

# March

## Open Door 2023



Lent is a time of 40 days (excluding Sundays) that are a time of preparation for the grand celebration of Easter. Often it includes the spiritual discipline of fasting. Many of us give up something...soda, chocolate, or Facebook. Our hunger for those missing things in our lives remind us of our deeper dependence on God.

We mark the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday when we are reminded of our own mortality. Too many of my friends are being reminded of mortality as they face a variety of physical ailments. Cancer, heart disease, issues of sight, hearing, and mobility slow us down and frustrate us. These frailties of our bodies remind us that we are not invincible. We are vulnerable. We are weak. We will not last forever.

Being vulnerable is scary. But in those weaknesses we can find God's presence. When we can't do it ourselves, we can learn to trust in God's power. When Paul reflected on his own weaknesses, he discovered this deep truth: "[Jesus] said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong."

May your journey through this holy season remind you of God's power and God's grace.

*Pastor Ray*

## Training Day in Vinita



We had a wonderful time gathered with our Brothers and Sisters from Vinita and Chelsea. A fabulous breakfast and lunch were provided for us.

The breakfast was a blessing to us all. We had just asked for coffee and they fixed us coffee, juice, cinnamon roles, bacon, and quiche.



As we entered the meeting we were all given a number of a table in which we were to sit. This was to assure that we would be mixed with people from the other congregations, so we could get to know one another, and what was going on in one another's churches. We watched a couple of short videos and had short discussions among others at our table after each video. Each church invited a guest speaker who represented each community. These speakers talked about needs in each community. Tim Blodgett then gave a quick little speech. We then met in our own home church groups and had a discussion on ways, we could implement the things we learned during the meeting, to better our communities.



**March 5** A Table in the Wilderness for Israel  
**March 12** A Table in the Wilderness for Hagar  
**March 19** The Rev. Kate Hogue is preaching  
**March 26** A Table in the Wilderness for David

#### NEW MEMBERS

We are planning to welcome new members into the congregation on Easter Sunday (April 9). If you are interested in joining us, please contact Pastor Ray. We will schedule a time to learn about Christian basics, this congregation and our denomination.



#### **Kum Ba Yah aka Kum Ba Zoom**

**We meet every Wednesday on ZOOM for fellowship, study and prayer. 7:00 PM. The link to the Zoom Meeting is sent in the Wednesday eMail each week.**

#### **Kum Ba Yah topics:**

- March 1** Matthew 11:16-30
- March 8** Matthew 12:3-37
- March 15** No KumBaZoom
- March 22** Matthew 12:39-50
- March 29** Matthew 13:3-33

#### **Adult Sunday School**

**Sundays at 9:30am on Zoom and in Person!**

- March 5** Faith & Science 4
- March 12** Language is a Bridge
- March 19** TBA
- March 26** Sharing our Journeys

## BACKPACK PROGRAM

We are grateful for the leadership of Dave Foster and Janice Johnson who organize our weekly food program with children at Roosevelt Elementary School. We are currently serving between 42 -46 students by providing weekend “backpacks” of simple, nutritious food.

We would like to thank all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication. From helping pack the backpacks, to their generous donations. With out you, we couldn't make this ministry what it is today.



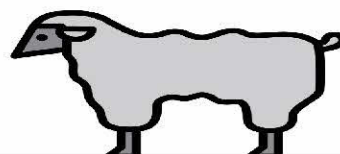
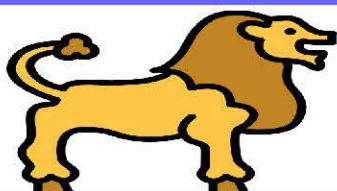
## MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee met on February 21, 2023. In Global Mission we gave a gift of \$400 to **PDA** which will go to Syria/Turkey Earthquake relief.

The Mission program is sustained in part by gifts from the Myers Sisters bequest as well as gifts from members. You can designate gifts to “Local Mission” or “Global Mission”.

The Deacons Shoe ministry has already given out 12 pairs of shoes since the beginning of the year.

Food Pantry: January we handed out 27 bags of food. As of February 23rd, we have handed out 33 bags of food for the month.



# MARCH



## *Congratulations!*

*Ordination & Installation  
February 12, 2023*

*Deanna Duvall is the newest Deacon*

*Ross Tomlinson Jr. is the newest Elder*



## **Architects and Engineers in our midst?**

Faith & Science was the subject for Sunday School during the month of February. On one of those Sundays the scripture lesson was on the story of the tower of Babel.

Our fun little science project for that lesson was to see who could build the highest, and sturdiest structure out of Play-doh and Swizzle sticks.

Mike was declared the winner with Chuck and Berkeley in a very close second place.

Way to go guys!!





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10-12 Food Pantry  7:00 KumBaZoom	2 10-12 Food Pantry  2:30 Backpack  7:00 GA	3 10-12 Food Pantry  <b>World Day of Prayer</b> 	4
5 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 Choir	6 10-12 Food Pantry	7 10-12 Food Pantry	8 10-12 Food Pantry  7:00 KumBaZoom	9 10-12 Food Pantry  2:30 Backpack  7:00 GA	10 10-12 Food Pantry	11  Time to Spring Ahead
12 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 Choir <b>11:30 Deacons Mtg</b>	13 10-12 Food Pantry  <b>Spring Break</b>	14 10-12 Food Pantry  <b>Spring Break</b>	15 10-12 Food Pantry  7:00 KumBaZoom  <b>Spring Break</b>	16 10-12 Food Pantry  <b>No Backpack</b>  7:00 GA  <b>Spring Break</b>	17 10-12 Food Pantry   St. Patrick's Day  <b>Spring Break</b>	18
19 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 Choir	20 10-12 Food Pantry	21 10-12 Food Pantry  11:00 <b>Mission Meeting</b>  7:00 <b>Session Meeting</b>	22 10-12 Food Pantry  7:00 KumBaZoom	23 10-12 Food Pantry  2:30 Backpack  7:00 GA	24 10-12 Food Pantry	25
26 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 Choir	27 10-12 Food Pantry	28 10-12 Food Pantry	29 10-12 Food Pantry  7:00 KumBaZoom	30 10-12 Food Pantry  2:30 Backpack  7:00 GA	31	



*Jamie Gray .....3/7 Frankie Gray .....3/13*  
*Josh Gray .....3/7 Dottie Liwai .....3/13*  
*Sally Whalen .....3/8 Emily Gray .....3/21*  
*John Wilcox.....3/10 Felicity Burris .....3/21*  
*Ross Tomlinson .....3/12 Fred Niehaus .....3/31*

*Should your name be here?  
 Please let the office know your birth date so we can include you!*



In old Roman calendars, one year used to be ten months long, starting in March and ending in December.

The “Ides of March” was a day in the Roman calendar equivalent to March 15<sup>th</sup>. It was considered a deadline for settling debts. It was also the day Julius Caesar was assassinated.

If you were born in March, your birth flower is a daffodil!

March babies are spoiled with two birthstones: aquamarine and bloodstone, which symbolize courage.

There are two zodiac signs in March. Pisces, which is until March 20, and Aries, which is from the 21<sup>st</sup>.

The first month of spring is March, which starts between the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Every year, March and June finish on the same day of the week.

March is the time of year when animals start waking up from hibernation.

The name for March comes from Mars, the Roman god of war. It was named as such in both the Julian and Gregorian calendars.

The Vernal Equinox occurs around March 20 or 21<sup>st</sup>. This is when the sun is directly above the equator, making the day and night equal in length.

The popular social media outlet Twitter was launched on March 21, 2006, with the first tweet going out the same day. It was posted by the founder, Jack Dorsey, which read, “just setting up my twtr.”

Saint Patrick’s Day occurs every March 17<sup>th</sup>, celebrated in many western countries to commemorate the day Saint Patrick died.

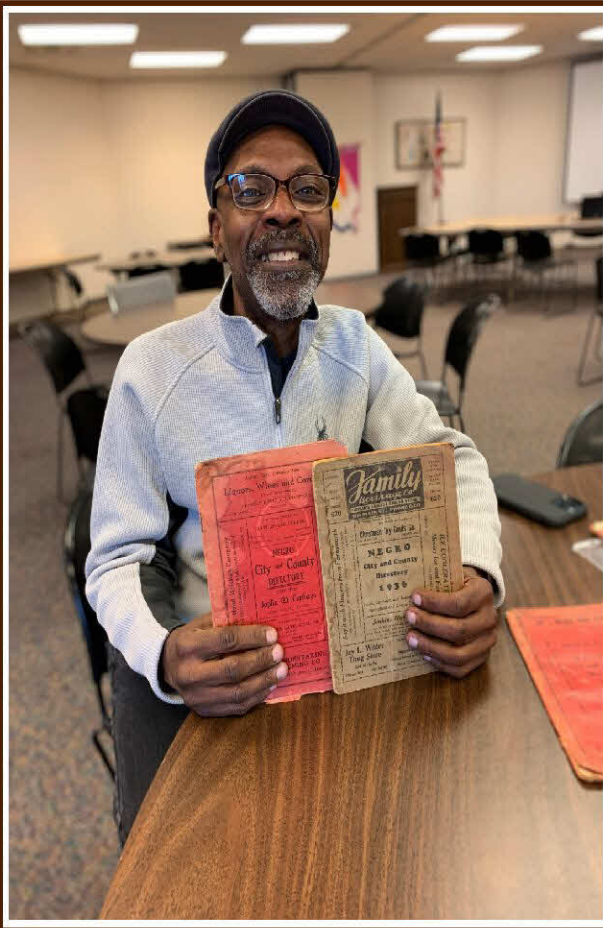
On March 10, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell made the first-ever phone call. It was to his assistant, and he said, “Mr. Watson, come here. I want to see you.”

President John F. Kennedy founded the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961. It is a successful volunteer organization that has since sent at least 235,000 Americans abroad to developing countries to help with health care, education, and other human needs.

The Eiffel Tower was ascended for the first time. Eiffel himself led a group of government officials and members of the press to the top. The elevators were not in operation yet, so the journey was made on foot and took over an

<b>Servers in the Lord's House</b>			
	<b>Coffee Host</b>	<b>Backpack</b>	
<b>March 5</b>	Open	<b>March 2</b>	<b>John &amp; Melinda</b>
<b>March 12</b>	Open	<b>March 9</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>March 19</b>	Open	<b>March 16</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>
<b>March 26</b>	Open	<b>March 23</b>	<b>Open</b>
		<b>March 30</b>	<b>Kit &amp;</b>

Please call the office or talk to Pastor Ray to sign up for servers slots!



**Black History Month Story**

February was Black History Month, and our very own Bill Hancock, found a piece of history, left from years gone by.

These "Green Books" were used by African-Americans so that they would know where "safe" places could be found to eat, stay, or travel through. Bill found these books in his grandmother's possessions. The Joplin Museum was so excited they made digital copies for their collection.





- March 1st National Horse Protection Day – celebrated to observe the importance of horses in our lives
- March 6th National Dentist’s Day – show appreciation to your dentist and say a “Thank You” for their work.
- March 8th International Women’s Day – day is specially dedicated to women from all walks of life.
- March 12th National Girl Scout Day – unique celebration of America’s girl scouts
- March 13th National K-9 Veteran Day – observed to pay homage and tribute to the American Army and Working Dogs throughout history
- March 16th National Panda Day – attention to at least one of the world’s distinctive bears.
- March 17th St. Patrick’s Day – day of his death and honor him as the principal patron saint of Ireland
- March 19th National Certified Nurses Day – celebrated on the occasion of the birthday of one of the best nurses, Dr. Margretta ‘Gretta’ Madden Styles
- March 20th National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day – observed to educate people about HIV/AIDS and spread awareness, and promote testing and treatment to prevent it.
- March 21st National Single Parent Day – celebrated to honor all the single fathers and mothers across the world for all that they do.
- March 23rd National Puppy Day – Celebrating the love and affection of the cute little puppies in our lives
- March 24th National Education and Sharing Day – celebrated on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Nisan on the Jewish Calendar, so the date on the English calendar will keep on changing every month.
- March 25th National Medal of Honor Day – acknowledges all decoration of Honor recipients.
- March 26th Epilepsy Awareness Day – Purple Day – The day aims to spread information and awareness on the disease epilepsy.
- March 29th National Vietnam War Veterans Day – On this day, the US military remembers the soldiers’ sacrifices and heroism who died in the Vietnam War while fighting for their country.
- March 31st National Doctors Day – This day is dedicated to doctors and physicians all over the country who contribute so much to society.



## New Directories!!!

It is almost time for a new phone directory!  
Be sure to let the office know of any changes,  
additions or corrections!

# IMI



# MARCH

Friday, March 3rd



Sunday, March 12th



St. Patrick's Day



Friday, March 17th



Monday, March 20th



Zechariah 10:1  
Ask rain from the LORD in the season of the spring rain,  
from the LORD who makes the storm clouds, who gives show-  
ers of rain to you, [a] the vegetation in the field to everyone.



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