

To MCC,

This article was sent to me right after the march on the US Capital on January 6th. I like many of you was shocked by such an action. I know many have tried to compare this to other riots, protests, etc.; however, I disagree. This was a vicious attack on our nation, not just someone or something that those persons disagreed. I received the following perspective from Good News written by Thomas Lambrecht. We should all do a self-examination of our own heart in light of this protest. Pastor Greg

Title: “Of What Spirit Are We?”

“When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way, they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, ‘Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?’ But he turned and rebuked them, and said, ‘You do not know what spirit you are of, for the Son of Man has not come to destroy the lives of human beings but to save them.’ Then they went on to another village.” (Luke 9:51-56, NRSV)

This has been a tough month, as the deep divisions within American political society boiled over into riot. We all witnessed images we never dreamed we would see. For the first time since it was burned in 1814 by the British, our U.S. Capitol building was inexcusably invaded, pillaged, and vandalized. For a certain fringe, political protest crossed the line to lawlessness.

Throughout the United States, millions have grown to distrust our political system and doubt the integrity of our voting, despite the lack of evidence for widespread voter fraud. There are fringe elements on both sides of the political spectrum that believe an apocalypse will occur if the other side wins an election. Our colorful and long national history proves this incorrect.

Many hold their political beliefs passionately on one side or another. It is natural to want to express those beliefs passionately, as well – that is part of our American democratic system of free speech and self-determination.

As Christians, we should be reflecting a different perspective as we engage with what is going on in our country. Our faith should affect our beliefs and actions. We should reflect the spirit of Jesus in the public square. As Jesus reminds his disciples in the passage above, it is important to know “what spirit we are of.” As part of Jesus’ family and filled with his Holy Spirit, we are called to act in agreement with his values and priorities.

Jesus came “not to destroy the lives of human beings but to save them.” That must be our priority: offering Christ to the world by our words and our actions. Elections are important. But “the kingdom of God is not going to arrive on Air Force One,” as columnist Cal Thomas wisely reminds us. As passionate as we can be about political issues, we are called to be even more passionate to win people to Jesus Christ and help fit them for eternity.

For starters, when Jesus’ disciples wanted to respond violently to those who rejected them, Jesus rebuked them. Christians should renounce violence and coercion of a personal nature, such as what we witnessed in the lawless Capitol vandalism.

Paul was further concerned that Christians live and act in such a way as to open doors for sharing the Gospel with our friends and neighbors. He taught that we are to live, “so that the word of God may not be discredited” (Titus 2:5). He encouraged Titus to be a model for the people in his Christian community of how to speak and act in ways “that cannot be censured; then any opponent will be put to shame, having nothing evil to say of us” (Titus 2:8). We are to act in “complete and perfect fidelity, so that in everything [we] may be an ornament to the doctrine of God our Savior” (Titus 2:10).

Our lives are to attract people to Jesus, not repel them. That's why it broke my heart to see people with Christian signs and symbols among those attacking the Capitol.

We also need to be careful that political ideology never overshadows our theology – our beliefs about, and relationship with, God. “Jesus is Lord,” is the ancient credo of the Church. That definitive statement makes it clear that nothing else should hold lordship in our lives. Putting anything except God in the place of supreme importance in our lives makes that thing an idol.

Many of us face situations of principled disagreement, and the discord can run so deeply that compromise either is or appears to be impossible. That is how we as traditionalists have felt for nearly 50 years dealing with the progressive theology that seems to overwhelm The United Methodist Church. But it is crucial that we always respect the process. We need to work for change or to promote our views within the established laws and rules. Otherwise, we have anarchy, which is destructive to the fabric of our relationships, whether it is in the church or in our society.

We believe principled, peaceful work for our views, whether religious or political, honors Christ and the church. We would hope that our political leaders and the citizens of our great country would also resolve to work together for a better day with great determination and with a true appreciation and respect for our democratic process.

What can we as Christians do now?

1) We can pray for our country and our leaders, especially during this time of conflict and transition. *“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”* (I Timothy 2:1-4). We can pray for unity and for healing, for mutual understanding and a new ability to work with others across our differences for the good of all of us, and for the sake of the Gospel.

2) We can be grateful for the resilience of our nation. We have weathered wars, pandemics, and remarkable instances of injustice. We are all in this together. It is essential for us to work together to foster the good of all, especially the poor and marginalized in our society and those hurt by the pandemic. If we can work together in areas where we have common ground, our energy can go toward building a better nation.

3) We can declare, once again, that Jesus is Lord. We can repent where necessary and recommit to putting Jesus first in our lives, no matter what government we have. If Christians in China can thrive and grow in their faith despite an oppressive government, we can surely do that in the U.S. with our far-better system assuring our freedoms.

4) We can strive to speak and act as representatives of Jesus in all things. The way we carry ourselves represents Jesus to the world. It's been said that you and I are the only Bible some people will ever read. We can make the Bible of our lives a winsome and attractive one, leading people to draw nearer to the God who loves us all so much that he gave his life for us despite our being at enmity with him. Surely, we can do as he did.

We live in a difficult and challenging time. Crisis after crisis has beset us personally and nationally. But in the words of Mordecai, *“Who knows but that you have come to your position for such a time as this?”* (Esther 4:14). We have been born to this time in order to make a difference in this world for Jesus Christ. By his grace and the power of his Spirit, we will do so!

Pastor Greg

Ash Wednesday in 2021



Ash Wednesday



Everything is different over the past year. It has now been nearly a year since we went into prevent mode as a way of protecting ourselves from the virus. And we anticipate it will continue. So, in the meantime we carry on the best we can. That is exactly how we will carry forth the tradition of entering into Lent via the doorway of Ash Wednesday (even though we will not have a Fat Tuesday Pancake supper).

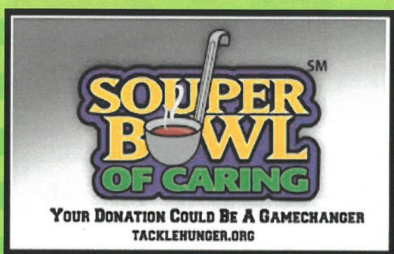
Therefore, **on Wednesday, February 17th at 6:00 PM**, we will have an Ash Wednesday service with social distancing and mask wearing. The major difference will be that each person will be given a small plastic container with ashes for you to apply yourself or with your family.

Really it doesn't make a difference who applies the ashes. The ashes of this special day symbolize two main things: **death and repentance**. Ashes are equivalent to dust, and human flesh is composed of dust or clay (**Genesis 2:7**), and when a human corpse decomposes, it returns to dust or ash.

When we come forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins, and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy.

With this focus on our own mortality and sinfulness, Christians can enter into the Lent season solemnly, while also looking forward in greater anticipation and joy of the message of Easter and Christ's ultimate victory over sin and death.

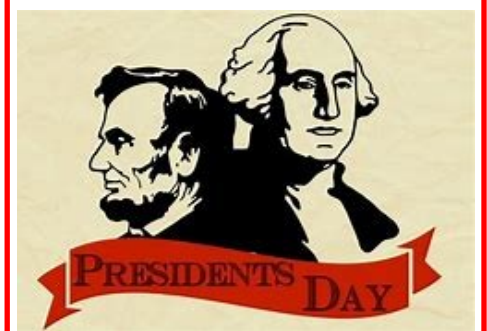
Each year, **Ash Wednesday** marks the beginning of Lent and is **always 46 days before Easter Sunday**. Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.



Super Bowl Sunday is February 7, 2021. At MCC, we will celebrate by participating in Souper Bowl of Caring this year. Please bring canned goods and non-

perishable items to place in the food bank basket.

The COVID virus has created several families who are in need of food items and they rely heavily on the local food banks. The food banks are in need of donations and rely heavily on our support. Please bring all donations by February 7th. Our food donations are taken to the Food Pantry at Patchwork Central.



Happy President's Day
February 15, 2021

Pastor Greg and Teresa will be taking some much needed time away. Our speaker on February 14th will be Frank Morgan! Thank you Steve Seitz and Frank Morgan for delivering the message!





February Birthdays

Victor Doty	9
Keith Kinney	12
Roger Campbell	13
Kena Campbell	14
Matthew Davis	14
Kathy Ellerbrook	15
Olivia Burress	15
Jarmon Perkins	23
Ashley Tapp	24

We Believe In The Power Of Prayer



Prayer Requests

Prayer Requests: The Karen Kramer family, Jim and Margie Smith, Jane & Jerry Bennett and family, Cheryl Rothemeier, Debby Phares, Mary Moore, Martha Koehler, Josette Higgins And Ed Schiffer (cancer treatments), Kristy Georgeson's mother Velma Hein, all area schools and universities, God's Kids , Austin Smith, (firefighter) , Amy Dubber, Joy Roettger, Sara Dixon, Our Haitian children: Daphnica Noel and Richecarde Charitable Louissant, MCCutchanville Firefighters, The homeless population.

Do you have a prayer request you would like listed in the Messenger?

Call the church office at

MENU

February 2: Hamburger & Brats

February 9: Sloppy Joe

February 16: Barbeque Chicken

February 23: BBQ Pork and Baked Potato

March 2: Chicken Noodle Soup

March 9: Vegetable Soup

Happy Valentine's Day

The Mountain Mission pick up for MCC is February 22nd. The Much Needed list is posted on the Bulletin Board. Please bring your donations for MMM by February 21st.



January 2021 Attendance and Giving

	Att	Building Fund	General Fund	Internet Giving	David Dixon and Karen Kramer Memorial	Total Checking Deposit
January 3	34	\$700.00	\$960.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$1,860.00
January 10	34	\$1,150.00	\$16,535.00	\$1,033.05	\$75.00	\$18,793.05
January 17	34	\$275.00	\$775.00	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$1,200.00
January 24	35	\$285.00	\$675.00	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$1,110.00
January 31	31	\$830.00	\$1299.00	\$100.00	\$225.00	\$2,454.00



Happy Groundhog Day February 2nd? Will he see his shadow??





GOD'S KIDS ... Reporting



Happy birthday to our February God's Kids! We are sorry the individual names are not listed but we will list them as 'belated' next month!

Valentine Parties are being planned for individual classrooms and there will certainly be a birthday celebration for each February birthday child.

God's Kids Pre-School continues to be blessed. So far, we have not had a teacher or a student that have contracted the Covid-19 virus. We have had a few that have had to 'quarantine' after coming into contact with someone who had the virus. We continue to disinfect and remain socially distant. Some classrooms continue to have lunch served in their class which allows more space in the fellowship hall to be seated within the individual classrooms. Gym time is limited to one classroom at a time. The children seem to not be effected by the different operational techniques and are happy. Pastor Greg and Teresa have continued Tuesday Chapel time with the children and you will see us all jumping around and singing each Tuesday morning as well learn different Bible stories. We ask for your continued support and prayers and thank you for all you have done for us!



We had an 'UNEXPECTED' and fun day on January 28th when EVSC called school closing due to the potential of a winter storm. Although the snow didn't get to Evansville until late afternoon, we enjoyed a break from school and were able to stay home with our families.

Remember, God's Kids follows the EVSC recommendations for delays and cancellations.



We had a teacher resign at the end of December and are continuing our search for a suitable teacher who would enjoy working in a Christian, lovable, clean environment.





Do you know someone who is wonderful with children and who are looking for a part-time position working with and teaching children? God's Kids has an opening for a teacher in the 3 year old classroom.



We follow EVSC calendar during the school year but do have a summer session from May through August as well. Please have all interested persons contact Terri Schuetter, Director of God's Kids at 812-867-5735 or at terri@mccutchanvillecc.org. Resumes should be submitted at that email address. Thank you for your help and for spreading the word!!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
January 31	February 1 Gym reserved 1:30-3:00 Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	2 10:00 God's Kids Chapel with Pastor Greg and Teresa 1:30 Gym Reserved Groundhog Day	3 Gym reserved 1:30-3:00 6:00-8:00 Gym Reserved	4 Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	5	6 Gym Reserved 10:00-11:30
7 Communion Sunday	8 Gym reserved 1:30-3:00 Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	9 10:00 God's Kids Chapel with Greg and Teresa 1:30 Gym Reserved 	10 Gym reserved :30-3:00 6:00-8:00 Gym Reserved	11 Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	12	13
14 	15 President's Day God's Kids Closed Gym reserved 1:30-3:00 Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	16 10:00 God's Kids Chapel with Pastor Greg and Teresa 1:30 Gym Reserved 6:00 Gym Reserved	17 Ash Wednesday Gym reserved 1:30-3:00 6:00-8:00 Gym Reserved	18 Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	19	20
	22 Gym reserved 1:30-3:00 Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	23 10:00 God's Kids Chapel with Pastor Greg and Teresa 1:30 Gym Reserved Girl Scouts	24 Gym reserved 1:30-3:00 6:00-8:00 Gym Reserved	25 Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	26	27
28	March 1 Gym reserved 1:30-3:00 Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	2 God's Kids Chapel with Pastor Greg and Teresa 1:30 Gym Reserved 6:00 Gym Reserved Girl Scouts	3 Gym reserved 1:30-3:00 6:00-8:00 Gym Reserved	4 Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	5	6
7	8 1:30 Gym Reserved Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	9 10:00 God's Kids Chapel with Pastor Greg and Teresa 1:30 Gym Reserved	10 1:30 Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00 Gym Reserved	11 Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	12	13