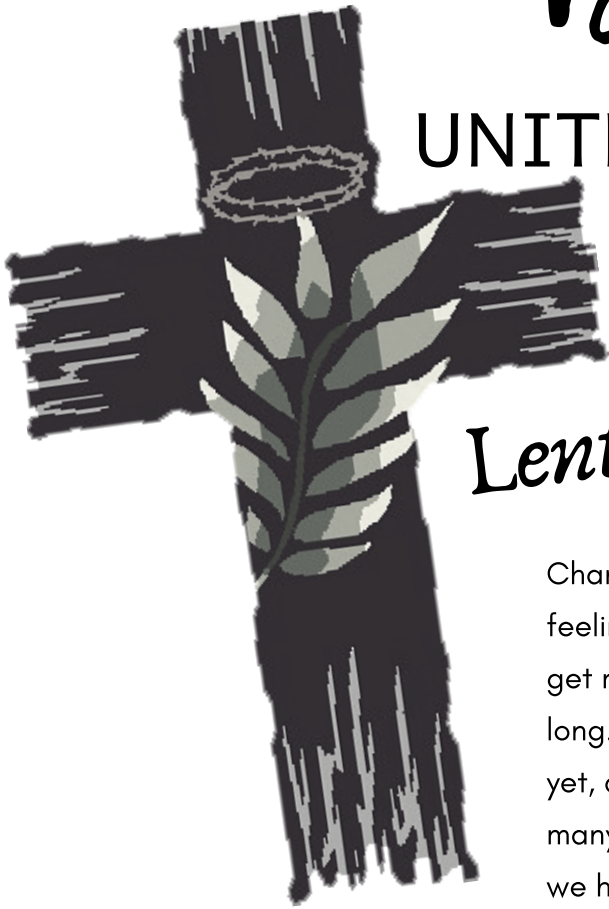


Bethany

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3501 W 1st Ave ◆ Denver, CO ◆ 80219



Lent

Change is tough sometimes. I know I have felt a range of feelings as I have worked along side you all as we clean and get rid of items that have been part of the church for so long. So many memories you all have enjoyed together. And yet, as many memories as you share, I know there are so many more memories to be made in this building. Together we have done some amazing things in the past months, and we have also had some tough lessons which included learning a new kind of patience!

As we flow into a brand-new February we move into a season where love is lifted up with candy hearts, Valentines, and flowers. We all know love is more than that, it is a time to realize that without the love of God, our attempts of loving others will just not work. The love which permeates our hearts as we are open to God's mercy and grace can take us further in our own spiritual journey. I pray that each of us become more aware of God's love as we share our love with family and friends.

Peace,
Rev. Denise



Did You Know: *Shrove Tuesday*

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent starts: the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. It's a day of penitence, to clean the soul, and a day of celebration as the last chance to feast before Lent begins.

Shrove Tuesday is sometimes called Pancake Day after the fried batter recipe traditionally eaten on this day.

But there's more to Shrove Tuesday than pigging out on pancakes or taking part in a public pancake race. The pancakes themselves are part of an ancient custom with deeply religious roots.

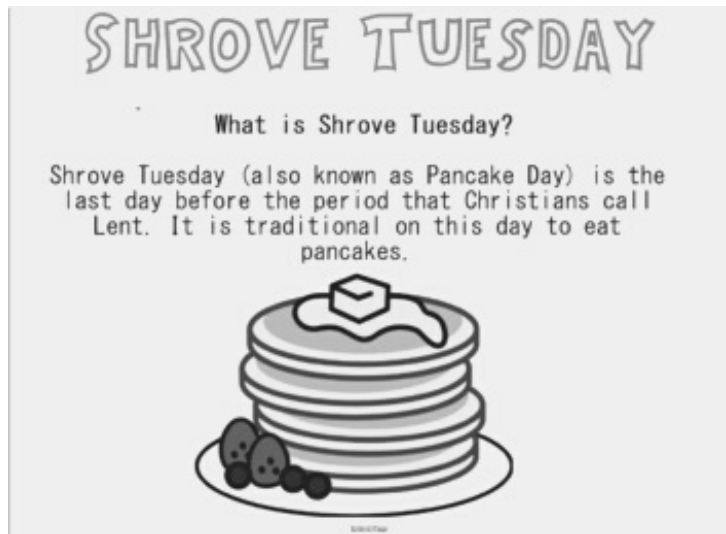
Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of *shriving* that Christians used to undergo in the past. In shriving, a person confesses their sins and receives absolution for them. When a person receives absolution for their sins, they are forgiven for them and released from the guilt and pain that they have caused them.

This tradition is very old. Over 1000 years ago a monk wrote in the Anglo-Saxon Ecclesiastical Institutes: "In the week immediately before Lent everyone shall go to his confessor and confess his deeds and the confessor shall so shrive him." Shrove Tuesday is a day of celebration as well as penitence, because it's the last day before Lent.

Lent is a time of abstinence, of giving things up. So Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge yourself, and to use up the foods that aren't "allowed" in Lent.

During Lent there are many foods that some Christians - historically and today - would not eat: foods such as meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods. So that no food was wasted, families would have a feast on the shriving Tuesday, and eat up all the foods that wouldn't last the forty days of Lent without going off.

The need to eat up the fats gave rise to the French name *Mardi Gras* ('fat Tuesday'). Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.



An Excerpt from

Looking Forward: General Conference 2020

BY Edgardo Colón-Emeric

written in response to the 2019 Statement by the Council of Bishops entitled: PROTOCOL OF RECONCILIATION & GRACE THROUGH SEPARATION

Is there a future for Methodism? Wesley had his doubts. Five years before his death, in his "Thoughts upon Methodism" he famously said, "I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect having the form of religion without the power." [1] In his 1789 sermon "Causes of the Inefficacy of Christianity" he wonders, "What a mystery is this! That Christianity should have done so little good in the world!" [2]

Wesley is exaggerating. I believe that Methodism has done much good in the world. Still, how do we account for its proneness to church splits and cultural accommodation? When the first ecumenical Methodist conference met in London in 1881, there were ten separate denominations in attendance from the United Kingdom and eighteen from the United States. John Wesley's perplexity finds an echo in Ricardo Arjona's lament, "Jesús es verbo, no sustantivo" ("Jesus is a verb, not a noun") [3] that in this world there are more denominations than happy children.

March 2020

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

11AM Worship

HOME COMMUNION

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

11AM Worship

Nancy Schremmer
BIRTHDAY

Jon Kaiser
BIRTHDAY

VALENTINE'S
DAY

Tristan Steelman
BIRTHDAY

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

11AM Worship

Mary Ellen Lawrence
BIRTHDAY

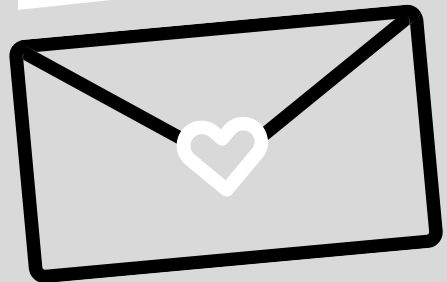
29 30 31

11AM Worship

ASH
WEDNESDAY

We Love
because God
first loved us

1 John 4:19



VALENTINE'S
DAY
FEBRUARY 14

Summer 2020 Non-Profit Volunteering

Use these websites to learn more about these great opportunities.

Dry Bones Denver	drybonesdenver.org
Sox Place	soxplace.com
Hope House	hopehousecolorado.org
The Delores Project	thedeloresproject.org
Community Ministry	comministry-denver.org
Denver Urban Gardens	dug.org
Ronald McDonald House Denver	rmhc-denver.org
Denver Rescue Mission	denverrescuemission.org
Extreme Community Makeover	extremecommunitymakeover.org
Casa de Paz	casadepazcolorado.org
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless	coloradocoalition.org
Urban Peak	urbanpeak.org
Denver Food Rescue	denverfoodrescue.org
Hunger Free Colorado	hungerfreecolorado.org
The Center on Colfax	lgbtqcolorado.org
The Gathering Post	tgpdenver.org
Warren Village	warrenvillage.org
Seniors' Resource Center	srcaging.org

JOIN THE 2020 CENSUS TEAM

The Federal Relay Service needs people to help with the 2020 Census. Apply online at 2020Census.Gov/Jobs.

Community
Pantry
MARCH



Liturgists

February 2, 2020

Don Brewer

February 9, 2020

John Staley

February 16, 2020

Eva Staley

February 23, 2020

Lataine Shaw

Lectionary Readings

February 2, 2020

Micah 6:1-8

Malachi 3:1-4

Psalms 15

Psalms 24:7-10

Psalms 84

Matthew 5:1-12

Luke 2:22-40

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Hebrews 2:14-18

February 9, 2020

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)

Psalms 112:1-9 (10)

Matthew 5:13-20

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)

February 16, 2020

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalms 119:1-8

Matthew 5:21-37

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

February 23, 2020

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalms 2

Psalms 99

Matthew 17:1-9

2 Peter 1:16-21