



The Carillon

March 2017

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Issue 3

Without a Vision and With a Vision

by Pastor Charles



One of the many truths I have discovered after years of pastoral work relates to the wisdom that can be discovered in reading the Bible. There are some passages I will never fully understand. (For example, Jesus said, "If they do this when the wood is green, what will they do when it is dry?" [Luke 23:31]) Still, there are verses rich with meaning. I have learned 5,000 years and more of thinking within the Judeo-Christian tradition usually produces more depth than I can conjure up from my five decades of intentional and specialized study. One verse illustrating this notion comes from Proverbs 29:18. Many memorized this famous quote from the King James translation as given below. The second point in the following section is the same text from Eugene Peterson's translation/paraphrase version, *The Message*.

Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

If people cannot see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves, but when they attend to what God reveals, they are most blessed.

Some mornings when my feet hit the floor, I pull myself into standing position, amble toward dressing, breakfast, and direct my attention toward whatever happens to be on my list for the day. I prefer times when my soul adopts another routine. Instead, it is exciting to awaken with energy, drive, and passion targeting my life like a beaming laser toward my calling. I have entered many days "stumbling all over myself", when it has been my personal mission to "attend to what God reveals."

Oftentimes, I passionately pursue good objectives. My desire is to be:

- ♦ A good husband, father, grandfather, and son,
- ♦ Skilled and dedicated to my profession,
- ♦ Excellent at my hobbies,
- ♦ A serious student in lifelong learning, and
- ♦ A sports enthusiast playing with finesse and accuracy.

I will, at times, lack passion toward something more essential: faith. It is not impossible that I am losing my balance because I miss neglect the ability to see what God is doing.

Here is a way I am working to improve my faith and life. Instead of bouncing from "pillar to post", I find it significant to ask: "How is God at work in this time and place?" "If [I] cannot see what God is doing..." is Peterson's way of approaching the question. A vision is more than a view into the future, and it is not only capturing lessons from the past. A vision or "seeing what God is doing" means awareness of the present. A wise pastor once told me, "There are people who entrench themselves in the past, and there are others who are solely focused on the future. If you are not living in the present, you are not living anywhere". God created the present for us to enjoy what God is doing today. Or, as Peterson completes this proverb: "when they attend to what God reveals, they are most blessed."

Here is another approach. If am constantly thinking about whatever is next (the next car, next congregation, next day, next vacation, or next anything), then I am ignoring what God is doing right now.

Recently, each person in our congregation repeatedly prayed, "Lord, what do you want to do through me at First United Methodist Church?" As I continually prayed this prayer, I found meaning in adding one word. This word prevents me from stumbling. This word provides impetus to attend to what God is revealing. Seeing what God is doing today requires vision. Now, I pray, "Lord what do you want to do through me **today** at First United Methodist Church."

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Church Foundation Announces Grant Program 2017

by Stephen Zink

The Fort Collins First United Methodist Church Foundation is pleased to announce that its annual Grant Program is about to begin. Since its founding in 1986, the Foundation has given a total of over \$318,000 in annual grant money to various church committees and other groups for programs, equipment and services that are not funded in the annual budget, the results of which are both visible within our church walls as well as reaching out to impact the world around us.

Grant Application Timeline:

March 1st Pick Up. Grant Applications made available in the church office. Applications will also be placed in committee mailboxes in the office.

March 31st Deadline. Completed Grant Applications must be returned to the church office, with the necessary signatures, and placed in the Foundation's mailbox.

April 26th Review. The Foundation Board will review all applications and determine this year's annual grant recipients.

May 2nd – May 4th Notifications. All who applied for a Foundation grant will be notified as to the final status of their application.

While the Foundation would like to fully fund all grant requests, generally the total amount requested for all grants far exceeds available funds. The Foundation Board will review each application and determine if the request should be fully funded, partially funded or not funded.

Each Grant Application requires signature approval. All specified signatures must be obtained prior to the application being submitted to the Foundation. Applications lacking the required approvals will not be considered for funding.

If you would like additional information regarding the Foundation Grant Program, or if you are interested in helping to grow the capabilities of the church Foundation by making a tax deductible contribution of some kind, please contact Stephen Zink, Foundation Vice President, at (970) 980-3037 or svzink42@gmail.com.

Lay Servant Ministries Spring Classes

by Cindi Ross-Bell

Lay Servant Ministries Spring classes will be held the weekend of April 1st – April 2nd at The Heart of Longmont (United Methodist Church). Three classes will be offered:

Basic Course is the class that offers a deeper understanding of spiritual gifts, servant leadership, leader's role, spiritual practices and core ministries.

"Discover Your Spiritual Gifts" will help in understanding spiritual gifts and how the church uses them to fulfill mission and ministry. *(This is a required course for any persons seeking Lay Speaker certification.)*

"Come to the Table" will deepen your experience and understanding of Holy Communion.

If you would like further information or a registration form, please contact Cindi Ross-Bell at (970) 226-3143 or falcor@frii.com

Changes in Staff

by Pastor Vivian, Executive Pastor



The Staff Parish Relations Committee is delighted to announce that a new Office Manager has been hired. **Elise Harkey** started on Monday, February 13th and was warmly welcomed by the church. Elise has a Bachelor of Musical Arts from the University of Oklahoma. She has worked as a Children's Ministry Director and as an Administrative Assistant for a church. Elise's skills, experience, education, and warm, professional presence will be a blessing to our church.

New Youth Director and Contemporary Worship Leader

An update from Pastor Vivian, Executive Pastor

Kate Orr and Daphne Bear, representing the Staff Parish Relations Committee, and Pastor Vivian have been working with representatives from the Youth Council (Heidi Priebe and Allison Straubing) for several months to hire a Youth Director. At the same time Mario Sosa, Megan Wieck, and Pastor Vivian have been working to hire a Contemporary Worship Leader.

The Youth Director team has reviewed several dozen of resumes, interviewed a dozen candidates, brought three candidates to the church for final interviews, and offered the position to three candidates. All three declined our offer of employment and, frankly, in hindsight it seems that we were blessed by this turn of events. The way each turned down our offer illuminated a facet of their character that allowed the team to see that they would not have been a good fit for the position after all.

After the last job offer was declined the team took some time to prayerfully reflect about their experience to date. They then changed the job description, wording of the advertising, and made revisions to the hiring process. New candidates have applied for the position, and the team has set up initial interviews with several of them.

The Contemporary Worship Leader hiring team received few resumes from qualified candidates. The only promising candidate was one of the candidates for Youth Director who turned down an offer of employment. However, new candidates have recently been identified, and the path forward is more promising.

This has been a long process and it is understandable that our youth and congregation have been discouraged at times. It is important that we encourage one another as the teams move forward. The teams are confident that God has been guiding this process and will bring it to conclusion in a way that will deeply bless our congregation.



Stumble or Stride?

by Pastor Vivian



It's that time again – the time when congregations and pastors in the United Methodist Church wait to see if the pastor will remain with them another year or be appointed to another church by the Bishop and her Cabinet.

This has been the United Methodist way of doing church for over 200 years, and for most of our history it worked well. But times have changed, and so has the United Methodist Church. The average tenure of a pastor in the Rocky Mountain Conference is now 8 years. As a result, the tension that arises from anticipated pastoral change is now much stronger within congregations as they await a possible announcement.

The tension of anticipation is present in our church now as it is possible that one, two, or all three pastors may be reappointed. United Methodist congregations, who share this cycle, have different ways of managing the tension. Some methods build up the church but, unfortunately, many common methods are both unhelpful and unpleasant, leading to a decline in attendance and giving, which weakens the church, making it harder for any future pastor to succeed.

In dealing with my own tension during these days of uncertainty, I found a passage from Eugene Peterson's rendering of the Bible encouraging. It is Proverbs 29:18. Peterson's rendering comes alive for me: "If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed."

When I read that in the context of uncertainty, I realize that God is already doing something good in this uncertain situation; I just can't see it. In my anxiety, I stumble all over myself and, sadly, sometimes over others. But I don't have to stumble; I can choose to stride into the future with confidence. My confidence is not in myself, the congregation, or even the Bishop.

My confidence is in God, who has led me through all the days of my life, and who continues to love me and lead me even now. If I turn my attention ("attend") to God, I will be blessed. It's not what I know, but Who I trust.

I invite you to trust God with me in the weeks and months to come. Let us attend to God together, and do our part to create a church culture of trust, and warmth, and blessing.

Blessings,

Pastor Vivian

Community and World Outreach

by Theresa Holbrook

If you are interested in joining a mission project to Pine Ridge Reservation this summer, or just in learning about the Pine Ridge Reservation please join us for an informational meeting on Wednesday March 8th at 6:30pm in the Gathering Room. For more information please contact Theresa Holbrook at 970-219-5960.





Snowshoeing, Anyone?

The mountains and lakes covered with snow are calling, and some of us must go snowshoeing this month to enjoy the beauty of winter while it lasts. If you are interested in a moderate level snowshoe excursion supported by FUMC friends along the way, contact Linn Zink for details – see below.

Senior Ministry March Calendar

Thursdays, 2 & 16

Okay Chorale, open singing group from 3 to 4 in the Village Commons – newcomers of all ages welcome – especially those with memory issues!

Friday, 10

Double Nickel Senior Lunch – 12:00 noon to 1:30 in Fellowship Hall, \$4
Guest speaker Deborah Artzer will share about her *Walk 4 Water* and her trip to Uganda in 2016 to provide a water well in a remote village.

Thursday, 16

Seniors volunteer at Larimer Food Bank, 9:00 to 11:00

Thursdays, 16 - 3rd

Thursday Lunch at Sri Thai, 950 Taft Hill at Elizabeth, begins at 11:30

Monday, 20

Movie from 1 to 3, *Big Short*, Cinema Room – free and all ages welcome!

For more information or to sign up for any of these activities, or the senior ministry email list, contact Linn Zink, Senior Council member, lczink@gmail or 970-689-3047.

United Methodist Women

It is time to get out your calendars and schedule the UMW retreats. **The Estes Spring Spiritual Retreat is April 21st through 23rd.** The application forms for Adults and the Youth are on the UMW bulletin board.

The Day Apart retreat is a one day away in Ft. Morgan and is always a very good time with our friends in Eastern Colorado. Get this in your appointment book, smart phone or that calendar on your wall for July 15th. Car pools will be available.

The Days for Girls project is going great. This is a wonderful project and we plan on sending our kits to Meru Africa with Rich Fisher. He has reported there are many that will need them and several

female missionaries will be there to explain their use. Rich explains he will not be going until next year as it is not safe for visitors at this time.

Come join us in Fellowship hall the 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings of each month from 9am to noon. Late comers are welcome.

Please join us for our United Methodist Women unit meeting on March 9. We will have lunch followed by a program about five regional missionaries in the world and the work and advocacy of UMW, fulfilling our purpose. All women are welcome to join us in the parlor at 11:30 AM.





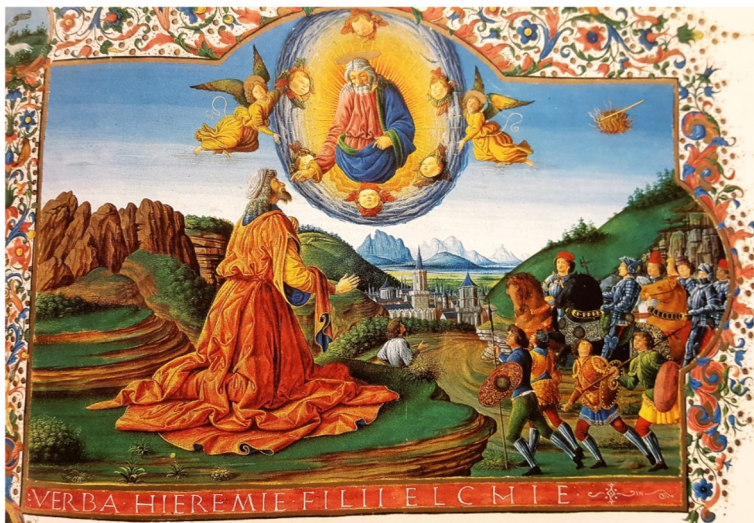
A beautiful new Bible now graces the Communion Table in our Sanctuary. *The Holy Bible with Illustrations from the Vatican Library* was published by Turner Publishing Inc. and Oxford University Press in 1995. It is bound in burgundy cloth and embossed with gold lettering.

The new Bible includes a color illustration at the start of each chapter and scores of smaller illustrations throughout. It is a New Revised Standard Version translation.

It was donated to the Northern Colorado Faith Library by Linda Carlson, the former curator of the Avenir Museum of Design and Merchandising of Colorado State and a member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Fort Collins. The gift was facilitated by Jim Reid, a board member of the Theologian in Residence Program.



Pastor Charles Murry recommended that the Bible be placed in the Sanctuary, where it is not only a part of worship services but also available for viewing after most services. It replaces a well-worn Bible with a broken binding. It is a New Revised Standard Version translation.



Adult Faith Formation by David Reid



Three new offerings will highlight the Wednesday evening Supper in the Spirit series for Lent. The short-term small groups run from 6-7 p.m. following a light supper in the Parlor at 5:30 p.m. The first session of each class is scheduled for Feb. 8.

The new small-group offerings are:

Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived it: This DVD-based study of Methodism's founder John Wesley traces his life in England and is narrated by Adam Hamilton. Wesley's message continues to call twenty-first century Christians to a life that can change the heart and the world. Facilitator is Cindi Ross-Bell.

Experience Christian Practices: Pastor Vivian Hiestand is coordinating this effort to try out a variety of Christian practices during Lent. Practices are likely to include centering prayer, walking the labyrinth, fasting and more.

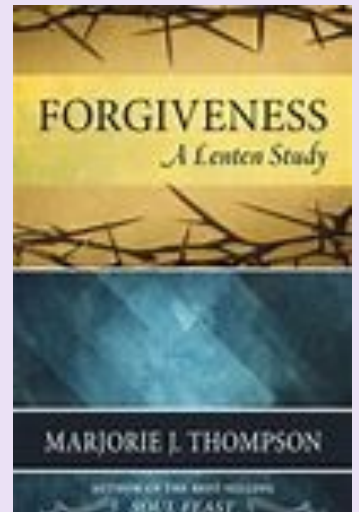
City of God: Faith in the Streets tells the story of what happened on Ash Wednesday 2012 when Sara Miles and her friends carried ashes out to the streets in a sacred ritual made new. Follow them to crowded dollar stores, beauty shops, hospital waiting rooms and fast-food joints. David Reid leads this book discussion, which will also be available at noon Wednesdays starting Feb. 8. Books are \$8.

FUMC clergy will lead a Lenten study at 11 a.m. each Sunday during Lent.

In **Forgiveness**, author Marjorie J. Thompson reminds us that forgiving others and asking for forgiveness are central disciplines for all Christian believers.

Thompson is the author of *Soul Feast*, which attracted a wide following when it was offered at FUMC several years ago. Currently with Upper Room Books, she spent more than a decade as director of Pathways in Congregational Spirituality with Upper Room Ministries.

The first class will be March 5. Books are available at the Adult Faith Formation table for \$9.



Adult Faith Formation - Richard Hagen Lecture Series



The first Richard Hagen Lecture will be given at 7 p.m. March 9 by Bryan J. Dik, associate professor and associate chair in the Department of Psychology at Colorado State University.

Dik's lecture is titled, "Callings in Work and Life."

The Hagen Lecture is funded by an endowment of the Adult Faith Formation Committee. It honors the late Richard Hagen, a member of FUMC and exemplar of lifelong learning. His family, friends and other individuals and classes at FUMC have raised \$14,000 toward an initial goal of \$20,000. There will be no admission charge but donations to the endowment fund are encouraged. Checks designated for the Hagen Lecture may be sent to the FCFUMC Foundation.

Children's Ministry Corner

by Lynette Szantho, Director of Children and Family Ministries

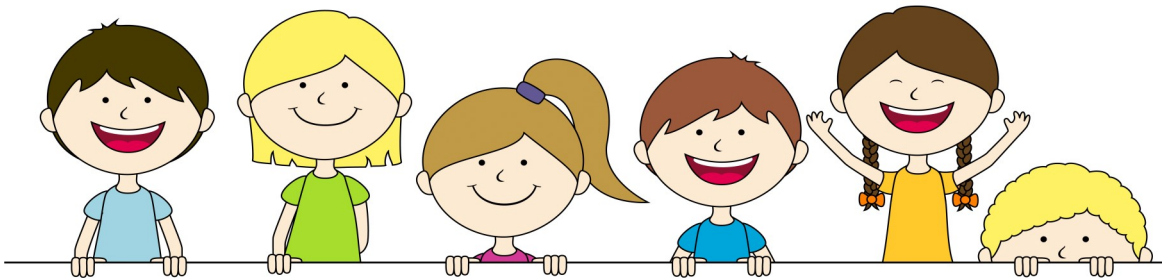


Spring is upon us and that means our Children's Ministry is buzzing with activity. Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

FUMC Annual Easter Egg Hunt: **Saturday, April 15th, 11:00 – 12:00**, rain or shine. To participate in the egg hunt, we ask that families donate 1 dozen filled plastic eggs to the church by Thursday, April 13th. Filled eggs can be dropped off in a large bin in the media center/Sunday School check-in desk. We need volunteers to hide eggs, act as greeters and usher kids through the event. Please join us for this favorite tradition! Anyone interested in helping out with the event is welcome to contact Jayme Harper at jaymeandcory@gmail.com.

Vacation Bible School! Can you see the signal in the sky?? Calling our amazing children to "HERO CENTRAL," the theme for Vacation Bible School this year. VBS dates are June 12-16, and will run 9 am to 12 pm as in years past. We are looking for some amazing individuals to show our kids what Super Heroes really look like--VOLUNTEER TEACHERS! Please contact Lynette Szantho (childrensdirector@fcfumc.net) if you are interested in teaching, and being part of the best week of the summer! Registration will open in early April.

Children and Family Council: Pssst. Don't tell the other committees, but... The Children and Family Council has more fun than any other committee at First United Methodist and we are always looking for fresh faces and new energy to join our group.! We plan engaging programming for the children and families of our church. As our children grow and change, our committee needs to grow and change as well. Our last meeting of the year is May 11th from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm in the Conference Room. Join us and weigh in on the future events at the church. We cannot make any of these plans happen without the thoughts and ideas of the members of FUMC. Contact Jayme Harper at jaymeandcory@gmail.com if you have any interest in learning more about this valuable volunteer opportunity.



Children's Ministries Opportunities

If you have a heart for children and would like to spend more time with our wonderful FUMC kids, please prayerfully consider plugging in to this ministry. A few available opportunities include:

Club 5.0 leader – this person will help lead our 5th grade Sunday school/youth program.

VBS volunteer (leader or co-leader, station leader, shepherd, registration assistant, decorating or snack committee).

Preschool and 4th grade Sunday school teacher – be a part of a rotation and lead the workshop once a month.

Prefer behind-the-scenes? We could use help refreshing worship bags and notebooks, and restocking our Sunday school supplies.

Into a New Era Announces Progress

by Stephen Zink and Mike Kholer



“I believe in this church and its future.”

That’s what supporters of First United Methodist Church have proclaimed through the commitment cards that have continued to come into the church office for the *Into a New Era* program.

Since Finance Committee Chair Dave Rubenthaler shared a progress report on January 22, commitments to the 2017-18 *Into a New Era* program have increased to 218 pledges totaling \$637,424. Thirty-six additional pledges for \$14,230 have been made to the Building TLC Fund. Those amounts, coupled with estimated non-commitment card giving, projects a total ministry support for 2017 of \$843,409.

Even better, a similar amount is already committed for 2018, a major goal of the two-year program. And we are only at the “end of the beginning” of the program.

Some *Into a New Era* progress that we can all celebrate:

Per capita giving by congregation members who pledge each year is up by nearly 12.5%.

Projected income for 2017 is on track for year-to-year growth.

Thanks to 2-year commitments, we are getting a jump-start on 2018 giving.

This spring, consulting pastor Zip Long will be on hand to help us continue our progress. Watch for more details on his visit to FUMC in the April *Carillon*.

Along with our pastors and staff, the whole *Into a New Era* team of congregation members is grateful for the tremendous support of our church through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. We ask that you continue to pray this prayer daily: *Lord, what do you want to do through me at First United Methodist Church?*

Intentional Giving - One Man’s Perspective

By Matt Putman



Money. It can be a “False God”, the “root of all evil”, or it can “make the world go around.” We hear about it in many ways, but a positive way to make an impact is to give it intentionally. As faithful members of this church family and community, we have a duty to give. There are many ways to give (give up a cup of coffee each week and donate that money, use a dollar progressive giving plan, and others). The point is, we have a call to give of our own accord. Please join me in supporting the many aspects of our church ministry through intentional giving. Whether it is supporting our Outreach Ministries, our Worship Services, the cost of utilities and supplies, or our many other ministries like Scouting, our weekly/monthly giving on a regular basis is essential to the health of our congregation.

The point is, we must give. The time is now. Please Join me.

From Our Lay Leaders

by Margaret Hotze, RMC Co-Lay Leader

PRAYING OUR WAY FORWARD



We are One in Christ

UMCprays.org • A UMC Prayer Community

The “Commission on the Way Forward” was established at the United Methodist Church General Conference last May. The Commission consists of 32 United Methodists from nine countries and is charged with bridging divisions in our church around the issues of homosexuality and sexual orientation. All United Methodists are now asked to be part of “Praying Our Way Forward,” a means of asking for God’s guidance and help so that the UMC can remain united, diverse, and respectful of the theological differences that exist in the church regarding human sexuality.

Individuals are invited to join this

initiative by praying daily and fasting weekly for our church, our mission, and our future. In addition, each Annual Conference has been asked to take one week of intentional prayer. Our week for Rocky Mountain Conference is March 12-19, 2017. Each of us is encouraged to pray for the Commission and for our church at least five minutes a day for that week. Please mark this on your calendars and set aside time for prayer for the unity of our church. Our church has established a tremendous presence around the world with mission work, education, medical work, such as the “Imagine No Malaria” campaign, and the United

Methodist Committee on Relief. We want this work to continue. Sunday School classes and other groups are encouraged plan ways to encourage prayers for “A Way Forward.” Resources for prayer may be found at <http://umcprays.org/>. You can sign up to receive emails from UMC Prays to help you in your praying. To pray for individual members of the A Way Forward Commission, go to <http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/council-of-bishops-names-32-commission-members>. Thank you for participating in this work of prayer to support our United Methodist Church during this challenging time.

The Hidden Gift

Our Advent Devotional last year called prayer “The Hidden Gift.” Did you know that there has been an Intercessory Prayer Chain at FUMC for about 30 years? This is an online group that receives prayer requests from the yellow prayer cards available in the sanctuary, from individuals who contact Pastor Cynthia or members of the Prayer Chain for prayer, and from our church website. There is also a small group which meets for fellowship and Intercessory Prayer on Tuesday mornings. If you have prayer requests, please let us know through any of the above methods, or call the Prayer Chain Coordinator, Margaret Hotze, at 970 420 4283. If you are interested in an Intercessory Prayer Group, please contact Pastor Cynthia at church. We are all called to unwrap this gift of prayer!

Sanctuary Choir Spring Retreat

March 2—5

The Sanctuary Choir will have a spring retreat to prepare special music for the Lenten and Easter seasons on:

Thursday, March 2 from 7—9 PM

Friday, March 3 from 7—9 PM

Saturday, March 4 from 9 AM—Noon

Our guest clinician will be Richard Byrd, a graduate of Birmingham Southern College with degrees in both choral music and organ performance. We will welcome Richard to our 9:30 and 11:00 AM services on March 5 as our guest organist.





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We remember with sympathy the families of ...

January 11 - Frances Williams

January 17 – Carl Duncan

January 19 – Jack Richardson

January 22 – Betty Niewald

January 31 – Ella Maye Bickel

February 4 – Sue Clancy

**Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, March 1, 2017
12:00 Noon & 7:00 PM
Chapel**



Please join us for our Ash Wednesday service in the Chapel at 12 Noon or 7:00 PM on the first day of Lent, March 1. This will be a contemplative service very similar to our Sunday evening service, *Pause*, but with a brief sermon. This service will include music, silence, meditation and the imposition of ashes for those who desire to participate in this practice.