FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

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A Letter From The Senior Pastor BY REV. BOB KEMP-BAIRD Dear Church Family,

It has been an amazing start to 2025 with much to celebrate. You may remember our excitement at the end of last year when we paid off our mortgage (five years early, by the way). Well, February 2nd we celebrated as we gathered for worship and burned our mortgage documents during the services. Many thanks to all who were here and online to witness this milestone, to our special guests at the celebration, and to all who made that celebration possible!

God Did It! – and we were blessed to be along for the ride.

The Season of Lent is quickly approaching, and I'm excited to share with you what we will be focusing on during our journey through Lent together. We're going to look closely at some of the significant parables of Jesus recorded in the gospels. This will be our theme for Sunday morning worship, and we'll also delve deeper into these readings at our Wednesday evening Bible Studies. Here's a few of the parables of Jesus we'll be studying together:

Wine and Wineskins - Matthew 9:16-17, Mark 2:21-22, Luke 5:36-39
The Mustard Seed - Matthew 13:31.32, Mark 4:30-32, Luke 13:18-19
Parable of the Leaven - Matthew 13:33, Luke 13:20-21
The Wedding Party - Matthew 22:1-14, Luke 14:16-24
Workers in the Vineyard - Matthew 20:1-16
The Wicked Tenants - Matthew 21:33-46, Mark 12:1-12, Luke 20:9-19

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which this year falls on March 5th. Remember, we have Potluck Dinner and Bible Study on Wednesday evenings – Dinner at 6pm in Friendship Hall and Bible Study at 7pm in Friendship Hall and available online (check out our website for registration information for the online option).

We'll have some great opportunities to gather during Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday on April 13th, and followed by an evening worship experience in Friendship Hall on Maundy Thursday on April 17th, culminating with Easter Resurrection Celebrations on April 20th at Sunrise and our 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. services.

Blessings to you as we continue to grow together in our worship and service for God.

Let's Keep Growing Together,

Rev. Bob

IMPORTANT DATES

2/17 Elder's Meeting 6:30pm

2/18 Evangelism & Outreach
Committee Mtg 10am Zoom

2/19 Hi-5 Food Packing 10am

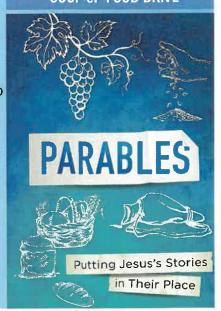
2/19 Stewardship Meeting 4pm

2/19 Board Meeting 6:30pm

2/20 Youth Group Meeting 6:30pm

2/22 Bereavement Support Saturdays 10am thru 3/29

> MONTH OF FEBRUARY SOUP-er FOOD DRIVE



News you can use from your Associate Pastor

BY REV. MELISSA FRANTZ



Church, we've celebrated paying of our mortgage – acknowledging that we could not have accomplished such a monumental feat unless we did it together. The work and ministry of the church is much the same. So, as we shift our focus to where God is calling us next, I wanted to highlight some volunteer opportunities that are available for you to get involved with. These are wide-ranging in both time and skill commitment and my prayer is that you'll find just the right fit here for your needs as we work to steward ALL our resources together for God's Kin-dom here on earth.

Ways to Give & Serve

We believe that Stewardship (giving to God) includes all areas of our life. Giving to God allows us to grow in our faith and also develop a joy-filled relationship with God because giving is an act of worship, an expression of faith, and a discipline for spiritual growth. Because of this belief, we have many opportunities for you to give and serve, both here in the congregation, but also out in our community:

- Hope Place Feeding Team we have a team of volunteers that prepare & package up a fresh community meal for about 200-300 people on the first Wednesday of each month. Email office@driveinchurch.net and Cindy will contact you with more information.
- Communion & Bulletin Prep Team meets Thursdays at 9am in Friendship Hall to prepare communion for Sunday worship. No need to sign up just come join in the fun!
- Sunday Morning Gate Greeter love meeting new people? This is a perfect way to do that and to welcome everyone to church! Give us a call in the office and we can help get you connected.
- Weed Warriors do you love to garden or rid the garden of weeds? We always have opportunities for this important work! Come on over anytime!
- Sunday School Teacher we're looking for loving adults who want to share Jesus' love with children & youth on a rotational basis. If you feel God calling you to this ministry, please call the office and ask for me or email me at RevMelissa@driveinchurch.net.
- Worship Leader if you'd like to read the scripture and lead us in prayer during a Sunday service then this is the spot for YOU! You can sign up on our website or through the church app.
- Coffee Counter Greeter/Server this is a wonderful opportunity to meet people in the church! You can sign up here for this important role.

You can use our church app or our website to sign up for almost all of these areas or just give us a call!

Join the Drive-In Choir!

Have you felt a pull to lift your voice and make a joyful noise? We invite people of all skill levels to join our Drive-In Choir! Whether you're an experienced singer or just love to lift your voice in praise, there's a place for you in our group. Music plays an essential role in our Sunday services, creating an atmosphere of worship that brings us all closer to God. Your voice can help make that happen!

Our choir is a warm, welcoming group that loves to share in the joy of music and fellowship. We believe every voice matters, and we're excited to have you join us in this ministry of praise. We rehearse in a relaxed, comfortable environment in the Altar Building on Tuesday Nights, 7pm-8pm, and links for listening at home are provided for most music.

If you're interested and have questions, come on up and talk to Paul and Karen for more details, or you can call the church office. We hope you'll help create the music for our wide open spaces!