

STULL COMMUNITY of FAITH

1596 E 250 Rd, Lecompton, Ks 66050

April 2025 – Newsletter

Dear Stull Community of Faith Family,
Finding Renewal in Lent

When I was a child, I remember looking at the smudged cross of ashes on foreheads and wondering why we would begin a spiritual journey by reminding ourselves that we are dust. Now, as we are nearly midway through the Lenten season once again, I understand this paradox more deeply—our acknowledgment of human frailty becomes the very doorway to divine strength.

Lent invites us into a 40-day journey that mirrors Jesus' time in the wilderness. As Matthew 4:1-2 tells us: "The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness so that the devil might tempt him. After Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights, he was starving." This season calls us to our own wilderness—a place of stripping away distractions and confronting what truly lives in our hearts.

The beauty of Lent lies not in what we give up, but in what we make room for. Isaiah 58:6-7 reminds us of the fast that God truly desires: "Isn't this the fast I choose: releasing wicked restraints, untying the ropes of a yoke, setting free the mistreated, and breaking every yoke? Isn't it sharing your bread with the hungry and bringing the homeless poor into your house?"

As we journey through the next 30 days, as Lent ends on Thursday, April 17, 2025 (Holy or Maundy Thursday), I invite you to consider how your Lenten practices might create space for God's transforming work. Your journey involves:

- Setting aside 15 minutes each day for prayer and scripture reading
- Fasting from something that consumes too much of your attention
- Adding a practice of generosity or service to your weekly routine

Remember that Lent isn't about perfection—it's about direction. Each time we falter in our commitments, we're reminded of our need for grace, which is precisely the point. The apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:20-21: "So we are ambassadors who represent Christ. God is negotiating with you through us. We beg you as Christ's representatives, 'Be reconciled to God!' God caused the one who didn't know sin to be sin for our sake so that through him we could become the righteousness of God."

Reconciliation stands at the heart of this season—the mending of what's broken between us and God, between us and others, between us and creation, even between the fragmented parts of ourselves. Each prayer, each act of generosity, each moment of honest self-examination becomes a step on the path back home.

While Lent involves personal reflection, we don't walk this road alone. I encourage you to share your journey with a prayer partner; each provides space where we can be honest about our struggles and celebrations. The wilderness feels less daunting when we journey together.

As we move toward Holy Week and Easter, let's remember that the ashes on our foreheads trace the shape of the cross—the very symbol of how God transforms death into life, despair into hope, endings into beginnings.

May this Lenten season be a time when you discover, to your surprise, that in the very places where you feel most empty, God is already at work, preparing something new.

Grace and peace for the journey,

Pastor Kyle

Pastor Kyle has established standing office hours in his office in the Faith and Friendship Center on Wednesdays from 10:30-1:30ish. He is also available to meet people at any time as needed' just give him a call.

Pastor Kyle will host a grief study program beginning in late April after Easter. Check back for details.

You can watch our 11am Sunday worship services on YouTube on Sunday evenings of each week. Visit www.stullcoff.com, click on multi-media tab in the menu across the top third of the page, click on You Tube on the left side of that page; you will be taken to each week's service.

UPDATE: A check was presented to the Peter Vincent family for \$4200 from our 22nd annual Valentine's benefit dinner and donations.

We completed 17 Blankets of Blessing this month to be shared with community members, hospice patients, and Life House Child Advocacy Center.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Everything we have doesn't just *come from* God. It belongs to Him. As stewards, we are called to be God's financial advisors and investors. He entrusts us with His money, and we choose how it will be used and invested. Be thankful for the blessings we receive. Please give your tithes and offerings as a sign of your appreciation for the Lord and his work. We have several options available for giving, along with the collection plates on Sundays during worship. If you have any questions, just talk with Jane or Mary.

WIPE OUT!! The Community Cupboard & Clothes Closet certainly appreciates all of the paper products that have been donated. We are glad that we can continue to offer toilet paper, paper towels and Kleenex to our patrons, things that are not available in many of the local food pantries.

We will be having a **chili cook-off competition** for our 5th Sunday potluck on Sunday, March 30th at noon. We've got folks preparing their best batch of chili for the contest. We will have three judges: Pastor Kyle, Douglas County Sheriff Jay Armbrister, and a chief appointed representative from Douglas County Consolidated Fire District #1. Prizes include farm fresh ground beef and a Lone Pine Farms gift card. Questions, contact Millie 785-207-0258.

The **recycling bins** provided by Douglas County that were located on the East edge of the church campus were removed March 14th. Please continue to spread the word and we ask that you do not leave any recyclables on the church campus. The county has not found another site to place the bins on the west side of the county. There are county provided recycle bins at the Greenbush Center (formerly Wakarusa Valley School).

Want to receive the newsletter via e-mail and also get special newsletters, please contact Carolyn at 785-925-0190 or cwulfkuhle@lpa-s.com. Help save a tree and postage.

PRAYERS: Judy Wulfkuhle, John Kennison, David Shipman, and those in our hearts needing prayers.

CHURCH CALENDAR

- Mar 26th – 9:30 am Wednesday Morning “Muggers” meets for coffee/tea and conversation; anyone in the community is welcome to join whenever they can.
– 7pm Lenten Bible Study – Joshua – in the F&FC.
- Mar 27th – 10-11 am Harvesters Rural Mobile Food distribution is in the church parking lot to distribute perishable food items to anyone in need of these services. NOTE TIME CHANGE.
- Mar 30th -12pm 5th Sunday potluck with a. Chili Cook Off competition). Please bring a side to share. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
- Apr 2 – 9:30 am Wednesday Morning “Muggers” meets for coffee/tea and conversation; anyone in the community is welcome to join whenever they can.
– 7pm Lenten Bible Study -Elisha – in the F&FC.
- Apr 3rd – 6:30-7:30pm Community Cupboard and the Closet open in the church basement for anyone in need of this ministry.
- Apr 9th – 7pm Lenten Bible Study – John the Baptist – in the F&FC.
- Apr 13th-11am Palm Sunday Worship Service.
- Apr 15th, 5-7pm Quarterly Community Meal night with lasagna, bread, green beans, tossed salad and homemade desserts on the menu. Dine-in or carry-out is available. Donations accepted for local church mission and ministry projects.
- Apr 16th – 7pm Lenten Bible Study – Jesus – in the F&FC.
- Apr 17th, 6:30pm Maundy Thursday service will be in the church sanctuary.
6:30-7:30pm Community Cupboard and the Closet open in the church basement for anyone in need of this ministry.
- Apr 20th, 6:25 am Easter Sunrise Service will be on the west side of Lone Star Lake with breakfast immediately following at the Lone Star Church. Sunrise is at 6:37am. Breakfast food, table service, and drinks are provided. We are participating in this service with the Lone Star Church of Brethren and Clinton Presbyterian Church. If you need more information on the exact location, please call Brenna @ 785-887-6605 or email us at: info@stullcoff.com
- Apr 20th, 11am Easter Worship Service in sanctuary. PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!
- Apr 21st, 7pm Administrative Team meeting held in the F&FC.
- Apr 24th, 10-11am Harvesters Rural Mobile food distribution is in the church parking lot to distribute perishable food items to anyone in need of these services. NOTE TIME CHANGE
- May 1st, 6:30-7:30pm Community Cupboard and the Closet open in the church basement for anyone in need of this ministry.
- May 15th, 6:30-7:30pm Community Cupboard and the Closet open in the church basement for anyone in need of this ministry.

“His love

God sent His Son to take the punishment.

For all the thoughtless, sinful things we do.

Jesus gave his life because He loves us.

His love is boundless, sweet, forever true.

On Easter morn He showed He is our Savior.

His resurrection proves He is our Lord.

That is why we tell you,

“Happy Easter!”

He secured our heavenly reward!” –Joanna Fuchs



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By grace we are saved by faith.