

OUR PRAYERS

- Our Ministers Our Church
- Our Leaders Our Ministry Teams
- Our Children & Youth Our Homebound
- Our College Students Our Missionaries
- Our Police Dept Our Fire Dept.
- Our City Our Military

Homebound and Assisted Care

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Martha Allen | Tom Boillot | June Burton |
| Carolyn Escue | Ray Escue | Marcelle Farrow |
| Mava Dell Fry | Earl Galloway | Doris Hight |
| Marie Hughes | Margaret Kenley | Wayne Lawrence |
| Ted Lewis | Betty Ray | Bernice Shelby |
| Emmett Smith | Betty Smithmier | Martha Wallace |

Vanderbilt Hospital

Cindy Stanfil

Special Prayers for

- ...the Vargas family
- ...disaster victims
- ...immigrants

OUR PRESENCE - March 12

Sunday School	35
Worship	60
Visitors	3

OUR GIFTS - March 12

Offering	\$ 7,190
Month to Date	\$ 11,819
YTD	\$ 41,848

OUR SERVICE - March 19

Greeters..... Jeanette Leslie
Lou Pennington

Liturgist..... Bruce Hughes

Scripture..... Dr. Finzel

Children's Time..Judy Stanley

Lock-up..... Tom Lockhart

OUR WITNESS

March Scripture Reader

Dr. Finzel

the Gate Aldersgate United Methodist Church
 4459 Willow Road
 Memphis, TN 38117-6917

OUR PRAYERS (con't)

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Kristen Boggs | Palma Borgognoni | Jim Brazile |
| Brenda Brazile | Melissa Cole | Jaunay Davis |
| Miriam Davis | Corella Edwards | Gordillo Family |
| Diane Harrison | John Hight | Mildred Hight |
| Jeff Irwin | Freda Lipford | Ursula Lewis |
| Bill McClain | Jesse McClerkin | Bill McMullin |
| Lou Ella Morris | Richard Morris | Joe Moseley |
| Boyd Pilkinton | Ruth Pilkinton | Maira Pomije |
| Wade Reeves | Stephanie Roberts | David Weaver |
| Shannon Weaver | Margie Williamson | |

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The



Flame

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March 15, 2017

Volume 62 Issue 11

Learning to Graze John 10:1-10

By [Kayla McClurg](#)

I have been meditating on a picture of one solitary sheep grazing in a green pasture. That's all this sheep is doing—not pawing at the ground in search of better food, not dangling off a cliff from having climbed too high, not discussing with other sheep how to become better, smarter, more self-actualized. She just grazes contentedly, chewing quietly on what is.

My soul longs for such repose, such absence of striving. The sheep is not pacing anxiously, wringing her hooves about the state of the whole broken world, but quietly attends to what Catherine de Hueck Doherty has called the duty of the moment. She just gives herself, in all her humble sheepiness, to what is before her. The shepherd is not in view, but the sheep is not concerned about dangers. When she hears the one voice, her ears undoubtedly will lift, curious as to what will be asked of her, but in the meantime she dwells in the stillness of peace, the abundance of not over-thinking, over-doing, over-strategizing, over-imagining her important role in the grand scheme. She simply enjoys the abundance of her small place in the pasture.

The serenity of the picture does not translate easily into my daily scenes, where so many gates, so many shepherds false and real, so many other sheep abound. Dwelling in quiet repose seems illusory most days. No wonder we have relegated it to the sweet by-and-by instead of our calling in the sweet here-and-now. Extended periods of stillness, grazing slowly, attending to each moment, seem a bit of a luxury with so many dire and urgent needs. Aren't the best prayers the ones we say with our feet and hands in direct action? Isn't the primary instruction written on all our hearts the one to *stay busy*? Waiting to hear the real voice that calls us by our real names might mean missing hundreds of opportunities right now.

Something in this picture heightens my longing even as I struggle. I want less, I want more, I want to slow down, I want to hurry up, I resist my own small sheepish callings, I want to be a bold citizen of the world, I want to be a hermit hidden from life's noisy conflict, I want to avoid, I want to connect. In the midst of this cacophony, I am learning to listen for the one voice that matters. Little by little, I am learning to graze.

Blessings,
Virginia

Scriptures Readings:

Exodus 17:1-7

Romans 5:1-11

Psalm 95

John 4:5-42



LOOKING AHEAD
Third Sunday in Lent
 10:15a Sunday School
 11:30a Worship

Mon. 3/20
 First Day of Spring
 12:00p News Deadline

Tue. 3/21
 10:00a Leave for Calvary Episcopal
 Lenten Preaching and Lunch

Wed. 3/22
 10:00a **Asbury** Bible Study
 Noon Devotional by Margaret Ann
 Ligon & Lunch @ **Asbury**
 6:45p Choir Rehearsal

Thu. 3/23
 Day of Giving
 9:00a **Asbury** Food Pantry
 10:00a Lenten Bible Study
 5:45p Girl Scouts

Fri. 3/24
 Offices Closed
 11:30a Young at Heart @ **Asbury**
 5:45p Girl Scouts

Sat. 3/25
 No Activities
 8:30a FedEx Job Fair

Sun. 3/26
Fourth Sunday in Lent
 9:30a Fellowship Time Hosted by
 the Choir
 10:15a Sunday School
 11:30a Worship



**YES, YOU MAY HELP
 WITH OUR EASTER EGG HUNT**

We are excited to have Asbury UMC join us this year for our Easter Egg Hunt on April 8th (rain date, April 15), at 1 p.m., for toddlers through 5th graders. All other family members and friends are invited to come cheer them on. We are expecting lots of kids, so your gifts of individually wrapped candy for the Hunt will ensure a good time to be had by all. Hop right along to the store and buy, buy, buy that candy. **NO plastic eggs** are needed this year. Please leave your candy donations in the basket outside the church office by April 5. Thanks for your help!!!!



REMEMBER...

...March 18 is Work Day, starting at 9 a.m. Bring your rakes and brooms, gloves and a smile to help us tidy up around the church.

**LENTEN DEVOTIONAL AND LUNCH
 AT ASBURY EACH WEDNESDAY
 DURING LENT**

Wednesday, March 22, will have Margaret Ann Ligon giving the devotional prior to lunch at Asbury UMC. If you like, you may attend their Bible Study at 10 a.m., then stay for lunch of soup and sandwiches. Please call Asbury if you plan to attend, 363-1135.



**FEDEX JOB FAIR
 March 25
 8:30a to 3:00p**

500 permanent part-time positions are available at the Memphis World Hub. An additional 400 college students and teachers looking for summer and holiday work will be hired. Hourly rate starts at \$12.62. A minimum of 17.5 hours per week guaranteed. Medical insurance with premiums as low as \$5 month, dental and vision insurance available. Training and growth opportunities possible to build a career. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, able to lift 75 pounds and have a valid driver's license. You will be subject to criminal background checks and drug screening. You must provide a 10 year work and residency history (this to include time as a student), and two forms of government issued ID, with photo. The Job Fair will be held at 2874 Business Park Dr., Bldg. D. (off Democrat Rd. between Airways and Lamar. For more information, you may contact James Harvey at 901-797-6939 or email to James.Harvey@FedEx.com



**3rd Annual Day of Giving
 March 23**

Join United Methodist Women around the country on March 23 for a Day of Giving to the Legacy Fund, part of our 150th anniversary celebration!

Giving is easy:

On line: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund

By phone: 800-278-7771 (8a to 6p., Mon-Fri.)

By text: 41444 and enter Legacy 150 in message area

By check: Office of the Treasurer
 United Methodist Women
 475 Riverside Dr.
 New York, NY 10115

Spiritual Growth Retreat

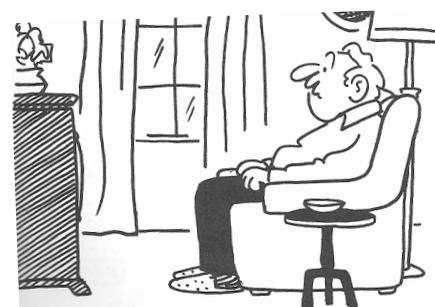
March 31-April 1 at Lakeshore

The registration deadline is March 24. Forms are available in the church office and on line.



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Rice Noodles
 Canned Sauces
 (NO glass jars, please)
 Cash is also welcome.



IT'S ELEVEN O'CLOCK, SUNDAY MORNING—
 DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR CHURCH IS?

HONORING OUR LOVED ONES

Gifts have been given for

Memorial Fund

In memory of Terry Williamson by

James & Carol Florow
 Frances Molnar



HAVE YOU MADE YOUR RESERVATIONS?

We will leave Aldersgate at 10 a.m. on March 21 to attend Calvary Episcopal's Lenten Preaching & Lunch Program. Rabbi Micah Greenstein, Senior Rabbi of Temple Israel, will bring the message. Bus transportation will be available. Lunch is dutch treat. A sign-up sheet is on the office window. Make your reservations and invite a friend.

**LENTEN HUNGER OFFERING
 2017 Beneficiaries**

Below are some of the programs that will benefit from our Lenten Hunger Offering this year:

- Four Memphis Conference Districts
 For local food pantry and feeding ministry needs
- United Methodist Neighborhood Centers of Memphis for persons in need in the urban Memphis area
- Reelfoot Rural Ministries for food assistance to thousands of adults and children in one of the most poverty-stricken areas in the U.S.
- Our Father's House food ministry to street children in Tarime, Tanzania, Africa, run by UM Missionary from the Memphis Conference, Eric Soard and his wife, Elizabeth.
- Project Peanut Butter responds to hunger in Sierra Leone, Africa, providing ways to feed starving children where cooking fuel and electricity are unavailable.
- Feeding Ministry Partners in Mexico connected with Memphis Conference mission trips.