

March
2 0 2 2

THE MESSENGER



*So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old
has passed away; see, everything has become new!*

RAMSEY MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Ramsey Memorial United Methodist Church

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Dear Ramsey Saints,

On March 2nd at 7:00pm our English language congregation will gather for our Ash Wednesday Service in person. We will “remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return”. It is the beginning of our Lenten Journey 2022. In the 40 days of Lent (Ash Wednesday, March 2, through Easter Saturday, April 16, not including Sundays) we will pray, repent, abstain, fast, take up some things, lay down some things, study scripture and journey together through the season of penitence and intentional focus on God. It is our season of remembering the gift of salvation offered to us through the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross for us. It is our season of remembering that when Jesus died for us, was buried and rose again to new life, Jesus offered us all resurrection life going forward. We will once again remember that the hopelessness of Jesus’ death on the cross, seemingly defeated in that moment, led to the overwhelming hope of new life on Sunday morning when the tomb was empty and the Living Lord was very much alive again forevermore.

Lent is a journey well worth giving ourselves to each year. In 2022 we will do so yet again with the backdrop of Covid and its continual question marks and uncertainties. But as we experience Lent for the third time with Covid in the equation, we celebrate the great certainty of the events that we will re-live and celebrate. Jesus came, died for us, was buried, was raised to new life and offers each one of us – and all of us – eternal forgiveness of sin and eternal life with God. Those events happened and forever changed the world, our lives included; of that we are certain.

As we, Ramsey Church, journey through Lent together, let’s watch out for one another, encourage and inspire one another, pray for one another and praise God for God’s work done on our behalf, the work God is doing now and the mighty works God will do in and through us in the months ahead. Philippians 1:6 in the Amplified Bible speaks of God’s good work in this way: *“I am convinced and confident of this very thing, that God who has begun a good work in you will [continue to] perfect and complete it until the day of Christ Jesus [the time of His return]”*.

With transforming hope,

Claudia

Puzzle!

Find and circle these words associated with the Lenten journey to the cross.

colt	denial	kiss	repent
confess	donkey	lots	silver
cross	forsaken	palms	sins
crown	Gethsemane	penance	suffer
crucifixion	Golgotha	Pilate	thorns
death	hosanna	prayer	vigil

E N A M E S H T E G R L W Y
C L E U X B M T H B U C W B
N R I K Y P A T E T I Y X Y
A V J G A L B R E Y A R P B
N G N L I S N L A I N E D X
E W M P R V R D H B N R D F
P S O G O L G O T H A B S C
D L N R O C O N F E S S I K
O T H T C P E K W U O U N D
M N S H N P W E D R H F S K
U N F O E T K Y C S G F O E
H E C R E V L I S W Q E C M
H V H N C X S O C C J R L O
F Q E S U D S H C A A Y M C
C R U C I F I X I O N S R V



Dear Ramsey Church Family,

Surgery went well and I'm doing better - thanks in large part to your love and prayers for me and Claudia. We appreciate the many cards and handwritten notes, the delicious meals you provided, the personal visits, and encouraging phone calls. Thank you church family for being Jesus hands and feet when we most needed it. We love you. May God bless & keep you always.

Scott Stallings

Thank you Ramsey Church members,

We certainly feel blessed for you all's dedication to us continually for communion monthly and gifts during the Christmas season.

God Bless and Happy New Year,
Helen and Cicero Gainer

Only a thought...

1 Corinthians 12:14 The body is not made up of one part but of many. (NIV)

I wonder what would happen if the body of Christ with its various gifts and differences moved to the rhythm of the Spirit? I am sure that God would do it again, again he would make a way in the desert, and rivers in the wilderness (Isaiah 43:19).

Let me start by telling you about a movie I've seen almost every day since it was released -Encanto. Have you already seen it? I would dare to say that here, in the United States, most of the parents together with their little ones and their grandparents (here I am raising my hand with great enthusiasm) have already seen the movie, Encanto. And if you haven't seen it yet, don't worry, I promise not to ruin the movie for you. But the truth is that I have no choice but to talk between the lines, since it is part of this introduction.

At some point in the movie Encanto, what is most feared - happens. And it is at that moment when the truth is seen in her best garment, "The miracle is not some magic that you've got. The miracle is you, not some gift, just you. The miracle is you! All of you, all of you!" But that's not all, listen to this! The Madrigal family had yet to see something else. The power of a community. A community that in a melodious and willing voice comes singing, "Hey, lay down your load! Lay down your load! We are only down the road, we are only down the road! We have no gifts, but we are many. And we'll do anything for you! It's a dream when we work as a team!... Come on! Let's plant something new and watch it fly straight up to the sky! Let's go...!" How about the message behind a children's movie? And I haven't even told you about that catchy rhythm which makes both young and old sing and dance! But as I promised, I am not going to ruin the movie for you...no, no, no...I will not say anything, no, no, no, I will not say anything else.

What do I mean by all this? That he who began his work in us continues to perfect it, making us strong as a community—like his body. That in us is the power to rebuild and rediscover again and again what God can do. That when we dream and work as a single team in equality and love we can make a difference. Together we can embark on new adventures of faith, and witness new beginnings.

In Christ, all things are possible! And before Him, the Giver of new beginnings and the surest Foundation, we can lay down our burdens. We can take the hand of God and our brothers and sisters and sing together in a catchy rhythm - the rhythm of the Spirit - the same melody. The body is not formed by a single part, but by many.

Your companion on the way, Norma

Ramsey Church is considering changing our current leadership structure and implementing the Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS) instead. As a part of our discernment process, we ask you to join us in praying for God's guidance using the prayer below:

Almighty God,

Thank You for calling us into new and exciting things. Thank You for knowing us so intimately that You know all our fears. We ask for your guidance as we discern the best leadership structure for Ramsey Church. As You call us to step out in courage, please continue to remind us that You are with us, You never leave us, and You have equipped us. Help us trust that, as we obey You, You will guide our next steps of faith.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

SIMPLIFIED ACCOUNTABLE STRUCTURE (SAS) INFORMATION

If you would like a copy of the notes from our November 2021 In-Person SAS Town Hall or would like to receive the SAS FAQ and One Page Summary, please email Melissa at admin@ramseymemorial.org or call the church office at 804-276-4628.

If you want further information about SAS, please contact the SAS Core Team members:

Will Flynn – 804-402-0778 / wflynn@franklinstreet.com

Kathy Holmes – 804-687-2307 / kbholmes0806@gmail.com

Tammy Howe – 804-307-5056 / 2razoo@gmail.com

Pastora Norma Aguilar – 804-245-6662 / NormaAguilar@vaumc.org

Pastor Claudia Stallings – 804-387-2448 / ClaudiaStallings@vaumc.org

JUST ASK

Each month the Administrative Council meets to oversee the ministries of our church; it is our decision-making group. If you would like to receive the minutes of our meetings to follow along with the decisions we are making and the direction we are taking, let us know.

Contact Melissa at admin@ramseymemorial.org or 804-276-4628 to be added to the list to receive an emailed copy of the meeting minutes or to receive a copy by USPS mail.



On **Ash Wednesday, March 2**, Ramsey will offer two opportunities for you to receive the imposition of ashes:

Noon-1pm Ashes To Go -- drive-by imposition of ashes in the church rear parking lot by the awning area. Drive-by to receive your ashes in your vehicle.

7pm In-Person Worship Service -- in the Ramsey sanctuary

LENTEN OFFERING

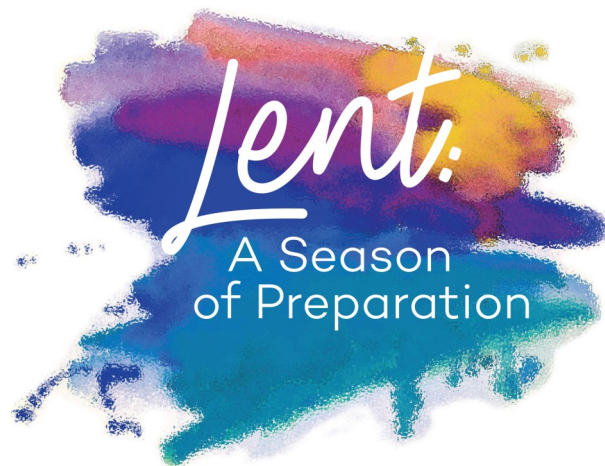
Our 2022 Lenten Offering will run from March 6 through Easter Sunday, April 17. The money we raise will go toward replacing various parts of our sound system. Since the pandemic came along, our video recording process and the electronics that go with it have become a major part of our Sunday services. Many in our congregation depend on watching the videos to stay connected with Ramsey. So it is vital that we have dependable and up-to-date equipment.

You have always generously supported this offering and we are sure this year will be no exception. Please write "Lenten Offering" in the memo section

The Finance Committee

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

Any ladies who would like to participate in a Chronological Bible Study are invited to join us on Mondays from 10:00-11:30 at Ramsey Memorial Church (Room 105). We will be doing an in-depth study starting in Acts. Please call Deborah at (804) 624-8390 for more details and questions. The group will start meeting on March 7th. Please pray about joining us, we'd love to meet you!



LENT STUDY

"Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross"

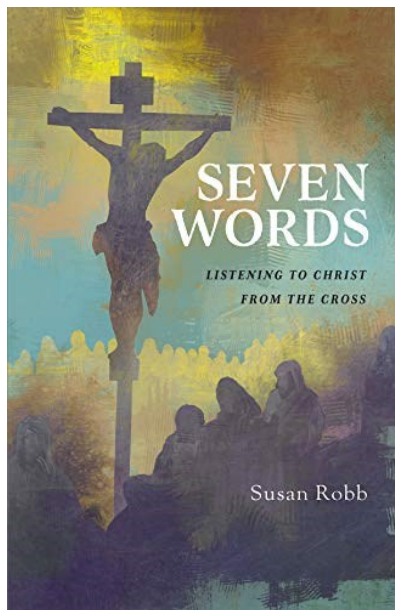
Sundays:

March 6, 13, 20 & 27

April 3 & 10

9:00am

Ramsey Sanctuary



Those who listen to Jesus' last words from the cross will discover what He most wants them to hear and will experience an intimate and divine awe only available to those who are willing to draw near His cross.

If you would like a participant book, please contact the church office at 804-276-4628 or

admin@ramseymemorial.org.

If you are able, a \$12 donation per book is appreciated.



Ladies, our **United Methodist Women's Unit Meeting** is on **Saturday, March 26th, at 12:30pm** and will be in the Fellowship Hall.

Please mark your calendars for this time and date.

This meeting is open to any and all women.

You might not be a United Methodist Woman but would like to find out about us, please come to this meeting. All are invited.

Hope to see you on March 26.



WELCOME

Good Morning! Welcome to Ramsey!

Are these words that easily flow off your tongue especially while a smile crosses your face? If so, then Ramsey's new Hospitality

Team needs you. If you are willing to say those simple words while monitoring the CLC lobby on **Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:05am** one Sunday every 4-6 weeks, please contact Melissa, our Admin Assistant, at admin@ramseymemorial.org or 804-276-4682. Training and additional instruction will be provided.

Dear Ramsey Family.

Many of us are using the New Year for a refreshed start in our homes. It is also a great time to refresh our church home. Last fall, I wrote of the long-range plan to begin culling through the areas of the church and collectively deciding what we are still using and what is not being used now.

This will probably be a year long project but if we do not start now, we will not meet our goal of a cleaner and more usable church facility.

If you have something you want kept and not disposed of, please label it. If you have something that personally belongs to you and you want to have it back, please take it home with you.

Areas that need attention have been identified. I would like to ask for you to search the list and find a place or two that you would like to help. Please let me know an area where you wish to help. This list is not a complete list of all the spaces in the church. You may know of more places that need attention. Please feel free to add areas to the list. – Woodfin building, barn, lawn mower shed, etc. If we don't start somewhere, we will never start!

Areas that need attention:

1. Communion cabinet in the Fellowship kitchen
2. Worship room near the Parlor
3. Hallway between Education wing and the sanctuary
4. Bulletin boards through-out the building
5. Room 100
6. Computer room
7. Storage room next to the kitchen in the CLC

If one or more of these places sound like a project that interests you, please let me know. If you want to invite another person to work with you- wonderful!

As my 4-year-old grandson says, "Team work makes the dream work!"

Joan McGowan (804-513-8540)

Joanmcgowan56@gmail.com



*The Holy Heart was broken,
Sent from the Father's side.
The Son of God forsaken,
The holy sacrifice.*

*For me He was forsaken,
For me He died alone.
My sin forever taken,
That I might be His own.*

4 Ways to Observe Lent

Lent is a season of focus and preparation. It aligns our hearts with God's heart as we approach Easter. The following are just a few ways to focus and prepare.



Give It Up

Consider giving up something that distracts from your important relationships: like too much time on Twitter or Clash of Clans. Maybe cut out screen usage for several hours a day. Take a day of true rest; let go of toil for 24 hours.



Plug In

Consider adding in something that helps you connect to God. Read a book of the Bible, a devotional, or practice Lectio Divina on a daily basis.



Serve

Start a new routine of service. Volunteer regularly as an academic mentor, step up to volunteer in a local church, or visit a nursing home.



Share It

Make it a communal event. Share your Lent practices with others via a small group and/or attending worship.



March Anniversaries

David & Darlene
Sweat March 9

March Birthdays

Joan McGowan	3/1
Linda Guilmart	3/5
Pat Meadows	3/5
Claudette Stewart	3/5
Kevin McGowan	3/7
Lynn Flynn	3/9
Abby Ogungbade	3/9
Matthew Cheatham	3/10
Alexandra Velásquez	3/12
Brian Barnstein	3/13
Rosa Bonilla	3/15
Charles Burch	3/16
Steven T. Meadows	3/17
James W. Jump, Jr.	3/21
Eric Ahles	3/22
Kathy Holmes	3/22
Alison Southard	3/22
Emily Bucknam	3/24
Cinthia Cantarero	3/24

March 2022

March 2022							April 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
6	7	1	2	3	4	5	3	4	5	6	7	1	2
13	14	8	9	10	11	12	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	15	16	17	18	19	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	22	23	24	25	26	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 27	28	Mar 1 7:00pm Administrative Council (ZOOM)	2 12:00pm Ashes To Go 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)	3 5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 105) 7:00pm Bible Study (Library)	4	5
6 10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:30am Escuela Bíblica 11:00am Ignite (CLC) 12:30pm Servicio de Adoración	7	8	9 2:00pm Nina Woodfin Circle (Rm 105) 7:00pm Trustees (ZOOM)	10 5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 105) 7:00pm Bible Study (Library)	11	12
13 10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:30am Escuela Bíblica 11:00am Ignite (CLC) 12:30pm Servicio de Adoración	14	15	16 7:00pm Finance (ZOOM)	17 5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 105) 7:00pm Bible Study (Library)	18	19
20 10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:30am Escuela Bíblica 11:00am Ignite (CLC) 12:30pm Servicio de Adoración	21	22	23 7:00pm SPPRC (ZOOM)	24 5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 105) 7:00pm Bible Study (Library)	25	26 11:00am Gary Hotchkiss Memorial Service (Sanctuary) 12:30pm UMW Unit Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
27 10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:30am Escuela Bíblica 11:00am Ignite (CLC) 12:30pm Servicio de Adoración	28	29	30	31 5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 105) 7:00pm Bible Study (Library)	Apr 1	2