



Pictures That Are Works of Art

As a pastor, I am privileged to speak with families as they face critical decisions regarding medical care and end of life issues. These are some of the most sacred times in which I am honored to share with members of my congregation. This is hallowed ground and is set apart from any other component of pastoral care.

One day, I went to the hospital to visit someone in the Intensive Care Unit. Questions surrounding how to proceed with medical needs were at the forefront of the conversation. At the heart of my visitation, I heard stories of family connections, and past hurts, and past successes. What came out of his narrative was a picture of a man who struggled to make something of his life, even amid great adversity. It is an incredible portrait.

I left the room, only to catch another glimpse of another place. I saw the dedication of a medical team working to save someone's life. At least five or six people, medical professionals, were giving the best that they had at that moment to make a difference. Here was a beautiful picture detailing the importance of one life. This person mattered.

One of the most breathtaking paintings that I saw that day was something that usually would go unnoticed. In one of the other rooms, there was an elderly man that was heavily sedated. His middle-aged son was rubbing a salve on his lips because they were dry. I wanted to enter the room and tell the man that I hope someone will be that kind and understanding to me if I ever wind up in that situation. I wanted to say to him a million things about his kindness and how it moved me. I said nothing, knowing that he was serving the elderly man out of absolute love and devotion. While he was not aware that anyone saw what he was doing, it was witnessed.

These pictures that I was honored to see are masterpieces, all teaching me that the power of God is a glorious work of art. Love makes its broadest strokes in the hearts and minds of those who serve humanity. It paints with bold colors, inviting the miraculous to witness our connection to and with the Divine and with the community.

Today, I am blessed and grateful to be able to witness these beautiful works of art. How profound, how staggering, how amazing are your works, oh Lord. This is the God that we serve. This amazing One, who leads us in the way of passion and hope.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Joe



Acolytes:

February 2th: Alec Actkinson, Cooper Nichols, and Madison Osborn

February 9th: Zeke Kasel, Katy Mahaney, and Charley Oberney

February 16th: Elizabeth Mahaney, Lane Terry, and Maryn Terry

February 23rd: Rory Pomper, Brody White, and Caeleb MacDonald

Head Usher for February : **Rob Pomper**

Our Lenten Journey

Later this month, we will begin the season in our church which as known as Lent. During this time of preparation for Easter, we will celebrate and give thanks for the journey that calls us onward and upward. It is a journey that we all share together.

I invite you to take this journey with a sense of purpose. Let us remember that the God of our understanding will guide our hearts as we remember the redemptive moments in our lives.

I invite you to join with one another and study the passages that are listed in the back of the bulletin each week. Let the scripture guide you in discussion and lead you forward. Take the journey in scripture together. Remember, the season of Lent is not so much about what we give up, but about what we add to our lives. Let us pray together, study together, and give thanks together.

Lent is forty days, which precedes Easter. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan. This period of forty days has initially been a time of preparation for those being baptized at Easter. Later, it would become a time of repentance for all Christians. Hence, Christians often fast or give up various things during Lent to remind themselves of Christ's sacrifice and to overcome destructive habits



February 02 Mitch & Kathy Terry

February 09 Zeb & Jade Holt

February 16 Mike & Peggy Goettsch

February 23 Leon & Dandalee Langford

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.

The liturgical color for the season is purple. Ash Wednesday is derived from the imposition of ashes as a Christian act of penance. This practice was familiar to the ancient Hebrews and in the New Testament, as the

ashes remind us of our own mortality and set the believer on a sobering time of self-examination and repentance. We begin Lent by observing

Ash Wednesday on

February 26, at 6:00 p.m.

Peace to you and yours,

Pastor Joe



February 15th Rodney and Brenda Wren



February 2nd Ander Pomper

February 3rd Kellie Anderson

February 4th Troy Christian

February 9th Steve Jones

February 15th Rebecca Pomper

February 15th Boyd White

February 18th Tristan Oborny

February 19th Melody Hettinga

February 20th Caleb Christian

February 25th Josh Hettinga

February 28th Robin Howard

Wouldn't you like to help children learn about God, grow up knowing Jesus, and become loving, strong, and good people? Help send them to church camp!!

SPONSORS ARE NEEDED!!!!

King's Kids Camp (entering grades 2-4)

June 12-14

Promise Seekers Camp (entering grades 4-6)

July 6-10

SYC (entering grades 7-12)

June 15-19

Music on the Mountain

(Music Camp) entering grades 7- 12)

July 5-10

Horse Camp

Grades 4-6

June 1-5

Girls Elementary Horse Camp

July 20-24

Youth (Grade 7-12)

Horse Camp

June 22-26



Discipleship Opportunity: Missionaries for a Day

Monday, February 24th is our chance to serve the homeless, transients and others in need at the Lighthouse Mission in Clovis. Please let Diane Actkinson know if you can help and plan to meet at 12:30 CST to help prepare, serve the food, and to show Christ's Love.



We have a website! Visit www.hamlinmemorialumc.org. It is a work in progress, so please be patient. If you have any pictures to contribute please send them to Cazandra at cazmac9910@gmail.com or text to 575-405-0768.