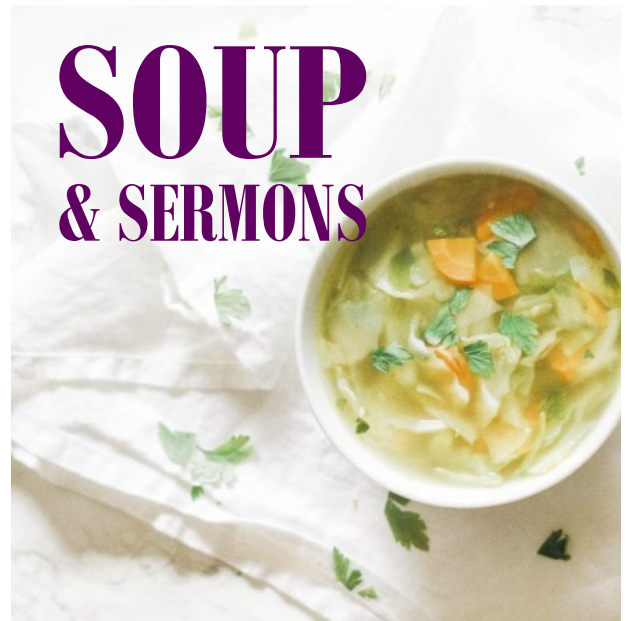
Christians should also share the fruits of their fasting.

"When I deny myself, I need to place at the table somebody who is less fortunate and needy. That's the origin of Christian fasting. I hear people say, 'I'm not going to Starbucks during Lent. The money I save by not going to Starbucks, I can put aside and give it to the food pantry. We gather the fruits of the fast.'"

"It's not just writing a check, it's connected with our fasting and purifying ourselves. Fasting and abstinence needs to have the other side of the coin. What I deny myself, I have to give to somebody else."

Article from Father Czeslaw Krysa, diocesan director of the Office of Worship and rector of St. Casimir Church in Buffalo,, NY.

SOUP & SERMONS



Join us for Soup & Sermons, on Wednesdays during Lent. We will meet at 11:45am in the Family Center to enjoy a warm soup lunch provided by Richelle Rathbun, followed by a short lesson from various speakers.

Invite a friend and join us as we journey through the wilderness as we make our way to the Cross of Easter morning.

Wednesdays @11:45am

February 21

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Allison Andrews

February 28

Speaker: Anna Rohde

March 6

Speaker: TBA

March 20

Speaker: Rev. Wade Skinner

****Note**** We will not meet on March 13 due to KISD Spring Break.

HOLY HUDDLERS

We would like to invite and welcome everyone to eat and fellowship with the Holy Huddlers. We meet twice a month (not always the same week of the month due to holidays). Supper will be on you, but the fellowship will be shared by all.

All gatherings begin at 6:00pm

February 2

Dairy Queen, Kilgore

February 16

Pizza King, Longview

If you have any questions, please call
Barbara Francisco, 903-918-6797

METHODIST Women

**Tuesday, February 6
6:00pm
Parlor**

St. Luke's Methodist Women will meet February 6, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the church Parlor. Brenda Culpepper and Janet Craver will provide dinner. Jan Hattaway will give a devotional. The program will be Sharing Love With Others. All women of the church are invited to attend.

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARDS

2024 pledge cards are being sent to every church member. They are also available in the welcome centers and in the church office. They are due back on Sunday, February 4.

How will you use your gifts to support St. Luke's as we work to transform lives and make disciples?

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

February 7

Beef Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread,
Dessert, & a Drink

February 14

Chicken Pita's, Salad, Dessert, & Drink

February 21

Baked Potatoes, Salad, Dessert & Drink

February 28

Ham, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans,
Roll, Dessert & Drink

Cash, Check, and Credit Cards
will be accepted at dinner.

Dinner is served every Wednesday
during the School year, 5:15pm-6:00pm

\$6 for adults 12 & over | \$3 for kids

Valentine's PARTY

**Sunday, February 4
2:00pm
Gym**

All kids and parents are invited to join
us for a Valentines party!

We will have food, games, & crafts.
Grab a friend and join the fun.

2024 BOARD MEMBERS

Board Chair

Amanda Gillen-Hall

Staff Parish Relations

Carol Grimes

Endowments

Celia Mooney

Lay Leader

Anna Rohde

Trustees

Bill Bryant

Class of 2024

Bill Bryant
Milton Hattaway
Paula Hooks
Jim McCann
Susan Moore
Cody Sprayberry

Class of 2025

Kathy Brown
Alan Clark
Carol Grimes
Dean Miller

Class of 2026

Danny Harrison
Janet Craver
Joe Wallace
Annette Morgan

These volunteers have agreed to help lead the church. If you have any questions about what is happening around St. Luke's please contact one of them.

WAYS TO GIVE AT *St. Luke's*



IN PERSON

In the offering plate or in the offering boxes at the entrance to the sanctuary



BY MAIL

St. Luke's MC
401 E. Main St
Kilgore, TX 75662



ONLINE

at stlukeskilgore.org
or use the QR Code



BY TEXT

Text "give" to
903-833-3576

FINANCE REPORT

This report reflects giving and expenses from January 1-21, 2024

Approved 2024 Budget \$695,573.30

Income

Needed income per week \$13,376.41

January 7, 2024 \$47,242.00*

January 14, 2024 \$8,092.92

January 21, 2024 \$5,968.25

Total Year-To-Date \$61, 303.17

Needed Income Year-to-Date \$40, 129.23

Actual Income Year-to-Date \$61, 303.17

Difference \$21,173.94

Expenses

Projected Year-To-Date \$40, 129.23

Actual Year-To-Date \$28, 013.08

Difference \$12,116.15

JOYS & CONCERNS

Please use the "Prayer" cards in the pews to keep us updated on your loved ones. People will remain on this list for one month. Please let us know if they need to be on longer, 903-984-3576.

PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Michael Barnard	Jessica Hatt
Jack & Sharry Christopher	Pat Haynes
Tommy Freeman	Carolyn Holcombe
Cindy Frederick	Sam Holley
Jo Hancock	

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Renate Albus.....friend of Pat & Art Morchat
Cindy Allen.....sister of Sharon McCann
Dhe Belden.....neighbor of Sheryl Caraway
Cecilia & Byron Castleberry.....
.....friends of Rhett & Anna Rohde
Mac Cervantes.....friend of Louise Fielding
Karen Chelf.....friend of Polly Green
George Clark.....friend of Louise Fielding
Bill Decker.....friend of Sheryl Caraway
Danny Henry.....friend of Sheryl Caraway
Mason Holman.....grandson of Tommy & Laura Farnham
Heather Howard.....friend of Tommy & Laura Farnham
Bruce Huther.....brother-in-law of Sharon & Jim McCann
Judy Issacs.....friend of David & Karen Wilson
Cecelia Mitchell.....friend to many
Mrs. Robinson.....friend of Louise Fielding
Gina Romero.....niece of Bob & Hope Cantu
French Sturrock...friend of Jamie Haynes & Robert Poland
Ami & Joey Smith.....friends of many
Terri Smith.....friend of Jan Hattaway
Bob Sullivan & Family.....friends of Pat & Art Morchat
Dan Triveno.....brother-in-law of Barbara Francisco
G.W. Wright.....friend of David & Karen Wilson

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO...

Gregg & Sheryl Carraway on the death of Gregg's mother, **Karen Caraway**.

The family of **April Watson**, who passed away on January 3.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Please say a prayer for our church family on their special day.

If we missed your date, please call the church office (903-984-3576).

February 1

Robert Holder

February 2

Bob Cantu
Lainey Middlebrooks
SyRena Witt

February 5

Lynn Holt

February 6

Sally Holder

February 7

Barbara Johnson
Jeff Stephens

February 11

Matthew Davis

February 12

Joe White

February 15

Jo Hancock

February 16

Judy Burns
Elizabeth Lovell

February 18

Cindy Frederick

February 21

Elaine Kirksey

February 25

Sharon McCann

February 26

Milton Hattaway
David Mason

February 28

Mickey Smith

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Name

Date

Rhett & Anna Rohde

2/5/1983

February 2024

* Nursery provided for this event.
 ** Nursery can be arranged for this event.
 Call the church office, 903-984-3576

				1	2 Parents Night Out 6:00pm Holy Huddlers @ Dairy Queen, Kilgore 6:00pm	3
4 3rd Sunday of Stewardship Valentine's Party 2:00pm	5	6 Methodist Women 6:00pm	7	8	9	10
11 Youth Superbowl Party 6:00pm-8:30pm	12	13 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 6:00pm	14 Ashes @ Whataburger 7:00am Ash Wednesday Worship 6:00pm	15	16 Holy Huddlers @ Pizza King, Longview 6:00pm	17
18 1st Sunday of Lent	19 NO MDO Office Closed President's Day	20	21 Soup & Sermon 11:45am	22	23	24
25 2nd Sunday of Lent Children's Choir sing 8:30am	26 Board of Stewards 6:00pm	27	28 Soup & Sermon 11:45am	29		

RECURRING WEEKLY:

Sunday

8:30am | Arise Worship* (Sanctuary)
 9:30am | Sunday School*
 10:30am | Traditional Worship * (Sanctuary)
 11:30am | Handbell Choir (Handbell Room)

Monday

9:00am-2:00pm | Mother's Day Out
 9:05am-9:20am | First Day Focus

Tuesday

8:00am | Prayer Group** (Knowles Chapel)
 11:45am | Tuesday Lunch Bunch (Family Center)

Wednesday

9:00am-2:00pm | Mother's Day Out
 3:15pm-5:30pm | Children's Choir
 5:15pm-6:00pm | Dinner (Family Center)
 6:00pm | Chancel Choir Rehearsal* (Sanctuary)
 Bible Studies & Groups*

Thursday

6:30pm | Arise Band Rehearsal* (Sanctuary)

The
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



SHROVE TUESDAY

Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 13
6:00pm
Family Center

Invite a friend and join us for
FREE pancake Supper to celebrate
the beginning of Lent.

