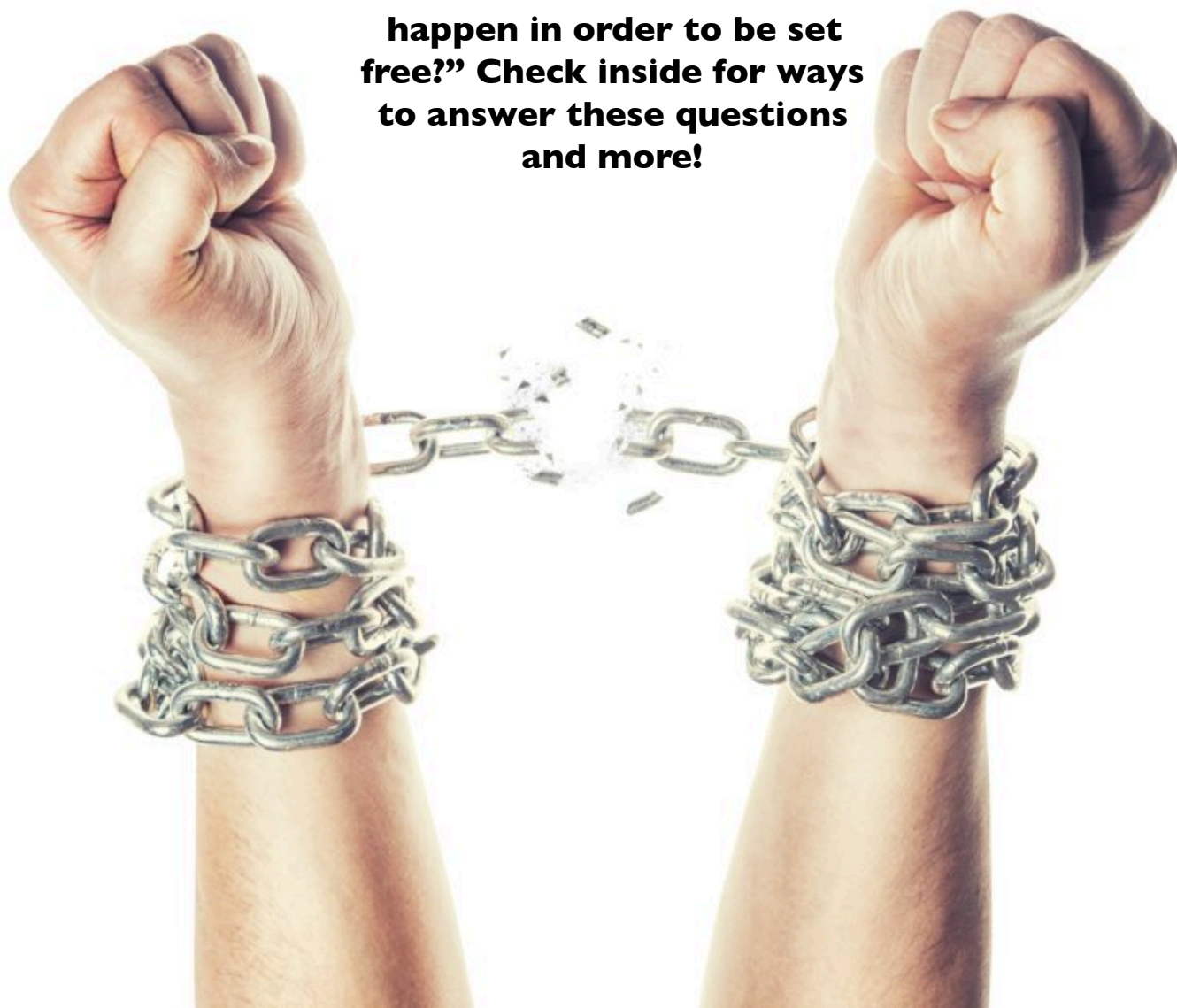


THE HERALD

Listening to God's Heart from the heart of the city.

BREAK FREE

As we continue the theme of "Forgiveness" throughout Lent, we must also ask ourselves, "What is keeping me bound and what needs to happen in order to be set free?" Check inside for ways to answer these questions and more!



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

By now, we're a couple of weeks into our Lenten worship series on forgiveness. I'm aware that as I prepare to turn 40 this year, I haven't experienced much of life compared to others, but I have experienced a lot of things. I've found that, in my brokenness, I have hurt people, and I have been hurt by people. Every relationship involves people, and in relationships, messiness and brokenness exists. We hurt one another. Each of us has an inherent need to forgive and be forgiven.

An arrangement of a popular song (and one that is a favorite of many) - Amazing Grace - has a refrain that says "My chains are gone, I've been set free...." (text by Chris Tomlin). Whether we need to be forgiven or we need to offer forgiveness, we are bound by our pain. The only way we can experience freedom from our past is if we 1) realize our part in the need to forgive and be forgiven; 2) accept God's forgiveness; and 3) forgive and receive forgiveness as God has forgiven us.

I recognize that the work of forgiveness is difficult. It takes time, and rarely does it occur on our timetable. It requires work on the part of all parties. We cannot force someone to forgive us, nor can we force someone to accept the forgiveness we offer. Forgiveness only occurs because of grace - God's grace.

So this month, as we continue on our Lenten journey, I want us to spend some time in prayer, and answer this question: what is keeping me bound, and what needs to happen in order to be set free? Our Ash Wednesday Scripture (Isaiah 58:1-12) reminded us that the fast we choose should set people free from injustice and oppression. I want us to consider that we may very well be oppressing ourselves when we do not offer and receive forgiveness (whether that is from God or one another). I encourage you to read the pages of this month's Herald to find out ways that you might be freed from what binds you, and how you might participate in freeing others.

I will see you in worship, where we will continue this journey of forgiveness together.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jay

2018 MISSION TRIP

Our youth and adults are heading off to Rockport, Texas July 21-29 for Hurricane Harvey cleanup. We are currently looking for at least one more male chaperon to go with us on the trip (we have many more male youth going than female youth, and at this point, only one male chaperon). If you're interested in going, please contact Pastor Jay as soon as possible.

The youth will be selling Show Me Dough (butter braids, cookie dough, and frozen pizzas) through March 11. If you would like to place an order, please let a youth know - or say yes when they come to you! Money is due at the time of the order. Purchase some items and have some delicious treats in time for Easter!

2ND WEDNESDAY DINNER

We're in for a treat this month! The Girl Scout troop will be preparing an Italian feast for our dinner on March 14 at 5:30 pm.

Lasagna, spaghetti, fettucine alfredo, salad, garlic bread, and desserts will be available for a suggested donation of \$8 for adults and \$3 for children 10 and under. Please sign up at the welcome center by March 11 so that they know how much food to prepare.

JUST ONE

Thanks to everyone who has donated toiletries for our "Just One" collection. During the month of March, we will be collecting ink pens and #2 pencils. The schools have asked that the children not use Dixon brand of pencils (sold at Walmart), so please make those purchases elsewhere. You can place your donations in the bin marked "Just One" outside the church office.



SHOUT OUT!

Our February 2018 shout-outs were to the Nuttall Middle School students who help with Kids' Club each week; Walt Conner and Lynn McCord, who come in and count the offering each week; and the Chancel Choir, for their ongoing time and effort to lead us in singing.

Thanks to all of these volunteers who make a difference in the life of our congregation. Want to know who gets the shout-out in real time?

Visit us on social media for the latest!

SAVE THE DATE! (SUMMER ARTS CAMP)

This summer, instead of the traditional Vacation Bible School experience, the education and outreach committees are planning to offer a Summer Arts Camp. Held July 9-14 from 9 am -1:30 pm, the camp will feature an expansion of Kids' Club activities - time for Bible lessons, crafts, recreation, and music, snacks and lunch.

The culmination of the week will be a presentation of the musical Nailed It! on Sunday, July 15. If you have any interest in serving as a leader of one of these areas, or are extra handy with woodworking, please contact Pastor Jay.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We encourage you stop by the capital campaign display in the narthex on a regular basis. We are updating our totals each month, so that you can see how much has been pledged and given; how much has been received to date, and the balance of the loan. If you're relatively new to First UMC, and don't know about our capital campaign, updated brochures and two-year pledge cards are available. We encourage you to join us as we erase our debt and position the church for the future.

March Birthdays

- 3/1 Pat McMillan
- 3/4 Allison McGahey,
Stephanie Correll, Patty Lycan
- 3/5 Joe Cooper
- 3/7 Susan Rodgers
- 3/8 Beth Johnson
- 3/10 Marcia Schmidlin,
Chad Veenstra, Edy Treadway
- 3/11 Bernice Kibler, Sandy Roberson
- 3/12 Lane Utterback
- 3/13 Bill Damron
- 3/15 Thelma Gifford
- 3/19 Dorothy Fasig
- 3/22 Jonathon Murray,
Jerry Lee Crozier Jr
- 3/23 David Correll, Joann Stram,
Julie Thomas
- 3/25 Nathan Devonshire,
Barbara Bell
- 3/29 Nina Davis
- 3/30 Mark Correll, Tammy Jones,
Luke Anderson

March Anniversaries

- 3/15 Jeff & Sherri Murrell
- 3/23 Charles & Nancy Young

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Don't forget! On Sunday, March 11, we "spring forward!" Don't forget to change your clocks so you're on time for worship!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION POSITION

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is pleased to share that we have begun receiving resumes for the Christian Education position. If you are interested in applying, applications are due by March 14. For application instructions, please see the church website - click on the "news" tab, then "employment opportunities."

PRAYER REQUESTS

John, Jeremy, and Greg Markello; Ken Martin; Carol Wolf; Lois McConnell; Carl and Helen Blanton; Judy Wilson Wall; Michael Brady; Gary Albin; Patty Steele; Cathy Thomas; Judson Richardson; Jerry Adkins; Susan Polgar; Janna Coonce; Jennifer Newlin; Jennifer Null; Julie Zhang; Bill Thompson; Bob Duzan; Janey Branson; Neema Mutayoba; Mary Kay Jurcin; Michael Keene; Dick Drake; John Larrabee; Larry Nichol; Janet & Charley Clark; Allen Summers; Nicole Young; Bev Turkal; Vicki Vinson Farris; Evan Prahl; Ray Dotson; Bev Arrington Campbell; Mike Richards; Rick Koester; Margie Moore McNamara; Richard Youngs; Kay Blanchard; Kay Young; John Poland; Bob Berty; Joan Fulling; Nancy Young; Doris Prier; Unchanging Grace; Jackson Barry; John Mosher; Lisa Schaefer; Sidney Iubelt; Tim Roth; Fred White; Kip Davis; Gloria Saad; Jenny Stanley; Emily Harp; Jason Chronic; Taylor Barry; Vonnetta Shipman; Nash Drake; Carolyn Leggitt; Jandi Cravens; Rodney Denoux; Tambryn LaCorte; Becky Goodwin; Daniel Midgett & the 5th Group; Dave & Sharon Freeland; Elaine Hasty; Caius Bell; Kelly Brookman Family; Janis Daugherty & Family

MARCH 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30 am Disciple IV 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:00 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal	2	3 12:00 pm Barb Myers Funeral
4 8:15 am Chancel Choir departs for Oak Ridge UMC 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:30 pm Lenten Bible Study 6:00 pm Evening Worship	5 6:30 pm Safety & Security	6 10:30 am MATS 6:00 pm Disciple IV	7 6:30 am Refresh Breakfast & Bible Sturday 3:00 pm Kids' Club 6:00 pm Foundation Meeting 7:00 pm FCA Meeting	8 9:30 am Disciple IV 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:00 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal	9	10
11 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Boy Scout Brunch 2:30 pm Heritage Health Service 4:30 pm Lenten Bible Study 6:00 pm Evening Worship	12	13 10:30 am MATS 6:00 pm Disciple IV	14 6:30 am Refresh Wednesday 3:00 pm Kids' Club 5:30 pm Second Wednesday Dinner	15 9:30 am Disciple IV 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:00 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal	16	17
18 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 4:30 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Evening Worship	19 6:30 pm Safety & Security	20 10:30 am MATS 6:00 pm Disciple IV	21 6:30 am Refresh Wednesday 3:00 pm Kids' Club 6:00 pm Committee Meetings 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	22 9:30 am Disciple IV 4:00 pm NOW Bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 6:00 pm Glory Handbell Rehearsal	23	24
25 8:15 am Praise Kids Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 4:30 pm Lenten Bible Study 6:00 pm Evening Worship	26	27 10:30 am MATS 4:00 pm NOW Bagging	28 6:30 am Refresh Wednesday 3:00 pm Kids' Club	29 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service at FUMC	30 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Good Friday Service at Otterbein FUMC	31

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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antje2959@hotmail.com

Organist/Pianist: Brenda Graham

doubleg@mediacombb.net

Custodian: Amy DeDoming

Nursery Staff: Jennifer Boatman, Danielle Stuller,
Tiffany Beard