



Tanner Valley Voice



Tanner Valley United Methodist Church

March 2025

Easter Preparations

“Lord, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear.”
Psalm 10:17

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, this year on March 5, and ends on Holy Saturday, which is April 19 for 2025. The English word “Lent” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *Lenten*, which means “lengthen” and refers to the lengthening days of “spring.”

Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. During the 40 days (not counting Sundays,) we also have time to prepare for celebrating Easter. While we might do some spring cleaning or spruce up the house, what’s really important is that we make our hearts and lives ready – such preparation is the mindset to make sure everything is ready and as open to Christ as can be.

To prepare our hearts for Easter is to make ready to immerse ourselves completely in the Easter story. Prepare your heart to walk along with Jesus on his path to the cross and his glorious resurrection.

So, how might we prepare our hearts for Easter?

1. Make prayer a priority - Jesus, as always, is an excellent example for us to follow. Look through the Gospels and time and time again, we read how Jesus took time to pray. In fact, He prepared his heart before his crucifixion by spending *an entire night* in prayer. During the Lenten season, we pray for time to give our attention to what He treasures; we pray against distractions from worries, schedules, or life’s problems—anything that leads us away from the still small voice of the Holy Spirit; and we pray for open hearts to hear Him, listening for His guidance and direction.
2. Immerse ourselves in the Easter story - This includes prayerfully reading the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ last days (Matthew 26-28; Mark 14-16, Luke 22-24 and John 18-20) and meditating on Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. Devotionals and other books and Easter-themed movies also give us new perspectives and insights
3. Meditate on the meaning of Easter – Set aside time every day to listen for God’s voice and for the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart. Reflect on your walk with the Lord and areas you are feeling called to address, reflect also on the sacrifice Jesus made for you and how you are serving Him. How can your life honor Jesus?
4. Rejoice and re-evaluate – While the Lenten season is often considered somber and serious, it also should be a time of rejoicing. Jesus’ sacrifice give us the gift of reconciliation with God, eternal life with him, and our new life in Christ! Thanks to His grace, we are new creations on the inside- Jesus placed His Holy Spirit within us. Our new life in Christ doesn’t mean we are sinless. Rather, we have the Holy Spirit to convict us and lead us to live and love more like Jesus every day. Jesus restored our relationship with God! His love and power are within us. This is the perfect time to **reevaluate how we love and care for others**; modeling the love and care Jesus showed us.

Let’s prepare our hearts for Easter by reacquainting ourselves with the story we know so well. Apply it to your own life. Resolve to live as someone who believes Jesus has given us the victory by his resurrection from the dead.

Pastor Ginny Hizer

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Ginny Hizer,

Pastor

Church Building:

812.537.4111
513-607-3194

Office Hours

Monday 8–2
Thursday 10-3

Worship

Sundays—10am

**United Women in
Faith**

2nd Thursdays—
1 pm (check calendar)

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United Women in Faith

“You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” *Matthew 5:14-16*

In our Methodist church, lighting candles has been a significant part of the worship service for as long as I can remember. I was looking into why our church service begins and ends with lighting candles. I found this explanation on www.umc.org, “When you light the candles, you are reminding people that God is with us at home, at school, and at work, as well as in the worship service.” Personally I can remember seeing lit candles every Sunday as well as extra candles during seasonal services at Guilford. During hanging of the greens the worship committee would put homemade candles in the star shaped glass holders in the windows. At weddings a set of candelabra was decorated and lit to create an ambiance in the church. Special holiday services included passing the light from one believer to another until the entire congregation was aglow.

In a Methodist church service, “spreading the light” refers to the symbolic act of sharing the message of Jesus Christ, often represented by lighting candles during worship. “Spreading the light” extends beyond the worship space, encouraging individuals to live out their faith and share the love of Christ with others in their daily lives (www.umc.org).

Recently my mom and I attended the Christmas Eve service and at the close of the service we participated in the passing of the light. As we entered our church each one of us picked up a candle encased in a plastic cup (an upgrade from the candles surrounded by a small ring of cardboard we used in the past). We moved into the sanctuary to prepare ourselves for worship. At the conclusion of the service the acolyte brings the flame to the first person in the first row. Each person lit their candle from the person seated next to them. Can you guess where this is going? I am seated at the end of the pew. Callierose comes to light my candle. It won't light. She patiently tries several times and still no luck. Finally I shake my head so she will skip me and move on. Tracy quietly leans over and whispers, “You have the candle upside down.” On to my mom. Nella tries to light my mom's candle. It won't light. I see the problem. Mom's candle is pushed too far down in the cup to reach the wick. I try to motion to her to push up on her candle. She can't interpret my hand signals. The whole congregation is waiting. Finally my mom is successful. We both breathe a sigh of relief. I think the rest of the congregation does too. We were asked to leave the church reverently. Needless to say...



United
Women
in Faith

“For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will lighten my darkness” (*Psalms 18:28*)

Our next meeting is March 13th at 1:00 p.m. Come join us. Holly and Pam

January 2025 Financial Summary

Treasurer's Report: Donna presented the report for January 2025. The report was reviewed and accepted in the February Council Meeting. A summary of the report for January 2025 follows.

General Account: The general account began the month of January 2025 with a balance of \$86,443.64 (including the \$45,000.00 CD). There were credits of \$7,495.97 and debits of \$6,454.23 leaving a January 2025 end balance of \$87,485.38 (including the \$45,000.00 CD). Apportionments paid in January were \$648.30 and \$64.83 respectively for Conference and District.

Special Account: The special account began the month of January 2025 with a balance of \$24,332.47. There were credits of \$1,559.79 and debits of \$780.51 leaving a January 2025 balance of \$25,111.75. The month end balance in the Faith Promise and Capital Improvement funds were \$3,935.51 and \$9,522.42 respectively. There was a month end balance of \$809.92 in the Benevolence (Loose Change) fund.

Attendance for January ranged from 41 to 46 for an average of 43 with one Sunday service cancelled due to weather.

Church Council Highlights

The council met on February 12, 2025 with seven of fifteen members present. Pastor Ginny opened the meeting with prayer reminding us that God sends His needed blessings every day and we thank Him for being with us as we do His work.

Treasurer's report: Donna presented the report for January 2025. The report was reviewed and there were no issues noted. The report was accepted with a unanimous voice vote. A summary of that report is on page 2.

Donna also presented the council operating budget for 2025. There was one increase to the budget as a result of the initial review. An increase of \$200.00 was provided to the Christian Ed/GIC due to the increase in youth attending GIC. This increase and a move from one sub-account to another were approved in a voice vote.

There was a proposal to bring the Heart House children to Tannery Valley UMC and share the time with our youth in a combined Vacation Bible School. This purpose is to provide a more focused environment for this activity. There was no decision on this proposal as there are issues and logistics to be discussed before acting.

Trustee Committee: Bill was not present at this meeting, but provided the following information on the rodent report from Orkin. There were no captured mice in the church in the monthly review. There are poison bait traps outside of the church and mice may have died there.

Worship Committee: The committee met on February 4, 2025 to plan the activities for Lent. The event schedule resulting from that meeting is shown on the back page. Also, Easter flowers will be ordered from McCabe's. Order forms will be available starting March 2, 2025 and they need to be returned by March 30, 2025. The price has increased to \$18.00 per plant. The choices include daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and lilies.

Pastor Ginny: She reported on the following:

- Personal items:
 - Her Course of Study for the Spring term is April 4th & 5th and May 2nd & 3rd. All sessions are on line so no traveling is required.
 - She will be out town April 23rd through 27th. She will arrange for a guest speaker for Sunday April 27th.
 - The annual Conference is Thursday June 5th through Saturday June 7th at St. Marks in Indianapolis.
- Bible study on Women of the Bible continues through March 18th.
- Other miscellaneous items:
 - The year end reports have been completed and provided to District.
 - She borrowed a projector for the GIC pizza lunch recently and found that the projector would meet our needs and the price was \$80.00. She would like to buy this projector for on-going church use. The council members at the meeting approved her request.
 - The redistricting proposed by Bishop Malone is completed. There are now five districts, down from ten. We are in the East Central Heights District (District 5) and Dr. In Suk Peebles remains as our District Supervisor.

WORSHIP SERVANTS

March 2

Acolyte
Volunteers
GIC
Communion No GIC

March 9

Acolyte
Volunteers
Ushers
Volunteers
GIC
Pam VanDyke & Nancy Hesse

March 16

Acolyte
Volunteers
Ushers
Volunteers
GIC
Candy Feller & Karen Huffman

March 23

Acolyte
Volunteers
Ushers
Volunteers
GIC
Donna Morgan & Jeanmaire Schmelzter

March 30

Acolyte
Volunteers
Ushers
Volunteers
GIC
Pam VanDyke & Nancy Hesse

All positions are TBD or to be filled by volunteers until the list is reestablished.

NOTE: Assigned Worship Servants are requested to find a replacement if they will not be able to fulfill their duties on the date indicated. Trading places a week or so before avoids any confusion on the assigned date.

Thank you for volunteering and for serving.

We're on the web:
tannervalleychurch.com

...MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS
CHRIST...

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Lawrenceburg, Indiana 47025-8606

19235 State Road 1

**Tanner Valley United
Methodist Church**



Lent Schedule for 2025

The Worship Committee in conjunction with Pastor Ginny have developed the schedule for Lent 2025.

- Ash Wednesday – March 5th, with the church open between 3:00 and 7:00 for ashes. No set service time.
- Collection of cans of food and gently used clothing – something every day for 40 days (Sundays do not count) to be donated to community needs.
- Passion and Palm Sunday – April 13th
- Holy Thursday – April 17th with service at 7:00 pm – Tenebrae and stripping the altar
- Good Friday – April 18th, 7:00 pm service.
- Easter Sunday – April 20th at 8:30 am pitch-in Breakfast at 9:15 a.m., Service at 10 a.m.

Easter flower orders will be available on March 2nd, and must be returned by March 30th. The cost for daffodils, tulips, hyacinth and lilies is \$18.00 each.



**See Pastor's message on
Page 1**



...MAKING DISCIPLES OF
JESUS CHRIST...

March 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						St. David's Day
2	3	4 Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras	5 Ash Wednesday	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		5p Adult Bible Study				10a Rivertown Quilters
16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21	22
		5p Adult Bible Study	6p Church Council			1p United Women in Faith
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		5p Adult Bible Study	4p High Hope Café 7p Rivertown Quilters			
30	31					
		5p Adult Bible Study				

BIRTHDAYS: 8-Bonita Cline; 10-Paul Meyer; 16-Christopher Delp;

18-Connie Fox; 21-Lois Blodgett; 25-Emerly Althoff; 26-Kristina Brooks; 26-David Chapman; 29-Krew Batchelor; 20-Sue Goble

ANNIVERSARIES: 5-Donna & Rodney Morgan; 14-Veronica & Thomas Loring;

16-Ruth Ann & Bill Hoyt; 18-Holly & Gary Honchell; 31-Tom & Judy Landrum

...MAKING DISCIPLES OF
JESUS CHRIST...

April 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

5p Adult Bible Study

5p Adult Bible Study

6p Modern Quilters

6p Church Council

1p Women in Faith

10a Rivertown Quilters



9:15a Breakfast

10a Easter Service

5p Adult Bible Study

5p Adult Bible Study

7p Rivertown Quilters

7p Tenebrae Service

7p Good Friday Service

5p Adult Bible Study

BIRTHDAYS: 1-Wyatt Maxfield; 7-Brittany Hooten; 8-Joshua Hooten; 16-Lori Blanco;

17-Evan Althoff; 18-Sarah Goble; 21-Crystal Jacobson; 23-Norma Skidmore;

30-Alesia LaBazzo

ANNIVERSARIES: 2-Rich & Nancy Hesse