



WELCOMING AND ACCEPTING ALL PEOPLE ALONG A JOURNEY OF FAITH AND SERVICE.

“Welcoming and accepting all people” – is a reminder of our Welcome Statement and genuine hospitality, in the present tense so it is always relevant. “along” – is an invitation to join together side by side. “*journey of faith*” – implies that arrival is a myth; we are always growing “*service*” – is a natural outcome of faith and inseparable from our commitment to discipleship.

2024 Monthly Focus: Ten Traits of Thriving Congregations

Lexington Theological Seminary professor Dr. Erin C. Cash has studied congregational vitality with the help of a grant from the Indianapolis based Lilly Endowment Inc. In the winter edition of the seminary’s *Bulletin* (Vol. 59. No. 3) she published a summary of ten traits of thriving congregations. Each month we will list one of the identified traits for contemplation and inspiration for our congregation. You might consider keeping track of the traits and give our church a score for each one based on a scale of 1 – 5, and contemplate what you can do personally to help raise the score.

Trait #1: **Thriving congregations desire change.** “Thriving congregations embrace change – for themselves and for others. They know change is the only way growth happens. Change is a gift from God.”



Lent Begins February 14

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14. Our theme this year is “*Irrepressible: Finding the Resilience You Need.*” Inspired by the exhausting challenges experienced during the recent pandemic, each week highlights the God-given qualities that can empower us to find the resilience we need in all of life’s challenges, not just the pandemic. Beginning with Ash Wednesday and continuing through Easter, the themes are: Irrepressible Dust, Goodness, Compassion, Grace, Love, Generosity, Joy, Light (Maundy Thursday) and Life.

The material we ordered comes with a participant’s guide for daily reflections and personal study, and we will utilize these resources during the adult Sunday School hour each week.

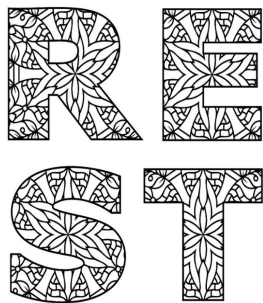
Ash Wednesday service for our congregation will begin at 7PM on February 14. We will have a brief choir rehearsal in the fellowship hall at 6:30PM. Note that Peace Lutheran Church will have a service of Ashes at 5:30PM and we are always invited to participate in their service, especially if the time is more convenient.

We hope you will find the material and our gathering for worship and reflection to be a meaningful guide to your faith journey this Lenten season.

February Worship

- February 4: Isaiah 40:28-31 “Don’t You Get Weary” African American History Month 1
- February 11: Esther 4:12-17 “Sojourner Truth” African American History Month 2
- February 14: “Irrepressible Dust” Ash Wednesday service, 7PM
- February 18: Luke 4:1-13 Irrepressible Goodness Lent 1
- February 25: Luke 13:31-35 Irrepressible Compassion Lent 2/Week of Compassion

EVENTS/OTHER



Breath of Life Retreat: Finding Rest and Renewal

What:

Take time to embrace and practice the discipline of rest. Be renewed through community, prayer, breath work, and creative practices.

When:

Saturday,
February 10th, 12-4pm

Where:

3100 N Saint Louis Ave
Joplin, MO

RSVP:

James Knudtson
samueljamesknudtson@gmail.com
417-850-5262

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
MEET AND GREET
IN WELCOMING:



Dr. Richard Pearson, D.C.J.
Joplin Chief of Police

Saturday
February
10th

4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
Boys & Girls Club of Joplin
317 Comingo Ave Joplin, MO
Hosted by the NAACP Joplin Branch
RSVP: naacpjoplinbranch4065@gmail.com
Appetizers will be served.

NAACP
Joplin Branch

We hope to see you there!

Sabbatical Fundraiser

The Sabbatical Committee is putting together a silent auction to raise funds to supplement the anticipated expenses for our Senior Pastor's upcoming sabbatical (June 17 to September 10). Pastor Colleen will be offering a Murder Mystery Dinner at her home (Chinese food and role play for 6 guests). Do you have an event or item you would like to contribute to the auction? Please let any of our committee members know. If there are enough donations, we will have more than one silent auction. Members are Mike Fitterling, Daniell Sanders, Megan Bever, and Ellen Broglio.

We're exploring our travels... not holiday trips or memorable vacations but faith journeys and traveling companions. With Luke 2:41-52 as a guiding text, we'll explore six topics that invite us into more authentic relationships with the Holy, our world, each other and ourselves. We are (A Group of) Travelers on distinct and similar paths.

Beginning Tuesday, February 20, and Thursday, February 22, these community groups offer space for connection and conversation. Drop in for one, some, or all of the virtual gatherings. Each week will stand alone, but we think you'll want to build community and build upon the content.

To register go to: <https://disciplesallianceq.org/travelers>

	Tuesday Morning Community Group 7 PT/ 8 MT/ 9 CT/ 10 ET	Thursday Evening Community Group 5 PT/ 6 MT/ 7 CT/ 8 ET	
Week 1	February 20	February 22	Faith Journeys + Traveling Companions
Week 2	February 27	February 29	Home Alone: Aloneness + Loneliness
Week 3	March 5	March 7	A Day's Journey: Holy Ordinary Moments
Week 4	March 12	March 14	Part of a Whole: Chosen Family + Belonging
Week 5	March 19	March 21	Searching: Answering Questions with Questions
Week 6 (Holy Week)	March 26	March 28 (Maundy Thursday)	Growing Up + Traveling Mercies

Week of Compassion - February 18-25



GIFTS TO LIVE ON
 SPECIAL OFFERING | February 18-25, 2024
 Compassion FOR 80 YEARS

QR code to give



Compassion ONLINE GIVING



**Fellowship Meal
 February 18 - Noon**

If your last name begins with:
 D-G bring main dishes;
 A-B and H-W bring sides or salads; and
 C bring desserts.
 Just as a reminder that in keeping with our Green Chalice designation we encourage everyone to bring their own dinnerware.

TACKLE HUNGER CHALLENGE

BE A GAME CHANGER!
 Donate just \$1 or 1 can of food to make a difference in your community!

DATE/TIME: LOCATION: COLLECTION:

800.358.SOUP(7687) www.tacklehunger.org info@tacklehunger.org

CROSSLINES MINISTRIES

There is no Monthly Challenge for February; but please contribute generously to the Souper Bowl of Caring.

Crosslines day for February is the 22th

9:45 am - 2:00 pm.

New volunteers are always welcome!

YOU BELONG HERE

Building and maintaining a successful community requires the crucial component of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI). Join us for an evening focused on this topic.

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

**Blackthorn Pizza
 February 13 - 5:30 pm**

Social hours 5:30 to 6 pm
 Speakers 6:00 to 6:40 pm
 Q&A 6:40 to 7:30 pm

JOPLIN INTERFAITH COALITION



Locally-made sweets and savories from around the world!
 PROCEEDS BENEFIT BRIGHT FUTURES JOPLIN
**Saturday, March 2
 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 1805 W. 32nd St., Joplin**



Reserve lunch tickets for homemade falafel or turkey sandwich and lentil or chicken noodle soup: \$12



Prayer Requests

Medical:

Kellie Blanton (Davenport); Heather Dabney (Garrison); Debi Lorenz; Betty McKelvey (Wheeler); Jayne Sanders; Malik Taylor (Curtis); Roger Traver; Pat Wolfenbarger

Sympathy:

Betty Adams (Wilson)

Military:

Michael Crofford; Corey Irwin; Josh Robb; Gary Wald

Ongoing:

Connie Abraham; John Asher; Carol Bach; Judy Ballard; Kattie Blankenship; Dani Bowen (Meadows); Gloria Brady (Abraham); Janet Burns; Veronica Carnahan; Betty Coan; Dayton and Daislee Cohen; Timicia Curtis; Lois Demaree; Bailee Evans; Margie Fitterling; Kyle Ford (Wolfenbarger); Alyxis Hefty; Darius Hughlett (Wilson); Daryl Hughlett; Roland Hughlett; Bethany James; Betty Kemp; James Knudtson; Lamley Family; Shirley Martin; Betty McKelvey; Sara Metts; Missionary families (Huff, Reaves, Wilson); Arlene Nash; Nancy Nauser (Fitterling); Bethany Newman; Jim Owen; Matthew Paulda; Josh Petty; Reese Prater; Todd Prater; Cameron Ransom; Nancy Righthouse; Sue Smith; Lou Starks; Connie Sullivan; Mike Tesh; Roger Traver; Michelle Vorhees; Michael Wallace (Randall); Tova Wallace-Lee; Karen Patchin Watson; Charles Wilson; Birdie Woods; Mary Lou York, and all unspoken requests.

Other:

Peace in war-torn countries—Ukraine, Israel, Gaza

Global Ministries Focus:

Feb 4: Fiji
Feb. 11: Sierra Leone
Feb. 18: India
Feb 25: Ecuador

RESPONSIBILITIES

Elders

Feb. 4: Betsy Wheeler
Feb. 11: Margie Fitterling
Feb. 18: Patt Hinds
Feb. 25: Mike Fitterling

Diaconate

Feb. 4: Communion Prep—Connie Abraham and Judy Akeman;
Homebound—Susan Wolfenbarger
Feb. 11: Communion Prep—James Knudtson and Sherry Crumbliss;
Homebound—Don Smith
Feb. 18: Communion Prep—Carolyn Theil and Susan Wolfenbarger;
Homebound—Tom Wheeler
Feb. 25: Communion Prep—Les Davenport and Terry Plossl;
Homebound—Tom Hamm

Camera & Sound

Feb. 4: Jenn Reaves and Ken Moser
Feb. 11: Sandy Meadows and Don Smith
Feb. 18: Judy Schneider and Darryl Coit
Feb 25: Jenn Reaves and Ken Reaves

Sunday School (K thru 5)

Feb. 4: Darlene Coit and Karen Kemp
Feb. 11: Karen Kemp and Sandy Meadows
Feb. 18: Leanna Carrol and Anita Frieze
Feb. 25: Daniell Sanders and Karen Kemp

Children Worship & Wonder

Feb. 4: Karen Kemp and Judy Schneider
Feb. 11: Karen Fitterling and Taylor Reaves
Feb. 18: Laney Reaves and TBD
Feb. 25: No CW&W



Birthdays

1 Terry Plossl
4 Carolyn Thiel
6 Karen Fitterling
9 Julia Foster
18 Emma Eckhardt
19 Sherry Crumbliss
19 Kenton Foster
26 Darryl Coit

Anniversaries

14 Mark & Liz Millard



February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Groundhog Day	3
4 9:30 am SS 10:20 am Fellowship 10:45 Worship/CW&W 4:00-6:00 pm Family Connection	5	6	7 9:30 am— Noon CWF 6:30 pm Choir	8	9	10 Noon - 4:00 pm Breath of Life Retreat 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm NAACP Meet & Greet (Boys & Girls Club of Joplin)
11 8:00 am Elders 9:30 am SS 10:15 am Children's Bells 10:20 am Fellowship 10:45 am Worship/CW&W 4:00-6:00 pm Family Connection	12 Board Reports Due	13 5:30 pm Courageous Conversations (Blackthorn Pizza) 6:30 pm Board Meeting (in-person)	14 Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm SJCC Service	15 8:30 am Snack Pack Assembly	16	17
18 1st Sunday of Lent WOC Offering #1 9:30 am SS 10:45 Worship/CW&W Noon Fellowship Dinner 4:00-6:00 pm Family Connection	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Pastor Out - Feb. 19 - 28			9:45 am - 2:00 pm Crosslines		
25 2nd Sunday of Lent WOC Offering #2 8:00 am Elders 9:30 am SS 10:20 am Fellowship 10:45 Worship 4:00-6:00 pm Family Connection	26	27	28	29		
	Pastor Out - Feb. 19-28		6:30 pm Choir			

**All activities at Peace Lutheran Church
unless specified otherwise.**