



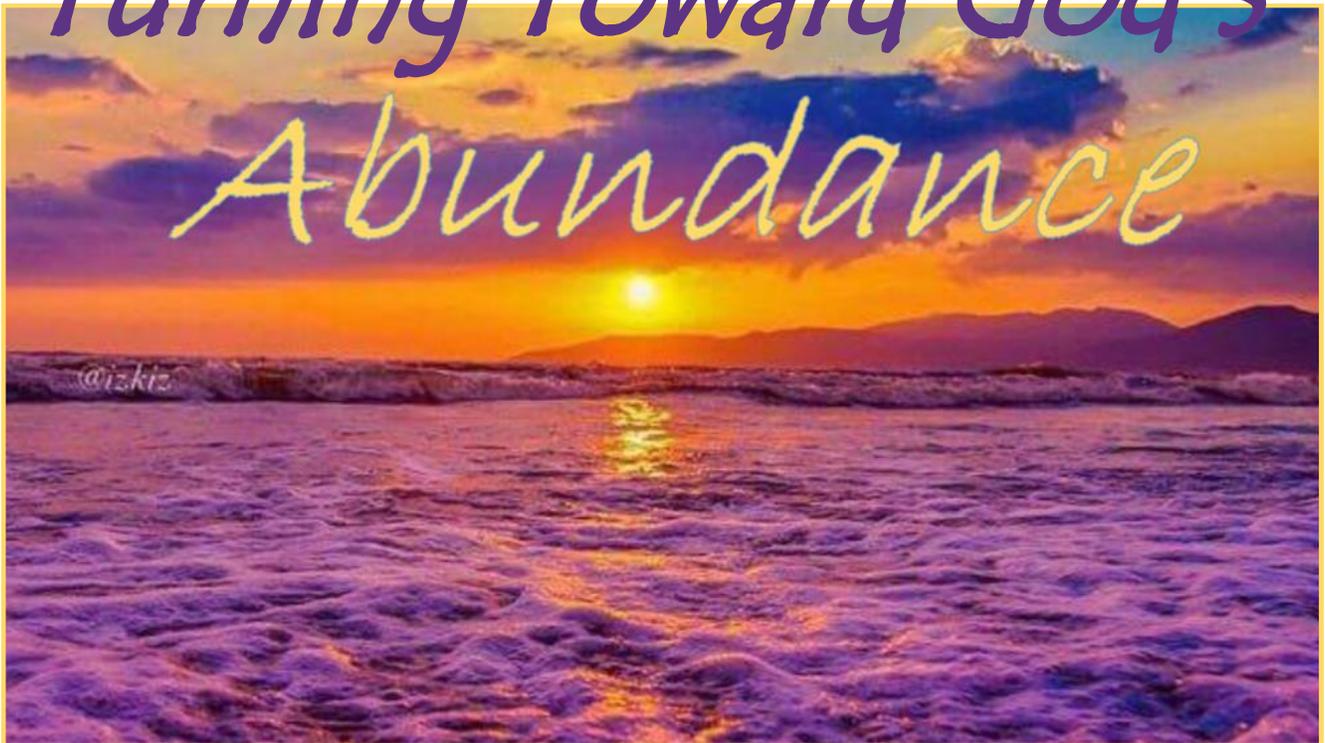
Steppingstone Newsletter



*A Christian
community bringing
God's love to the world.*

March 2022

Turning Toward God's Abundance



LENT: March 2 – April 14, 2022

Two (in-person) services each Wednesday:

**A Service of Word &
Prayer (12:00noon)
&
Lunch (12:30pm)**

**Holden Evening
Prayer (6:00pm)
&
Meal (5:30pm)**

NOTE—There will be no meal on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd

CHURCH MATTERS

We give to see a change in the World...

ONLINE GIVING THROUGH CHURCH WEBSITE:

*Click on the donation button on our home page at www.ststephenwbl.org
(donations accepted via check, credit card, or debit card)*

ONLINE GIVING FROM YOUR CELL PHONE:

If you wish to scan our QR code to make donations online, follow these simple steps:

1) Open the Play or App Store on your Android or iPhone. 2) Search for a FREE QR Code reader. 3) Tap [INSTALL]. 4) Tap [ACCEPT]. 5) Open the app and line up the camera frame with the QR code to scan. 6) Open the link to our donation site (St Stephen Lutheran Church). 7) You can set up donations from your checking, savings, or credit/debit card. 8) You can choose the frequency of your donations: One time, Weekly, or Monthly. 9) You will have to set up a profile with your name, address, phone, email, card or routing number, etc. and create a password.



Go to: <http://www.ststephenwbl.org/impact/giving.cfm>

DROP OFF:

In outside drop box, into office door mail slot, or during worship.

MAIL:

St. Stephen Lutheran Church,
1965 East County Road E., White Bear Lake, MN 55110

LEGACY GIFTS

*Please contact an estate attorney if you wish to leave a gift
to the church's Endowment Fund.*

SIMPLY GIVING:

This program enables you to give automatically through
Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) through your checking account.
For more information please contact Brad Wilm, at RuthaBradj@gmail.com

ELECTRONIC BILL PAY:

Easy and paperless—sign up with your bank

THRIVENT CHOICE:

Thrivent financial charitable fund. If you have investments or insurance with Thrivent Financial, through the Thrivent Choice outreach program, you can direct funds to go to St. Stephen at no cost to you! *For more information and sign up, go to Thrivent Financial's website and click on Membership and Benefits. <https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/> or call 1-800-847-4836 and ask for: Thrivent Choice. (Must be done annually.)*
At Thrivent, giving back has always been important to our members. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has provided more than \$170 million through the Thrivent Choice®

CHURCH MATTERS

Message from Council President

Thank you to everyone who attended the annual meeting this year. We voted in some new council members, discussed the working endowment policy, and gave updates on the repairs to the church that we made throughout 2021. We approved a budget for 2022, which is about \$20,000 less than the 2021 budget, because of adjustments to staffing. St. Stephen will now be working with Redeemer in a shared youth ministry led by Melissa Whitman, which is part of the adjustments to the budget. In the February council meeting we discussed the working endowment policy, elected a Vice President for the council, and talked about St. Stephen partnering with the organization 'Many Faces of White Bear Lake'. The endowment policy was presented by Viki Bosin, and as a council we had decided to not vote it through until the March meeting, where there will be a couple changes to the proposal, making it more flexible to be able to use when we need to. Marla Amborn has agreed to be Vice President this year, which the council approved at this meeting. As for the 'Many Faces of White Bear Lake', I presented that at this meeting as an opportunity for community outreach for St. Stephen. After discussing, we are going to obtain some more insight on the organization and vote on whether or not we will partner with them in the March council meeting.

- Mira Stearns, Church Council President



Welcome Our New Custodian!

Please welcome Greg McGuiggan, our new custodian, who started working at the church in December.

Newsletter Helpers Needed

We need volunteers to assemble (fold, seal, and label) newsletters once per month (1-2 hours depending on how many volunteers are participating). This needs to happen during the third week of the month. Assemble on your own or with others. If you are interested, please contact Tami and let her know which day of the week (and time) you would prefer (office@ststephenwbl.org, 651-777-1107).

Receiving Newsletter

If you wish to be REMOVED from this mailing list, please contact Tami at 651-777-1107 or office@ststephenwbl.org

Who Does What?

The Treasurer and Financial Secretary are volunteers...

- ◆ **Patsy Olson** (Treasurer) does the following: processes bills, vouchers, assigns expenses to accounts, designated fund accounts entries, makes checks, payroll, prepares all financial and designated fund account reports, prepares and maintains budget, monitors church's cash flow, proofs ledger entries, prepares for audits, and reports to Church Council. Contact her at treasurer@ststephenwbl.org.
- ◆ **Brad Wilm** (Financial Secretary) does the following: enters member contributions into a database, sends out quarterly and year-end contribution statements, and processes Simply (Electronic) Giving forms. Contact him at ruthabradj@gmail.com

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Collaborative Youth Ministry

St. Stephen and Redeemer have partnered their youth programs (grades 6-12) and Confirmation (grades 6-9) as part of a wider Collaborative Youth Ministry created by five area churches. On Wednesdays, youth attend our Community Meal (5:30-6:00pm), GAP (Grace & Praise) Worship (6:00-6:45pm), and alternate between St. Stephen (March and May) and Redeemer (April) for Faith Education (7:00-7:45pm). Confirmation rotates as well: St. Stephen (March and May) and Redeemer (April) on Saturdays (9:00am). "ELCA Faith Lens Blog" will be used most weeks for group discussions (Google it to read more about it). Please trust God through this transition and encourage your child to continue being a part of their (now larger) church family.

Melissa Whitman Returns as Part Time Youth Director

"Hello! It's me, Melissa Whitman. I am looking forward to partnering the youth programs at Redeemer and St. Stephen. I have learned a lot in my many years of youth ministry, and continue to learn more and more ways to reach out to our youth. I am excited to see where the Holy Spirit leads us. I can be reached Monday thru Wednesday at Redeemer Lutheran and Thursdays at St. Stephen." (mwhitman@redeemerwhitebear.org)



Paul Schultz Serves as Part-time Children & Families Ministry Director

My name is Paul Schultz—the new (or old) Children & Families Ministry Director at St. Stephen Lutheran Church. My wife Karen and I have been members since 1981 with our

two sons Jason and Stephen. I served as Children's Ministry Director once before from 1993 – 2000 and now I'm back. After that I was employed by Independent School District #916 in their Special Education department for 20 years before retiring in 2019. I've been a Boy Scout Leader for many years and was honored with the Silver Beaver award. Also, I have served on Council and have been a Board member for Camp Wapo. In my spare time I enjoy being a grandpa for my two grandchildren, Everett and Aubrey, walking and/or hiking, reading science fiction and history, traveling to Hawaii (winter) and Europe.



Faith Education Schedule

SUNDAYS

- 3/6—Spring Break NO classes
- 3/13—Lenten Lesson
- 3/20—Lenten Family Event
- 3/27—Lenten Lesson

WEDNESDAYS

- 3/2—Ash Wednesday NO classes
- 3/9—Spring Break NO classes
- 3/16—Lenten Lesson
- 3/23—Lenten Family Event**
- 3/30—Lenten Lesson
- 3/30—First Communion Class

First Communion Class (3/30)

If you have a child who would like to receive their First Communion at the 7:00pm service on Maundy Thursday, please make sure they attend our preparatory First Communion Class on Wednesday, March 30 (7:00-7:30pm).



HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

Ash Wednesday (3/2)

On Ash Wednesday, we have two Communion services (12noon and 6:00pm). Join us on this day of repentance, as we confess our sins and profess our devotion to God, symbolized by ashes (placed on foreheads) in the shape of a cross. Note: there is no meal on Ash Wednesday.



Wednesdays During Lent (3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6)

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart and prepares us for the glorious good news of Easter.

Join us and invite others:

**Lenten Service (noon) & Lunch (12:30)
Meal (5:30) & Worship (6:00)**

Cooks Needed for Wednesday Meals (3/9, 3/16, 3/30)

We are in need of volunteers to prepare, cook, serve, and clean-up our Wednesday evening community meals (for 40 people) for the following dates: 3/9, 3/16, 3/30. Mealtime is 5:30-6:00pm before our Lenten Worship Service. CHOOSE ONE or as many Wednesdays as you like. We reimburse up to \$100 for groceries. Please SIGN UP in the kitchen or contact Tami in the church office (office@ststephenwbl.org or 651-777-1107). Thanks!!



Retiree's Breakfast (3/10)

Attention all retirees! You are invited to join other retirees from church for breakfast (Thurs/9:00-10:00am) at Perkins in Maplewood on County Road D.

Braided Bread—Tanzania Fundraiser (3/13-3/27)

Please support our Tanzanian mission work by purchasing braided bread through our Tanzania mission team. Orders may be placed in-person or online. Bread will be available for pick-up on Palm Sunday (April 10).



Daylight Saving Time Begins (3/13)

Spring forward by setting your clocks one hour ahead at 2:00am on Sunday, March 13.

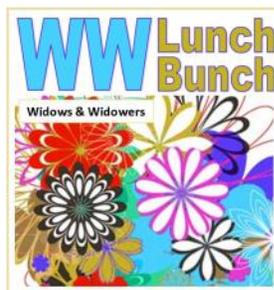
Quilting Group

(3/17, 3/18, 3/24, 3/25)

The quilting group will (tentatively) be meeting in the A/B Room (9:00am-3:00pm) on Thurs-3/17, Fri-3/18, Thurs-3/24, and Fri-3/25 to make quilts for battered women's shelters homeless shelters, and the Holly Boutique. Masks are required.



WW Lunch Bunch (3/29)



Widows and widowers are invited to join our group for lunch on the last Tuesday of each month (11:30am). Contact Judee Bramscher (651-269-6122) for information about our March 29 gathering.

Fellowship Group

If you wish to join in the small group that gathers on Wednesdays in the narthex at 10:30am, contact Judee Bramscher at 651-269-6122.



HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

Come, Now Is the Time to Sing (in the Choir)



Choir members and anyone who may wish to join the choir are invited back to the church on Wednesdays (7:00pm) for practice. Kari Ballata Hosmer, our Choir Director says, "Our goal will be to make a joyful noise together and prepare for Good Friday and Easter as well as Spring Sundays. And, in the meantime, those who gather on Wednesdays can help to determine if they are willing and in what way they would like to offer special music on the following Sunday. That opportunity could be any following Sunday. We want to offer more music on Sundays in whatever way we can!" If you have questions, please contact Kari at ballatahosmer@gmail.com

Neighbors Helping Neighbors (((March Sale)))

Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) is having a DOLLAR SALE March 22-26. Each item of clothing is only \$1.

NHN is OPEN

Tues/Wed/Thurs (10am-4pm) and Sat (10am-1pm).

Neighbors
Helping
Neighbors

Getting Dates Onto the 2022 Church Calendar

Please contact Tami in the church office at office@ststephenwbl.org or 651-777-1107 to

get all special events, gatherings, meetings, groups, etc. onto the church's 2022 calendar.



Easter Flower Garden Orders—Due (3/27)

Please fill out an Easter Flower Garden order form (located in this newsletter or in the narthex) along with your payment into the office door mail slot by Sunday, March 27 if you wish to have your dedication (in memory, honor, or celebration) in the bulletin on Easter. The flowers you order will decorate the altar and may be taken home after the 9:30am service on Easter Sunday. If you choose to donate them, they will be delivered to our home-bound members.



Braided Bread Pick-up (4/10)

Bread will be available for pickup on Palm Sunday, April 10.

Psalms for Ordinary Time



Pastor Juli has recorded Psalms (on YouTube) to be enjoyed via our website. There are two (AM & PM) Psalms for each day of the week. Visit www.StStephenWBL.org. On our home page under THE WORD and "Psalms for Daily Prayer", click onto "Continue Reading" and onto the link for the current day and time.

Pastor-led Bible Study

Led by Pastor Jim Woodruff (we are studying the Gospel of Luke) Wednesdays (9:00-10:00am) in the library.

God's Word (ONGOING)

God's Word meets in the Library on Thursdays (1:00-2:00pm). We are studying the book "Traveling Light" by Max Lucado.

EASTER FLOWER GARDEN ORDER FORM

Easter Flower Garden 2022

Please indicate your choice of flower/plant:

- _____ Azaleas \$30.00
- _____ Cyclaman \$20.00
- _____ Hydrangea \$30.00
- _____ Kalanchoes \$20.00
- _____ Lilies \$15.00
- _____ Mums \$15.00
- _____ Rieger Begonia \$20.00
- _____ Tulips \$15.00



- _____ I would like to donate \$20.00 to the general fund for flowers rather than order a specific flower/plant.

I wish to KEEP my plant

I wish to DONATE my plant

(If you wish to keep your plant, please feel free to pick it up AFTER the 9:30am Easter Sunday Worship Service.)

This plant is in (circle one): **memory / honor /celebration** of:

Your name/s as you would like to appear in bulletin:

Phone Number (in case we need to contact you): _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ **Envelope #** _____

(Indicate "Easter Garden" on check)

Return this form and payment BEFORE Sunday, March 27

Place into an offering plate, inside or outside mail drop, send via US mail, or contact the church office to make other arrangements.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 1965 East County Rd E, White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-777-1107 or office@StStephenWBL.org

COUNTERS: Please note payment above and put this form into Tami's mail slot.



APPRECIATION

Treasurer... Thank you to volunteer Treasurer, Patsy Olson, for being a good steward of the church's finances! We appreciate your time and talent!

Office Volunteers... Thank you to all who answered phones, printed bulletins, and did miscellaneous office coverage while Tami was away.

Bookkeeper... Thank you to Brad Wilm for all that he does with getting out our quarterly statements! Your behind-the-scenes work is very appreciated!

Hallway Bulletin Boards... Thank you to our Children & Families Ministry Director for decorating our bulletin boards with our children's Faith Ministry crafts!

Annual Meeting... Thank you to all who submitted reports, prepared for, and attended our annual meeting!

Ted Schaff and Furnaces... Thank you to Ted Schaff for all his work on researching, obtaining quotes, and overseeing the installation of furnaces during the first phase of our replacement project.

Living Nativity... Thank you to all who participated in our 29th Annual Living Nativity. This important outreach event is instrumental in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ with the wider community. Thank you to our faithful crew who set up and then took down the Living Nativity scene.

Bibles Delivered to Prison... Thank you to our two members who delivered four boxes of bibles to Oak Park Heights Prison in January!

Wednesday Meals... Thank you to all who have signed up on the sheet in the kitchen, prepared and served our Community Meal on Wednesday nights, and cleaned up afterwards. Compliments to our chefs!

Cards from Church... Thank you to our church member who devotedly sends out cards on behalf of the church to folks who are ill. We appreciate your caring for our church family in this way.

Soup-er Bowl Donations... Thank you to all who gave money for the White Bear Area Emergency Food Shelf. We donated \$226.10!

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Helping Local Food Shelves... Shopping at NHN is helping the community as proceeds are distributed to local non-profits. Recently, NHN donated \$1,500 each to local food shelves in Mahtomedi, North St. Paul, Vadnais Heights, and White Bear Lake. Thank you NHN volunteers for all that you do!

PRAYERS

Jesus said “My Father’s House shall be a House of Prayer.”

Help Keep Us Informed

Please help keep us informed of any concerns that you would like our congregation to be praying about, including those serving in the military and any deaths among family members, by contacting the church office at 651-777-1107 or office@StStephenWBL.org



March Birthdays



Message from Pastor Stephen Maketa, Lukani Parish

I greet you all in the name of Jesus Christ, we pray for you so that have a nice year of 2022. We here at Lukani Parish we enjoy much for a lot grace from God especially for the rain, Our community now much engaging to the shamba activities. On other hand we have finished the construction of an altar and it looks so good, thanks so much for your support, And for your prayers to us, may God bless you all. For this year starting this month for have a task to collect contributions from our congregants about fifteen million (shillings) until June we need to proceed with maintenance of our church, with the power of God we know it can be done, one important request from you we need prayers for this job. Also we have successes to start Succos project in our Parish through Iringa Hope Saccos, we expect until much the program will be start to operate. This consists the whole community of Lukani. On the side of vocational training, yet the Village government have given us a building to be used to start the program. And we are struggling to find the machine which will be used for fashion making, also we have requested five actors of shamba from the Government near by Makwema secondary, we have gate it, our place that land will be useful to build a vocation train and a new preaching point. Our prayer to God is only to give us the way to the success of our plan. Again sent our thanks to your fellow congregants found you support and prayers to us. Thanks much.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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The Steppingstone Newsletter...

Is distributed monthly. If you have any items for the **April** issue, please send them to office@ststephenwbl.org by Thurs., March 10. Newsletters are also available in the narthex information racks or via email. Please let us know if you have a change of address so that we can update our mailing list.

Staff

Lead Pastor ▪ James Woodruff
jamesawoodruff@ststephenwbl.org

Visitation Pastor ▪ Juli Thompson
visitation@ststephenwbl.org

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**Children & Families Ministry Director** ▪  
Paul Schultz  
[childrenmin@ststephenwbl.org](mailto:childrenmin@ststephenwbl.org)

**Communication & Administrative  
Coordinator** ▪ Tami Heart  
[office@ststephenwbl.org](mailto:office@ststephenwbl.org)

**Custodians** ▪ Greg McGuiggan and Paul Swanson

**Digital Ministry Director** ▪ Zach VanDyke  
[zrv10000@gmail.com](mailto:zrv10000@gmail.com)

**GAP Worship Director** ▪ Justin Woodruff  
[jwoodruff@homfurniture.com](mailto:jwoodruff@homfurniture.com)

**Nursery Caregiver** ▪ Lisa Klingbeil

**Organist** ▪ Cindy Bittner  
[Cindy\\_bittner@comcast.net](mailto:Cindy_bittner@comcast.net)

**Senior Choir Accompanist** ▪ Cindy Bittner  
[Cindy\\_bittner@comcast.net](mailto:Cindy_bittner@comcast.net)

**Senior Choir Director** ▪ Kari Ballata Hosmer  
[ballatahosmer@yahoo.com](mailto:ballatahosmer@yahoo.com)

**Social Media Administrator** ▪ Andrew Bjork  
[office@ststephenwbl.org](mailto:office@ststephenwbl.org)

**Wedding Coordinator** ▪ Missy Kneip  
[mothergoose2954@yahoo.com](mailto:mothergoose2954@yahoo.com)

**Youth & Families Ministry Director** ▪ Melissa Whitman  
[mwhitman@redeemerwhitebear.org](mailto:mwhitman@redeemerwhitebear.org)

### Council & Leadership

**President, Fellowship, and Staff Relations**  
Mira Stearns—[miradawn.stearns@icloud.com](mailto:miradawn.stearns@icloud.com)

**Vice President, Congregational  
& Community Care**  
Marla Amborn—[Amborn@visi.com](mailto:Amborn@visi.com)

**Previous President, Property**  
Ken Smith—[klsmith@mmm.com](mailto:klsmith@mmm.com)

**Adult Learning** Vacant

**Children & Families** Vacant

**Evangelism**  
Judee Bramscher—[freddiebram@comcast.net](mailto:freddiebram@comcast.net)

**Finance & Stewardship** Vacant

**Financial Secretary**  
Brad Wilm—[RuthaBradj@gmail.com](mailto:RuthaBradj@gmail.com)

**Mission and Benevolence**  
Pastor Jim Woodruff—  
[jamesawoodruff@ststephenwbl.org](mailto:jamesawoodruff@ststephenwbl.org)

**Church Council Secretary** Vacant

**Treasurer**  
Patsy Olson—[joellyo@netscape.net](mailto:joellyo@netscape.net)

**Worship & Music**  
Betsy Clark—[eaclark001@comcast.net](mailto:eaclark001@comcast.net)

**Youth & Families**  
John Rohr—[johnrohr@comcast.net](mailto:johnrohr@comcast.net)

### Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm; Friday 9am-Noon



**ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY BRINGING GOD'S LOVE TO THE WORLD.

www.StStephenWBL.org ♦ office@ststephenwbl.org ♦ 651-777-1107

St Stephen Lutheran Church  
1965 East County Rd E  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

# What's Happening

## Sundays

Blended Worship Service  
& Faith Ed **9:30am IN-PERSON**  
(Services are live-streamed and online)

## Wednesdays

Grace & Praise Casual Worship  
& Faith Ed **6:00pm IN-PERSON**  
(Community Meal at 5:30pm, \$5/pp)

## March Calendar

- 3/2 Ash Wednesday Services (12noon & 6:00pm)
- 3/3 Worship & Music Meeting (Online, Mon/7:00-8:00pm)
- 3/5 Faith Ed: Confirmation (St. Stephen, Sat/9:00am)
- 3/9 Lent Service (Wed/12:00pm) & Lenten Lunch (12:30pm)
- 3/9 Lenten Meal (Wed/5:30pm) & Lent Worship (6:00pm)
- 3/10 Retiree's Breakfast (Thurs/9:00-10:00am)
- 3/10 Mary Magdalene Circle (Thurs/6:00-7:30pm)
- 3/10 Content Deadline for April Steppingstone (Thurs)
- 3/13 Daylight Saving Time Begins (Sun/2:00am)
- 3/13 Baptism: Savannah Jo Dustin (Sun/9:30am)
- 3/13 Braided Bread Sales BEGIN (*through 3/27*)
- 3/14 Church Council Meeting (Online, Mon/7:00-9:00pm)
- 3/16 Lent Service (Wed/12:00pm) & Lenten Lunch (12:30pm)
- 3/16 Lenten Meal (Wed/5:30pm) & Lent Worship (6:00pm)
- 3/17 Quilters (Thurs/9:00am-3:00pm) *also on 24*
- 3/18 Quilters (Fri/9:00am-3:00pm) *also on 25*
- 3/20 Lenten Family Event (Sun/9:45-10:30am)
- 3/23 Lent Service (Wed/12:00pm) & Lenten Lunch (12:30pm)
- 3/23 Lenten Meal (Wed/5:30pm) & Lent Worship (6:00pm)
- 3/23 Lenten Family Event (Wed/6:00-7:00pm)
- 3/24 Mary Magdalene Circle (Thurs/6:00-7:30pm)
- 3/27 Braided Bread (Tanzania Fundraiser) Sales END (Sun)
- 3/27 Easter Flower Garden Orders DUE (Sun)
- 3/29 WW Lunch Bunch (Tues/11:30am)
- 3/30 Lent Service (Wed/12:00pm) & Lenten Lunch (12:30pm)
- 3/30 Lenten Meal (Wed/5:30pm) & Lent Worship (6:00pm)
- 3/30 First Communion Class (Wed/7:00-7:30pm)