

### Southside Connection

#### **Greetings Southside!!**

As we approach the season of Lent, I invite you to consider this sacred time as an opportunity for reflection and spiritual renewal.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5th, and lasts for 40 days (not counting Sundays), leading us toward the celebration of Easter. This season is representative of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, preparing Him for his ministry. It is a time for us, too, to prepare—mindfully, intentionally, and prayerfully—for the celebration of the resurrection!

During Lent, we are called to reflect on our relationship with God, to examine our hearts, and to repent. It is a time of self-examination, of acknowledging our need for grace, and of drawing closer to God through prayer, scripture, and acts of service.

Many of us might choose to give up something for Lent—a food, a habit, or a distraction. The goal is not merely to abstain for the sake of abstaining. Rather, it is to create space in our lives for more of God's presence. What can we lay down in order to make room for God? Perhaps it is time spent in prayer, reading scripture, or serving others in ways that reflect Christ's love. Lent calls us to let go of what hinders our relationship with God and to embrace practices that lead to spiritual transformation. It is a time of repentance and renewal—Lent is representative of moving from spiritual "Death" to "Life".

## Southside Connection

The ashes we receive on Ash Wednesday remind us of our mortality and our need for God. "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." These words are not meant to bring despair but to invite us into a place of humility and repentance. Lent is about turning back to God—toward the grace that is offered through Jesus Christ.

Lent is a season that invites us all to take stock of our spiritual journey and move forward in faith.

I encourage you to be intentional and mindful during this sacred time. Whether it is through daily devotionals, attending worship services, or participating in our Lenten Bible study, may this Lenten season be a time of growth in your relationship with God. Let us walk this journey together, trusting that, as we follow Christ into the wilderness, we will ultimately experience the joy of the resurrection.

I look forward to sharing this sacred season with you and to all that God will do in our lives during this time of reflection and renewal.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jen



# SOUTHSIDE NEWS

# Finance Reports

# For the month of January (month and year to date are the same)

General Fund income was \$9,711.48 and expenses \$14,960.48 for a net (-) \$5,249.00

That doesn't look like a good start to the year, keep in mind, we paid a 6-month insurance bill in January (\$4,480), so that explains part of it.

A full set of the most current financial reports are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Feel free to come in and take a look.

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
Worship 10 am HOLY COMMUNION	3 Ad Council 6:00 p.m.	Sack Lunch & Bible Study 11:30-1 pm Yoga with Sheree @5:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Devotionals (~ 20 minutes) *12:00 pm *6:00 pm *Morning visits to homebound	Pastor Visitations	7	8
Worship 10 am Daylight Savings *set your clocks forward	10	Sack Lunch & Bible Study 11:30-1 pm Yoga with Sheree @5:30 pm	UWF Meeting -1:30 p.m.	Pastor Visitations	14	15
16 Worship 10 am	17	18 Spring Break- No Sack Lunch & Bible Study Yoga with Sheree @5:30 pm	19	20 Pastor Visitations	21	22
23 Worship 10am Potluck! Koins for Kids	24	25 Let's Have a Ball- Prom Thru the Ages 5-7 pm Sack Lunch & Bible Study 11:30-1 pm  Yoga with Sheree @5:30 pm	26 Cookies & Cards 10:00 a.m.	27 Pastor Visitations	28	29
30 Worship 10 am	31	1	2	3	4	5

Kindness is benutiful



#### Ash Wednesday — March 5, 2025

Pastor Jen will be taking ashes on the road from 9-11 a.m. If you would like Pastor Jen to come to you for the imposition of ashes, please let her know. We will have an Ash Wednesday devotional with the imposition of ashes at noon and at 6:00 p.m. In the sanctuary. Devotionals will be about 20 minutes.

New Member Sunday!! We will welcome new members to our church and celebrate with them during our coffee fellowship this Sunday, March 16, 2025. Pastor Jen will bring cake!

Potluck Sunday!! May 23, 2025

#### Lenten Study Starting Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Our Tuesday Bible study group will be starting a Lenten study of the Gospel of John chapters 13-17. Each week during Lent, we will be introducing a spiritual practice. Please feel free to join us if you are able.

#### **Lent Calendars**

Pastor Jen and Jenny prepared a Lent Calendar for you. Please be sure to take one to use during this Lenten season.

United Women In Faith meeting will be on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.





Pastor Jen is asking for your guidance. Lent is a sacred season. It is important to honor our church tradition. It is also a year of many "firsts" for our pastor. If there are hymns or spiritual practices that are part of our history that you hold dear during this season, please let Pastor Jen know.

Spring Break: March 17-21, 2025. No Bible study on March 18, 2025. Pastor Jen will be leaving town shortly after church on Sunday, March 16, 2025, and will return home on Friday, March 21, 2025.

#### Save the Date:

Prom through the Ages-- Let's Have a Ball, Fundraiser for Youth! Join us on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, for an evening of fun and fellowship as we help Jancy and Chesney raise funds for the volleyball travel expenses.

#### **Cookies and Cards:**

Our monthly Cookies and Cards event is more than a fun time of baking together-- it is also a card ministry. During our time together, we work on the birthday cards and other greetings for our Southside families and friends. If you are looking for a way to connect, this ministry may be for you! Please join us! *Our next Cookies and Cards will be on Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.* 

Yoga with Sheree: Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. Bring your own yoga mat and water bottle.



<u>Birthdays</u>

### <u>Anniversaries</u>

2 - Gaymon Bennett

12 - Tom & Beth Silverstrand

13 - Pearline Paul

18 - Daniel Middlehoven

22- Hazel Young

23 - Mariah Gutierrez

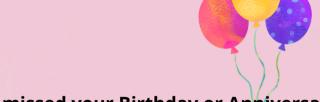
25 - Hans Bruijn

25 - Gil Gillette

25 - Kristin Sample

28 - Barb Hayhurst

30- Sherrie Barnett



If we missed your Birthday or Anniversary, please let the church office know.

Coffee Hour Hosts

# Serving the Church in March

# <u>Liturgist</u> <u>Children's Message</u>

2- Curt Crawford 2-9- Monica Stone 9-16- Linda Skogsberg 16-23- Beth Corbin 23-

30- 30-

#### <u>Greeters</u>

2- Sherrie Barnett 2- Sherrie Barnett

9- Lily Sorenson 9- Sherrie Barnett

16- Deanna Maxell 16- Pastor Jen

23- Potluck!

30- Corbins

Sign up sheet is by the coffee in the Narthex ~ Sign up anytime or contact Jenny @southsidebumc2014@gmail.com









COME WRITE CARDS AND MAKE COOKIES FOR FOLKS IN OUR CONGREGATION WHO AREN'T ABLE TO ATTEND CHURCH SERVICE LIVE AND FOR VISITORS WHO ATTEND ON SUNDAY.

MAR 26 ~ 10 AM 3



We are looking for folks who would like to be trained to use our sound system.

We would like to keep Curt retired, so we need some new folks to be able to work the sound system when Shane is gone.

Let Shane or Curt know if you are interested!!

**ALL ARE WELCOME** 



5:30 PM @ SOUTHSIDE BLVD. UMC

BRING YOUR OWN MAT AND WATER BOTTLE

# Faith in Action

## <u>Little Red Wagon</u>

Nonperishable food can be put in the Little Red Wagon located in the Narthex. Your Faith in Action team will deliver them to the Salvation Army.

# **Habitat For Humanity**

You CAN donate your Aluminum CANS for recycling. They are taken to Western Recycling, which gives 3 times the refund amount to Habitat for Humanity.