

## Turning Off the Tap

*“So I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit.  
Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves.”*

Galatians 5:16 NLT



How well are you living out your new life in Christ? It’s not easy, temptations still exist even in our new life. Without a new environment, we tend to fall back into our old ways. How long can an alcoholic stay dry if they continue to spend their time in a bar? In his book, *Spiritual Warfare*, Ray Stedman talks about this situation:

*I once heard of a mental hospital that had devised an unusual test to determine when patients were ready to go back into the world.*

*They brought candidates for release into a room where a tap was turned on, sending water pouring out over the floor. Next, they handed the patient a mop and told him to mop up the water. If the patient had a firm enough grasp of reality to turn off the tap before mopping up the water, he was ready to go out into society. But if he started mopping up the water without turning off the tap, they knew that more treatment was needed.*

*You and I would never miss such an obvious step as shutting off the tap before mopping the floor. But the fact is that many Christians live their lives in a way that is – from a spiritual point of view – equally absurd.*

*Each of us as believers has been given the mop of God’s truth. We’ve been told to use it to help mop up the evil in the world around us. But we can only be useful if we first have enough sense to shut off the flow of evil that pours into our own hearts from the outer arena of battle that the Bible calls “the world” and from the inner arena it calls “the flesh.”*

Each of us have taps that need to be turned off in our lives. Take time during Lent to ask yourself, “what changes do I need to make?” And then be proactive in living out your new life in an environment that will bring you closer to Christ. Ask yourself, “will this activity bring me closer to Christ?” “Will this book or movie or time on the computer or whatever it is... draw me closer to Christ or pull me away?” Do your closest friends help you to be Christ-like?

Make sure you also have a mop to help clean up your spills in life, bringing you closer to Christ, such as reading and studying the Bible, devotional reading, prayer, worship, fasting, tithing...the choice is yours on which taps will be pouring into your life and the type of mop available to clean up the messes.

Small group opportunities are available for everyone. Women, please join in prayer times Tuesday evenings & mark your calendar for the IF Gathering March 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am - 3 pm. There are also copies of “*Ideas to Make Lent More Meaningful*” in the foyer. Pray about what tap in your life needs to be turned off. What does God want you to do?



See you Sunday,

*Pastor Larry*

## IF Gathering

The IF Gathering exists to equip women with gospel-centered resources, events, and community so they may learn more about who God is and disciple other women right where they are. On March 7, from 9:30 am - 3 pm some of the conference that was televised will be shown. The original event was 1 1/2 days so not all of it will be shown, only what is hoped to benefit the group the most. Lunch will be provided at no cost. In order to get an idea for lunch please RSVP by calling Rev. Jayne Markin (Bernie UMC Pastor) at 573-293-5685 or call if you need any more information.





Our Spring Growth Groups will begin the second week of March. You may fill out and return the sign up form on page 2 or call the church office at 573-624-3344 to register.

**The Path to the Cross**—In this study, discover how the passionate faith of God's people prepare the way for Jesus and His ultimate act of obedience and sacrifice at the cross. Then, be challenged in your life to live as they did – by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

This video series brings God's Word to life with astounding relevance. By weaving together the Bible's fascinating historical, cultural, religious, and geographical contexts, teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan reveals unique insights into the Scriptures' significance for modern believers. Filmed on location in Qumran, Machaerus, En Gedi, Jerusalem and Gethsemane, these illuminating "faith lessons" afford a new understanding of the Bible that will ground your convictions and transform your life. You will gain vital insights from long-ago times and cultures through this innovative approach to Bible study.

Five-week class lessons include:

- The Way of the Essenes – Filmed in Quamran
- The Way of John the Baptist – Filmed in Machaerus
- Into the Desert to Be Tested – Filmed in En Gedi
- The Last Passover – Filmed in Jerusalem
- The Fifth Cup: Our Way of Hope – Filmed at Gethsemane

Choose which group you would like to attend:

1. Begins March 8, **Sundays at 9 am** led by Karen Peters in Friendship classroom



2. Begins March 10, **Tuesdays at 10 – 11 am** led by Terry Almond in Wesley Hall classroom C
3. Begins March 10, **Tuesdays at 6:30 pm** led by Pastor Larry in Wesley Hall classroom C

**God's Word & Grace**—In this 5 week Bible study you will come to an understanding of prevenient, justifying & sanctifying grace, and where you might be. You will discover the authenticity of the Bible and why we can believe the Bible. And the class will help you to develop talking points in conversations with unchurched people.

4. Begins March 10, **Tuesdays at 6 – 7 pm** led by Charles Flannigan at his home (11204 County Rd 637) (cell 573-820-0038)



I would like to attend Group # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please place this slip in the offering plate or return it to the church office.





Beginning March 3 the sanctuary will be open from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. each Tuesday evening during Lent. You are invited to come to pray together or alone as we prepare our hearts for Easter. All are welcome.



## **Corned Beef & Cabbage Feed**



The Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Feed will be held on Thursday, March 19, at the Sacred Heart Parish Center.

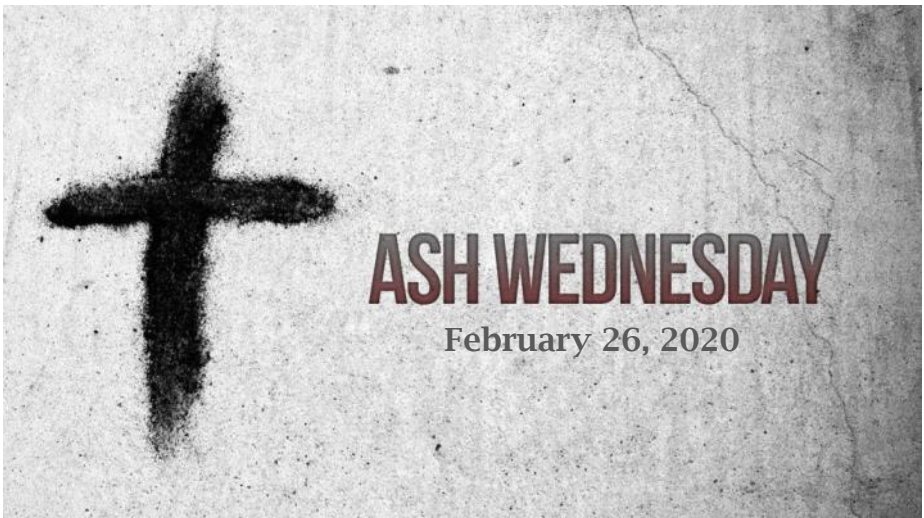
Proceeds go to support many charitable organizations in Stoddard County.

## Come to Pairs & Spares

You are invited to join us at Pairs & Spares. We are a group of singles and couples who meet at 8:30 a.m. on the first Monday of each month at the Airport Café for breakfast and a time of fellowship. Call the church office if you would like more information. Our next meeting will be on March 2.

## In Our Mailbox

Thank you so much for your donation of applesauce to help fill the emergency bags for our Meals on Wheels clients. Each client is provided with a large bag filled with enough food for two days when meals cannot be delivered due to the weather. God bless you. Sincerely, Waynetta Rogers, Director of The Lunch Box Nutrition Center



Come and Go to observe the start of Lent.



7:00-8:00 a.m. & 6:00-7:00 p.m.

In the Sanctuary

*A time of quiet contemplation and receiving  
the sign of the cross on your forehead.*



# March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Morning Grace, 8:15 SS Class, 9:00 CrossOver, 9:15 Traditions, 10:30	2 Pairs & Spares, 8:30 Scouts, 7	3 Women's Prayer, 5:30 to 6	4 Praise Band, 6:30 Choir, 7	5 Meal, 5:30 Class 6-7:15	6	7
8 Morning Grace, 8:15 SS Class, 9:00 CrossOver, 9:15 Traditions, 10:30	9 Scouts, 7	10 Bethany, 4-5 Women's Prayer, 5:30 to 6	11 Praise Band, 6:30 Choir, 7	12 Meal, 5:30 Class 6-7:15	13	14
15 Morning Grace, 8:15 SS Class, 9:00 CrossOver, 9:15 Traditions, 10:30	16 Scouts, 7	17 Women's Prayer, 5:30 to 6	18 Praise Band, 6:30 Choir, 7	19  Corned Beef & Cabbage Feed Meal, 5:30 Class 6-7:15	20	21
22 Morning Grace, 8:15 SS Class, 9:00 CrossOver, 9:15 Traditions, 10:30	23 Scouts, 7	24  Blood Drive 2:30 to 6:00 Women's Prayer, 5:30 to 6	25 Praise Band, 6:30 Choir, 7	26 Meal, 5:30 Class 6-7:15	27	28
29 Morning Grace, 8:15 SS Class, 9:00 CrossOver, 9:15 Traditions, 10:30	30 Scouts in WH, 7	31 Women's Prayer, 5:30 to 6				

## March Birthdays

3/5 Cynthia Chesser  
 3/10 Larry Lawman, Carol Braswell  
 3/11 Joy Evans  
 3/22 Robin Rickman  
 3/25 Jerry Lemar, Earl Williams,  
 Deffrey Stoker  
 3/27 Charlyn Holt  
 3/28 Bob Isbell  
 3/29 Mark Snider, Tamara Crowley  
 3/20 Jana Flannigan  
 3/31 Michelle Lane

## March Anniversaries

3/2 Jay & Debbie Yorke  
 3/21 Jim & Dawn Bennett  
 3/30 Bruce & Kay Plummer





## The Bethany Ministry

March 10, 2020  
4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The Bethany Ministry provides personal care and household products to people in need in Stoddard County each month. In March we will be open on the 10th of the month from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Each month we highlight 3 items from our supply closet for our members to contribute. In March we will be collecting toilet tissue (4 pack), stick deodorant, & feminine pads.

## Blood Drive

Tuesday, March 24  
Wesley Hall  
2:30 to 6:00 p.m.



Volunteers needed for registration.  
Call the church office if you can help.

## OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

### Current Prayer Requests

Baby Kensley, Flo Deardorff, family of Bob Coffey, family of Marvin VanMetre, family of Phyllis Dowdy, Selana Flannigan, Gerald Jackson, Donna Sutton, Shelley Edwards McClintock, Michael Snider, Kristin Holder, Kathleen Dover, Bob Mayer, Suzanne Heitt, Derek Hiatt, Chuck Tilley, Everleigh Karmas, family of Ronnie Long, Mark Snider, Marie Quinn, Linda Collier

### Our Sympathy

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to Kay Plummer upon the death of her father, Marvin VanMetre.

### Special Giving

In memory of Carl Hill - Bruce & Kay Plummer, Rick & LeAnn Kelley.  
In memory of Marvin VanMetre - Dee Wamble, Mike & Kristi Williams.