

THE MESSENGER

March 2023



LETTERS FROM THE PASTORS

Dear Ramsey Saints,

In 1707 Isaac Watts composed the words to the hymn "Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed" or later referenced as "At the Cross".

In 1885 Ralph Hudson took the verse lyrics and added a then familiar camp-meeting refrain of "at the cross" to the lyrics of Watt's hymn, giving us the version found in our United Methodist Hymnal #359. That refrain states, "At the cross, at the cross, where I first saw the light, and the burden of my heart rolled away; it was there by faith I received my sight, and now I am happy all the day."

These lyrics provide us a summary of the powerfulness of Christ's death on the cross as the agent of transformation in our lives. This year during Lent, in our sermon series we will be facing the cross. Remembering what Jesus's death in the 1st century A.D. on the cross means to our daily lives in the 21st century. The plan that God put into motion from the Garden of Eden's fall from grace came to fruition in the death of Jesus on our behalf on the cross. Jesus, the perfect sacrifice for our human sinfulness, opened the door to our being able to be back in right relationship with God – not in our righteousness but in Christ's redemptive work for us. The redemption is done, we have only to accept the offer of grace and receive the gift of salvation from our fallen, sinful ways.

As we embark on our Lenten Journey 2023, we do so with a reminder of what it cost Jesus for us to by "faith receive our sight and now be happy all the day." We have been redeemed by grace, forgiven and set free to love and serve God and others. So, Ramsey Church Saints, let's spend these 40 days of Lent doing just that – loving God, facing the cross and its gift to us, and sharing that love and grace with the world.

With transforming hope,

Claudia

From a Pastoral Corner,

And it is that the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. 2 Corinthians 3:17.

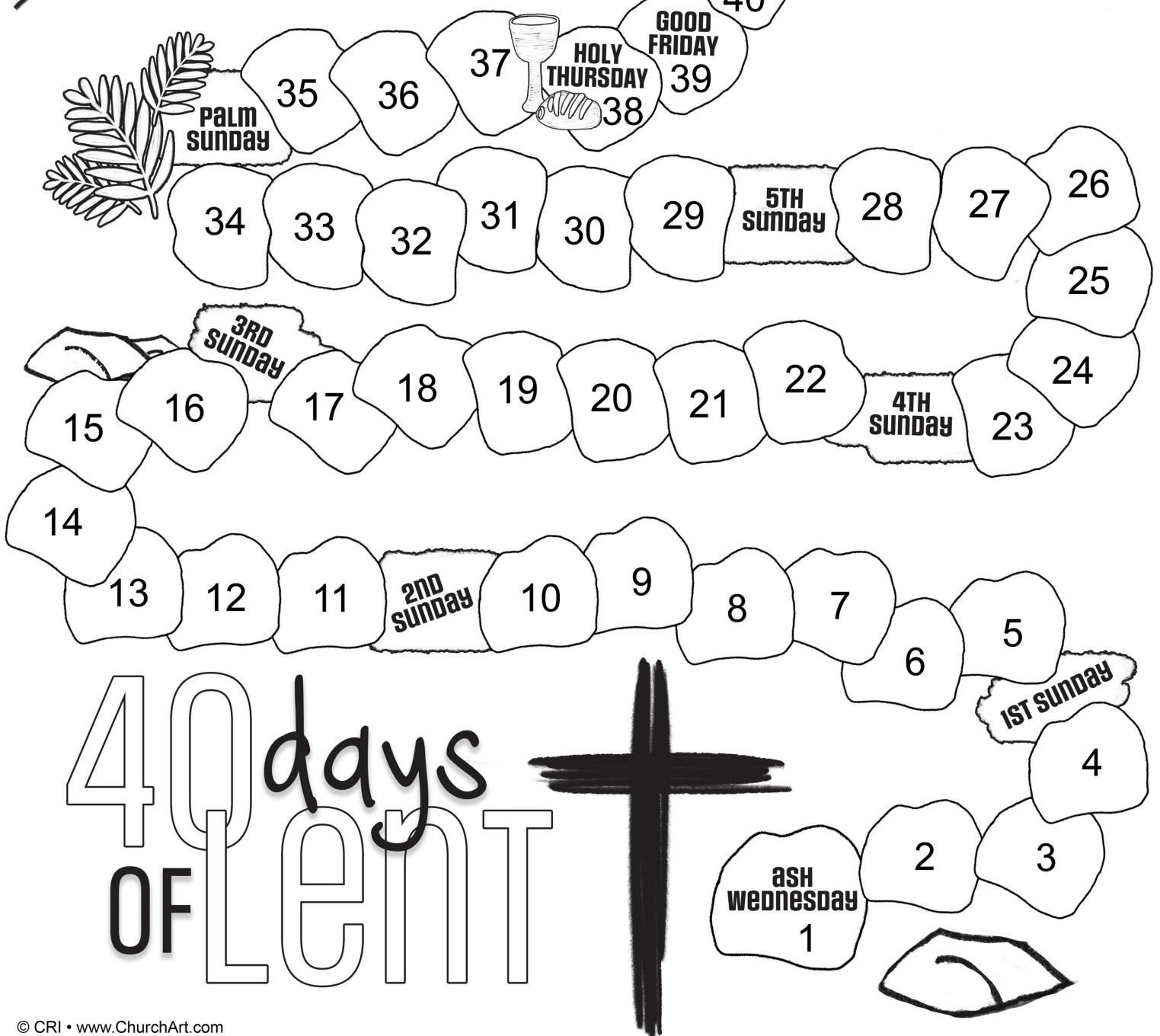
It is amazing and wonderful to hear what is happening at Asbury University, KY. On Wednesday, February 8, an ordinary day in the lives of many students, once again the university was rocked by the vibrant presence of the Spirit of God. According to reports, the university had already witnessed how the Spirit of God moves touching lives and calling them to repentance, calling them to an intimate and personal relationship with their God. How good it feels to return from vacation and hear this kind of news, news from the kingdom of God, which announces what happens when there are open ears and hearts willing to move to the rhythm of the Spirit of God. What a greater truth, that where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom.

"No one wants to leave" is the testimony of one of the young students at Asbury University. I share with you some of the reasons why I believe nobody wants to leave. Paul in Corinthians says, "where the Spirit of God is there is liberty." Hebrews 4:12 says that "The word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword; and it penetrates to split the soul and the spirit, the joints and the marrow, and discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart". In Spanish we have a song that goes like this, "when the Lord's people praise God, things happen, wonderful things happen. There is healing, deliverance, the presence of the Lord is felt." I remind you also of one of John Wesley's famous lines, "Light yourself on fire with passion and people will come from miles to watch you burn."

Why Wilmore, KY? What is so special about Asbury University? Why not every state in the nation? I don't know, but one thing I do know, that God is being glorified by a generation of young people under 25 years of age who seek an encounter with his God. And what do we have to do? Why not do what Jesus told John's disciples when he asked the question, if he was the one to come, or if they should wait for another. Jesus' response was: "Go and tell John what you are seeing and hearing. Tell him that the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed of their disease, the deaf hear, the dead come back to life, and the good news is announced to the poor. And blessed is he who finds no cause for stumbling in me!" (Matthew 11:3-6). God is being exalted and glorified and the divine business of saving souls for Christ is burning up a few miles from Richmond, VA. Bless the Lord my soul!

His companion on the journey,

Pastor Norma





LENTEN STUDY

During Lent, Ramsey Church is studying together
"He Chose the Nails" by Max Lucado.

Sundays, February 26-April 2 9:00AM in the CLC Lobby

Study Guides are available. To receive a copy, call or email the church office at
804-276-4628 / admin@ramseymemorial.org.
A donation of \$10 is appreciated but not required.



LENTEN OFFERING

Our 2023 Lenten Offering will run from February 26 through Easter Sunday, April 9. We have set a goal of \$6,000 to assess our church security, update the Tower for our youth, and paint parking spaces closest to the church. Whether you give online through Vanco or in the offering plate, please include the designation "Lenten Offering" in the note or memo section.



55+ LUNCHEON

We would like to invite you to the 55+ luncheon on Friday, March 10 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please give your RSVP to the church office (804-276-4628) by March 8.
Bring a friend!

events

4/2

Palm Sunday
Cantata

4/6

7:00 pm
Maundy Thursday
Service

4/9

7:00 am
Easter Sunrise Service

10:00 am
Easter Sunday
Worship Service





PARTNERSHIP WITH J.L. FRANCIS

One of Ramsey Church's joys is the partnership we have with J.L. Francis Elementary School on Snead Road, one mile from the church. We support them by delivering weekly backpacks with food packed by FeedMore and picked up by us and delivered to the school on Thursday mornings. This current school year we purchased school supplies, 300 reusable water bottles with their "Francis Eagle" logo for students who may not have a water bottle and last month (February 2023) we provided 15 new hardback books for the upcoming Book Tasting Event to promote literacy.

All of the purchases are made from funds donated by YOU -- the Saints of Ramsey. If you would like to support this partnership, you can donate to our J L Francis Fund. This Spring they have two needs for volunteer help for a few hours at the school. More details will be coming soon. If you would like to go in person and help, or would be willing to be a driver one week for the backpack program, contact Sally Wheat (804-447-9214 / sallywheat@aol.com) or Pastor Claudia (804-276-4628 / ClaudiaStallings@vaumc.org).



RAMSEY REFRESH 2023

Ramsey Refresh continues with focus on the kitchens. We are in need of an electric can opener. If you have a workable electric can opener, please contact Joan McGowan at 804-513-8540



PRAYER CHAIN 2023

You are invited to join the Ramsey Prayer Chain! If you would like more information, contact Sue Wheat at 804-303-1670 or bswheat46@yahoo.com.

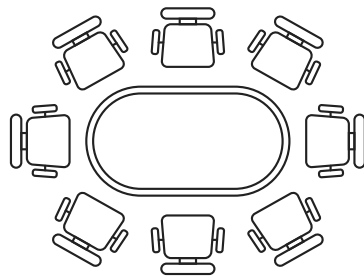
Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. 2 For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry. During that time the devil¹ came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread." But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 4:1-4



**GIVING QR
CODE**

Scan the QR code above to be directed to our online giving resource!



LEADERSHIP BOARD UPDATE

Ramsey's newly formed Leadership Board met on Wednesday, February 15.

We are now under the new one board governance called Simplified Accountable Structure based on the book, "Mission Possible." The nine member board includes: Linda Guilmart, Scotty Doyle, Melanie Hewes, Joan McGowan, Tammy Howe, Bayo Ogungbade, Rick Hallinan, Craig Lane and Will Flynn. Our senior pastor, Claudia Stallings is an active, but non-voting member.

Leadership voted to incorporate the church along with the election of the following officers: Chairperson—Will Flynn, Vice Chairperson—Craig Lane, Secretary—Joan McGowan, and Co-Treasurers—Phillis Woodfin and Roger Hoover.

All are invited to attend board meetings in person, or virtually online using ZOOM software. Please call the church office for the link. Leadership Board will meet on the following dates/times:

Wednesday, March 15, 7-8:30 PM
Wednesday, April 19, 7-8:30 PM
Tuesday, May 16, 6-7:30 PM
Tuesday, June 20, 6-7:30 PM
Tuesday, July 18, 6-7:30 PM
Tuesday, August 15, 6-7:30 PM
Tuesday, September 19, 6-7:30 PM
Tuesday, October 17, 6-7:30 PM
Tuesday, November 21, 6-7:30 PM
Tuesday, December 19, 6-7:30 PM

If anyone wishes to receive a copy of the meeting notes, please contact the church office at 804-276-4628.

Please pray for your leaders that God will provide a vision, wisdom and patience as we work through this transition year.

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



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| JOAN MCGOWAN | MARCH 1 |
| LINDA GUILMART | MARCH 5 |
| PAT MEADOWS | MARCH 5 |
| CLAUDETTE STEWART | MARCH 5 |
| KEVIN MCGOWAN | MARCH 7 |
| LYNN FLYNN | MARCH 9 |
| ABBY OGUNGBADE | MARCH 9 |
| MATTHEW CHEATHAM | MARCH 10 |
| ALEXANDRA VELASQUEZ | MARCH 12 |
| BRIAN BARNSTEIN | MARCH 13 |
| ROSA BONILLA | MARCH 15 |
| STEVEN MEADOWS | MARCH 17 |
| JAMES JUMP JR | MARCH 21 |
| ERIC AHLES | MARCH 22 |
| KATHY HOLMES | MARCH 22 |
| ALISON SOUTHARD | MARCH 22 |
| CINTHIA CANTARERO | MARCH 24 |

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| DAVID & DARLENE | MARCH 9 |
| SWEAT | |



March 2023

| March 2023 | | | | | | | April 2023 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa | Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| | | | | | | | 30 | | | | | | |

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Feb 26 | 27 | 28 | Mar 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) | Group Counseling (Rm 203) | Group Counseling (Rm 203) | Group Counseling (Rm 203) | 7:00am Care-a-Van | Group Counseling (Rm 203) | 8:00am TOVA Recertification (Fellowship Hall) |
| 10:30am Escuela Biblica | 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) | 1:00pm Commonwealth Christian School (CLC) | 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) | 11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study | 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) | 10:00am Amateur Sports Company (CLC) |
| 11:00am Ignite (CLC) | 10:00am Neighborhood Bible Study (Rm 105) | 2:00pm McGuire Park Circle | 2:00pm Nina Woodfin Circle (Rm 105) | 6:00pm James River Home School (CLC) | 6:00pm James River Home School (CLC) | |
| 12:30pm Servicio de Adoración (Sanctuary) | 6:00pm James River Home School (CLC) | 5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 105) | 6:00pm Amateur Sports Company (CLC) | | | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) | Group Counseling (Rm 203) | Group Counseling (Rm 203) | Group Counseling (Rm 203) | 7:00am Care-a-Van | Group Counseling (Rm 203) | |
| 10:30am Escuela Biblica | 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) | 1:00pm Commonwealth Christian School (CLC) | 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) | 11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study | 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) | |
| 11:00am Ignite (CLC) | 10:00am Neighborhood Bible Study (Rm 105) | 2:00pm McGuire Park Circle | 2:00pm Nina Woodfin Circle (Rm 105) | 6:00pm James River Home School (CLC) | 12:00pm 55+ (Fellowship Hall) School (CLC) | |
| 12:30pm Servicio de Adoración (Sanctuary) | 6:00pm James River Home School (CLC) | 5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 105) | 6:00pm Amateur Sports Company (CLC) | | | |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) | Group Counseling (Rm 203) | Group Counseling (Rm 203) | Group Counseling (Rm 203) | 7:00am Care-a-Van | Group Counseling (Rm 203) | 8:00am TOVA Recertification (Fellowship Hall) |
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| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
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| 12:30pm Servicio de Adoración (Sanctuary) | 6:00pm James River Home School (CLC) | 5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 105) | 6:00pm Amateur Sports Company (CLC) | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | Apr 1 |
| 10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) | Group Counseling (Rm 203) | Group Counseling (Rm 203) | Group Counseling (Rm 203) | 7:00am Care-a-Van | Group Counseling (Rm 203) | |
| 10:30am Escuela Biblica | 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) | 1:00pm Commonwealth Christian School (CLC) | 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) | 11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study | 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) | |
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