

A Letter from the President of the Bishops

To the Faithful Disciples of Jesus Christ who are the People of the United Methodist Church,

I read James 5: 13-16 (side bar) on our Day of Prayer, in St. Louis. I then reflected on these words with the Council of Bishops on the day after the Special Session of the General Conference, and I share them with you. In a time of division and challenge, with “fightings and fears, within, without”, we are in need of healing. The healing ministry of Jesus takes pain and suffering seriously. The scripture calls for the elders of the church to pray and anoint. In the ancient spiritual traditions, anointing is about setting apart and healing, receiving power and gaining courage.

Every church I have known in my life has had spiritual elders, mature spiritual leaders who care for the body that is the people God has called together in a place. I pray in this moment for mature spiritual leadership among the clergy and laity of our global church. I pray that we will move toward the pain and grief, and especially among our members in the LGBTQ community.

James does not call us to identify the sins of one another. He calls us to confess our sins to one another, and to pray for one another, so that we may be healed. Our mutual prayer and confession is for a larger purpose: our healing. And our healing is for an even greater purpose: that we might be “repairers of the breach” (Isaiah 58:12).

Through the power of the cross and the flame of the Holy Spirit, God demonstrates his love for all. May we be a means of grace to one another in these days.

The Peace of the Lord,

Bishop Ken Carter

President, Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church

This Issue

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- Youth Mission Trip
- The Gospel of Nobodies
- Welcome Back, Eldon!

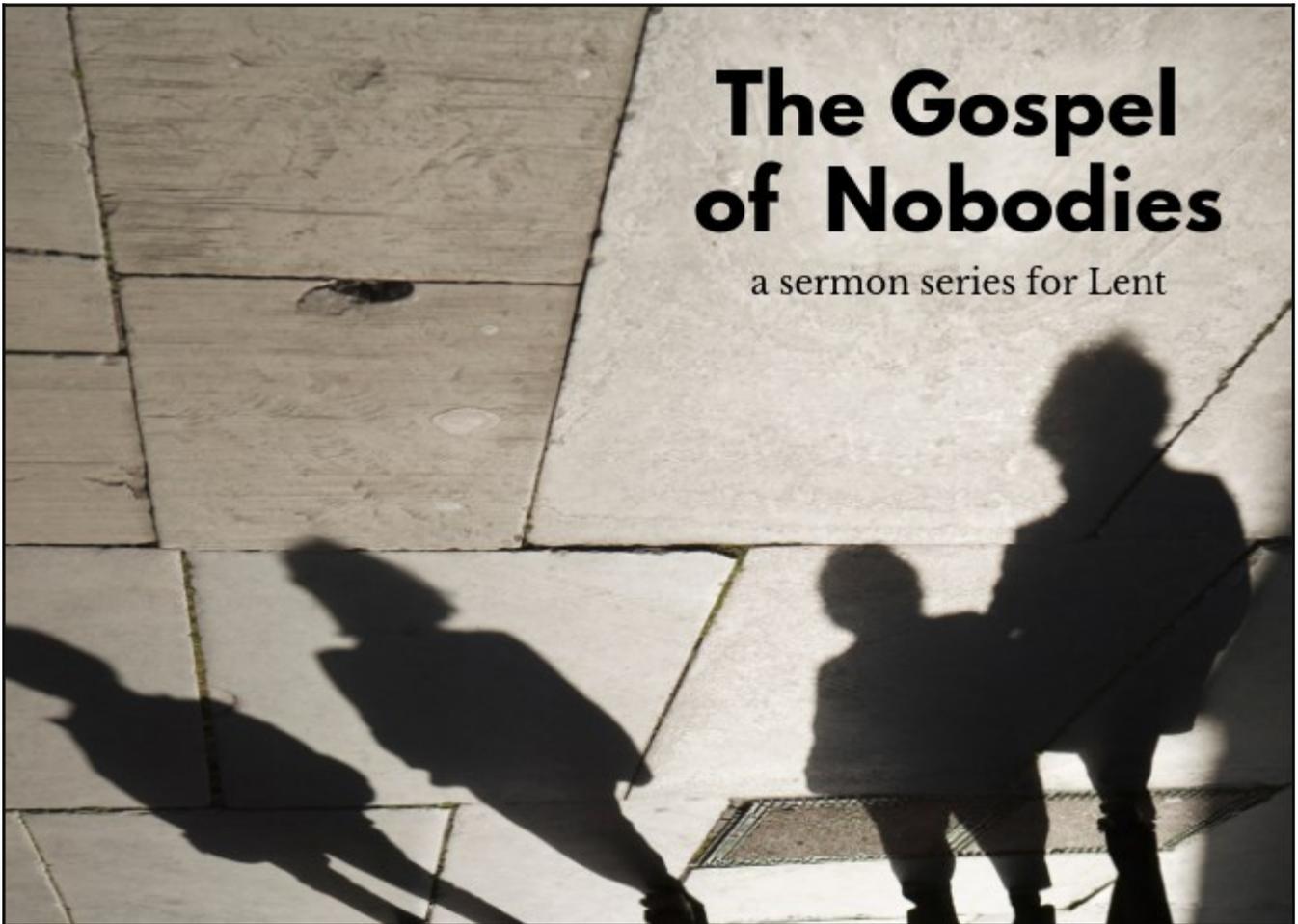
“Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise.”¹⁴ Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.

¹⁵ The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.”

- James 5:13-16

The Gospel of Nobodies

a sermon series for Lent



9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship

Most of us have at some point felt like a nobody – insignificant, invisible, worthless. The Gospel of Luke is a first century portrait of Jesus with a particular focus on his ministry with those who were considered nobodies. For Lent, join us as we read through the Gospel of Luke together. Each week, we'll turn our attention to specific stories that illustrate Jesus' concern for those who were marginalized by society, and as we do, we'll hear his word for our lives today.

March 3: *Peace: Forgiving Others* | **Genesis 50: 15-21**

March 10: *The Night Shift Worker* | **Luke 1: 46-48, 2:8-12**

March 17: *The Disabled and Sick* | **Luke 5: 12-15**

March 24: *The Demon-Possessed* | **Luke 8: 26-39**

March 31: *Prostitutes and Prodigals* | **Luke 7:36-38**

**Average Presence in
Worship for February:**

67

**Total Offerings
in February:**

\$15,332.24

**YTD Receipts vs.
Expenses:**

\$2,707.45

Upcoming Events

- 4th: **Grief Support**
1 PM
- 5th: **Pancake Supper**
5 PM
- 6th: **Ash Wednesday
Worship Service**
2 PM & 7 PM
- 9th: **UMM Meeting**
9 AM
- 11th: **Threadbenders**
7 PM
- 14th: **UMW Meeting**
10 AM
- 17th: **Ministry (Church)
Council**
11:30 AM
- 23rd: **Spaghetti Dinner**
5 PM
- 25th: **Threadbenders**
7 PM
- 30th: **Plant Give Away**
10 AM—12 PM

Chair Yoga

Wednesdays at 10 AM

Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1 PM

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday at 11:30 AM

- 3/6: **Catfish Sam's**
3/13: **Mr. B's Burgers**
3/20: **UMW Luncheon**
3/27: **China Harbor**

Pancake Supper

Join us for a delicious dinner
before we begin the season
of Lent.

Tuesday, March 5th
5 PM



Ash Wednesday

Join us as we begin Lent, a 40 day
period of reflection and penance
through worship together.

Worship services will be held at
2 PM & 7 PM



2019 Special Session General Conference

If you'd like to have conversation around the wider UMC, join
Pastor Molly on **Sunday, March 17** for the first part of
Ministry Council following worship. Much is hard to assess
until the Judicial Council meets, but we will discuss who we
want to be as Church of the Good Shepherd.

Jack and Beryl Wolfe Scholarship Fund

This fund was created through a generous donation aimed to
support students who are furthering their studies. If you know of a
student who is interested in applying, please have them contact
the church office to obtain an application. The deadline to apply
is May 6 and we hope to present the award in worship on May
19. Thank you to all who made this opportunity possible!

CTCYM Youth Mission Trip

June 16—22

We will be sending a group of at least 12 people on a youth mission trip this summer from June 16-22. We will be travelling to the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coast doing relief work after Hurricane Harvey. If you know someone finishing grades 6—12 or are an adult who would like to accompany us, please contact Pastor Molly. **Registration Deadline: March 5***

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Saturday, March 23

5 PM

\$10

*tickets will be sold in the Narthex or at the door.



Plant Give Away

Saturday, March 30
10 AM—12 PM

We will be collecting and giving plants to our neighbors. Please consider how you might donate your time, plants, or prayers.



Welcome Back, Eldon!

We are thrilled to announce that Pastor Eldon Reynolds will be in our midst again. The Bishop has appointed him 1/4 time as our Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care. Eldon will make visits to sick and homebound members, as well as coordinate many of our pastoral care efforts like the prayer chain. He will be in worship on occasion but don't hesitate to reach out and welcome him (and Kay!) back.

Contact Us

Church of the
Good Shepherd

2020 S. Collins St.
Arlington, TX 76010
817-275-1033

Website:

www.cogsumc.org

or find us on **Facebook**

@cogsumc

Easter Choir

Would you like to share your gift of singing for our worship service on Easter? Please contact Sandy Perdue for ways you might join choir for a short time to help celebrate the risen Christ this season!