

You cannot believe what a difference it means to me that people are in front of me on a Sunday morning. I need to see eyes and responses and can therefore gage my message from the posture and response. Price plays soft music in the background for the Prayers of the People and camera and sound are better now.

We began Lent with the Ash Wednesday 'Ash and Dash' and some 19 came by and of the 19, five were from our local church. I missed one person as I had to take off to pick up Jack from out-patient surgery that ended sooner than expected.

Thank you Hope: Hope managed to find and put the seasonal color up. Thank you Pat Fenton: seems we received a good response for **One Great Hour of Sharing**.

The day after Ash Wednesday was Thursday and Diane Porrett's funeral. The church was full and a good number were from our local church. Glen, Jen, and Justine and their families were happy with the support, the funeral itself, and with the number that made the drive to the cemetery prior to the luncheon.

Small Groups are important these days for church growth. Hopefully, some will form besides those that are in other states. Our **over 90** folks are their own group and they do keep in touch with each other, checking in on one another weekly.

Lucia puts herself in that 90+ group as she will reach the 90 in August. When I spoke with her since her down the Mississippi trip, and then heart surgery somewhere in Louisiana, she sounded fine. She gets tired easily and won't be doing any driving for at least 6 months - actually at first I heard 6 weeks. She has someone with her all the time, someone from an agency is there in the daytime prior to when her daughter gets home from work. She is not to be alone.

Joyce Townsend has 'something' going on; they are not sure of what but they have changed her meds and as of Wednesday a.m. was still in the Hospital (McLaren). She is confused and has weakness on one side of her body, does not like being in the hospital and she too, once she gets home will have round the clock observation and PT and OT and Social Worker stopping by during the week. Joyce was taken to ER on Saturday the 19th and has never been put into a regular room.

When I visited with **Henry** Schroeder I realized that his hearing aids no longer work for him so his world is getting very small and his response is to sleep. Daughters, Hope and Julie do what they can and both are very patient with his impatience. Hearing loss shuts the door of life in many aspects. Our MediLodge folks received Ashes and are as well as can be expected.

Our building was used for a Surprise Party for Ray Trombley who looked so pleased and humbled by those that participated. Price dropped by to play piano for a time and was there for the 'HAPPY BIRTHDAY' singing and 'For He's A Jolly Good Fellow.' Nice touch. Glen opened the building. When someone forgot to close the door on the elevator we [Jack and I] were there to get it going again.

Continuing Education is important and of late I took in the Conflict Transformation offered by our Conference and another that featured James Alison, a Theologian speaking on the Gospel of Luke and Scapegoating.[*Ketanji Brown* is an example of scapegoating] Both opportunities were avenues of growth.

As has been for the last three years we will once again have **Noon at Beebe Park Pavilion on Good Friday**. First United Methodist, Trinity Lutheran, and First UCC lead the worship and all are invited not just folks from the three churches. Prayer and Song are brief but enough to remember the importance of Good Friday. Maundy Thursday will be at 7 p.m. and Easter Sunday at 10:00. Our April Newsletter will invite folks to bring Easter plants for Easter Morning Worship and then take them home after worship.

The piano in church was tuned on March 1, prior to Diane Porrett's funeral. Steve Furtaw had a great suggestion for Price about the church organ, so all is well and the organ can be played. Palms have been ordered for Palm Sunday when we will read the Passion. Hard to believe it is already a month since Diane died.

Respectfully submitted,
KatieD+ Pastor 3/23/2022 for 3/24/2022

Our new Conference Minister is Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel. There were 3 Meet and Greet opportunities. Personally, I felt she was very open, has energy, and was very transparent.

Is it possible to put something in Macomb Daily or VOICE regarding Holy Week? Because some expressed it is impossible to make a Sunday in-person worship, I tried the Thursday evenings: nobody came. The walking at 6 p.m. will continue until Holy Week and then outdoors we go. There is little interest in walking in the church even with music. Maybe everyone goes over to the school behind us? Nothing ventured, nothing gained.