



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 2019

Serving since 1859!

Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Just Joshin'

Well, February is here. I can't help but think, as we begin this month, what lies at the end of the month. The called Special General Conference will take place February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, MO and will deal with the future of our denomination.

For United Methodists, the General Conference is the governing body of our global denomination which meets once every four years. It is made up of representatives from Annual Conferences around the world — both lay and clergy. On the occasion that a Special General Conference is called, it's called with a specific purpose in mind. The delegates of the previous General Conference will remain delegates at this Special General Conference and the only thing that can be discussed is the purpose of the call.

At the end of this month, the Special General Conference will be determining the future of the United Methodist Church. For some time now we've had pastors, churches, district superintendents, and bishops who have not held to the theological standards and beliefs of our denomination. Many have failed to adhere to their ordination vows. Our church has been in schism for some time now because of this.

How do we deal with this schism? How can we move forward as one when different people want to move in many different directions? What will the church look like moving forward? These are some of

the questions that are before the Special General Conference.

If you remember back to the meetings we had at Wisconsin Rapids UMC at the beginning of September 2018, we discussed some possible ways forward for the UMC. The Commission on the Way Forward was founded and did its work following General Conference 2016. They came up with three possible plans. There have been more submitted by individuals and groups within the greater UMC. The Special General Conference will now have to wade through this material to try and figure out how to move forward.

I ask that we be in prayer for our delegates, denominational leaders, the churches, the members, and the many people that the UMC serves in communities around the world. Let us pray that our delegates and leaders will be cordial and respectful despite the many differences within our denomination. Let us pray for God's guidance during this time with whatever may happen.

Please keep an eye out for more information regarding the live streaming of the Special General Conference. When information comes out about this, I'll be looking into setting up a space at the church for people to view the proceedings if they so choose.

Prayerfully,
Pastor Josh

SWEPS thanks our church for the volunteers that helped during the days of January 21, 24 and 25th, 2019. During those 3 days, 63 households were served for a total of 162 individuals in South Wood County. Three new clients were welcomed into the Pantry. They are so thankful for those who care about the well-being of our neighbors in this area.

SWEPS needs are ongoing, so food and monetary donations are continuously and graciously appreciated. They also appreciate receiving paper and plastic bags as well as children's books.

Because SWEPS is a member of Feeding America, their purchasing power is oftentimes 9 to 12 times greater than the value of food they receive as a donation.

For example: **One** 28 oz jar of donated peanut butter valued at \$4.28 is equal to **12** jars of the same peanut butter purchased from Feeding America!



***Kintsugi:** the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with lacquer dusted or mixed with powdered gold.*

Learn the art of taking broken pottery and turning it into a work of art along with the life lesson of how our own brokenness can become something valuable and beautiful.

Community of Hope is offering this class on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 6:00 pm following TNT up in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to 715-213-0009. All materials will be supplied. Childcare is NOT available (adults only activity).

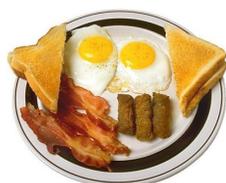


MEN'S GROUP

**Come for Breakfast on Wednesday,
February 6, 2019**

8:00 a.m.

All are Welcome!



United Methodist Women

February 10 is the first meeting of 2019. Our program for February is "A Call to Prayer and Self Denial". Each meeting we have a program or a special speaker and they are always interesting. Please plan to attend the 1st meeting of the new year to learn and experience Christian fellowship. The meeting is held in the meeting room and begins at 10:30.

Kwik Trip offers us cash back for the 5 cent bottle caps and also for the bagged milk/orange juice. This is an easy way to donate to missions. Bring them in and put them in the bag attached to the bulletin board or you can give them to me. I will take care of them!

Each month there is a UMW video played in church regarding activities and mission information we support. Stay tuned to February's clip – while I search for the new video I learn so much about UMW. The internet is full of items!

Again, I encourage you to either continue/start with the reading program or look through our library and find a book that interests you. The things you can learn!!

Blessings,
Cindy

The UMW Reading program is in full swing. You can look thru the list of books available to read and either purchase the books, ask another UMW member if they have the one you would like to read, look in our library for the book or go to the local library to check out. I have two books I am currently reading the- Good Health, Good Life by Joyce Meyer and We Are All Fast-Food Workers - The global uprising against poverty wages - Now. Other books I am interested in are: The Book of Joy by Dali Lama and Desmond Tutu. Eleanor - A Spiritual Biography, 50 Women Every Christian Should know, Escape from the Green Mansion - the rescue of San Francisco Brothel Slaves and "An Insiders Guide to Praying for the World" to list a few.

Mission Notes

Noisy Collection

February 10, 2019

Melisa and Community of Hope

(Community of Hope is a church serviced by Pastor Lonnie Seljie; it is under jurisdiction of the Wesleyan Church, but the service is held here at UMC in the Fellowship Lounge on Thursday evenings after TNT. A Tuesday service after TNT will begin in later February. It serves those for whom a traditional church service may not be appealing or meaningful. Community of Hope has very few financial resources at this time, so needs are being largely provided by Pastor Lonnie and her team.)

Beginning February 17, our Pantry Collection Sunday, we will be participating in Help for the Homeless hygiene drive. Please help our Wisconsin Rapids area crisis programs (Family Center, SWEPS and Helping Hands Gospel Mission) supply those in need with items of personal care and cleaning products. Hygiene and cleaning products are expensive and not covered by Wisconsin Food Share. We are collecting from February 17 through March 10. A box container will be located in the sanctuary for donations of your personal care or cleaning items. This is an annual drive and is being conducted in nearby communities as well; it is organized by The Family Radio (88.5 FM), but all

donations remain in the community where they are collected.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February

- 1 - Ginnie Fletcher
- 2 - Eileen Slinkman
- 3 - Wanda McIlvain
- 4 - Dan Bartram
- 6 - Allen Peterson
- 7 - Bob McIlvain
- 7 - Lonnie Reetz
- 10 - Barb Kronenberg
- 18 - Nathalie Noonan
- 20 - Deb Whitney
- 20 - Nicole Reetz
- 22 - Gwen Gygi
- 24 - Greg Staven
- 26 - Molly Staven
- 27 - Robert Calverley
- 27 - Cindy Erickson

Happy Anniversary

- 14 - Art & Kathy Duerkop
- 22 - Albert & Janet Ciardelli

If we have omitted your birthday or anniversary or have it listed on the wrong date, please let us know so we can make the necessary corrections to our records. Thank you.

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.

Weight Watchers

Every Tuesday 7:00 am
Every Wednesday 10:00 am, 12:00 pm and 6:00 pm
Every Saturday 8:30 am

Wisdom Seekers

Every Thursday: 9:30 a.m.

Nar-Anon

Every Thursday: 6:30 p.m.

Prayer Calendar February

- 1-Dan & Tina Bartram
- 2-Joan Benner
- 3-Wayne & Wendy Boettcher
- 4-Ben, Jenny & Bronson Brawders
- 5-Ken & Sue Brzezinski
- 6-Harry & Carol Calverley
- 7-Robert & Sandra Calverley
- 8-Bill & Shirley Carpenter
- 9-Albert & Janet Ciardelli
- 10-Katie Clark
- 11-Bill Clendenning
- 12-Kathy Cole
- 13-Rick & Ellen Cook
- 14-James & Cherri Correll
- 15-Tyler Cowen
- 16-Carol Davis
- 17-Helen Dillingham
- 18-Kevin & Karlene Dillingham
- 19-Mike & Julie Dresen
- 20-Brenda Dudley
- 21-Robert & Vivian Dudley
- 22-Art & Kathy Duerkop
- 23-Tom & Cindy Erickson
- 24-Brent & Ginnie Fletcher
- 25-Faith Frank
- 26-Judy Gitchel
- 27-David Goetsch
- 28-Lester Gukenberger

**A big Thank You to all who
remembered me and said prayers
for me after I lost my son Webb.
Jan Winn**

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.)

Kathy Duerkop — **715-421-3396**



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

Prayer Coordinator

2 Corinthians 5:7

“We live by faith, not by sight.”

This scripture touches me. The fact that we live by faith not sight is one of the most difficult things about being a Christian. We are assaulted on all side by ideas that challenge our faith. We are tempted. We are questioned. And Satan is always telling us that what we believe is not true. Often, so often, we wish we could actually see Jesus and talk to him face-to-face. We have questions we would like to ask him. And we would like to reach out and touch him physically to reassure us that he IS alive. But we cannot do that. We live by faith. We pray and there are times when we are touched. We feel God's love when we must walk with death. He carries us in our sorrow. God gives us peace in times of great fear – for ourselves or for loved ones. Yes, living by faith is challenging, but as we go through life's experiences and do meet God in times of need, we know he is alive.

Let us pray: Lord Jesus, help us to know without a doubt that you are alive and with us today. Touch our lives and guide us. Give us answers when we are challenged. Help us serve you knowing that you are beside us. We love you, Lord! In Jesus' Name, Amen.



February 5

10:00 am - Bible Study
5:00 pm - Bells
6:00 pm - Bible Study

February 6

8:00 am - Men's Breakfast
10:30 am - Disciplines
5:00 pm - Choir

February 7

4:30 pm - TNT
6:00 pm - COH

February 10

Boy Scout Sunday



February 11

4:30 pm - Trustees

February 12

10:00 am - Bible Study
5:00 pm - Bells
6:00 pm - Bible Study

February 13

10:30 am - Disciplines
5:00 pm - Choir

February 14

Valentine's Day

4:30 pm - TNT
6:00 pm - COH



February 18

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

February 19

10:00 am - Bible Study
4:30 pm - TNT
5:00 pm - Bells
6:00 pm - Bible Study
6:30 pm - Lonnie Seljie's class

February 20

10:30 am - Disciplines
5:00 pm - Choir

February 21

4:30 pm - TNT
6:00 pm - COH

February 26

10:00 am - Bible Study
4:30 pm - TNT
5:00 pm - Bells
6:00 pm - Bible Study

February 27

10:30 am - Disciplines
5:00 pm - Choir

February 28

4:30 pm - TNT
6:00 pm - COH

Church Office Hours

The church office is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m. and closed on Fridays.

Pastor Joshua's Office Hours

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

E-mail Addresses

Church Office: umc@wctc.net
Pastor Joshua: joshuapegam3@gmail.com

Church Office Phone

715-423-8860

Pastor Joshua's Phone No.

Cell: 920-896-3976

Sunday Services

9:00 am - UMC Worship Service
10:00 am - Coffee Fellowship
10:15 am - Youth Group/Sunday School

The Neighborhood Table

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