



*Love God, Love People, and Serve Together*

**“Our Journey Begins On Our Knees”**

**February 26, 2023**

Today, we begin a journey that leads us to a new beginning; a journey that allows us to truly recognize that maybe just maybe, our focus, steps, journey or attitude towards our relationship with Christ has been skewed by the chaos of the world. It is a time in our lives when we need to be able to take a step out on faith and know that God is ready for us to meet Him on our knees. So, as I tell myself, any journey that we begin, our first steps should be on our knees.

The journey over this lenten season will bring us to one of the greatest signs of freedom that we never deserved but was so freely given. As we begin this journey of following Jesus’ steps to the cross, we are reminded of the people whose lives were impacted. We are able to step into the story and realize that every encounter was intentional and had a deeper meaning than what it looked like from the outside. Jesus still desires to connect with each of us in such a way that we will never be the same. His desire is to strip away all of the layers and recognize that our heart is the battle zone that He is trying to win over. And we must realize that our first step is one of humility with our hands open wide ready to receive what God is wanting to share with us.

So we begin this journey of lent together. We take the time to let go of the things that have distracted us from God’s plan and step out on faith to recognize that God still has an amazing plan for Wynnton. God is ready to call us into action again as we reach out to our community and beyond. Our journey must begin on our knees so that we are reminded that it is not us who is in control, but God who is leading us every step of the way.

Recently, I spoke with many different leaders and asked them what their process was for making decisions that could impact a large group of people. To my amazement, none of them used the first step which was to bathe it in prayer. Many had strategies that they had learned throughout the years that helped them to discern which steps they would take if they received certain feedback, but none of them used the fact that taking a step with God through prayer was one of them. I mean, not any part of their decision was based on prayer. One of them joked that they only used prayer if they felt as if they were making a decision that could potentially lose them their job. What an aimless strategy for success or failure.

So I write this today to help encourage us all as we prepare to take our first steps towards the cross. I mention that we have been in steady prayer every week since October for God to reveal His plans for our Wynnton family. So I pray that you will join me in taking the challenge to spend at least 15 minutes a day in prayer and conversation with God. I pray that you truly take a moment and let God step into each of our schedules and our mess. I pray that we invite God to show us the things that we need to let go of in order that we may experience where God is preparing to lead us next. Lent is a great time of spiritual discovery and so many times we miss out because we fail to allow God into the equation.

I invite you all to begin this journey together on our knees starting February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary for our Ash Wednesday service. God is ready to use us to do immeasurably more, but we must allow Him to be a part of our journey as we humble ourselves and take our first steps on our knees.

In His grip,  
Jason

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**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**  
**February 22, 2023**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**In Sanctuary**

*The Chancel Flowers are given in honor of Seth's 80th birthday by Linda Harp.*

**Katherine James Toelle**  
born to Ben and Alix Toelle on  
February 20, 2023

Congratulations to the proud parents and to her big sister and big brother, Claire & William! A rosebud will be placed on the altar by the church.

### MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of **Denise Hill** by Lynn & Bill White

### EASTER BASH

Our Easter Bash is set for March 18th, and we are requesting donations of individually wrapped candy and Easter eggs. Donations can be dropped off in the bin just outside the library. With any questions regarding the Easter Bash, email Meghan Gross at [mgross@wynntonumc.org](mailto:mgross@wynntonumc.org). Thank you for your generosity!"

Volunteers are needed for our Easter Bash on March 18th from 11 AM-2 PM. If you are interested in serving at that event, please email Meghan Gross at [mgross@wynntonumc.org](mailto:mgross@wynntonumc.org) to be filled into a station or sign up on the sheet in your Sunday school envelope. Thank you so much!

### UPCOMING ADULT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Join us for group fitness every Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the Alpha Building.

Game Day will be on March 2nd starting at 10:30 a.m. Come join in on the fun!

If you are interested in going to the Biblical History Center in LaGrange in March, please sign up by Feb. 28th. To reserve your spot, you can call the office, email Michaela Walley at [mwalley@wynntonumc.org](mailto:mwalley@wynntonumc.org) or sign up on the form in your Sunday School classroom. For more information, please contact Michaela Walley.

### JOYFUL NOTES FROM THE CHOIR! 🎵

Several years ago, I had the opportunity to read through Joan Chittister's book "The Liturgical Year." It is prefaced as a lyrical exposition of the feasts and seasons of the Christian year. In her book, Joan Chittister writes this about Lent: "Lent enables us to face ourselves, to see the weak places, to touch the wounds in our own soul, and to determine to try to live once more above our aspirations." During Lent, our choral music changes to reflect the forty-day journey of despair, hope, courage and grace. Our path to the cross begins with renewed faithfulness and commitment, and continues with anthems of longing, reflection, sorrow and supplication. Musically, the listener will hear melodies in minor keys, dissonance, slower tempos and the absence of "alleluias" or "hallelujahs."

Sunday's musical offering in song will be elegant, lyrical settings of familiar hymns. Fanny Crosby, often referred to as the Queen of American hymn writing, was visiting composer William H. Doane. The friends were enjoying a pleasant evening and talking together about the nearness of God. The subject so impressed Fanny Crosby that she wrote the lyrics to the favorite gospel hymn, *I Am Thine, O Lord* that very evening. The Chancel Choir will sing Mary McDonald's beautiful arrangement of this beloved gospel hymn.

"Draw Me Near" arr. by Mary McDonald  
*I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice, and it told Thy love to me; but I long to rise in the arms of faith, and be closer drawn to thee. Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord, by the pow'r of grace divine; let my soul look up with a steadfast hope, and my will be lost in Thine. (Refrain)*

*Draw me nearer, nearer, to the cross where Thou hast died; draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to Thy precious bleeding side. O the pure delight of a single hour that before Thy throne I spend; when I kneel in prayer, and with Thee, my God, I commune as friend with friend! There are depths of love that I cannot know till I cross the narrow sea; there are heights of joy that I may not reach till I rest in peace with Thee. (Refrain)*

Do we draw near to the Lord, or do we withdraw?

The choir response in song is a personal commitment: "I long to rise in the arms of faith and be closer drawn to Thee."

James 4:7-8

*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you.*

God's Great Peace to You!

Diana B.

\*CORE Groups will have an Organized Chaos on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 p.m. For more information go check out the youth newsletter the Sunday.

\*Prayer Breakfast & Jesus will resume Friday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 - 7:30 a.m. at Chick-fil-A on Whittelsey.

\*Youth Information: Text @basement22 to 81010

\*Youth Parents Info: Text @wumcpa to 81010



### Children's Programs

The nursery is available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. as well as Sunday School for grades K-12 from 9:45-10:50 a.m. The nursery for infants through age 3 is on the first floor of the Grimes building. Children's Sunday School for Pre-K-5th Grade is on the first floor of the Grimes building, and youth Sunday School is in the basement under the sanctuary. Children's Church will be offered for children through 5th Grade in the Children's Center in the Grimes building during the worship hour.

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children in Pre-K through 4th grade are welcome to join us for Children's Sunday School from 9:45 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. in the Grimes Building on the first floor in the Children's Church room next to the nursery.

### BE A WYNNTON WELCOMER

WE NEED YOU! to sign-up as a Sunday morning welcomer. We are looking for volunteers to fill open slots through the end of March. Check your calendars for a few Sundays you are available to help us greet our members and guests on Sunday morning. Sign-up sheets will be available in the main hallway this Sunday.

### WYNNTON ARTS ACADEMY NEEDS

Our church was able to serve 23 students through the Adopt-A-Family project. Thank you all so much for your generosity. This year there were individuals who "adopted" students in addition to the Sunday School classes!

In February, WAA is asking for donations of **gloves and socks**. The cold weather is here and many students are in need of these items. Please drop your donations in the bin in the Fellowship Hall to be delivered.

### Our Known Prayer Concerns:

Sue Rogers	Lexy McRae
Lynn Christenson	Dorothy Robinson
Aubrey Walker	Jennefer Spell
Daro Miller	Jim Accordino
David Woolbright	Benjamin Feagle
Pam Feagle	Frank Feagle
Julee Robinson McGehee	Barbara McKenzie
Betty Garrett	Richard Holmes
Tom Stafford	Freddie Richardson
Jeanine Cotton	Shelley Montgomery
Joe Batastini	Tina Martinez
Devon Garrison	Lucy Hart
David Pringle	Sarah Jessie Avant
Vicky Lamb	Robert Garrard
Joan Colquitt	

### Christian Sympathy for loss of loved one:

Family of Denise Hill  
Family of Tom Moore  
Family of Diane Ryals

### FLOWER DELIVERY

Linda Harp



We had a great packing party last October! Thanks to all who participated in collecting and/or packing.

NOW we are ready to try again to do more so children everywhere can learn about Jesus. We have information in each Sunday School class and at the Welcome Center. We will continue to highlight items to bring in each month, but if you find a deal on something, buy some and let us know.

February items: mittens, hats (ball caps and winter hats), children's socks  
Thanks, Michaela and Pam

## READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

### Reading Through Psalms Week 7

Praise the Lord.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.

This is the opening verse for our readings this week. As we have talked about before, the book of Psalms is all about praising God and giving thanks for all that He has done. Lent is a great time to reflect on God, and on what all we have to give thanks to Him for. From the first moment we get up in the morning, to the moment we finally lay our heads back down, we are flooded with blessings and reasons to praise the Lord. During the season of Lent, we are called to take the time to reflect on that, and to remember who it is we serve. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, and His love endures forever. Be thankful, and praise the name of God.

-Will

- February 26: Psalm 106
- February 27: Psalm 107
- February 28: Psalm 108, 109
- March 1: Psalm 110, 111, 112, 113
- March 2: Psalm 114, 115, 116
- March 3: Psalm 117, 118
- March 4: Psalm 119: 1-48

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 26 Seth Harp, Keith Prentice
- 27 Aubrey Dryman, Gloria Toelle
- 28 Jim Culpepper, Amy Moxley
- 3 Andrew Hubbard, Collin McCann, David Pringle
- 4 Cynthia Kelley, Margie Spurlin

## OUR ATTENDANCE

### 2-19-23

8:30 a.m. Service.....46  
11:00 a.m. Service.....133  
Sunday School.....89

## OUR STEWARDSHIP

### 2-19-23

General Fund.....18,460.21  
Endowment.....25.00  
Missions.....50.00  
Sunday School.....49.00

### WYNNTON SAFETY SQUAD

February 26: Team 7 – Eddie Cawthorne, Jeff Yates, David Giammona

### WELCOMERS

8:00-9:30 a.m. Susan Hudson  
9:30 - 11:15 a.m. Kenny McLaughlin

## SUNDAY'S SERMON

*Journey to the Cross*  
Matthew 3-4:17

Dr. Jason Wade

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**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**Sunday, February 26**

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for Adults, Youth & Children  
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary  
Streams Live on Facebook  
3:00 p.m. Called Church Conference - Sanctuary  
5:00-7:00 p.m. CORE Group - Youth

**Monday, February 27**

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study - Library  
5:30 p.m. Bible Study - Home of Beth Hendrickson  
5:30 p.m. Staff Parish Meeting - Alpha Building

**Tuesday, February 28**

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library  
10:00 a.m. Quilting Group - Alpha Building

**Wednesday, March 1**

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study - Alpha Building  
12-1 p.m. Prayer Time - Chapel (drop in)  
6:15-7:15 p.m. Prayer Time - Chapel (drop in)  
6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal  
7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, March 2**

7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study - Alpha Building  
9:45 a.m. Backpacks of Grace  
10:30 a.m. Game Day - Fellowship Hall

**Friday, March 3**

7:00 -7:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast & Jesus - Chick-fil-A -  
Whittlesey Rd.

**PASTOR ON-CALL**

For emergencies Feb. 24-26  
Rev. Will Walley 601-337-9691

**WE NEED YOUR  
HELP**

Please help us update our  
information (or pick up a card  
in the church) by using this  
QR code. Contact Will  
Walley at the church for more  
information or questions.

