

# The Amen Almanac

First Presbyterian Church, 721 Church St., Jefferson City, TN 37760  
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 Rev. Andrew C. Whaley, Pastor

## LECTIONARY

### Transfiguration of the Lord—March 2

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2 or Psalm 99  
 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

### Ash Wednesday— March 5

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17;  
 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### First Sunday in Lent—March 9

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32  
 Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

### Second Sunday in Lent—March 16

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121  
 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

### Third Sunday in Lent— March 23

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95  
 Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

### Fourth Sunday in Lent—March 30

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23  
 Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

## Meetings This Month

Mission—March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Fellowship & Evangelism—March 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

Session—March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

### From the Pastor's Desk...

In his choral piece, "Beati Quorum Via," Charles Villars Stanford layers four vocal parts to create a layered tapestry of sound that, due to the primary utilization of quarter notes in each part creates a feel of walking, step by step. Each note of equal duration, long enough not to feel hurried and short enough not to drag on, the piece beautifully articulates the first verse of the one hundred nineteenth Psalm that is its text, "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the way of the Lord."

This choral piece is a wonderful introduction into the season of Lent, a time of steady walking in the faith, journeying alongside our Lord and learning to mark our stride after his. Lent is a curious season, for its call to discipleship is no different than the life of faith that should define us each day. Somehow, though, in these forty days before Easter, we tend to need a reminder to focus our attention again on the ways of God.

Maybe it is because the joy and hope of Christmas has faded away, the winter days keep dragging on, and the splendor of the world has faded into casual ordinariness. Therefore we need someone to set the Psalms to music in a steady but layered beat, that we might right our pace and look again on making God's way our ways.

I hope in this Lenten season, you will join in finding our pace. On Ash Wednesday, our Fellowship and Evangelism Committee will provide a simple meal for us in the Fellowship Hall, and you are asked to make a donation of the amount you normally spend on a Family Night Supper dish. Any amount that exceeds the cost of the meal preparation will go toward the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help with emergency utility assistance in our community. This is an effort to make the ministry of Jesus our ministry in this season. At 7:30 that evening, March 5, we will join in worship, marking ourselves with ashes, a reminder that we are the dust of the earth and to dust we will return. Life and death is the cycle of God's creation, and death to sin and life in Christ is the cycle of this season. I further hope you will find time to join with us as we study together on Sundays. You can find more information about our Covenant Learning Groups in this newsletter. And I pray you will consider making a sacrifice in your life over these forty days that will help you find your footing in God once more.

May we join with the choristers, the disciples, and the crowds. Let us catch the beat, find our pace, and walk in the law of the Lord.

Gratefully,

Andrew

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						Hiking Club 8:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.			Family Night Supper 6:30 p.m.  Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m.		Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m.  Women's Breakfast 9:00 a.m.
	Gary & Jennifer Bates				Deborah Scarlett	
Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.			Fellowship & Evangelism 5:00 p.m.  Session 6:30 p.m.		High School Retreat	High School Retreat
	Matt Gowan	Dian Wise Alice Pryor				
Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.  High School Retreat			Mission 6:30 p.m.	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	Sit 'n Knit Group 7 p.m.	
					Doug & Carolyn Berryhill	
Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.						Card-Making Class 6:00-9:00 p.m.
	Doug & Julie Moody		Jim Forney			
Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.  Card-Making Class 2:00-5:00 p.m.						
Sherri Van Bruggen	Roxanne Moser					



# Announcements



**SMOKY MOUNTAIN HIKING CLUB**  
The Smoky Mountain Hiking Club will meet on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, at 8:00 a.m. to hike to Kephart Prong. Don't forget to pack a lunch and some water, and plan to join us!

## MARCH FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

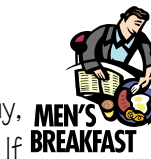


Our March Family Night Supper will be on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. Our Ash Wednesday Service will be in Sanctuary immediately following dinner at 7:30 p.m. This year the Fellowship and Evangelism Committee will be providing a simple meal of: red beans, rice, slaw, breadsticks and cookies before our service. In lieu of bringing a dish to pass, we are asking you to bring a donation for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. If you have any questions, please see Jo-Anne Vest.



**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**  
On Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, the Women's Bible Study group will meet at 6:30 p.m. at The Creek. If you have any questions, please see Rebecca Whaley.

## MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST



The Men's Prayer Breakfast will be on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you enjoy biscuits, bacon, and the Bible, join us for a time of study and fellowship.

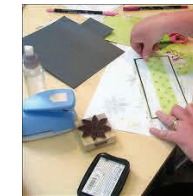


**WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST**  
The Women's Prayer Breakfast will held on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Sue Rhein (1240 Groseclose Rd). We will be studying Lesson Five "Three Transforming Prayers." Come join the study and we hope to see you there.

## SIT 'N KNIT GROUP



On Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. we will be having the Sit 'n Knit gathering at Libby Moser's house (217 Fieldcrest Dr.). If you have any questions, please see Libby.



## CARD-MAKING CLASS

Martha Sanders will be having a Card Making Class at her home (1132 Arthur Rd., Jefferson City) on Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Martha at 210-834-1323.

## YOUTH GROUP



On Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 p.m. the youth will be meeting at the Church to continue their Questions of Faith Study. The question for this month is: Why did God choose to die for our sins?" Dinner will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Andrew.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### SPECIAL CONCERNS:

David & Stacy Gentry, friends of the Zirkles, whose unborn child shows multiple heart defects  
Justin and Alana Carroll, friends of the Zirkles, who are trying to adopt 2 boys from Congo  
All members of the military and their families, especially those stationed overseas  
The unemployed

### ILL AND RECOVERING:

Wyatt Crippen, friend of Cameron LeClercq, who was diagnosed with a brain tumor  
Alyssa Mirrada, niece of Gary Bates, who was in a car accident and is in recovery  
Helen Reno, former pastor of FPC Bob Reno's wife, who is under going testing and treatment for liver disease  
Rhonda McClanahan, Donna Jenkins' daughter, who is undergoing chemo  
Adyson Tilton, Annabelle Tilton's cousin, who has been diagnosed with leukemia

### THOSE UNABLE TO BE WITH US:

Lucille Tinsley

### IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES:

JEFF. COUNTY NURSING HOME: Elizabeth Felknor  
DARBY HOUSE: Betty Wolfe  
CHANDLER HOUSE: Argie Saylor  
THE HERITAGE CENTER (Morristown): Bonnie Young

God, Family, Football! This is the McCash family code of priorities. When conflicts of time and interests arise, we refer to this code to settle our differences. We remind each other that duty to God trumps duty to family and football, family duties trump football duties, and football trumps everything else! I admit we are not always perfect at following our own rules, but we do try. During my lifetime, I have been asked to follow many codes or rules. When I was a student, I had a dress code, when I was in the USAF, I was ordered to adhere to the rule of law of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Years later, I did a brief stint as a dental assistant where I had to follow strict health code rules. As a teacher, I have a code of ethical rules that I follow closely, so that I do not end up with my name in a news headline. I have always followed them, but I have always struggled under the yoke of strict rules.

When I was a student at SMU, I had to do a research paper that required me to look up the exact wording of a law in the Texas State Annotated Code of Law. In order to do this, I had to go to the famous Deadmon Law Library on campus. Upon entering, I found myself staring at wall upon wall of law books. Those books contained some of the rules and laws that American citizens are subject to follow. I remember thinking how scary it was that I did not know what possible law I might be breaking at that very minute. There had to be at least one law in all of those books that I was not following, and you know what they say, ignorance of the law is no excuse.

Some people think that having a set of written or often verbalized codes, rules, guidelines, or laws is a wonderful way to organize life. I have never been of that mindset. For me, more rules never bring more order. The only thing that more rules bring is more chance of messing up. Along with laws come consequences, and the consequences are often standardized. Standardized consequences often lead to absurdity. I am reminded of the kindergartener that kissed a little girl classmate on the cheek and was then expelled from school because that was the standard consequence for a sexually related offense.

With my strong anti-rule attitude I am glad that there are only ten laws I know of that are written in stone-- Ten laws that I struggle with more than I like to admit. These laws are so basic to us as human beings that we were born with them written on our souls. I am also glad that Jesus turned the consequences of breaking those laws from the standardized to the situational when he died for our sins, delivered us from them with the mercy of his grace and forgiveness, and left us with just one more law: Love one another!

As we head into our Lenten season, and as we contemplate what Christ's love did for us, we might try to search inside ourselves for that same gift of grace and mercy and pass a bit of it on to someone we know who is breaking a rule. If we take our focus off the rule being broken, maybe we can turn our thoughts to Christ's situational consequences of forgiveness, mercy, and love. If only we could do this like Christ tried to teach us to do, perhaps we could finally solve much bigger problems than we ever dreamed of.

Thoughtfully,

Delynn



**Study One: Making Sense of the Cross**

Facilitator: Andrew Whaley

Room: Fellowship Hall

In our study on The Future of the Church, one of the issues we face in this time of emergence is how we interpret the cross of our Lord. To use the crass language of Phyllis Tickle, "You're saying we worship an omnipotent God, and the only way he could think of to save the world was to kill his only son? That's not a daddy I need."

In *Making Sense of the Cross*, David Lose, professor of preaching at Luther Seminary, walks through six interpretations of the cross, all of which are based in the writings of the new testament. As we begin the season of Lent, may we take the time to enter into the mystery of the cross and examine again how this event shapes our life as followers of Jesus.

This 6-chapter book includes:

- Introduction
- Chapter 1: **Why does the Cross Matter?**
- Chapter 2: **Portraits and Perspectives**
- Chapter 3: **Ransom and Victory**
- Chapter 4: **Substitution, Satisfaction, and Sacrifice**
- Chapter 5: **Example and Encouragement**
- Chapter 6: **Event and Experience**

**Study Two: Animate**

Facilitator: Kay Rutherford-Williams

Room: Upstairs Classroom



Due to popularity last year we are offering you an opportunity to engage again with the Animate Faith study. In this class, seven leading voices in contemporary Christianity come together to spark group discussion about major themes of Christianity. Voices in the discussion come from a variety of Christian traditions, and they seek to help new Christians and those who have been part of the Church their entire lives engage some of the primary faith claims we make.

This study uses brief videos, lots of discussion, and personal journaling for members to begin to examine what it means for them to proclaim a life of faith in Jesus Christ.

God: Faith is a Quest	Brian McLaren
Religion: Spirituality is Not Enough	Lillian Daniel
Jesus: The Revolution of Love	Mark Scandrette
Salvation: Abundant Life Now	Shane Higgs
Cross: Where God Is	Nadia Bolz-Weber
Bible: A Book Like No Other	Lauren Winner
Church: An Imperfect Family	Bruce Reyes-Chow



**Study Three: Jesus' Fulfillment of Scripture—Exploring the connections between Jesus and the Hebrew Scripture.**

Facilitator: Peggy Hypes

Room: Parlor

In March, this study will explore a variety of texts that make connections between the reign of David and the lordship of Christ. In these week we will study the narrative of God's promise of a Davidic line that would sit on the throne forever. When David wanted to build a house for God, God promised to build a house for David—a dynasty, a tradition of loyalty.

In April, this study will look at Matthew's Gospel as an interpretation of how God fulfills the prose to build a house for David in the birth of Christ. As God promised David and as Isaiah prophesied, Matthew reports that the birth of Jesus fulfills the traditional expectation that a descendant of David would be coming as the Savior.

Coffee Fellowship will be from 9:30—9:45 a.m. each Sunday. The church will provide a light breakfast and coffee before Sunday School begins.