

# *Live from Livingston*

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## **NOTE FROM PASTOR RICK**

We are approaching the end of our journey through the season of Lent. A few weeks ago I shared (and Armetta shared with the children) that the season of Lent is a period of forty days (not including Sundays) that modeled on the several examples of forty days in Scripture. Especially our Lord in the wilderness being tested following his baptism. It consistently represents an important time of testing and/or preparation. Just as Moses, as the people of Israel, as Elijah, as Jesus... so we.

By the 3<sup>rd</sup> century the early Christian church established Lent as a sort of boot camp / final exams leading up to Christian baptism on Easter Sunday. Marked by daily prayer and examination. To determine if the catechumens – those persons preparing to become members of the body of Christ – were ready to die for their faith. One of my teachers in seminary said the challenge for Christians today is whether for our faith we are ready to live.

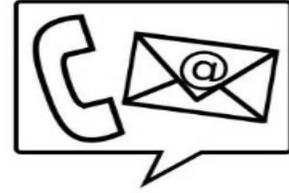
And so Lent has become a period of repentance and serious self-examination. To phrase the question in Wesleyan terms, “How is it with your soul?” Some might ask why only a period of forty days? That we should repent, pray, meditate upon Scripture, commit, worship every day – not only in a building we call “church” but wherever we live, go, and work. Indeed we should! However if there is something we should do always we first must do it sometimes. Which increasingly spreads through the rhythm of daily life and becomes everywhere and always.

A few weeks ago I met with the Committee on Ordained Ministry and am now recognized as Clergy OF (= Other Fellowship). Which means the Louisiana Conference of the United Methodist Church recognizes my Baptist ordination. The next step would be Elder in Full Connection which can take several years. Thank you for your prayers and support.

\*Those who want to learn more can read a paper at <https://plenumcreaturis.wordpress.com/?s=catechumenate>.

## STAYING IN TOUCH

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## NEWS FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Thanks to those who came and those who brought some light snacks for our “coffee time” after Sunday worship. This is also an opportunity to visit, talk, deepen friendships within our church family. We had a great group.

I had a good meeting with John Gilmore the pastor of Faith Crossing UMC in Walker. We both agreed not to try holding joint services during Holy Week this year simply because there of so much happening that week. Hopefully next year!

At our last church council meeting we also talked about a “family and friends” brunch before worship on fifth Sundays. The next will be Sunday April 29. And the worship service will be mostly singing and hymns with suggestions from you.

## CHURCH CALENDAR AND EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY!

Wednesday March 14

**6:00 p.m. Kids for Christ + Bible study on Psalms**

Sunday March 18

10:00 a.m. Worship

Wednesday March 21

**6:00 p.m. Kids for Christ + Bible study on Psalms**

Sunday March 25 = Palm/Passion Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship + **Kids for Christ children sing**

Wednesday March 28

**No Kids for Christ or Bible study**

Thursday March 29

**7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday observance**

Sunday April 1 = Easter Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion

## IN OUR COMMUNITY

**Every Wednesday** = After school. Ages 12-18 hang out Main Library 2:30-3:30 p.m. Technology, video games, movies, snacks. Visit [www.Mylpl.info](http://www.Mylpl.info) for more information.

**Every Wednesday** = Mighty Moms. Main Library 3:00-4:30 pm. For free after school meal.