



Pemberton UMC NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024



FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

The Journey Can Feel Long

One of the things that I have experienced in my life is taking long trips. As a child, I would be so excited about hearing where we were going. My mom would start weeks in advance preparing for the trip; she would begin to pack for the trip, and she would have to do this for two girls, my dad and herself. She would list everything we needed to take and then ask us what snacks we would like to eat. She would devise a plan for the food she would prepare for the journey. Then, the night she wanted us to go to bed too early, so we would be ready for the journey. I would be so excited that I could hardly sleep. And no matter where we were going, the journey would be long.

As we take this journey during Lent, knowing that Jesus is taking his final journey toward the cross to die for our sins. May we spend time not in mourning for what's to come but excited like that little girl waiting for the trip ahead, knowing that because Christ died, we have access to eternity. A journey that allows us to find comfort in knowing how loved we are by God. Sometimes, our faith journey can feel long and difficult, but we don't walk alone. Christ is always with us.

Jeremiah 29:12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

Prayer: God, may you be with us on this journey called life. We give thanks for the sacrifice you made for us. We give you thanks this day and always for your love towards us. Amen



Upcoming Events

February 11 and 25- Reflections with the Pastor

February 6 - Trustee meeting - 7:15 PM - In the chapel

February 10 - Family Fun Day 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

February 13 - 7:00 pm Administrative Council Meeting Pastor's office

February 18 - Celebrating our Donors during worship, followed by a covered dish

February 14 - Lent Begins

February 14- Ash Wednesday -Drive Through Ashes 11:00 AM -1:00 PM - Sanctuary will be open for prayer.

February 21-Lenten Bible Study- 7:00 pm Chapel

February 22 - Senior Luncheon – TBD 12:30 PM



What is Ash Wednesday?

Drive Through Ashes

February 14 11am-1pm

Why "To Go"?

Ashes are an ancient symbol of our humanity. In Genesis, we read that God formed human beings out of the dust (ashes) of the earth (Genesis 2:7). We know the day is coming for each of us when we will return to dust.

Wearing ashes reminds us that we are not God, but God's good creation. Ashes also signify our sorrow for the mistakes we have made. People in ancient times wore sackcloth and ashes as a way of expressing the repentance of their sins.

Receiving ashes is confronting our sin. We recognize our inability to live up to all God has created us to be, our need for Christ, and our need to be forgiven.

While this may sound fatalistic, it is not the end of the story. Lent leads to Easter, the day we celebrate that though our bodies are temporary and our lives are flawed, a day of resurrection will come when we will live in the presence of God forever.

We're offering Ashes To Go because this expression of our faith should not be confined to a church building. We probably need it more when we are in the midst of our daily activities. It also reminds us that God meets us anywhere and offers the opportunity to remember our faith to those whose schedules make it difficult to attend a service. The ashes we receive here are to remind us throughout the day of our need for God, and of God's call to us. There is much more to the beginning of Lent than ashes alone, and we encourage you to make time for worship with a community of faith and take an intentional journey through Lent.

What is Lent?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencen*, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.



Member Profile



Name - Minister Will Latham

Martial Status- Happily married to Naimah Johnson

I was born and raised in Newark, New Jersey. I currently live in Pemberton with my family. I love living in this area. I have 2 daughters and 3 sons.

One of my biggest pet peeves is being late and disloyalty. Loyalty is built on relationships and trust. I'm loyal till given a reason not to be.

Some things I like to do for fun are reading books about history, playing my PlayStation, and DJing.

One of the things that I want people to know is that I have a love for my community. I believe it's important to work and build community. My desire is for the members of Pemberton to get to know those in our community and for the community to get to know us. So that we are constantly reminding them how much God loves them.

My special talents are writing poetry, and I have a love for cooking.

FunTimes



FamilyFun Day was started by Jerry Gainer, Jr, Minister Wil Latham, and Akbar Bashir. They wanted to find a way to reach the community. Later, JoAnne Vanderveer joined the discussion, and there were many ideas. They wanted food to be a way to draw people together to be able to have fellowship, a meal, and an activity. So, in November, they presented their idea to me. Let's try; I said we would commit to doing it for at least three months to see how it goes and evaluate from there.

The Crew (Wil Latham, JoAnne Vanderveer, Akbar Bashir, and Sean McGuire) would be blown away that on the first fun day in December, there were 45 people in attendance. The goal was dinner and a movie. The Crew learned a critical lesson: 1. it's hard to show a film on a screen in daylight hours; 2. they didn't anticipate so many children and had to change the movie and try to watch a cartoon. The internet and hotspots struggled to work, so they realized that we needed to download movies so we aren't dependent on hotspots. 3. If you don't engage people with children, they will leave.

So, the next fun day, they put what they had learned into practice and would have a fun game day. They would make sure we had activities for children and adults. They are looking forward to the upcoming Funday, where more games will be played and more activities for the children.

One of the things that I appreciate about The Crew is that even before the next fun day happens, they are already brainstorming about the next one, and there is excitement for when the weather warms up doing a BBQ outside.

PEMBERTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FOOD PANTRY

2nd and 4th
Tuesdays
10Am to 12Pm

Donate



The food is a gift, given in the name of Jesus
Christ from Pemberton United Methodist Church

In person Worship Sunday's at 10:45 am You can find
us on Facebook Live (@Pembertonumc.).
We offer Bible Study and Youth Group.

Food Pantry Director: Lisa Challender
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tiffany S. Murphy
Phone: 609-894-8015

PEMBERTON UMC

42 HANOVER ST | PEMBERTON , NJ 08068

with PastorMyWall.com

Food needed for the Pantry

You are welcome to donate gift cards or cash

Cans of vegetables(including potatoes)

Cans of soup(chicken noodle, Campbells, progresso and healthy choice)

Box cereals(adults and children)

Cans of fruit

Cans of tuna

Cans of spam

Cans of chicken

Peanut butter

Jelly

Pasta

Pasta sauce

Oatmeal

Loads of Love 4th Tuesday by request