



February 2016

Issue No. 55

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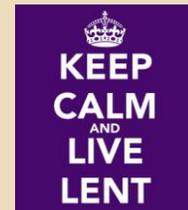
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What is Lent? What does it mean to Christians?

What is Lent and why does it last forty days?



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 *lencten*, 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.

Ash Wednesday - February 10th



Ash Wednesday, February 10th, marks the beginning of Lent - the 40 days of preparation before Easter. Christians are marked with ashes in the sign of the cross to express repentance and acceptance of our mortality and our hope in the resurrection. There will be two worship opportunities on this special day. At 5:00 p.m., join us for a brief, yet meaningful family worship experience in the Sanctuary that will end right before Pioneer Clubs' dinner time. At 7:00 p.m., join us in the Sanctuary for a contemplative worship experience. We will focus on putting ourselves into that quiet and reflective place that will help us to be open to hearing God as we begin our Lenten journey. Childcare will be provided for children through the 4th grade.

New Sermon Series and All-Church Study

RADICAL RABBI



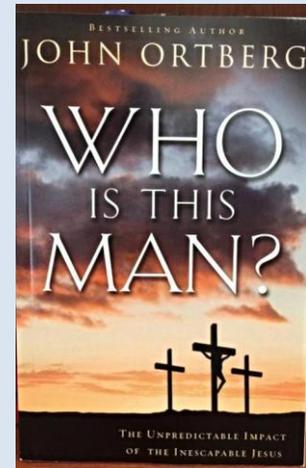
WHO IS THIS MAN

February 14 - March 20

All-Church Lenten Study
using John Ortberg's
book - "Who IS This
Man?"

Sign-ups begin February 7th.
Contact Michelle Andrews
mandrews@umcv.org

Please join us for our all-church Lent small group study, *Who Is This Man?* In the five-session small group study, author John Ortberg reveals how Jesus had an inescapable influence on our world and how you can, too.



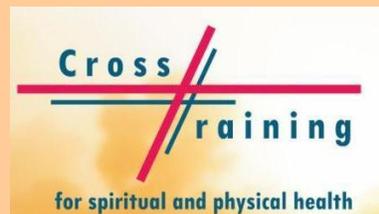
The five sessions are titled:

- The Man Who Won't Go Away
- A Revolution of Humanity
- The Power of Forgiveness
- Why It's a Small World After All
- Three Days That Changed the World

Small groups will meet beginning mid-February. If you are not already in a small group, stop by the table during Coffee Fellowship on February 7th & 14th, and we will get you connected. If you would be willing to host a group, either at the church or in your home, please contact Michelle Andrews. Hosting is simple! Be willing to offer hospitality (a warm greeting and a few snacks), operate a DVD player, and facilitate group discussion using the provided materials.

Books will be available for purchase on February 7th & 14th, but are not necessary for the study.

Cross Training Fun Run/Walk Celebration & Ministry Fair



Don't miss the Cross Training Fun Run/Walk Celebration on Saturday, February 6th, 8:30 a.m.

See this Sunday's bulletin for all the details and to sign up to participate and see how you can help out.

Cross Training Ministry Fair at Coffee Fellowship on February 7th!

One of our spiritual disciplines is "serving." We are all called to use our gifts and talents to serve Christ and to do our part to build up the Body of Christ (the Church). Join us during Coffee Fellowship on February 7th. All the ministries of the church will be represented, ready to answer questions and offering the opportunity for you to find your place of service. Unpaid servants are needed in every ministry, whether it is inside the walls of our church or out in mission in our community. Please plan on stopping by the tables and signing up to serve.



Nicaragua Travel Team 2016

Please keep the 2016 Travel Team in your prayers, February 6-13. During their week in Nicaragua, they will be working alongside our friends at Project Chacocente on construction projects. In addition, we will again be facilitating a dental and medical clinic with Dr. Belinda Forbes and several of her associates from Accion Medica Christiana. The team will be taking suitcases full of dental hygiene products and school supplies, which are greatly needed and appreciated by the residents of Project Chacocente as well as the residents in the nearby rural area. It will indeed be a great week of *Working Outside the Walls!* Thank you for your continued prayers and support!



Front row, left to right: Bill Bowman, Suzanne Bowman, Deb Manahan, Eddie Cope, Jeffrey Taylor, Reid Bowman.

Back row: Kim Fisher, Nancy Neill, David Neill, Valerie Neill, Rigo Rosales, Rex Parker, Katie Andrews, Michelle Andrews, Barry Pontius, Jared Brosnan.

Not pictured: Kim Brosnan, Mindy Cope, Randy Sain

Senior Ministry Luncheon



You Are Invited!

Senior Ministry Valentine's Day Luncheon

Valencia United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall

Saturday, February 13, 2016
11:30 a.m.

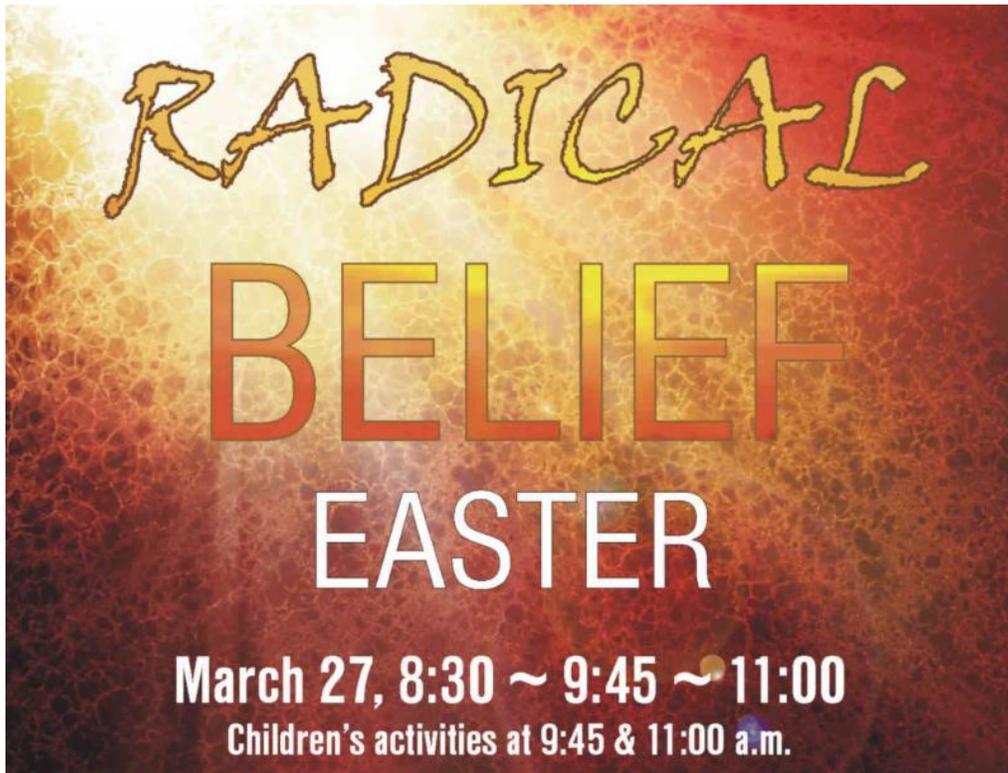
Entertainment provided by
Valencia H.S. Theater Department

Sign up during Coffee Fellowship on
January 31st or February 7th.

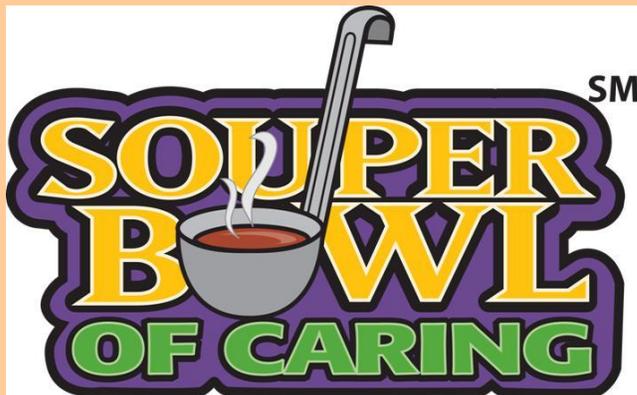
or

RSVP to Ron Kari, 799-3808

Easter



VUMC Youth Soup-er Bowl



Sunday, February 7th!!

It's not just about football that day! It's about helping to feed the hungry in our local community, too! So watch for our youth who will be at the doors at the end of worship on

February 7th, collecting bills and change for the Soup-er Bowl of Caring. The money collected will go to the SCV Food Pantry, to help feed the hungry here in our community. Thank you in advance for your help.

Confirmation 2016



Confirmation is open to all youth, grades 7th through 12th. Classes will begin in March. Please contact David Stradling for more information. dstradling@umcv.org.

Jr. and Sr. High Retreats

Please pray for our junior and senior high youth as they go on retreat this month. There are still a couple of spots open, if you're interested in attending please contact David Stradling at dstradling@umcv.org.

AFTERSHOCK
YOUTH MINISTRIES

Regret??
and then....
I said...
It was totally okay-ay...

No, I WON'T SHUT UP!

...Telling Your Faith Story

Jr. High Retreat
February 19-21, 2016
Frazier Park

Cost \$100
\$50 non-refundable deposit due by Dec. 1

- Hiking
- Games
- Worship
- Star Gazing
- Great Sessions
- Team and Faith Building

Space is limited... Reserve your spot today!!!
Please contact David Stradling dstradling@umcv.org for VUMC scholarship information.

Registration and Medical forms both available on the youth page of our website, umcv.org due along with first payment to David Stradling by January 17th.

Sr. High Retreat
February 26-28, 2016
Frazier Park

Space is limited... Reserve your spot today!!!

- Team and Faith Building
- Great Sessions
- Games
- Worship
- Hiking
- Star Gazing

Cost \$100
\$50 non-refundable deposit due by Dec. 1

Please contact David Stradling dstradling@umcv.org for VUMC scholarship information.

CHILL
Be Still and Know That I Am God

Registration and Medical forms both available on the youth page of our website, umcv.org due along with first payment to David Stradling by January 17th.

AFTERSHOCK
YOUTH MINISTRIES

Family Promise Week at VUMC, 2/28-3/5

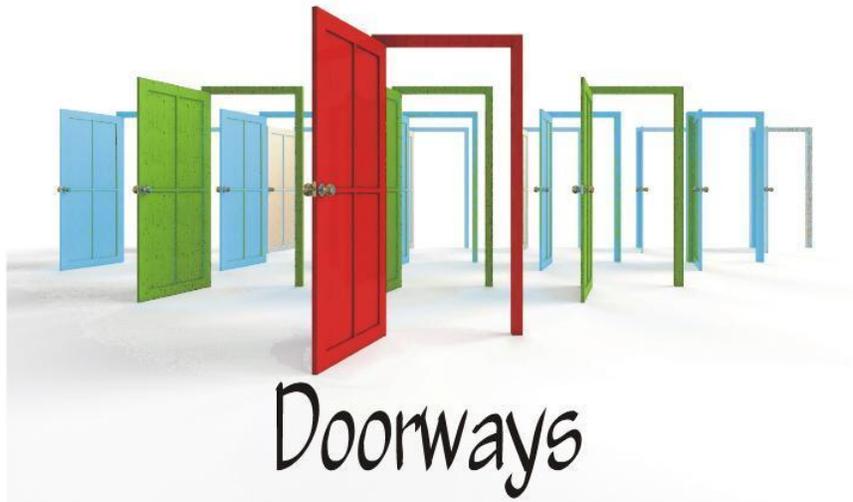


The next VUMC host week for Family Promise is coming up on February 28 - March 5. We are in need of unpaid servants in the following ways - to prep and deliver dinner, to be evening hosts, to be overnight hosts, and to provide breakfast on Saturday morning. If you could serve in any of these ways please [click here](#).

Thank you!



Doorways - Campus Improvements



**Doorways Phase III to Be Completed
This Month**

New carpet will be installed in the choir room in early February, completing our Doorways Phase III of campus improvements and renovations. Many thanks to those who donated to our Doorways campaign.

STEWARDSHIP 365

Part V -- Giving Is Essential to Living.

There are many things that motivate us to be generous givers as people of God. One of the most important is our own need to give. This need is not driven by guilt or by the expectation of God or anyone else. It is a need that originates deep in our own spirit.

Stewards are people who have discovered that we are made in such a way that we need to give, just like we need to eat and breathe. When we don't give, we dry up inside. When we do give, our lives are enlarged and enriched in ways we could have never dreamed. Giving helps make us not only better people, but more whole and full.

Long ago, people realized that the Dead Sea is one of the few bodies of water in the world without an outlet. The water flows from the Sea of Galilee in the north down the Jordan River and into the Dead Sea. It just stops there. There is no animal life in the Dead Sea because of its high salt content.

The Dead Sea is a good illustration of life without any outlet, of a life that only takes and doesn't give. Giving is essential to living. Stewards are people who have discovered that truth, and it becomes one of the foundations of life and actions for them.

Who We Are



Vision Statement

We are a community of faith where lives are continuously transformed through Jesus Christ.



Mission Statement

Our Church exists to:

- Invite people
- Nurture them with Christ's love and the Word of God
- Send them out to serve others.



Our Core Values:

- Worship - Public and private
- Small Groups - Building relationships
- Service - Using God-given gifts

