



# THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2018

Serving since 1859!

Wisconsin Rapids, WI

## Just Joshin'

*"Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, 'They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!'"*

*Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed— for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. Then they went home." - John 20:1-10, NLT*

We will be celebrating Easter on April 1. We will be celebrating that which Mary Magdalene, Peter, and many more celebrated 2,000 years ago. Although, I'd imagine that the first Easter (described in the Scripture above) was a bit confusing to those who were closest to Jesus.

The celebration for them wasn't an instant celebration as they may have been more worried about the possibilities around what happened to Jesus' body. Their celebration came though ... and they celebrated like we should be celebrating today.

Eventually, the Apostles and others remembered the teachings of Jesus and the predictions of Jesus. What he had been telling them had come true. The Son of Man must die and 3 days later he will rise again. Okay, this is all true ... but what now?

I think that we're able to see their celebration of this blessed event throughout their lives as they continued to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. The message of Jesus was alive and well as people gave their lives to God and let the Holy Spirit work wonders in them and through them. The Apostles and the Christians of the early church lived out their Easter celebration each and every day. Their lives reflected that they were living life anew because of the God's great gift to us through the obedience of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our Lenten Sermon series is called "Relationship Anew." God has been starting and restarting relationships with his people since the beginning of time. God made covenants with Noah, Abraham, and many more. When each covenant was made, the person's life changed just as Jesus' words, actions, sacrifice, and resurrection changed everything for us.

How are we celebrating Easter? Do we let it go beyond the day when families gather for a big dinner, and good Lord willing the church parking lot is a bit more full? Do we live out that which was given to us on that first Easter morning? Do we live as if we've been given hope? Do we live as if we've been given another chance? Do we live as if Jesus has changed our lives? Have we let the love of God through Jesus Christ change our lives?

As we approach Easter and move throughout this Lenten season, my prayer is that change will be taking place in each and everyone of us. This world changed on that first Easter morning, and this world can keep changing when we celebrate Easter each and every day of our lives. Thanks be to God for sending his only Son, and loving us so much that he died on our behalf!

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**Need help filing your income taxes?** The AARP Tax Aide Program was designed to provide free assistance for low to middle-income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60 and older. Volunteer counselors, trained in cooperation with the IRS, will be available every Monday, Wednesday, and select Thursdays now through April 16 (8:00 am until 3:00 pm) at the Lowell Center.

Appointments are necessary! Please call 715-422-2778 between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm, Monday through Friday, to schedule your personal tax appointment. Appointments will be determined on a first-call, first-serve basis. As a reminder, although this is a free service, donations are appreciated and greatly benefit the Lowell Senior Center programming.



## MEN'S GROUP



**Meet  
for  
Breakfast**

**All men are invited  
March 7, 2018 at  
8:00 am**

# United Methodist Women



The United Methodist Women are off to a great start for 2018. Our first meeting was held February 11th with a program "A Call to Prayer and Self Denial." Judy Steele lead the program that raised awareness of our leaders throughout the history of United Methodist Women. Our ladies have been and continue to be impressive leaders that truly live up to the tag line "Faith Hope and Love in action"!

The reading program for the 2017-2018 year is well underway. We have five more months left for this year's program. Shirley Carpenter added two books to the library that are in this year's program. There are many interesting books to read. The library is located outside of the Church office. Find a book, check it out and enjoy and learn!

Upcoming days of interest are: March 23rd is the Day of Giving. Saturday April 7th is the Conference Mission Action Day which will be held at the Mauston UMC. Carpooling will be available. The cost is \$12 which includes lunch. Our next meeting will be Sunday April 8th and the program will be about Recycling and all are invited to attend and will have a potluck lunch after. More information will be included in next month's Journey.

## SWEPS REPORT

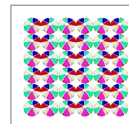
2017 has been a very busy year for the South Wood Emerging Pantry Shelf. Volunteers have filled an average of 504 requests for food each month. A total of 6,049 households comprised of 15,461 individuals were served in 2017. 844 holiday food baskets were given to families in need during December. SWEPS also helped the "Toys for Tots" program distribute 3,855 Christmas toys. Information about the Pantry (location, hours of operation, needed items, volunteer opportunities, etc.) can be found on its website [www.swepspantry.org](http://www.swepspantry.org) and also on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SWEPSofWR](https://www.facebook.com/SWEPSofWR). Donations of food as well as cash to purchase needed items are always needed and welcome. Every third Sunday the Mission Team of our church takes donations for the pantry; one month we collect food items and the next month we collect health/household items as well as cash.

**Our church will help staff the Pantry during the week of March 12th.** If you can volunteer or would like to be on a list to be called, you may contact Helen Dillingham at 715-424-5828 or Carol Liska at 715-697-2355. Our church has been a partner with the SWEPS program since the early 1980's. SWEPS is vital to those who struggle with hunger and food insecurity. **Please help with this very important mission to provide food for the hungry.**

## Quilt Show

At the Nekoosa United Church of Christ,  
March 10, 2018  
10 am – 4 pm

The community is invited to view a variety of quilts made by many local quilters. Free -Open to the public. Questions please call Sandy Dicks at 715-424-0309 or Lynette Hilgers at 715-886-4189. A lunch will be available.



## 6th Annual South Wood County Empty Bowls

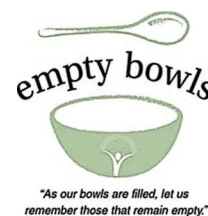
Helping to Fight Hunger in South Wood County  
Saturday, March 3, 2018  
First English Lutheran Church  
440 Garfield Street  
11 am - 2 pm

For your \$10 donation (age 3 and older), you will receive a meal of soup from a local restaurant, bread, beverage, and homemade cookies. Take home a bowl handcrafted by one of our local potters as our thanks for your support. All funds raised are donated to local organizations that help our neighbors meet basic food needs.

For more information or to volunteer, visit our website at [www.swcemptybowl.com](http://www.swcemptybowl.com) or our Facebook Page

Featuring delicious soups from:

Chat-R-Box Café  
Misty's Menu  
Olympic II  
Sportsmen's Pub  
Danny K's  
Grandma's Café  
Great Expectations Catering  
J2 Catering  
Perkins Restaurant and Bakery  
Salt and Pepper's  
Drive In  
Jennings & Co  
Higher Ground



And Helen's homemade bread from **Little Pink Restaurant!**

Take a chance on many wonderful gift baskets at the Basket Raffle!



Mission Needs



## Noisy Collection

**Sunday, March 11, 2018**  
for Jennifer and  
Harbor House

Special Sunday Offering on March 11 is for UMCOR's One Great Hour of Sharing. An envelope with more information and for your convenience will be found in the bulletin. This is, indeed, a special offering!



## March 18, 2018 SWEPS Essential Collection



## 5 O'Clock Lenten Meals

Beginning Wednesday, February 21,  
2018 we will be serving supper  
before our Lenten Services.  
Everyone is encouraged to attend.

February 28, 2018

March 7, 2018

March 14, 2018

March 21, 2018

Services will be at 5:45 pm  
following the meal. Please keep an  
eye out for sign up sheets to help  
with food contributions.

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

## March

**4-Tom Sisco**  
**4-Michael Topp**  
**5-Christopher Marshaus**  
**6-Willow Sering**  
**7-Norman Harding**  
**7-Gordon harmon**  
**8-Marlene Henke**  
**9-Timm Rosenthal**  
**15-Hailey Reetz**  
**18-Myrna Hagen**  
**19-Tristan Williams**  
**23-Nathan Haddow**  
**31-Alyssa Reetz**

*Happy  
Anniversary*

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

### **Narcotics Anonymous**

Meets each day of the week as follows:

Monday 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Thursday 7:00 p.m.

### **The Neighborhood Table**

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

Every Thursday: 4:30 p.m.



## Prayer Calendar March

1--Darwin Lamb  
2--Garold & Evelyn Lampman  
3--Stanley & Myrna Langowski  
4--Bob & Carol Liska  
5--Judy Luig  
6--Chris Maguire  
7--Carole Manz  
8--Christopher Marshaus  
9--Bob & Wanda McIlvain  
10--Carol & John Metzger  
11--Brian Michaels  
12--Jean Michaels  
13--Daniel Michalak  
14--Barb & Vic Moon  
15--Marty & Terry Nolet  
16--Nathalie Noonan  
17--Valerie Nordin  
18--Ashley, Kolt, Walker & Easton O'Keefe  
19--Nancy Olson  
20--Josh & Katie Pegram  
21--Allen & Beverly Peterson  
22--Mary Jane Phillips  
23--Lonnie, Nicole, Hailey & Alyssa Reetz  
24--Kelly, Rhett & Taylor Reinicke  
25--Monty, Taylor & Rhett Reinicke  
26--Karen & Russ Rifleman  
27--Phyllis Ritchie  
28--Timm, Anton & Carl Rosenthal  
29--Brad, Stacey, Marinah & Cody Russell  
30--Don & Sandy Saeger  
31--Jonathan, Mackenzie & Cooper Schultz

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**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

***But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9***

How often do we feel weak and unable to answer God's call? I know I often want to run the other way when I am asked to do something I feel is too hard for me. Yet, God continually challenges us on our walk with him.

Paul tells us in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians, "*His power is made perfect in weakness.*" That tells me I have no excuse for not stepping up and doing as God asks me, even though I am now a senior citizen. Physically and mentally I see the effects of aging. Yet God doesn't take my excuses when my body complains or my mind doesn't move as fast as it once did.

Another promise to all of us, regardless of age, is found in Phillipians 1:6: "*Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on the completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*" I took these words as my life guide many years ago. It reminds me that it is not ME who is accomplishing God's work, but God working through me. So continue listening for God's voice. Do not be discouraged if He asks you to do something you don't want to do or something you think you cannot do. With God's help, we can do all he asks of us. Remember this and continue to listen, be faithful in prayer for God is with us always.

***Let us Pray: Lord, give me the courage to trust you and step out to serve whenever and wherever you ask me. In Christ name, Amen.***



### **March 4**

10:15 am - Confirmation

### **March 6**

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

### **March 7**

8:00 am - Men's Breakfast  
10:30 am - Disciplines  
4:15 pm - Choir Practice  
5:00 pm - Lenten Supper  
5:15 pm - Lenten Service

### **March 8**

6:00 pm - Futures Team Meeting

### **March 11**

10:15 am - Confirmation

### **March 12**

4:30 pm - Trustees Meeting

### **March 13**

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

### **March 14**

10:30 am - Disciplines  
11:00 am - 2:00 pm Recovery Coaching  
4:15 pm - Choir Practice  
5:00 pm - Lenten Supper  
5:45 pm - Lenten Service

### **March 18**

10:15 am - Confirmation

### **March 19**

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

### **March 20**

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

### **March 21**

10:00 am - Disciplines  
4:15 pm - Choir  
5:00 pm - Lenten Supper  
5:45 pm - Lenten Service

### **March 22**

6:00 pm - Futures Team Meeting

### **March 25**

**Palm Sunday**  
**No Confirmation**



### **March 27**

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

### **March 28**

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

### **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: Joshua pegram3@gmail.com

### **Church Office Phone**

715-423-8860

### **Pastor Joshua's Phone No.**

Cell: 920-896-3976

### **Sunday Services**

9:00 a.m. — UMC Worship Service  
10:00 a.m. — Coffee Fellowship

### **Wisdom Seekers**

Every Thursday: 9:30 a.m.

### **Nar-Anon**

Every Thursday: 6:30 p.m.