



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2020

Serving since 1859!

Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Just Joshin'

As Spring approaches (at least I hope it is), the Christian time of the year that we're entering is called Lent. Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The English word "Lent" comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of "spring." The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter.

Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The First Sunday describes Jesus' temptation by Satan; and the Sixth Sunday (Passion/Palm Sunday), Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death. Note that the readings during Lent, until Passion/Palm Sunday, focus primarily on the meaning of baptism and discipleship, in continuity with the season's original purpose. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.

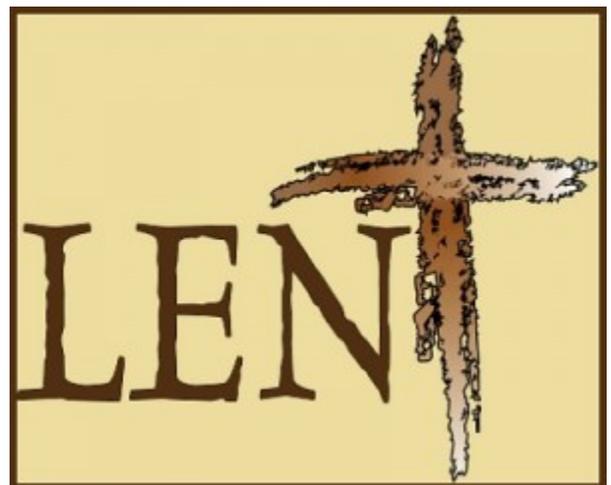
There are many ways to engage in a spiritual check-up throughout Lent. Some people still practice fasting as their spiritual discipline. Some focus on a specific aspect of their life or relationship with God and work on that. Other people give up

something of importance to them and use that time to focus on their relationship with God.

As we've done in past years, we'll be gathering together on Wednesdays for a meal, time of fellowship, and a lesson. The meal will begin at 5pm (come when you're able) and we typically begin our lesson around 5:45 (or whenever folks are done eating). Typically, the lesson will be around 30-35 minutes. Keep an eye out over the next couple Sundays for the topic of our Lenten study in 2020. Hope to see you then.

Blessings,

Pastor Josh



United Methodist Women

The Wisconsin Rapids unit held their first meeting of the new year in February. Judy Steele presented the program of Prayer and self-denial, held our short business meeting and had thoughtful discussions. One of the discussions was regarding SWEPS and what they do and do not purchase. Please see the special article regarding this.

This month there is a special offering – Day of Giving on the 23rd. There is more information on the UMW website regarding this special offering. April 4th is the Conference Mission Action Day in Green Bay. Please consider going. I will be taking my vehicle so if you need a ride let me know. Looking ahead, May 2nd is the District Spiritual Growth Retreat at Pine Lake Camp. I have attended the Spiritual Growth Retreat in the past and have never been disappointed. Again, I will be going!

Mission u this year will be held in three different cities, one each in June, July, and August. Please consider attending Mission u, again you won't be disappointed and we are fortunate to have one of the three held at Hotel Mead!

**The reading program continues with some very interesting books in a variety of topics. Take a look and read a book!
Blessings,
Cindy**

Special United Methodist Women's Project

The South Wood Emerging Pantry Shelf (SWEPS) will no longer purchase personal hygiene items. Going forward their funds will be used solely for the purchase of food items. Only donated hygiene items will be available for distribution. Because of this situation UMW has decided to sponsor an ongoing project to collect feminine hygiene items for SWEPS. We are concerned for the basic human dignity of those women and youth who do not have access to these items. A collection container will be available in the narthex for the donated items. Monetary donations can also be left in the office, placed in the offering plate, or given to Judy Steele for the purchase of those items. Please make checks out to UMW and indicate that it is for the **Special Project**. Action on behalf of women, children and youth is a cornerstone of the UMW organization.



MEN'S GROUP

**Come for Breakfast on Wednesday,
March 4, 2020**

8:00 a.m.

All are Welcome!



Mission Notes

Noisy Collection
March 8, 2020 for
Maria and Community of
Hope



Pantry Collection
March 15, 2020
Food, essentials,
money



Feeding the
Community



Lenten suppers before services will again be offered this year. They will be Wednesday's, March 4, 2020

March 11, 2020

March 18, 2020

March 25, 2020

Special Offering Sunday for
UMCOR March 22, 2020



Attention! On Sunday, March 29, there will be a sale of kitchen items that are no longer being used. Caramels will also be sold. Money from the kitchen items will be placed in the Kitchen Fund. The caramel money will be divided between Trustee work and Love INC in conjunction with the Lenten meals freewill offerings. If anyone has a church project for which they would like to do fundraising, please see Pastor Josh.

Love INC

Did you know that the Mission Statement for Love INC is: To mobilize local churches to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ.

Collectively we as the family of God can accomplish much. Three new ministries you might be interested in are the Moving Ministry, Prescription Ministry, and Transportation Ministry. Please check the bulletin board to see which churches you might contact if you are willing to help or simply contact Love INC (715-424-5683).

Work continues to develop a ministry for those just released from jail. Most often these people have nothing more than the clothes they are wearing, and their needs include everything from underwear to personal hygiene products. Love INC will direct the items that you donate where they are needed. Ultimately our hope is connect these people to God and a church family.

If you are a card maker, Love INC would appreciate receiving any you can spare for notes of encouragement and for thank yous.

Jean Michaels
Your Love INC Ambassador

Narcotics Anonymous

Meets each day of the week as follows:
Monday's 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday's 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday's 7:00 p.m.
Thursday's 7:00 p.m.

Wisdom Seekers

Every Thursday: 9:30 a.m.

Nar-Anon

Every Thursday: 7:00 p.m.

Weight Watchers

Every Saturday 8:30 am

Prayer Calendar

- 1 - Frances Waite
- 2 - Marion Wheaton
- 3 - Fay Whitley
- 4 - Scott & Deb Whitney
- 5 - Bruce, Jenny, Kaylee, Jaylee, Tristan
Alexandria Williams
- 6 - Janet Winn
- 7 - Audrey Wittenberg
- 8 - David Wittenberg
- 9 - Mark & Rhonda Wittenberg
- 10 - Marcia Wright
- 11 - Bill & Pauline Anderson
- 12 - Steven & Susan Andrews
- 13 - Elizabeth Anhalt
- 14 - Jeff & Cathy Anhalt
- 15 - Paula Baierl
- 16 - Wendy Baierl
- 17 - Ed, Jamie & Abigail Barker
- 18 - Cassandra Bartram & Wyatt Coates
- 19 - Dan & Tina Bartram
- 20 - Joan Benner
- 21 - Wayne & Wendy Boettcher
- 22 - Ben, Jenny & Bronson Brawdars
- 23 - Ken & Sue Brzezinski
- 24 - Harry & Carol Calverley
- 25 - Robert & Sandra Calverley
- 26 - Scott & Evan Calverley
- 27 - Bill & Shirley Carpenter
- 28 - Al & Janet Ciardelli
- 29 - Katie Clark
- 30 - Bill Clendenning
- 31 - Kathy Cole



*Our Deepest
Sympathy*

To the family of Robert
Dudley who passed away
on February 2, 2020

Have a prayer request? Call the prayer chain:

Daytime: (9:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m.)

Lynn Swanson — **715-423-4407**

Evenings: (6:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.)

Helen Dillingham — **715-424-5828**



For encouragement,
call the prayer phone:
715-423-1323

Prayer Coordinator

James 4:10

*“Humble yourselves before the Lord and
he will lift you up.”*

I Cannot believe that we are in the midst of Lent. It is a time of serious reflection and sacrifice. Sacrifice is not a word we use much anymore. But as we enter go through Lent, I believe it is a word we should consider. I know, we don't like the concept of sacrifice. It brings pictures of burnt offerings, blood and other images that offend our modern sensitivities. Yet sacrifice remains the theme of Lent. The purpose of giving something up during Lent, I believe, is to help us focus on the supreme sacrifice that Christ made for us. As we consciously say “no” when tempted to indulge, we are reminded of Christ. If this is true, then the “giving up” has accomplished something. For many of us, Lent means not much more than extra church services – extra demands on our time. We are too busy and perhaps a little uncomfortable with bringing Christ's passion and suffering into our daily life. I challenge you to bring an element of sacrifice into your lives during the rest of this Lenten season. It doesn't have to be something grand, just adding or subtracting something from your daily living that will remind you how Christ suffered and died for YOU!

*Let us pray: Lord walk with us through
this Lenten season. Help us remember
your sacrifice for us. We are a forgiven
people because you died for our sins.
Thank you, Lord Jesus. Amen*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March

- 4-Tom Sisco
- 5-Christopher Marshaus
- 7-Norman Harding
- 7-Gordon Harmon
- 8-Marlene Henke
- 9-Timm Rosenthal
- 15-Hailey Reetz
- 18-Myrna Hagen
- 19-Tristan Williams
- 31-Alyssa Reetz



Happy Anniversary

- 3-Bill & Pauline Anderson
- 8-John & Carol Metzger
- 10-Greg & Karla Staven
- 18-Bruce & Jenny Williams

If we have omitted your birthday or anniversary or have it listed on the incorrect date, please let us know so that we may make the necessary changes to our records. Thank you!

Bible Quiz



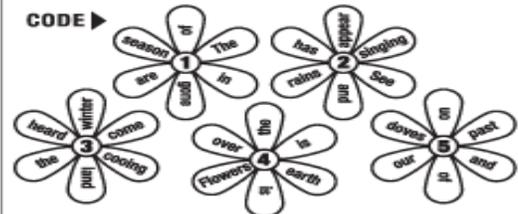
Who came to Jesus by night to ask him questions, and what famous Bible verse was part of Jesus' answer?

- A. Martha; "I am the resurrection and the life ..."
- B. Peter; "Do to others what you would have them do ..."
- C. Thomas; "I am the way and the truth and the life ..."
- D. Nicodemus; "For God so loved the world ..."

Puzzle!

Using the flower code, fill in the blanks to complete the springtime words from Song of Solomon 2:11-12, NIV.

CODE ▶



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SONG OF SOLOMON 2:11-12, NIV

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February 3

10:00 am - Bible Study
5:00 pm - Bells

February 4

8:00 am - Men's Breakfast
10:30 am - Disciplines
5:00 pm - Choir Practice
5:00 pm - Lenten Meal
6:00 pm - Lenten Service

February 5

2:00 pm - COH Bible Study
6:00 pm - COH

February 9

4:30 pm - Trustees Meeting

February 10

10:00 am - Bible Study
5:00 pm - Bells

February 11

10:30 am - Disciplines
5:00 pm - Choir Practice
5:00 pm - Lenten Meal
6:00 pm - Lenten Service

February 12

2:00 pm - COH Bible Study
6:00 pm - COH

February 16

6:00 pm - Finance Meeting
6:30 pm - Council Meeting

February 17

10:00 am - Bible Study
5:00 pm - Bells

February 18

10:30 am - Disciplines
5:00 pm - Choir
5:00 pm - Lenten Meal
6:00 pm - Lenten Service

February 19

2:00 pm - COH Bible Study
6:00 pm - COH

February 24

10:00 am - Bible Study
5:00 pm - Bells

February 25

10:30 am - Disciplines
5:00 pm - Choir
5:00 pm - Lenten Meal
6:00 pm - Lenten Service

February 26

2:00 pm - COH Bible Study
6:00 pm - COH

February 31

10:00 am - Bible Study
5:00 pm - Bells

Church Office Hours

The church office is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. — 10:00 a.m. and closed on Fridays. Other times as needed.

Church Office Phone

715-423-8860

Pastor Joshua's Phone No.

Cell: 920-896-3976

Pastor Joshua's Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Church Website

www.umcwr.org

E-mail Addresses

Church Office: umc@wctc.net

Pastor Joshua: joshuapeggram3@gmail.com

Sunday Services

9:00 am - UMC Worship Service
10:00 am - Coffee Fellowship

The Neighborhood Table

The last two Tuesdays of the month: 4:30 p.m.
Every Thursday: 4:30 p.m.