

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Austinburg, Ohio

Third Sunday of Lent

March 23 2025

11 a.m.

“Forgiveness is the wonder of being trusted again by God after I disgraced him.” - Rita Snowden -

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

LIGHTING CANDLES/ PRELUDE/ RINGING of BELL
GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: Leave the places you have known and walk with God.
Leave behind thoughts of limitation and imagine.

P: But we are secure where we are.

L: Ahhh! But, new ways of being in this world is possible
for each of us.

P: Can't God bless us where we are?

L: If you trust God enough to move from the places you
have known, and question the systems around us, you
will be blessed. God is our light and our salvation.

**P: Lord, we open ourselves to you. Direct our paths and
open our hearts and minds.**

L: In this place. In every place.

ALL: For this time. For all time. Let us worship God.

***HYMN: “On A Hill Far Away” (NCH/Black) # 195**

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**Holy One, who is able to make all things new, we are
thankful for the gift of each day being an opportunity to
do better. We ask forgiveness for wanting to die to old
ways of being. Forgive us for doubting that new life,
rebirth is possible. Guide our spirits, that we may be
born into a new state of consciousness which is born from
above. Amen**

* GOOD NEWS OF FORGIVENESS: - Pastor-
Even in our reluctance, even in our brokenness, God provides a path to wholeness and renewal. When we confess our shortcomings, God has mercy upon us, and is generous with forgiveness. Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven; And that is Good News. Thanks Be To God!

* *RESPONSE: (To the tune of "Come, O Font Of Every Blessing)*

We are has-ty to judge o-thers, blind to proof of hu-man need; And our lack of under-stan-ding demon-strates our in-ner greed. We have wast-ed earth's resour-ces, want and suf-fering we've ignor-ed. Come and cleanse us, then re-store us. Make new hearts with-in us Lord.

THIRD CANDLE OF LENT: Forgiveness

Introduction

Lighting

Prayer

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 12: 1-4

Psalm 103: 1-14

Matthew 6: 12-15

Matthew 18: 21

Matthew 18:35

A MOMENT WITH THE CHILDREN

HYMN: "Guide Me O, My Great Redeemer" (NCH) #18

MESSAGE: " Shine An Inner Light: Forgiveness"
- Rev. Bill Terry

*HYMN: "More Love To You. O Christ" (NCH) # 456

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

A TIME FOR PRAYER:

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer/ Silent Prayer/ Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Prayer Response

A TIME FOR SHARING:

Friendship Folders:

Mission Moment: One Great Hour of Sharing

A Reminder To Send Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to:

1st UCC Church, P.O. Box 253, Austinburg, OH. 44010

Unison Prayer of Dedication:

Holy, Holy, Holy God. We come this day with contrite hearts willing to serve. We can only offer you two things: Our lives, and our gifts. We ask, O Lord, that you take all that we offer, and give what we need. Help us to devote our time and our efforts toward the kind of reconciling love, that you have given to us. We pray that these financial gifts will be used to support that love. Amen.

A Doxology

Passing Of The Peace:

L: May the peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you

*HYMN: "Beneath The Cross Of Jesus" (NCH) # 190

*BENEDICTION:

(then all are invited to sing....)

Blessed be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love.

The fellowship of kindred minds, is like to that above.

*POSTLUDE

* = Those who are comfortable are invited to stand.



1 On a hill far a - way stood an old rug-ged cross, the
 2 Oh, that old rug-ged cross, so de - spised by the world, has a
 3 In that old rug-ged cross, which bore Love so di - vine, a
 4 To the old rug-ged cross I will ev - er be true, its



em - blem of suf - fering and shame; And I love that old cross where the
 won - drous at - trac - tion for me; For the dear Lamb of God left the
 won - drous beau - ty I see, For up - on that old cross Je - sus
 shame and re - proach glad - ly bear; When God calls me some-day to my



dear - est and best for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.
 glo - ry of heaven to bear it to cold Cal - va - ry.
 suf - fered and died to par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.
 home far a - way, there God's glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.



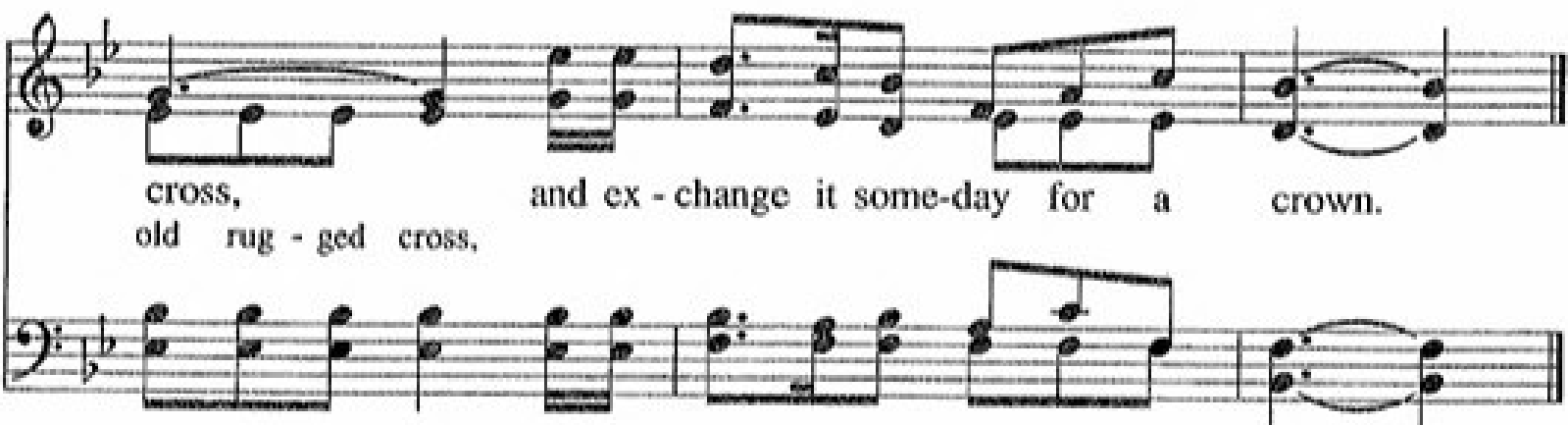
Refrain



So I'll cher - ish the old rug - ged cross, till my
 cross, the old rug - ged cross,



tro - phies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rug - ged cross, the



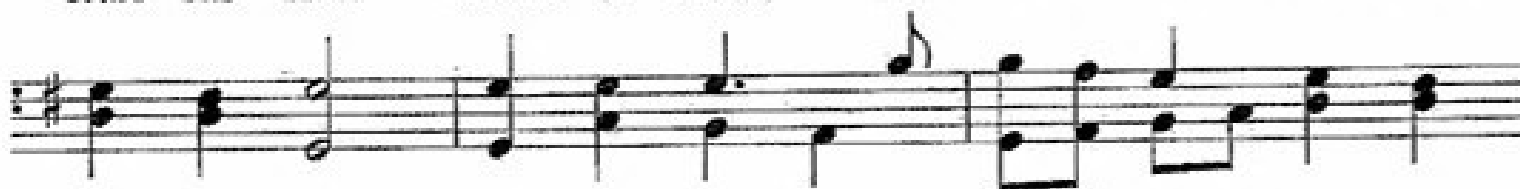
cross, and ex - change it some-day for a crown.
old rug - ged cross,



1 Guide me, O my great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, where the heal - ing
 3 When I reach the Riv - er Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land; I am weak, but you are might - y;
 wa - ters flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,



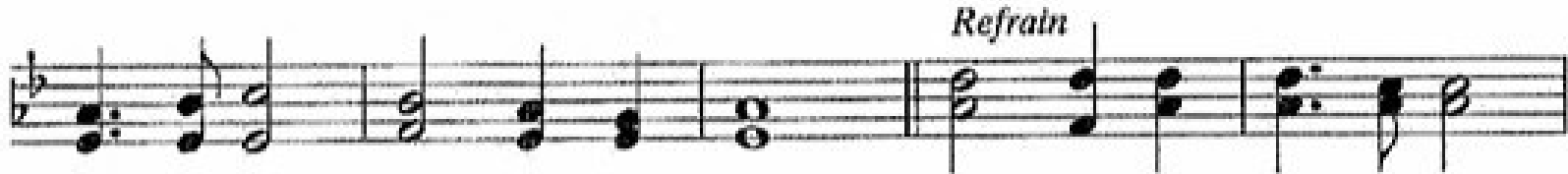
hold me with your power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 land me safe on heav - en's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



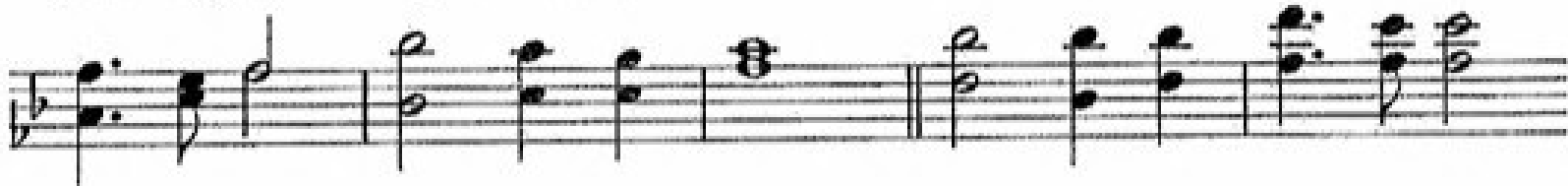
feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.
 ev - er be my strength and shield, ev - er be my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er sing to you, I will ev - er sing to you.



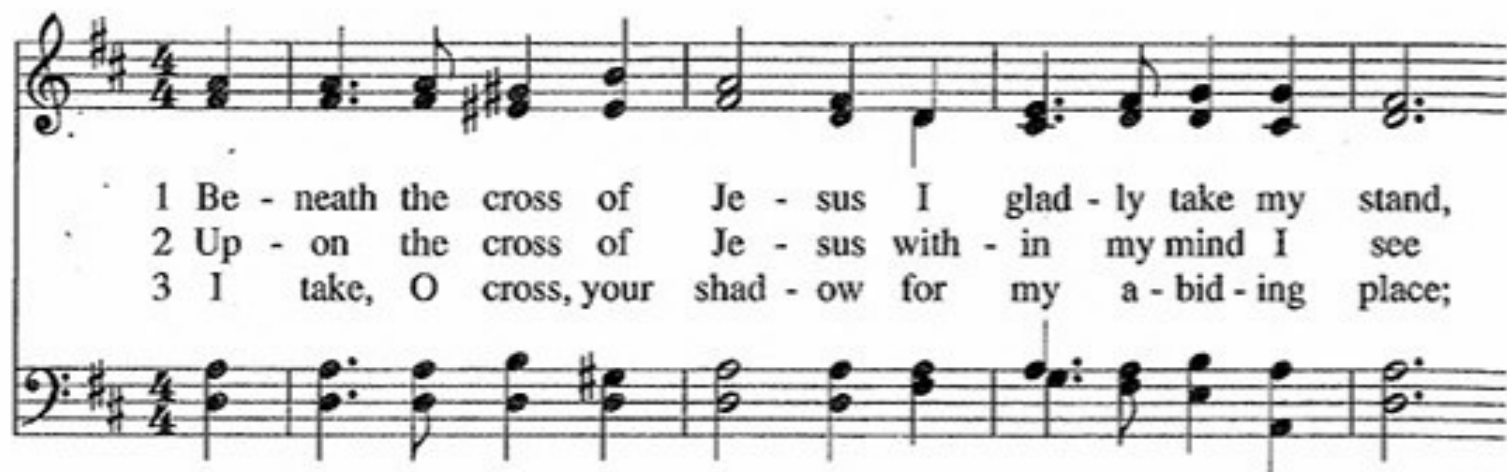
1 More love to you, O Christ, more love to you! Hear now the
 2 Once earth-ly joy I craved, sought peace and rest; Now you a -
 3 Then shall my lat - est breath whis - per your praise; This be the



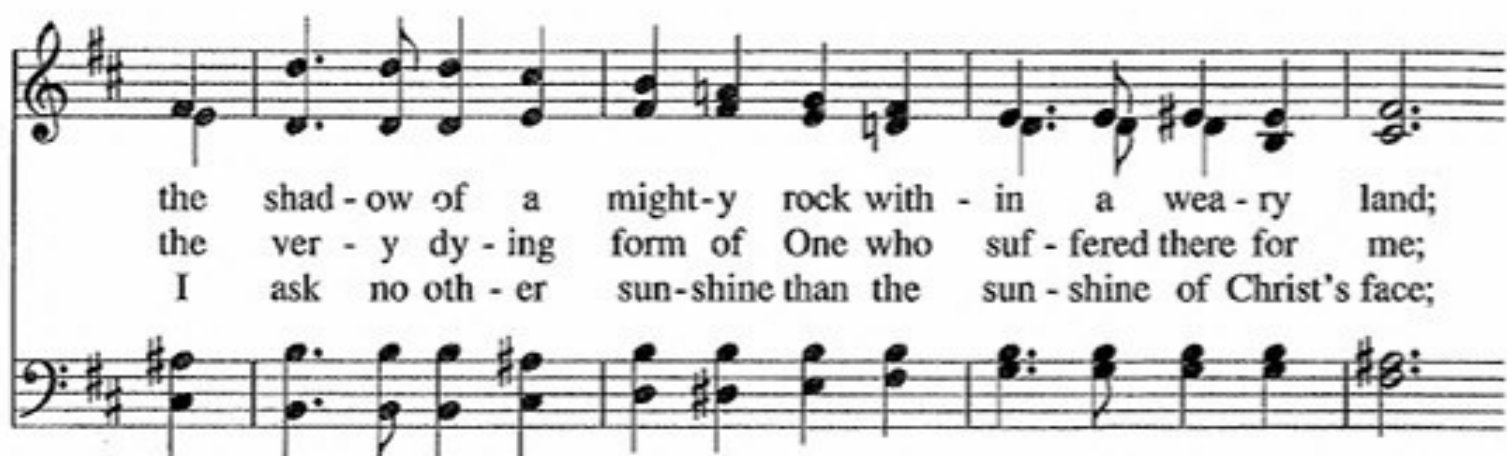
prayer I make faith to re - new.
 lone I seek, give what is best: In all I say and do,
 part - ing cry my heart shall raise:



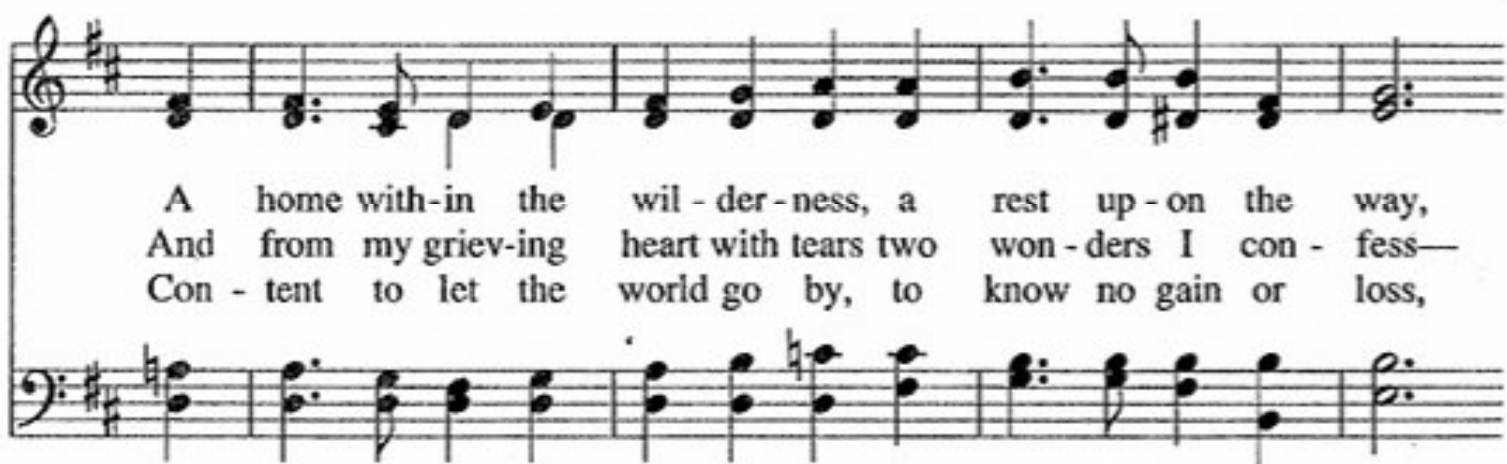
more love, O Christ, to you, more love to you, more love to you!



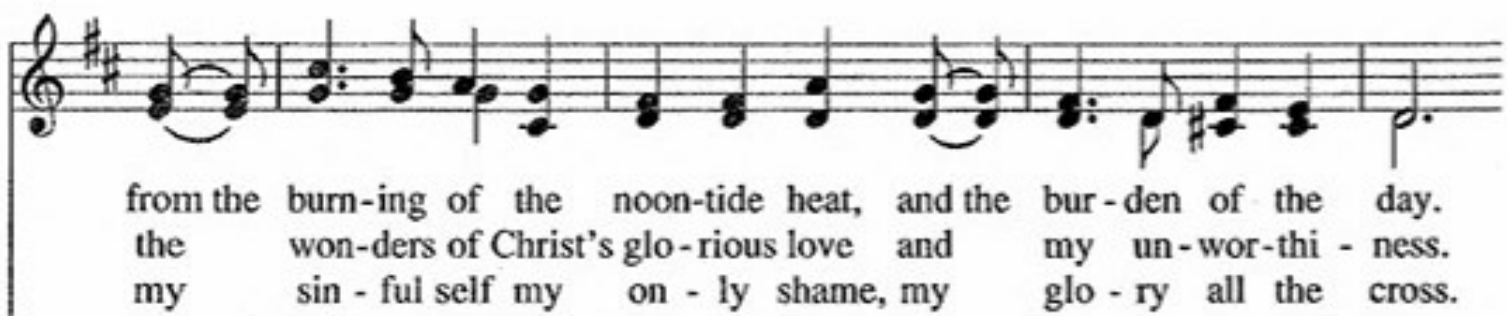
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I glad - ly take my stand,
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus with - in my mind I see
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land;
 the ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - fered there for me;
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of Christ's face;



A home with - in the wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 And from my griev - ing heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess—
 Con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day.
 the won - ders of Christ's glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all the cross.

In Our Prayers

Please remember in your prayers: Rev. Allison Milligan, Karen Taylor, Judy Williams, Maranda Rabenold, Randy Tackett, Sandy Fitzhugh Wagner, Rob Harrison, Zach Wilson, Jinny Young, Eileen Kusar, Tony Schommer, Pat Yarbrough, Kris Tetrick, Rev. Frank Walford, Clayton Warner, Kathy Kline, Rory Luoma

Please keep our service members in prayer: Robert “Nick” Grandy, and all our service members in the military.

~~~~~ Calendar Notes ~~~~~

Sun. March 23rd: 11 AM—Worship

Tues. March 25th: 10 AM—Bible Study

5:30 PM—Yoga

Thurs. March 27th: 5:30 PM—Yoga

Sat. March 29th: 9:30 AM—Yoga

Sun. March 30th: 11 AM—Worship

**First United Church of Christ
Austinburg, Ohio
March 23rd, 2025**

Rev. Bill Terry, Pastor

Musician: Cindi Luoma

Choir Director: Bridget Sherman

Stewardship: Our financial needs for the Church remain. Please mail in your offerings to P.O. Box 253, Austinburg OH 44010. You also can sign-up for online giving at app.easytithe.com/App/Giving/austinburgucc or *sign up via our website.*

Please maintain your stewardship so we can continue to reach out in Christ's name. Thank you!

~ ~ ~

Previous Sunday's attendance: 26

Total Online Attendance for the February 23th service is 30

Rev. William Terry ~ (440) 335-4031 ~ gintex4@twc.com

Check out our church website at austinburgfirstucc.org

Visit our Facebook page at

facebook.com/AustinburgFirstUCC

or email austinburgucc@windstream.net

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Thurs, and Friday : 8 am—11 am

Announcements

Welcome to First UCC-Austinburg. No matter who you are, or where you are in life, you are welcome here. We welcome all ages, races, genders and orientations – because we welcome all who love the Lord with no exceptions. Please keep spreading the word we have something to share.

Prayers for the Church: Please submit any prayer requests directly to Pastor Bill. He will lift you in prayer each day and share with the Church Council and our Prayer Chain.

Counseling and Conversation: As always, you can call Pastor Bill directly at (440)335-4031.

Red Wagon Donations for the Geneva Food Pantry for March : We are collecting toilet paper

Donations for the Blessing Box can go directly into the Box by our back door. Personal toiletries and feminine Hygiene products are always needed.

Bible Study: We are studying the Book of John. Due to Construction, Bible Study will be in Fellowship Hall. Tuesdays at 10 am.

Yoga with Shanti Yoga Love: Yoga expert Leah from "Shanti Yoga Love" is now offering classes in the Upper Annex Classes are Tues.at 5:30 pm and 6 pm.

She will also be here on Saturday Mornings at 9 am. There is a nominal fee for each class. \$15 for a single session/ \$8 if one becomes a regular.

Flowers on the Alter: These flowers are representing of Mary Ann Wilms's 80th Birthday. Happy Birthday Mary Ann!

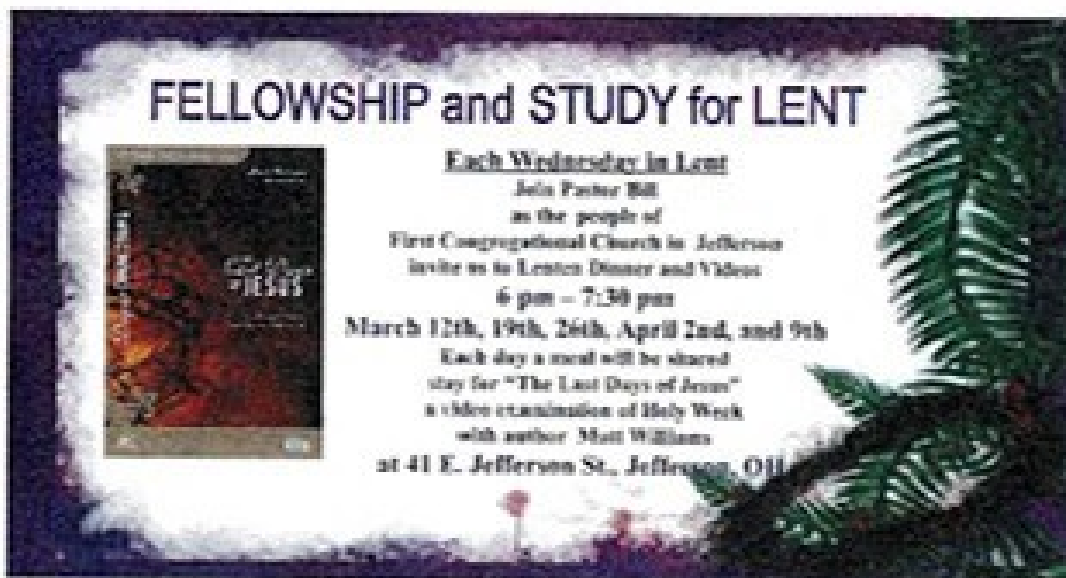
Confirmation Organizing Meeting Today -All interested parents and high school age youth should meet with Kanda O'Dell and Pastor Bill following the service today.

Custodian Help Needed— Our Custodian Dwaine Keller will be on medical leave starting on April 23rd. See next page for more details on what help is needed during this time.

Announcements

Spring Clean-up Day April 12th—The Administration Board invites all available helpers to come Saturday April 12th to clean up the church and parsonage yards. Come dressed for the weather and the work beginning at 9 am. **Volunteers Needed!** - The Administration board is looking for some volunteers to cover for Dwaine from April 23rd to June 23rd while he is on leave recovering from surgery. Job Duties are as follows and can be shared Between volunteers: Vacuuming/Sweeping, taking out trash. If interested please contact Bob Thayer at 440-391-7213

**** This Week ****



FELLOWSHIP and STUDY for LENT

Each Wednesday in Lent
Julia Foster Hill
as the people of
First Congregational Church in Jefferson
invite us to Lenten Dinner and Videos
6 pm - 7:30 pm
March 12th, 19th, 26th, April 2nd, and 9th
Each day a meal will be shared
stay for "The Last Days of Jesus"
a video examination of Holy Week
with author Matt Williams
at 41 E. Jefferson St., Jefferson, OH



*Thank you to everyone who
cooked the dinner for the Free
Community Dinner, to those
who helped served, and to those
who cleaned up we thank you for
your help and service for this
event as always.*

