





February 2018

LOVE the LORD your GOD
with all your heart
and with all your soul
and with all your strength.

-Deuteronomy 6:5-



**Sharon Springs
 United Methodist Church**
 Pastor Galen Crippen
 520 W. 6th Ave., P.O. Box 339
 Sharon Springs, KS 67758
 (785) 852-4734
 email: ssumc@fairpoint.net
<http://www.sharonspringsumc.org>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Sunday School 9:45 A.M. Worship Service 11 A.M.			1 Bible Study at Prairie Village Retirement Comm. 11 A.M.	2 	3 Groundhog Pancake Day 7 A.M. to 2 P.M. SSUMC Fellowship Hall
4 Holy Communion	5	6 	7 UMW 1:15 P.M. Children's Choir practice 3:30 P.M.	8 Shampoo carpets Bible Study at Prairie Village Retirement Comm. 11 A.M.	9	10 Baby (girl) Shower for Dawsyn Ann Hennick, Jeff and Amberly Hennick's daughter, at 10 A.M. SSUMC Fellowship Hall
11 Children sing during Worship Service Basket Dinner and Ad. Co. following Worship Service	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday Service 5:30 P.M. Valentine's Day Children's Choir practice 3:30 P.M.	15 Bible Study at Prairie Village Retirement Comm. 11 A.M.	16	17
18	19	20	21 Children's Choir practice 3:30 P.M.	22 Bible Study at Prairie Village Retirement Comm. 11 A.M.	23	24
25 	26	27	28 Children's Choir practice 3:30 P.M.			

Groundhog Pancake Day

February 3, 2018—UM Men
Groundhog & Pancake Day
serving from 7 A.M.—2 P.M.
here at SSUMC Fellowship Hall.



And now these three remain:

Faith, Hope, and Love

But the greatest of these is

LOVE.

- 1 Cor 13:13 -



SERVICE COMMITTEE
(Funeral, Wedding and Church Dinners)

Kim Van Laegys, Chairman

Rebecca Rains

Carol Sweat

Phyllis Finley

Joan Harrison

February 10, 2018
Baby (girl) Shower for
Dawsyn Ann Hennick,
Jeff and Amberly Hennick's daughter,
10 A.M. at the SSUMC Fellowship Hall.



ASH WEDNESDAY
SERVICE AT 5:30 P.M.
February 14, 2018

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/ash-Wednesday>

The first day of Lent. It marks the beginning of a period of reflection and penance. In the Bible, sprinkling oneself with ashes was traditionally a sign of one's sorrow for having committed sins. In the Christian tradition, Ash Wednesday also marked the beginning of preparation for the understanding of the death and resurrection of Christ. The particular symbolism of ashes for this day comes from a practice in the Roman Catholic churches in which the ashes from the palms used in the preceding year's Palm Sunday celebration are blessed. With these ashes, the priest on the first day of Lent marks a cross on the forehead of each worshiper. This practice has become a part of Ash Wednesday services in many United Methodist churches.



Holy Week

SSUMC will be responsible for the
Holy Week Service on Wednesday,
March 28, 2018, at the
Senior Citizen Center.



Being That Mom in the Pew

by Lauren Eberspacher

<https://herviewfromhome.com/being-that-mom-in-the-pew/>

There I found myself... being that mom in the pew again; the one who is interrupting the service, dragging out her two small toddlers (who are begging for fruit snacks), flinging an oversized diaper bag over her shoulder, shoving her rear in everyone's face as she shuffled down the pew isle. Yep, that was me. And it was just another Sunday at church for me and my ragamuffin crew.

Some Sundays I wonder if it's really worth it.

Is it really worth it getting myself put together just to get goobered on, fighting my kids to get dressed in their Sunday best just so they can beg to take them off, arriving late just to leave early or coming with a heart eager to worship and learn only to find myself chasing kids in the back foyer?

Can anyone else feel me? Is there light at the end of the tunnel? Will I ever sit through a church service again? Will church always be this exhausting?

I have asked myself these questions so many times as I bounced newborns, chased toddlers, calmed tantrums and swayed kids to sleep in the back of the church. I have stormed out in frustration, sighed under my breath and cried in the nursery wondering when things will get better; when I will feel church isn't just another crazy day at home but a morning of learning, worship and community.

But God is gracious, isn't He, mama friend? Just when I'm at my wits end, about to let my tired, grumbling heart win, I find myself blessed with these moments....

On a Tuesday afternoon when my daughter starts singing "Blessed Assurance" at the top of her lungs, then she turns with a smile and says that she learned in at church and proudly states that it's her new favorite song.

When I see my smallest little smiling at the older couple in the pew behind us, knowing how much joy her smile and laughter brings them each week.

That my husband sees the message title, knows that my heart needs to hear what the pastor has to say, and offers to take the girls out so my soul can be filled, making me a better wife and mom.

When I see my daughters running up to the pastor and hug him, knowing that they are learning to love the church and the people in it, and realizing that the church is theirs, too.

When I find myself sheepishly carrying my kids out kicking and screaming from the service, I remember that kicking and screaming kids means young families, and young families means that the church is preparing and growing the next generation of Christ followers.

As I sat with tears streaming down my face last week, my daughter walked over and put her arms around my shoulders saying, "It's ok, Mommy. I love you and so does Jesus. He's always here with us," and I know she is listening.

And then there is that moment... That moment when the tantrums subside, the kids are distracted, my heart is open and He speaks to me. His presence is felt in the depths of my soul, a familiar peace washes over me and for a few short seconds, my hands are free to be raised in worship and surrender to His will of this crazy, tired life that He has blessed me with. And when I drop my tear stained face and look down at those two sets of eyes staring up at me, I realize how worth it all of those "scurry out the door" Sundays are.

So keep going to church on Sundays, tired mama. Those tiny souls, and your own, are so worth it.

TRAIN UP A **child**
IN THE **way** HE SHOULD GO.
AND WHEN HE IS **old**,
HE WILL **not**
depart FROM IT.
PROVERBS 22:6

I can do all things
through **Christ** *who*
strengthens *me.*
Philippians 4:13



PASTOR'S PAGE

February 2018

As we look to February it is time to start preparing for Easter. February 14, Valentine's Day (hint hint) is also Ash Wednesday. We will be having an Ash Wednesday service at 5:30 P.M.

How is your family going to celebrate the Lenten season this year? Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. 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.

One of the more common practices is to give something up for Lent. Some abstain from chocolate, social media, shopping, or something else through the season. This is a religious practice known as fasting. We fast to reorient ourselves away from the distraction of those things, and back toward God.

Another way to reorient your life toward God, is to focus on devotional practices like Bible study and prayer during the season. One of the best ways to accomplish this is to pick up a copy of The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide at the front of our church.

Have a great February!

Pastor Galen

THE HIGH CALLING

Everyday conversations about work, life and God

<https://www.theologyofwork.org/the-high-calling>

Does God have a Calling For You? We spend more time at work than any other waking activity. Understanding God's calling helps you live life and follow Christ more fully every day of the week .

The High Calling is a production of the Theology of Work Project in partnership with the H. E. Butt Family Foundation. Here you'll discover a range of stories that help you think deeply about how your faith relates to your work and the culture you live in.

Every day on this page you'll find a new devotional from Mark Roberts' Life For Leaders. This daily reflection helps people in diverse leadership roles understand their work in light of God's truth and calling.

Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. Deut. 4:9

GOD AT WORK

Copied from "The High Calling of our Daily Work—reflections on daily living— Work"

An old Jewish story says that when the Israelites fled Egypt, they followed each other so closely, so diligently that they never noticed the miracle happening around them. The waters of the Red Sea parted before them in a great spectacle. But the Israelites were so caught up with following each other and the urgency of the moment—they failed to notice God's bigger drama unfolding within and before them.

Life can be like that. We get so busy doing the next thing that we fail to notice how God is working in us now.

Let me ask you this question. As we travel through the day, will we lock our gazes on the mile markers—or will we see the miracles—in the high calling of our daily work?