



PASTOR'S MESSAGE 

LENT: SPRING CLEANING FOR THE SOUL!

Let me ask you a question: What does your closet look like? Yes, right now. If the *Clean Sweep* folks were to go into your bedroom at this very minute and open your closet door would you be a candidate for the show?

What? They wouldn't even have to open the closet door because you haven't been able to close it in months? I'm glad I'm not alone. About this time every year I could be the poster child for disorganized closets. In my own defense, let me say that it is not always that way. It's just that by this time of year I have such a conglomeration of clothes and such stashed in my closet that it gets out of control. I blame it on North Texas weather. One day you wear shorts and the next day you wear a parka. You really can't store cold weather clothes until later in the year, so they are all in my closet. By the way, the same thing happens every autumn.

Many of us get the impulse to simplify, pare down, and clean up around Easter time every year. The Lenten season in the Christian calendar, the forty days prior to Easter, is a perfect time to do some of that paring down and cleaning up – *in our souls*. When many people hear the word "Lent" they automatically associate it with "giving up" something; however, the importance of Lent goes much deeper than that.

But, this week I am writing about that "giving up" part of the year for Christians. Perhaps you are one of the many people who abstain from particular food, behavior, etc. this time of year. The idea is that one takes the energy that is usually put into the eating, smoking, or whatever and redirects it to one's relationship to God. It is a powerful thing, and it includes things like prayer and fasting. These are

good things to do. But I want to reframe it a little bit.

Lent is a time to pare down and clean up our lives in all sorts of ways. Perhaps you have an unhealthy habit that puts your health in jeopardy, but you have not had much success overcoming this obstacle in the past. Lent is a perfect time to let the Holy Spirit help you overcome. Or, perhaps you have needed to speak the truth in love to a friend or family member. You know it is important, but you just cannot seem to bring yourself to the point of confronting that person. Consequently, your concern weighs you down every day. God can help you have that talk, and you will be delighted with how much better you will feel afterward. Part of your inner life will have been "cleaned out" and you will feel lighter. Or, perhaps your schedule has gotten out-of-hand, and you know that you will drop in your tracks if you keep going on like you are. Lent is that time when you can stop, breathe, think, and re-prioritize those many activities and responsibilities that keep you on edge all the time. You can ask God to help you reorder your life, and guess what? God will come through every time.

So even though this time of year for Christians is not exclusively devoted to "giving up" something in your life, paring down and cleaning up helps Christians observe a Holy Lent and experience a better year. Soon you will hear me speak about what believers can *add* to their lives to become healthier, holier people. In the mean time, remember that every day we have a choice. God gives us free will to choose how we will spend the days of our lives. God doesn't want us to live with cluttered souls. It's time for some Spring Cleaning!

Grace,

Pastor Marsha

STUDENT NOOZ FOR PARENTZ



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MESSENGER SUBMISSIONS:

Please send your
submissions to
newsletter@fumctc.org
by February 15 for
the March issue.

This year is going too fast already! We had a great time at our “extended hours” CrossFire on January 15. We played games, ate pizza (thank-you Parks Family), and watched the movie, “The Help.” It was a long movie (almost 2 1/2 hours!) and was worth it in historical worth and remembering our commandment to love one another.

You probably saw the Christmas collage that was above the Sanctuary doors in the Narthex. It made quite a debut and we’ve been asked to do another....probably for Easter. The youth learned a lot about taking their thoughts, a biblical story and turning it into a visual image. For some it was quite difficult, but the spiritual growth was worth it.

Our DINNER THEATRE has been rescheduled for April 21 and 22. This will give us a little more time to prepare! Parental support is KEY! Please consider inviting friends and family to support the 2012 mission trip! The beginning time on both days will be 6:30 pm. I would love for a volunteer to be in charge of the desserts for the auction. It involves telephoning more than anything but is quite important to our success! If you would like to volunteer, please call me at 972-625-1281.

February’s schedule is:

February 5: CrossFire, 5pm-7pm

February 12: CrossFire, 5pm-7pm; WE NEED PARENT VOLUNTEERS FOR SNACK

February 19: CrossFire, 5pm-7pm; SUPPER. Can you help?

February 26: CrossFire, 5pm-7pm

Speaking of snack supper, a BIG THANK YOU to all of the parents who have brought suppers to CrossFire! We have certainly enjoyed them!

Please check the Youth Blog (a button on the right of the fumctc.org home page) for information or response to blogs. I am afraid that the youth haven’t made it a “go to” site, but I keep hoping it will catch soon.....
-Pastor Rebecca



Club C.O.O.L.
Children Of Our Lord!

Club COOL is meeting on February 12, 3:30-5pm in the Fellowship Hall. Children from Pre-K through 3rd grade are welcome. We have craft activities, eat a sugary snack, have a group discussion, and work off our energy while getting to know our Lord. Contact Melinda Harrison for more information: 972-625-5816.



Kids In Christ’s Kingdom News

All 4th and 5th graders are invited to attend the next KICK meeting on Sunday, February 19 from 5-6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for a snack supper, fun and fellowship. Bring \$1 for dinner. If you have questions please contact Pat Ellis at kick@fumctc.org or call 972-625-0464.

NOTES FROM MUSIC

Are you looking for a place to work/serve at FUMC, The Colony? Have we got the job for you!!! There is no interview, audition or previous requirement. The hours are Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30pm and on Sunday mornings. The team members are all friendly and fun-to-be-with people! The benefits include team members praying for you and those you love plus providing meals and support when you need them the most. The job satisfaction is in knowing that you are doing something special for God, for your congregation and for yourself as you make music to glorify your Savior and have a good time doing it! What more could you ask for in a job? Hope you will come check out this great job opportunity very soon so that you can join us for the Palm Sunday cantata and Easter Sunday!

CITIZENSHIP CLASS

Citizenship Class begins February 11 and will run for eight Saturdays, 10am to 12pm, in the Fellowship Hall here at FUMC. The class is free; the Study Guide you keep is \$10. For information, please contact Kevin Haney at 972-625-7252. *We are looking for one or two volunteers to help facilitate our Citizenship Class.* You do not need to commit to every Saturday to volunteer with this ministry. Volunteer responsibilities could include engaging adult students in conversations to help support them as they develop their English skills, assisting adult students in writing dictated sentence in English, or leading a class discussion over an American history/government topic. You pick your level of involvement. We promise to train you every step of the way. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Kevin or Lesa Haney at 972-625-7252.

LENT STUDY

Lent Study- Final Words: From the Cross by Adam Hamilton. The adult education class "You don't know Jack" facilitated by Pastor Jack will begin this Lent study using Adam Hamilton's book as our guide beginning Sunday, February 12th. The class is held in the Fellowship Room at 9:45am, Sundays. The cost of the book is \$10.00-but we always have a copy available for those who cannot make that contribution. Everybody is welcome!

Ash Wednesday Service

February 22

7 pm



a traditional service of ashes and prayer
come turn your confessions to God
and receive the hope and peace of God



Ladies get ready for a fun filled year. January's Pizza making brunch was fun and thanks for passing the budget. Having to change our monthly dinner meeting location to Stan's was a little confusing, but glad you could make it. Mark your calendars for Thursday, Feb 9 at 6:00 p.m. for another opportunity for food and fellowship @ Roma's in The Colony on North Colony and Main Street. There will NOT be a brunch on Saturday, Feb 11. Saturday, Feb 25 from 9 - 2 our UMW RETREAT will be held at the Amaranth Senior Living facility at 544 and 121. Hope you will join us for a special day with our guest speaker who will lead us in At The Table: Breaking Bread and Telling Our Stories. Look for the sign up sheet in the foyer. March 22 is a Thursday, and it is Ladies Night at Royal Brush on South Colony Blvd near Main Street. \$5.00 is the entrance fee for the evening, which includes snacks. Select from the many items to paint as you desire. Don't forget, personalized, hand made items are always a special gift idea. We will select our next place to dine out at our Women's Retreat, so be there to add your favorite restaurant to the list. If you have questions, please contact Pat Ellis, President; Pat Bock, VP; Bonnie Williamson, Treasurer; Dari Meyer, Communications or Sandi Gehrke or any member of UMW for more information. Bring a friend to join us at any of our outings or activities.

FAT TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21st—FUMCTC PANCAKE SUPPER



PANCAKES!

Come join us for some goood eatin'! Pancakes will be served with an assortment of syrups, bacon and sausage. Come on out for fun and fellowship as we prepare for the celebration of Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday. This feast will be held on Tuesday, February 21st in the Fellowship Hall from 6pm to 8pm. Donations will be welcome. For more information, please contact Kristi Divers with the FUMCTC Fellowship Committee at 972-529-8629 or kristi5543@yahoo.com.



KROGER IS DONATING \$1M TO LOCAL CHARITIES

Help FUMCTC receive a portion of the payout by taking our barcode (letter) to Kroger on your next grocery shopping visit.

1. Pick up a barcode (letter) from the Information Station in the narthex at any time or go to our website at fumctc.org to print a copy.
2. Take the barcode on your next visit to Kroger with your Kroger Plus Card. Once they scan the barcode, it is tied to your Kroger Plus Card through June. After you have used the barcode, pass it along to family, friends and/or neighbors to use.
3. Kroger will mail a check to FUMCTC just because you used your Kroger card. Thank you!