



## **Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017**

Most protestants perception of Ash Wednesday is sometimes looked upon as something that our Catholic brothers and sisters pay attention to. Some protestants will say "I'm not Catholic so, why should I participate"? I say that when it comes down to practices that help me become a stronger follower of Christ, count me in. Where the practice originated really doesn't matter all that much to me!

The fact is, after the Adam and Eve/Tree of knowledge episode, the idea of living a "forever and ever" existence in the original conception that God had intended for us in a "Garden of Eden sort of way" got all messed up. So, God says "it is from the earth that you were made, and so it is back to the earth you shall return... **earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust**". Sin is very real part of us.

About 8 or 9 years ago, I tried something for the first time. I invited people to drive up and receive his or her ashes. The reason I wanted to try something new for Ash Wednesday was that when we had a service in the evening, the few that would show up received ashes, read scripture, sang a few hymns and then went home and went to bed. Although I see the congregational value in having an evening service, I really didn't see this service as being all that effective at doing what it was that Jesus was calling us to accomplish during Lent. The chance to witness about His love and remind others of Christ's passion (what we call the season of Lent) is a season meant for personal growth and renewing our relationship with God through Christ. So How or What could be offered to do such a thing? That question became this...

Driving up to "get" ashes! Why not offer folks an opportunity where they could receive the Ashes and a Blessing in a space and time that would allow the kick off for season of Lent to gain a little more recognition. And... why not use the entire day to witness and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ?

**March 1st 2017 (Wednesday) is Ash Wednesday.** For Ash Wednesday, I will be offering two time slots for the "church/public" (that's anybody) to drive by and receive his or her blessing and ashes. The way this will work is very simple. **COME AS YOU ARE!** I mean it...I have had people show up in their pajamas. Please drive through the church entrance so your vehicle will face Rt. 49 (drivers side towards the building) roll down your window, and receive. **Times are from 7:00am – 8:00am and 12 noon to 1:00pm.**

I will be taking time to talk to our kids who come to kid's choir. I also will have the ashes at our adult choir rehearsal for those who may want them then. Anyone from the congregation wanting to get his or her ashes is invited to drop by too. If you have any questions, please call me at the church office.

Pastor Gary

## **Round Robin Lenten Services 6:00 p.m.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Host Church</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Message By</b>
March 5, 2017	Charleston Otterbein UMC	2175 Harrison Ave, Charleston, IL	Pastor Karen Blank-Ewell (Martinsville, Kansas UMC)
March 12, 2017	Casey United Methodist	703 N State Hwy 49, Casey, IL	Pastor Walter Miller (Westfield UMC)
March 19, 2017	Kansas United Methodist	200 E Buena Vista St., Kansas IL	Pastor Gary Fairchild (Casey UMC)
March 26, 2017	Westfield United Methodist	225 S Madison St., Westfield	Pastor Chuck Trent (Charleston Otterbein, Oakland UMC)



## **Jake's Boys**



in concert at Casey UMC  
**Sunday, February 26th**  
**5:00 p.m.**



*Concert in conjunction with pie auction to benefit the Casey UMC Youth mission trip with Appalachian Service Project.  
Join us for music, fellowship and mission!*



**We are currently looking for a few (8-10) pie bakers to help us out with the pie auction. Please bring with your pie a note telling us what type of pie, and any interesting thing about it, such as...is it a secret family recipe, did you pick the apples off the tree in your yard, etc. If you would like to donate a pie for auction, please sign up outside the church office on the bulletin board.**



## ***A Note from Your Casey UMC Finance Committee...***

Hello Casey UMC Members!

Your finance committee would like to touch base with you about our finances. We have decided to write a little summary of how we are doing and this first one, will be for the year of 2016.

Here are the end of year numbers for our church. The income is the giving that we received throughout the year.

### **2016 Year End Numbers**

Income:	\$327,465.82
Expenses:	\$336,472.72
Difference	(\$9,006.90)

We know at first glance, we only see the “negative” number. Well, truthfully our giving was down overall for the year, compared to 2015, but we want to look at the bright side. Because we had surplus in 2015, we never “bounced” a check and we did not have to dip into our savings. We were able to use the Lord’s money to help many people and organizations, and do some projects that we had not budgeted for. With the help of so many, whether it was contributing our time, hard work, or contributions, we were able to update the parsonage and pay for the moving expenses for Pastor Gary and Ella to join us. We really have so much to be thankful for.

Also, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our Treasurer, Laura Wright, or another member of the finance committee. If we don’t have the information, we will get it for you. We are more than happy to answer your questions.

We hope this little summary will help everyone understand a little more about our church finances. We are looking forward to a wonderful 2017 and all the blessings God will give us!

God bless,  
Your Casey UMC Finance Committee



## **Happy Hearts Cafe**

**Sunday, March 19th**

**11:30 a.m.**

**Tickets Available Soon!**

**Chicken & Noodle Lunch**

**Skits &**

**The "Newlywed" Game featuring three couples from Casey UMC!!**

**Thank You**

Thank you all for the services, the meal, and letting us honor our mother in the church.  
-All of Janice Funk’s Family

To all our church family – Thank you so much for thinking of us during the Christmas season. We appreciate all of the cards and gifts!  
- The Cummins Family

A big thank you to all who helped with the United Methodist Men’s Pancake Supper! Whether you bought a ticket, helped cook and serve or ate a few pancakes, the support is appreciated!

The Visions Circle would like to thank everyone who donated to the Valentine’s Boxes. And thank you for supporting our college students!

**Tote a Meal**

We are looking for delivery people for the Tote a Meal program. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up outside the office.

**Audio/Video Volunteers**

We are currently looking for some volunteers to learn the workings of our audio and video system. If you are interested, please sign up outside the office and we will have a training in the near future.

**Don’t Forget Time Change on March 12<sup>TH</sup>!**

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**FREE MONDAY MEAL**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>  
5-6 P.M.  
SIGN UP TODAY TO HELP!!**

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**COMING SOON!!!**

**April 16<sup>th</sup> - Easter Services  
May 5<sup>th</sup> - Friendship Banquet  
May 7<sup>th</sup> - Graduate Luncheon**

**You can always check out our website at [www.caseyumc.org](http://www.caseyumc.org)  
OR  
our Facebook page for upcoming events!!**