



Leap of Faith

March 2022

F. R. O. G.
Forever Relying On God



March is coming in like a lamb. This means that the breezes are warm and gentle, not like a blizzard. In this mild weather we see the hope of Spring, and the return of the flowers and green grass.

It is like that with God. Psalm 103:13-16 a says, "As a Father has compassion on His children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him; for He knows how we are formed, He remembers that we are dust. The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone..."

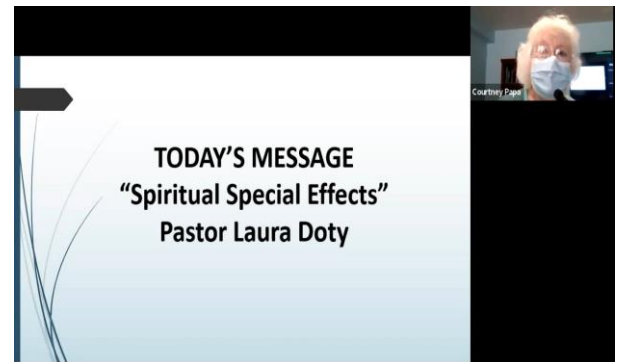
It is remarkable that God has such compassion for all of us who are so fragile. As we connect to Him, we gain the strength of the Holy Spirit to live the life God has for us. Jesus, our brother, protects us, and He walks with us on our journey toward God.

Let us remember this during the coming season of Lent. We can give up something to identify with the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, or we can add a time of prayer, meditation, or devotion to draw closer to God.

COME TO WORSHIP WITH US ON
ZOOM!

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here at St. John's United Church of Christ.

Contact stjohnsuccofelkhart@gmail.com for service information.



Take some time during Lent to examine your heart to understand what you need to feel closer to God. He desires for you to know Him intimately by talking to Him each day. Many blessings to all of you on your Lenten journey toward Easter!

Pastor Laura

CONSISTORY MEMBERS

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Mary Ellen Harris (Pres) | Edward Quillin |
| Jean Quillin (VP) | Dennis Harris |
| Kelly Harris (Sec) | Wayne Knudson |
| George Adamson (Treas) | |
| Courtney Papa-Abell | |

PRAYER WARRIORS

The Prayer Warriors are praying for any concerns or joys you may have. You can make a request on our website stjohnsuccelkhart.com or email stjohnsuccofelkhart@gmail.com. You can also call Mary Ellen Harris, 293-7481



During the month of February, we collected money for CWS's blanket project.

On Valentine's day we donated 21 lbs. worth of items to Church Community Services.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR MARCH

- 01 - Fat Tuesday
- 02 - Ash Wednesday (Start of Lent)
- 03 - Caregiver Appreciation Day
- 04 - World Day of Prayer
- 13 - Day Light Savings Time Begins
- 15 - Ides of March
- 17 - Saint Patrick's Day
- 20 - Spring (Vernal) Equinox
- 25 - Feast of the Annunciation

MARCH WORSHIP LEADERS

- 06 Laura Doty, Pastor
Liturgist - Courtney Papa-Abell
- 13 Jamelle Godlewski, Guest Speaker
Liturgist - George Adamson
- 20 Laura Doty, Pastor
Liturgist - Kelly Harris
- 27 Laura Doty, Pastor
Liturgist - Mary Ellen Harris

Thank you to everyone for helping out!



*Daylight Savings time begins Sunday
March 13, 2022*

CONSISTORY MEETING -

Wednesday, March 2nd
6:00 pm on Zoom. If you would like to join please contact Courtney Papa.

A Prayer for Lent

This year, Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls on March 2. During worship services that day, pastors in many Christian churches dip a finger in ashes (often made by burning branches from the previous Palm Sunday) and make a cross on parishioners' foreheads.

Why ashes? Traditionally, they're a sign of mourning, humiliation and penitence. Ashes also represent the frailty and temporary nature of human life ("You are dust, and to dust you shall return," Genesis 3:19). Christians are pained because our sins led to Jesus' death. With repentant hearts, we begin the season of Lent, knowing that it leads to Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

For Ash Wednesday — and throughout the 40 days of Lent — ponder this prayer from an Italian sacramentary, or liturgical book: "O God, you know how fragile is our human nature, wounded as it is by sin. Help your people to enter upon the Lenten journey strengthened by the power of your word, so that we may be victorious over the seduction of the Evil One and reach the paschal feast in the joy of the Holy Spirit."



Kids' Corner

During the NCAA basketball tournaments, many fans enjoy rooting for an underdog, hoping a Cinderella story will emerge. First-round March Madness matchups often are billed as David vs. Goliath events, with perennial powerhouses facing off against little-known schools.

Underdogs play key roles in the Bible: Moses takes on Pharaoh's army, Daniel defies a king and David squares off against an actual giant. Being an underdog didn't faze David, who knew the source of his strength: "For the battle is the Lord's," he says in 1 Samuel 17:47. What assurance as we battle life's "giants"!

In *Goliath Must Fall*, Louie Giglio writes, "Our giants keep taunting us, so we need to hold God at his word: that he is already victorious." Instead of "staring at our giant," we must "lock eyes with Jesus" and remember that "life is short and God is big." With bold hearts, adds Giglio, we can worship with "holy urgency" while giants fall.

FOOD FOR FOLKS

Ongoing Food Pantry Needs For Church Community Services

- Canned meat and vegetables
- Hearty soups and ready-to-heat canned pasta meals
- Cereals (hot and cold)
- Crackers
- Rice
- Pasta
- Spaghetti sauce
- Hamburger Helper-like meal helpers
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Condiments
- Boxed potatoes
- Toilet paper
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Feminine hygiene products
- Diapers, wipes, baby shampoo and body wash
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Can openers



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER MARCH 4, 2022

World Day of Prayer is celebrated in 170 countries every year on the first Friday in March. Despite it being a Christian initiative, it welcomes all religious and non-religious people around the world. World Prayer Day aims at bringing awareness to different cultures and traditions and spreading understanding and tolerance throughout the globe.

One way to celebrate this day is to light a candle (or use a battery candle) for a group of people going through hardship such as: refugees, orphans of war, people fighting illnesses, destitute groups.

Annunciation of the Lord

The feast of the Annunciation, now recognized as a solemnity, was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become human. Now, as Luke 1:26-38 tells us, the decision is being realized. The God-Man embraces all humanity, indeed all creation, to bring it to God in one great act of love. Because human beings have rejected God, Jesus will accept a life of suffering and an agonizing death: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

| Lent Year c | First reading | Psalm | Second reading | Gospel |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Ash Wednesday March 2, 2022 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u> | <u>Joel 2:1-2, 12-17</u> or <u>Isaiah 58:1-12</u> | <u>Psalm 51:1-17</u> | <u>2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10</u> | <u>Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21</u> |
| First Sunday in Lent March 6, 2022 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u> | <u>Deuteronomy 26:1-11</u> | <u>Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16</u> | <u>Romans 10:8b-13</u> | <u>Luke 4:1-13</u> |
| Second Sunday in Lent March 13, 2022 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u> | <u>Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18</u> | <u>Psalm 27</u> | <u>Philippians 3:17-4:1</u> | <u>Luke 13:31-35</u> or <u>Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)</u> |
| Third Sunday in Lent March 20, 2022 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u> | <u>Isaiah 55:1-9</u> | <u>Psalm 63:1-8</u> | <u>1 Corinthians 10:1-13</u> | <u>Luke 13:1-9</u> |
| Annunciation of the Lord March 25, 2022 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u> | <u>Isaiah 7:10-14</u> | <u>Psalm 45</u> or <u>Psalm 40:5-10</u> | <u>Hebrews 10:4-10</u> | <u>Luke 1:26-38</u> |
| Fourth Sunday in Lent March 27, 2022 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u> | <u>Joshua 5:9-12</u> | <u>Psalm 32</u> | <u>2 Corinthians 5:16-21</u> | <u>Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32</u> |



St. John's United Church of Christ
% Laura Doty
55839 Rivershores Lane,
Elkhart, IN 46516

CONTACT INFORMATION

St. John's United Church of Christ
c/o Laura Doty
55839 Rivershores Lane
Elkhart, IN 46516

Phone: 574-651-7612

Email: stjohnsuccofelkhart@gmail.com

Website: www.stjohnsuccelkhart.com

Webmaster: Kevin Harris – webmaster@stjohnsuccelkhart.com

Face Book - *St. John's United Church of Christ*

Northwest Association IKC - www.nwaikcucc.org

Indiana-Kentucky Conference - www.ikc.org

United Church of Christ – www.ucc.org