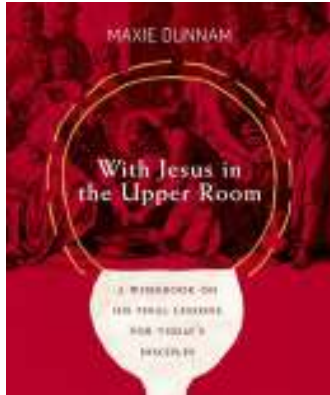


First United Methodist Church
Center, Texas



With Jesus in the
Upper Room
by Maxie Dunnam
7 Week Lenten Study
of
John 13-17

Thursdays beginning
February 15

Parlor
Noon or 6pm

The last supper with Jesus was a momentous occasion for the disciples. This was the last intimate time Jesus had with His disciples, and has been called "Jesus' Final Discourse." Some biblical scholars refer to it as "Jesus' Last Will and Testament to His Church."

Jesus knows that this is the last time He is physically going to spend with you. He knows He's going to die. What does He need to say? What lessons has He taught you that He needs to underscore? How does He need to relate? What actions does He need to take to make clear who He is and what He has tried to communicate? His words in the Upper Room were as monumental for his twelve disciples then as they are for His contemporary disciples now.

In this seven-week study, Maxie Dunnam leads readers through John 13-17 to this most precious legacy of Jesus' teaching, the distillation of His thought and message—what He really wants us to hear. We are His modern friends, to whom He speaks as lovingly as He did to His friends in the Upper Room. Knowing all of this, will you listen to Him?

Please let the office know of your intention to join us.

IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

In the literature racks on the table on your left as you enter the Fellowship Hall, you will find the new **Upper Rooms** for March and April. There are also copies of a **Lenten devotional** I think you might like. It helps us look closer at Mark's Gospel. You will also find info on a variety of subjects. Check it out! It changes almost weekly. New are: **50 Ways to Take Church to the Community** and **20 Practices of Evangelistically Effective Congregations**.

Smudges on the Soul: A Meditation for Ash Wednesday

I discovered this devotional in a 2007 Upper Room and wanted to share it with you as you begin your journey through Lent: Karen

Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. (Joel 2:12-13, NRSV)

I would rather wear the smudge on my forehead than to admit its residence upon my soul. I prefer a crude cross above my eyes to questions about runny mascara and smudged liner. In a place where self-confidence is rewarded and any sign of weakness or emotional predisposition is held suspect, it is difficult to consider actually following the advice of the prophet to return to the Lord with fasting, with weeping and with mourning. It is, however, acceptable — maybe even fashionable to appear in public with a dirty forehead as a sign that **I have religion**. It is amazing how the symbols of piety, sackcloth and ashes, have been transformed into mask that hides me from myself and circumvents the intent of Ash Wednesday.

Blow the trumpet in Zion, the prophet said. Not the trumpet that signals advance to war, or the trumpet that celebrates victory, but the one that warns trembling penitents that the day of the Lord is coming. Blow the trumpet that warns a penitent like me to wear the smudge of ashes long after her face has been washed and to admit the smudge on the one place that matters to God, her heart.

Blow the trumpet in Zion, the prophet said, and sanctify a fast (Joel 2:15). Hear the sounds of grumbling need in a world where few are filled — and where we are overfilled. Today I am called to push away from the voracious consumption of everything in my path, for at least a little while, in hopes that I might realize something about the equitable distribution of the world's resources before the fast is over.

Rend your hearts and not your garments, the prophet said (Joel 2:13). The gift of the day is personal reflection, a season of confession, and change. Start the arduous journey from shadow to substance, from ritual to reality, from façade to faith. Today, choose the harder course. It is easier to buy new clothing than to mend a soul. *Prayer:* Lord, as I begin this year's Lenten Journey, turn my attention to the things that matter most to you. Amen.

FINANCE UPDATE

As of February 11, 2018

2018 Budget \$414,701.00

Needed weekly \$7,975.02

Received on 2/11/18 \$7,332.36

Received to date (week 6) \$44,873.36

Attendance 2/11/2018

Sunday School 35

8:30 am
Worship 54

11:00 am
Worship 79

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR
MYF SNACK SUPPER!
SIGN-UP PAGE LOCATED
ON DOOR TO
FELLOWSHIP HALL.**



Dear Karen and members,

Thank you to all of you at FUMC for your generous support at Christmas time! You all are an incredible community of faith and it is FUN to watch your service to the kingdom of God unfold!

Kelly Lawson



Joel 2:12-14 Yet even now, says the Lord, Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; Rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Lent...what does it mean? As a child, Lent was the time of giving up something that I loved until Easter Sunday when I was rewarded with a basket of chocolates and eggs for my diligence. It wasn't until I was an adult when the full meaning of the Lenten season hit me. Lent is not only a time of reflection on the passion of our Lord and Savior, but it is a season to reflect upon the busy-ness of our lives, and the return of our thoughts toward the "whys" of our Savior's death on the cross. When the reality of the Cross floods and illuminates our souls, only then can we begin to grasp the depth of our Almighty Father's love for us! For as the song says, "Love Lifted (Even) Me"

You may contact Terri for prayer requests at (936)598-3484 or at (936)-332-2717, or at btlacher@sbcglobal.net

youth group

SCHEDULE

February 16
Shreveport Aquarium
Leaving at 1:00 p.m.

February 21- April 4
Confirmation Class
3:40 p.m.-4:50 p.m.

Church Camp
July 8-13

Peace be with you,

Sarah Bohannon
Director of Youth Ministries



Make Plans to Attend!!!!
Sock Hop in the
Fellowship Hall
February 25th @ 5:00pm
Join your friends for a fun evening in the
Fellowship Hall
with dance music to help you
remember (or learn)
the twist, mashed potato and all the others.
A meal will be provided.
Bring the family and bring some friends!

The Methodist Men Breakfast

The Methodist Men invite members of the Bereavement Committee to be their special guests at this week's Men's Breakfast (2/18). They would like to recognize and honor you for the service you provide to our church members during one of the most difficult times in their lives with the loss of a loved one. You nourish their bodies and comfort their souls with your bereavement lunches. All contributions collected on Sunday will go to the Methodist Children's Home in honor of the Bereavement Committee.



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much to my precious Sunday School class for the birthday cake and roses.

Thank you also to my church family for the birthday wishes, cards and even an original birthday limerick! What a blessing it is to be a part of such a wonderful and supportive church family. May God bless each of you.

Mary Lynn Tinkle



Church Camp will be July 8-13, 2018 at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center in Palestine, TX. You can register online at <https://lakeviewsummercampregistration.campbrainregistration.com/> or call the Lakeview Registration office at (903) 538-2711. Registration ends June 24! Remember: the church pays half of each campers registration fee or we can assist those who are in need of the full amount. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Bohannon!

Please let Kelli know if changes are made to the Coffee Fellowship schedule. Thanks!

To avoid schedule conflicts, all Committees must contact the church office to schedule your meetings and have them placed on the calendar.