*MARCH 2024 Newsletter Forestburg United Methodist Church*

Hello friends,

 As always, I pray in the name of the Risen Christ that you are all safe and healthy. I also pray that you and your families are doing well and remaining hopeful as we prepare for the season to change. It’s hard to believe that March is already here. It seems that we just were in January yesterday and now Spring is almost here and the time change is upon us on March 10th.

We have now begun the season of Lent and are now in the season of preparation, as we prepare for the events that lead us to Easter morning. During this 40-day season called Lent, we find ourselves in the wilderness just as Jesus’ was in the wilderness. We are tempted just as he was tempted. Our faith is being tested during these 40 days and we must be faithful to the calling that we have all committed too. During Lent, I’m reminded of how the people of Israel were waiting for the promised Messiah to appear. The people of Israel had been through great suffering and oppression as one after another, nation after nation, had held the people in their control. The Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Egyptians and now, at the time of Christ’s coming, the Romans. For hundreds of years the people had been waiting, in a season of oppression, and now that Jesus was amongst them, they didn’t even recognize him. Are we not like them? Would we recognize Christ if he were to return? We often feel as if we would, but would we really? Distractions in life often cause our faith to diminish. And this is not necessarily something we do purposely. It just happens sometimes. Going through times of hardship causes our faith to struggle for we question God’s will. We all have times, seasons of life, that cause our faith to be tested and we either remain strong, or we become weak and sin takes over. This is why the season of Lent is so important to our faith. It is for us a reminder of how we must repent of our sins and therefore focus more on our faith and dedication to the Lord. Lent helps to strengthen our faith by renewing our relationship with God, as we remember how faithfully devoted Jesus was to his faith in God. So, we must prepare during this time of Lent. We must make ourselves right with God and through the teachings of Jesus, rededicate ourselves to being disciples, who are faithfully devoted to the church.

Folks, I am so ready for spring and the changing of the seasons because I need a change in my own life. I need for the season in my life to change and Lent is going to give me just that, and I hope that you will allow it to change your season also. We must become more faithfully devoted to serving the Lord. We must have a rebirth of faith, a renewal.

As I did last year, I ask that you do three things for me during this season of Lent. From now until Easter do this for me: Pray more each day. By staying in a mindset of prayer it will keep us connected to Christ through the Holy Spirit and we will be able to hear the Lord speaking to us, and our relationship with him will become stronger. Next, I ask that you do something for someone, show someone Christ. Call a friend and offer to pray with them or run an errand for them. Send a card someone who hasn’t been coming and encourage them and lift them up while inviting them to return to our community of faith. Serve your neighbors in a new and unique way.

Lastly, I ask that you consider what you might can do for the church. Get involved once again. Join a Sunday school class. Join our Bible study on Tuesday evenings or Wednesday mornings. Come help us with Kids’ Klub. Sign up to read the scriptures on Sunday mornings, or sing a special sometime, or sign up to work in the flower beds or help mow the church. There are many ways that you can help and if you have a new idea than please contact me. My point in all of this is if we want to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ then we must all be involved in the life of the church.

Change is coming. Spring and summer will be here before we know it. Let us use the remaining weeks of Lent to change our hearts and rededicate them to the service of the Lord.

Hear these words of encouragement from the apostle Paul,

“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58

Take care of yourself and stay healthy.

I pray that the Lord blesses you and keeps you, that his face shines upon you and gives you peace. I look forward to seeing you on Sunday mornings,

You are loved. Go in grace and love your neighbor.

Pastor Greg

“It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.” Galatians 2:20

*March Birthdays & Anniversaries*

Dale & Judy White 3-3

Dawna Vann 3-20

Emma Ronken 3-21

 MARCH USHERS

 Amanda Forrester & Melody Parr

Attendance & Tithes MARCH READERS

2-4 30 $2666.00 3-10 Natalee Young 2-11 30 $2380 3-17 Rylan Forrester 2-18 27 $1473 3-24 Jerry Cody

2-25 22 $690 3-31 Elijah Young

Total= 27 avg. $7209

***ANNOUNCEMENTS* WEEKLY SCHEDULE** Third Sunday in Lent 3-3 Sunday School 9:30am

Youth Work Day at ESAS 3-9 Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am

Fourth Sunday in Lent 3-10 Sunday Morning Worship 11:00am Spring Break 3-11 thru 3-15 Tuesday Evening Bible Study 6:00pm

Fifth Sunday in Lent 3-17 Wednesday Morning Bible Study 9:00am

First Day of Spring 3-19 Kids’ Klub Wednesday’s 5:30pm-7:00pm

Palm Sunday 3-24

Easter Sunday 3-31

*PRAYER CONCERNS*

**For those in need of continued prayer****:**Stan Adams, Joanna Cody, Christy Metzler, Tami Hanes friend’s father, David Barnes, Lisa Boyd’s daughter’s uncle who passed away, Debbie Parker’s granddaughter who passed away. Wanda Bailey, Earl Jeter, Hannon Orrell, Nathan & Sammie Edwards unborn child. Jo Knox, Mark Reeves. Dick & Pat Hennings, Kim & Charlie French, Mike Cox, Bobby Griffith, Ed McCormick, Virginia & Doyle Lynch, David Lawson, Jackson Van Hoose, Kyle Gober, Jewell’s sister Shirley. Cody Moore. Judy Farrell, Carmen Villa,Norma Moore, Hazel Turner, Lester Boyd, Emily Hilliard, Jaquita Cochran, Reese & Bernice Landers, Casey Parr, Mildred Moore, Randy Moore, Veronica Greanead. **Shut-ins/Homebound:** Don & Judy Farrell, Rosemary Reynolds, Helen Ellzey, Mary Whatley, Doyle Lynch.

**Prayers for:** Our nation. Our church and conference. Our military men and women, Our law enforcement & First responders, Our World, Our Public School. The people of Ukraine. The people of Israel/Gaza.

*DON’T FORGET THE TIME CHANGE on 3-10! Spring forward!!*

*HAPPY St. Patrick’s Day!!!*

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