



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 2020

Serving since 1859!

Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Just Joshin'

It has been a quick start to this year! February is fast upon us and Lent is right around the corner. Well, we have until the end of February ... February 26 to be exact, which is when Ash Wednesday will be this year.

Lent, of course, is the time period leading up to Easter. It is a time of preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, this time period was for new converts to the Christian faith as they prepared for their baptism — dying to the old life and rising anew with Christ in their life. It matches up with the Spring time that we witness here in Wisconsin (although sometimes Spring comes later than we'd like), when new life comes up all around us!

Even if we have already been baptized, we can still use this time as a time of reflection on our relationship with God. As we head toward celebrating the greatest victory ever, God's victory over death, we can take a look at where we have grown in the past year and where we have fallen short. By

paying attention to our relationship with God, we can make sure that we are ready to not only celebrate God's great victory through Jesus Christ, but that we can also participate in this victory!

God's given us a great gift. Let us celebrate this gift and focus in on how it can change lives here on earth. Let us do so among another great gift from God — the fellowship of believers. This Lenten Season, on Wednesday nights, we will again be joining for a meal and a time of fellowship and study. These will begin on the Wednesday after Ash Wednesday and go until Holy Week (the week between Palm Sunday and Easter). Keep an eye for more details to come.

Let us prepare together. Let us celebrate together. Let us give thanks together, during this Lenten Season.

God's blessings,

Pastor Josh

United Methodist Women

By the time you read this, February will be here. The days fly by and hopefully winter will too! The officers of UMW have been busy setting the schedule for the new calendar year. Our first meeting will be Sunday, February 9th after coffee fellowship in the meeting room in the Education Wing. Judy Steele will be presenting the Program of A call to Prayer and Self-Denial. Please feel free to join us! All women are invited to come and learn more about UMW. Bring a friend if you don't want to come alone. You don't have to be a member of our church to be a part of the UMW. We welcome everyone!

Looking forward to 2020 we have some scheduled events to look forward to! On Saturday, April 4th is the Conference Mission Action Day. It will be held at St Paul's United Methodist Church in Green Bay, WI. The theme this year is Racial Inequity and School to Prison Pipeline. There will be an Ingathering of nonperishable items.

May 2nd is the North Central District Spiritual Growth Retreat at Pine Lake. I can say it is a very uplifting day. I have attended several times and have felt refreshed after the day. Consider joining in and having a day of fun and fellowship with other faithful women!

I'd like to mention the new arrangement of Mission u this year. To allow more people the chance to attend Mission u and not have to travel so far, we are able to attend in three different areas. The first Mission u will be June 12-13 at the Good Shepherd UMC in Oconomowoc WI. There will be two studies and we are to choose one. The studies are: Finding Peace in the Midst of Anxiety, and The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools.

The second opportunity will be July 20-21 (Monday and Tuesday) in Wisconsin Rapids which will offer all three studies which are Women United for Change – 150 years in Mission, Finding Peace in the Midst of Anxiety, and The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools. Again, we are to choose one study.

The third opportunity is August 14-15 in Eau Claire at the Lake St UMC. The two studies will be Finding Peace in the Midst of Anxiety, and The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools.

I encourage you to prayerfully consider attending. It is a great chance to learn more on the selected subjects and again be among faithful women and get to know others as well. Mission u has been changed to 3 different sessions to allow people who don't have the time off to commit to the previous 4 day Mission u and also it is less of a financial commitment to attend.

We are fortunate to be a host to the full two day Mission u in July. Come join in! I will have the registration information posted when it becomes available.

As always, please look into the reading program. There are always books of interest to read. Some can be found at the library or they can get them for you, or you can order them. If you find a book from previous years' programs someone might even have it so you could borrow it!

Blessings,
Cindy



MEN'S GROUP

Come for Breakfast on Wednesday,
February 5, 2020

8:00 a.m.

All are Welcome!



Mission Notes

Noisy Collection
February 9, 2020 for
Maria and Community of
Hope



Pantry Collection
February 16, 2020
Food, essentials, money



Lenten suppers before services
will again be offered this year.

They will start Wednesday,
March 4, the week after Ash
Wednesday (February 26). The
main dish will be provided; a
sign up for salads and cookies/
bars will be passed in church.

We hope you will join us!

The next Empty Bowls meal in the South
Wood County area will be held Saturday,
February 29, 2020, from 11am-2pm at First
English Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Rapids.
Local professional/amateur potters and pottery
students from area schools have committed
some of their wonderful hand made bowls to the
effort. For a \$10 donation you will receive a
hand crafted bowl filled with soup, bread and
dessert. There will be raffle baskets to bid on
also.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FEBRUARY

- 01 - Ginnie Fletcher
- 02 - Eileen Slinkman
- 03 - Wanda McIlvain
- 04 - Dan Bartram
- 06 - Allen Peterson
- 07 - Bob McIlvain
- 07 - 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.

Prayer Calendar

- 01 - Mary Jane Phillips
- 02 - Lonnie, Nikki, Hailey & Alyssa Reetz
- 03 - Kelly & Taylor Reinicke
- 04 - Monty & Rhett Reinicke
- 05 - Russ & Karen Rifleman
- 06 - Phyllis Ritchie
- 07 - Timm, Anton & Carl Rosenthal
- 08 - Brad, Stacey, Marinah, Cody Russell
- 09 - Don & Sandy Saeger
- 10 - Wendy Schwartz
- 11 - Jim & Judy Seegert
- 12 - Wayne & Shirley Sering
- 13 - Daye Ann Shomberg
- 14 - Pattie Sisco
- 15 - Tom & Barb Sisco
- 16 - Holly Skinner
- 17 - Scott & Judy Skinner
- 18 - Eileen Slinkman
- 19 - Mike & Diane Sloat
- 20 - Jamie Sparkes
- 21 - Kathie Sparkes
- 22 - Bill & Annette Spaulding
- 23 - Greg & Karla Staven
- 24 - Molly Staven & Kaden Hicks
- 25 - John & Judy Steele
- 26 - Colleen Stevenson
- 27 - Mike & Lynn Swanson
- 28 - Diane Swiggum
- 29 - Cindy Tyjeski



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

Ephesians 1:13

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the Word of Truth, the Gospel of your salvation. Having believed you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.

These words bring me peace whenever I am feeling weary and at loose ends. Those are the days when my devotional reading seems to bounce off me and not penetrate my heart and then God brings me to these words of assurance: I AM CHRIST'S. I belong to him! You belong to him! He has claimed us as his own. Our names are engraved on God's hand. Engraved on HIS hand! And all we have to do is believe. We do not have to be perfect to be loved by God. When we are cranky, tired or in despair, feeling far from God – He is there beside us. He loves us just as we are. His Holy Spirit is our seal to him. He resides within our hearts and souls. These words help me this day, right now, to know God is with me. Remember, he is with you. He is beside you at this moment. He loves us so much that he suffered and died for us. We are a forgiven people. He knows we make mistakes and too often stray from his path. And he loves us still! Praise the Lord!!

Let us pray: Thank you Lord for the gift of yourself so I can live eternally with you. Thank you for these words of encouragement that let me know that you care and are beside me even today. Help me walk with you during the days and months ahead. Keep me aware, Lord, that I am yours!! In the name of your precious Son, Jesus Christ. Amen



February 4

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

February 5

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

February 6

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

February 10

4:30 pm - Trustees Meeting

February 11

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

February 12

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

February 13

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

February 17

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

February 18

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

February 19

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

February 20

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

February 22

Wedding

February 25

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

February 26

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

February 27

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

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.

Pastor Joshua's Office Hours

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

Church Office Phone

715-423-8860

Pastor Joshua's Phone No.

Cell: 920-896-3976

E-mail Addresses

Church Office: umc@wctc.net

Pastor Joshua: joshuapegam3@gmail.com

Church Website

www.umcwr.org

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.

Wisdom Seekers

Every Thursday: 9:30 a.m.

Weight Watchers

Every Saturday 8:30 am

Nar-Anon

Every Thursday: 7:00 p.m.