



Dear friends and family of OCUMC:

Ash Wednesday is next week. The start of Lent. In these weeks, we go from thinking about death, to the joys of Easter and life evermore.

Years ago, I remember sitting in a room of other "new" pastors learning about the possible HR benefits that we could sign up for. This benefit coordinator was trying to explain to us how life insurance works, but one in our group seemed unhappy. It was almost as if he didn't want this benefit. The HR guy was persistent, nevertheless. "If you die," he said, "then your family will get a lot of money." The new employee finally was able to verbalize his concern, "But," he responded somberly, "I don't want to die!"

I expect most of us feel like this, even if we don't say it. We embrace life and don't want to consider death. Many things in our culture keep us from facing the reality of death. We work hard to remain youthful in appearance and healthy in body so as to delay the inevitable. We'd rather not think about the fact that we will die.

Thus, we may be less than happy with Genesis 3:19. Though

originally addressed by God to the first man, this verse speaks to all of us, "By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return." You are dust, and to dust you shall return. This is the bad news we'd rather avoid, the bad news of our mortality, our inevitable death.

Yet, thanks be to God, the bad news of death is not the last word on the subject. Romans 6:23 continues, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Eternal life, according to Scripture, is not just heavenly post-mortem existence. Rather, it is the life of the future that we can begin to experience now.

When we recognize that we are dust and will return to dust, when

we accept our mortality, when we acknowledge the bad news that we will die because of sin, then we are prepared to hear and receive the good news of the gospel. Then we are ready to put off our old, deathly way of living and put on new life in Christ. When we face our mortality, we are ready to embrace our immortality. Where O Death, is thy victory? Where O Death, is thy sting? asketh Paul...

I hope you will join us for a short and modified and socially distanced Ash Wednesday service out on our church's front patio. We will have a fire pit going - making our own ashes this year! We will have imposition of the ashes that night. Service begins at 7 p.m.

See you virtually in church this Sunday!

Pastor Mike



Happy Valentine's Day



February Birthdays

NELSON, JAN	02/01
MYERS, QUINCY	02/06
PALMER, SIDNEY	02/11
OLIVAS, NATE	02/18
MAGEE, MIKE	02/21
SCHLOSSER, RON	02/21
CRUIKSHANK, BENJAMIN	02/23

Love bites!

Retailers eager to capture some of the \$20 billion that Americans spend every year for Valentine's Day gifts are moving beyond candy and flowers. For an outside-the-box edible present for that special someone, now you can purchase a bouquet of bacon roses, pickles or even Olive Garden breadsticks. If money is tight, you can visit Waffle House on February 14, the one night it takes reservations.

Last year, a most unusual Valentine's Day promotion had no takers. A reptile park in Mosca, Colorado, offered a two-for-one deal on gator-wrestling classes, but no one "snapped" up the opportunity. Maybe another heart-shaped box of chocolates isn't such a bad idea after all!



Hope is a Mission of the Church



The HOPE Food Pantry is in dire need of several men who can help on Monday mornings. The Oregon Food Bank truck arrives at the Presbyterian Church in Oregon City between 7:00 and 7:15 in the morning. The driver unloads the truck and we then put the cartons purchased in our pickups and deliver it to our pantry. We unload the pickups and bring in the food items, where they are sorted and put on shelves or into refrigerators/freezers.

We currently have five men who do this job but they sometimes want a day off or only want to work 2 weeks per month. We really need back up for these volunteers.

We are very concerned about COVID and take all precautions to make certain that we are safe.

Please give Sharon Thonstad or Ron Schlosser a call if you would like to volunteer or just get more information.

Immediate Opening! Oregon City Handbell Choir



Short-term commitments
Youth & Adults

We meet on Wednesday
nights from 6:30-7:15ish.

Ask Pastor Mike for more
information if interested!

revbenny@aol.com

503-522-9807



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Jen H., earns for hockey

- 1) Order with a paper order form from the church office. Due on the first Sunday of the month.
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