



# EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MARCH 2022

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**by Rev. Grant Parker**

## **A Lenten Lesson—John 13:34 – “Mandatum Novum”**

The thirteenth chapter of the Gospel of John is, like all scripture in the Holy Bible, fundamental to the Christian faith. But John 13 has been foundational to Christians from the inception of the Church of Jesus Christ and throughout the ages, since the Last Supper of Jesus and His apostles provides the basis of our Sacrament of Holy Communion, also known as the Eucharist and the Lord's Supper by others. The blessed sacrament plays an important role in the Lenten observance of Holy Week, when faithful Christians all around the world pause to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, thereby reenacting and remembering the Last Supper event of Jesus and His apostles on the night He was eventually arrested, only to be persecuted, subjected to the mockery of a “trial,” and crucified the next day.

I've discovered through the years that it seems easier at times to follow the “practices” of Jesus (such as the Lord's Supper) than to follow the “preaching” of Jesus, such as “just as I have loved you, you should love each other.” Consider the following Bible verses related to the Last Supper:

John 13:1, 34-35 – *“Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that His hour had come to leave this world and return to His Father. He had loved His disciples during His ministry on earth, and now He loved them to the very end...<sup>34</sup> So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.<sup>35</sup> Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”*

“A new commandment”—in Latin, a ‘mandatum novum’—“I am giving you.” “Love each other. Just as I have loved you.” That's a commandment, by the way, not a suggestion!

Sometimes, it's easier to follow the “practices” of Jesus than the “preaching” of Jesus, unless the preaching of Jesus *is also* a practice of Jesus, as it was at the Last Supper. There are at least three lessons we can learn from Jesus at the Last Supper.

**# 1 – Loving isn't the same as liking! (v. 34)** Simon Peter and Judas Iscariot were among the 12 apostles with Jesus at the Last Supper. Simon Peter would deny three times that he even knew Jesus, within a matter of just a few hours. Judas would betray Jesus that same evening, in the Garden of Gethsemane. I suspect that Jesus didn't *like* what either of the two would do that night, but the Bible tells us, “He *loved* them to the very end.” We do not find it easy at times to love the lost sheep, or the wandering ones, or the unloving ones, or the unlikeable ones. But

Jesus preached and practiced “just as I have loved you, you should love one another,” and we should—because it's a commandment, not a suggestion.

**# 2 – Love each other, just as He loved us! (v. 34)** In John 10:11, Jesus said: “I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” Philippians 2 reminds us that if we're to have the mind of Christ, we should essentially consider others better than ourselves, looking out not only for our own interests, but also for the interests of others. Jesus preached and practiced a sacrificial love that demonstrated considering the needs of others, and so should we—it's a commandment, not a suggestion.

**# 3 – Again, He gave us a new commandment—a mandatum novum—and not a new suggestion, as much as we would like for it to be! (v. 34)** His new commandment assumes a volitional act on our part, a choice, an act of the human will. It is a work of obedience to the will of God and becomes a testimony to the world. It is, in essence, our trademark. In the words of the song we sang as children while camping at Blue Lake, “They'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, and they'll know we are Christians by our love.”

And so they will, when we practice what we preach.

Keep your hand in Jesus' hands, and your eyes on the Cross!  
Brother Grant



# Youth Ministry Youth Ministry

## Sunday Night Life

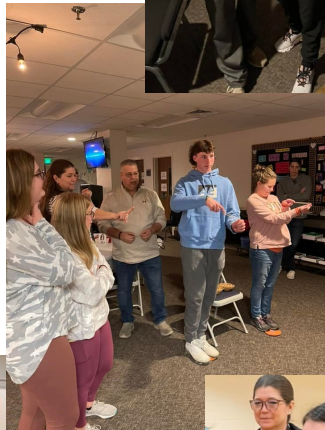
Life is Better Together

4:30—6:00 pm Every Sunday

## Wednesday Night Youth

6:00—7:30 pm 6:00—6:30 pm

Hangout time (snack bar open)



## Lenten Lunches

Everyone is invited to Epworth's Lenten Lunches beginning on March 21st until April 8th.

The lunches will be held on Mondays at 12:00 noon EST until 1:00 pm in the church fellowship hall and will not last over one hour. It is planned so you can come during your lunch time. There will be a simple lunch, at no cost to you, with a devotional given by members of our community. What a great time for food, fun and fellowship. Dates are March 21st, March 28th, and April 4th.

Please come and invite a friend.



**Birthdays**

March 1	Teresa Cassman
March 3	Wayne Griffin Estin Martin
March 4	Todd Hughes Carly Addison Samuel Bridges
March 7	Becky Snedigar
March 8	Curt Curtiss Bill Badowski Cason Page
March 9	Emma Lee Gullatt
March 10	Kathryn Baker Crystal Berklite
March 11	Glenn Willis Shelley Lee
March 12	Coleman Duke
March 13	Brenda Kirkland
March 14	Joe Barnette
March 15	Roxanna Hamilton Georgia Denzik Hart Hughes
March 16	Kathy Bradley Greg Buchanan
March 18	Tammy Garrison Emma Hess
March 19	Jake Robinson
March 20	Rae Norton
March 21	Hilda Bozzelli Brenda Belk Amanda Pruett
March 22	Elijah Johnson
March 23	Jennifer Gatewood GW Glass
March 25	Alice Baxley
March 26	Sara Nauck Rusty Courson
March 27	June Willis
March 28	Gary Dillard Tony Ward
March 30	Chris Garrison Katie Jones Thaddeus Nishimura
March 31	Jo Slappey Twila Schneider Jeffery Head Jacob Lake Michaela Collins



**Visitation Volunteers**

The following people will accompany Brother Grant when he goes visiting on Monday nights. If you are listed here, please meet Brother Grant at 6:30 pm at the church to go with him to visit prospective new members.

- March 7th—Ross Goode
- March 14th —Becky Coreno
- March 21st—Bryce Gaunt
- March 28th—Don Verner

Blessings,  
Kathryn Perdue

**Anniversaries**

<b>March 2</b>	Don & Penny Verner
<b>March 3</b>	Jeremiah & Margaret Moss
<b>March 5</b>	Skip & Marcia Myles
<b>March 12</b>	Scott & Christina Yeilding
<b>March 15</b>	Jim & Ashley Bloodworth
<b>March 19</b>	Buddy & Edith Gentry Brian & Marietta O'Neill Juan & Andrea Gil
<b>March 20</b>	Cody & Kim Burts
<b>March 23</b>	Shane & Leigh Ann Barbaree
<b>March 25</b>	Cody & Brenda Kirkland



Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and is always 46 days before Easter Sunday. Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where He fasted and where Satan tempted Him. Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.



# EPWORTH KIDZ CREW



## **EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA** Palm Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup>, 3-4:30 p.m.

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL MEETING COMING IN APRIL**

April 24th, 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing the theme and signing up for work areas.

If you know the area in which you would like to volunteer, please email [letha.parker@epworth-pc.org](mailto:letha.parker@epworth-pc.org)

VBS June 2022

### **Volunteers needed and donations:**

Prepackaged chips, snacks, cupcakes, cookies, juice boxes, small bottled water, etc. Filled eggs are needed, and candy for empty eggs.

Please contact Laura Johnson or Letha if you can fill eggs, decorate, clean up, help with the snack table, work with games, etc.

**SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS** may volunteer and receive community service



## **REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER MDO & EPWORTH KIDZ PRESCHOOL**

### Summer MDO

If your child will be attending the **Mom's Day Out** program during the summer, please reserve your place by email to [letha.parker@epworth-pc.org](mailto:letha.parker@epworth-pc.org) or text 205-799-8547.

### Preschool Registration

We are now enrolling for the 2022-2023 school year for our Preschool program for 3 (by September 1) and 4 year old students. Classes meet Tuesday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There is a \$100 registration fee, and a monthly tuition fee, August through May.

Contact Letha: [letha.parker@epworth-pc.org](mailto:letha.parker@epworth-pc.org) or 205-799-8547

If you have friends that may be interested in our program, please encourage them to contact us for a day to visit the Preschool. Thank you so very much for all your cooperation and support. You are a blessing!

Letha Parker

# March 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool  9:30 am Bible Study  6:00 pm Security Training	<b>2</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 6:00 pm Youth  <b>6:30 pm</b> <b>Ash</b> <b>Wednesday</b> <b>Service</b>	<b>3</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool  6:30 pm United Methodist Women	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00 am Cart Workshop	<b>8</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 9:30 am Bible Study	<b>9</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor's Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	<b>10</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool  6:00 pm Men's Ministry	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>  <b>4:00 pm</b> <b>C.O.M.</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Newsletter</b> <b>Deadline</b>  10:00 am Cart Workshop	<b>15</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool  9:30 am Bible Study  6:30 pm Prayer Vigil	<b>16</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool 6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor's Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	<b>17</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10:00 am Cart Workshop  <b>Noon</b> <b>Lenten Luncheon</b>	<b>22</b> 9:00 am <b>Spring Break</b> <b>NO—Mom's</b> <b>Day Out</b> <b>&amp; Preschool</b>  9:30 am Bible Study	<b>23</b> 9:00 am <b>Spring Break</b> <b>NO—Mom's</b> <b>Day</b> <b>Out &amp; Preschool</b>  6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor's Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	<b>24</b> 9:00 am <b>Spring Break</b> <b>NO—Mom's</b> <b>Day</b> <b>Out &amp; Preschool</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00 am Cart Workshop  <b>Noon</b> <b>Lenten Luncheon</b>	<b>29</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool  9:30 am Bible Study	<b>30</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool  6:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Classes, Pastor's Bible Study & Kidz Konnections	<b>31</b> 9:00 am Mom's Day Out & Preschool	<b>Sundays ~</b> <b>8:30 am &amp; 11:00 am</b> <b>Traditional Services</b> <b>9:45 am Contemporary Service</b> <b>9:45 am &amp; 11 am Sunday</b> <b>School</b> <b>4:30 pm Choir Practice</b> <b>4:30 pm Youth</b> <b>5:30 pm Kidz Cruise and</b> <b>Cherub Choir</b>	



## Looking for 2022 Graduating Seniors

We will honor our 2022 High School Seniors on May 15, 2022. We don't want to leave anyone out as we celebrate this special time in their lives. Please help us in making our list of graduates complete by taking a look at the list below. If you know of other Graduating Seniors who are members of – or -- attend Epworth regularly, we need to make sure they get on our list. Please call the church office with any names. 334-298-3186 or contact Diane Glass @ 706-681-2107 / [dianeglass99@gmail.com](mailto:dianeglass99@gmail.com) Thank you!

- **Brooks Barbaree**
- **Ava Clay**
- **Mackenzie Ensley**
- **Griffin Griggs**
- **Marley Hamilton**
- **Kabot Lake**
- **Brody Sharpe**