



# THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 2018

Serving since 1859!

Wisconsin Rapids, WI

## Just Joshin'

My grandfather taught me a few things about the Bible. One of the first that I remember is a simple trick to find the Book of Psalms. He told me to take the Bible and open up to the middle. Nine times out of ten you'll land in the Book of Psalms.

I think it's fitting that Psalms is in the middle of the Bible. It's right there in the middle of God's story of his relationship with his people, and a big part of relationships are conversations. It is in the Psalms where we find all sorts of conversations between God's people and God.

These aren't just superficial conversations that are taking place in this book. Yes, we may fall into the rhythm of these superficial conversations in our lives. We don't want to share too much with our friends, or even family. And sometimes this spills over into our conversations with God. I believe that God still understands our sometimes feeble attempts to talk with him, but we could be more honest — both with ourselves and with God. The Psalms give us a great example of this as some of the writers confess their sins, express doubts and fears, ask God for help, and praise God for the great things he has done.

Psalms 61 is one of these as the psalmist prays for security and assurance.

*"Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings. For you, God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name. Increase the days of the king's life, his years for many generations. May he be enthroned in God's*

*presence forever; appoint your love and faithfulness to protect him. Then I will ever sing in praise of your name and fulfill my vows day after day."*

Wherever we are, we can trust that God will be there to answer our cries for help. Even when we may find ourselves in uncertain surroundings, we know that God is our rock and his strength will always be with us. But, we must first go to God in these times of need. We must be willing to humble ourselves in order to raise ourselves up and give God the glory that he deserves.

If we don't put in the time and effort with God, we may miss out on his wonderful blessings. How are we striving to honor God each and every day? How are we seeking to glorify God's kingdom? After all, we are created in God's image, shouldn't we seek to glorify him?

In an earlier century, there lay a large boulder in the middle of the roadway. Traveler after traveler walked past the boulder, veering off the side of the road to get around it. All the while, they were shaking their head and muttering, "Can you believe that? Someone should get that big thing out of the way. What an inconvenience!"

Finally, a man came along and, seeing the boulder, took a branch from a tree and pried the boulder enough to get it rolling and rolled it off to the side of the road. Lying underneath the rock, he found a small bag with a note. The man picked up the note and read it. It read as follows:

"Thank you for being a true servant of the kingdom. Many have passed this way and complained because of the state of the problem and spoken of what ought to be done.

needs more of?

There are many lessons to be learned from the psalmists. There's a lot of encouragement and hope to be gained from reading these beautiful texts. But, if we're not willing to come before God, humble ourselves, and be who God has created us to be, we too may miss out on the great blessings of God.

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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.

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#### South Wood County Empty Bowls

Dear Pastor Josh,  
On behalf of South Wood County Empty Bowls and First English Lutheran Church, I want to express my sincerest and heartfelt appreciation to you, your staff, and your congregation for the help and support provided to all of us in our time of need this past weekend. It was an extraordinary request and you granted it without a moment of hesitation. Thank you!

Thanks also to Tami for her assistance with coordination of our plans, answering all my questions, and being available if we needed her on Saturday. She was great.

I hope that your staff found the facilities in good order after we left. Empty Bowls extends our custodian gratuity because of the extra cleanup is outside of her job duties on the weekend. Please contact me at [chgrimes@wctc.net](mailto:chgrimes@wctc.net) or 715-424-2878 for this or any other usage fees you may require.

This past Sunday, Pastor Cheryl reflected on all the people who came forward to help for this storm that washed over us and reminded us that it is because we are all part of this body of Christ, no matter what congregation or what city or what nation we are a part of. This is so evident in Wisconsin Rapids and I pray that that message will continue to spread around our nation and world.

Sincerely,  
Chris Grimes  
Chair, South Wood County Empty Bowls Committee

Roger and I are continuing our ministry at Jeremiah's Crossing. It has been 12 years since we sat at our dining room table and completed the incorporation papers. Twelve years since we packed our lives into a "Chicken Trailer" and moved to the "Little House on the Prairie" in Babcock.

We're still here! The property has seen some changes, the Little House is no longer here, there is quite a bit of fencing, an outdoor arena was built so we could hold lessons after the rain.

We've grown - over 300% - since our first official lessons in 2008 (two years after our move). We now serve 70 students each week from June - August. One thing that hasn't changed; we still provide lessons free of charge with the help of a small army of volunteers.

We are seeking your help. Our greatest need is for lesson volunteers. You don't have to be a horse expert to help. We will train you. We need you to come, smile, and love on our students. It takes approximately 15 volunteers to make the program run smoothly. We provide lessons 5 days/week. So you can see, we can't do it alone. We are currently recruiting volunteers ages 14 and up.

One of the reasons I'm reaching out to you is because you have a network that is different from mine. You know people whom I have not yet met. Would you consider casting your net on our behalf? We will come and talk with a group, or call someone who might be interested. If you could set the stage, make the initial contact, we would be so grateful.

Last year, we actually had to cancel lessons for a lack of volunteers. We are praying that will never happen again.

I've attached two documents. Please feel free to share. If you have ANY questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. If lesson volunteering is not your thing, but you'd like to help, we would be grateful to have you share your gifts and talents with Jeremiah's Crossing. Our family is expanding and we would welcome you to join us.

Thank you for your time.

Many blessings,  
Kathleen  
[www.jeremiahscrossing.org](http://www.jeremiahscrossing.org)



## UMW Reading Program Picks

Tim Tingle's House of Purple Cedar is a fictional story that beautifully tells a tale of the late 1800s in the Oklahoma region where the Choctaws and settlers (Nahullos) struggle to learn to live together. Rose tells of her Grandpa's (Amafo 's) love and forgiveness that lifts up the Choctaws as well as the settlers. She tells of her Grandmother's (Pokoni's) loving spirit that is always with her, guiding and instructing. Through the example of Christ and the Choctaw spirituality, the characters are lifted up from the sin of hate and violence. You will laugh for Maggie and Terrence, cry with Ona Mae, and spit fire at Robert Hardwicke. You will ask God's blessings on little Ellie Chukma, killed in a fire; on John Burleson, whose love and kindness is sometimes hidden in his physical stature; and on Rose herself, who lives to tell her story with gentleness.

UMW Reading Program–Nurturing for Community (2016) Available in our UMW library outside the church office.

In light of the recent school shooting (Parkland, Florida), James E. Atwood's America and Its Guns: A Theological Expose is a most timely reading. The debate about gun control has long puzzled me. Is the Second Amendment being used correctly? Why is there such fear that any kind of gun control would mean the beginning of the end of all gun ownership? These questions were discussed, and many more, in this very well researched writing. Atwood is a retired pastor of the Presbyterian church who now works tirelessly through a faith-based organization to encourage gun shops to stop illegal purchasing and trafficking of handguns in the Washington, D.C. area. Atwood builds his case that as Christians it is time we stand with God and for God. He urges that "the faith community wake up and boldly negate the nonsense that is noised that guns do not kill and the answer to gun violence is more guns." (p. 203) Please read this book for a Christian perspective on the gun debate.

UMW Reading Program–Education for Mission (2016) Available in our UMW library outside the church office.

## United Methodist Women



The United Methodist Women will be busy in April! There are members registered for the Conference Mission Action Day on April 7<sup>th</sup>. I would highly recommend this day of learning, you come away with new insights and a chance to reconnect or meet new women of faith.

Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup> we will have our April meeting but with a twist. We will have coffee fellowship as normal followed by the business meeting of UMW. After the meeting we will have our guest speaker Bill Clendenning. The topic is of interest to everyone, so we invite everyone to come listen to Bill speak on Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. After Bill's presentation we will have a potluck lunch. Please plan to attend and enjoy.

I would encourage everyone to join the reading program. If you choose not to be a part of the program, please pick up a book. The library is located outside of the church office. There are great books of interest on a variety of topics so take some time to check them out!

May 5<sup>th</sup> will be the North Central District Spiritual Growth Retreat at Pine Lake Camp. I have been attending the last few years and each year the program re-energizes those that attend. Please consider attending and we will car pool!

Summer is right around the corner! June 11<sup>th</sup> will be our Annual Potluck Picnic – mark that on your calendars! It's a great evening of conversation and fellowship!



Mission Needs



## Noisy Collection

**Sunday, April 8, 2018**  
for Jennifer and  
United Methodist

**Children's Services** This UMC supported organization helps those in poverty through housing, childcare, resources, and community in inner Milwaukee.

## April 15, 2018 SWEPS Food Pantry Collection



**April 15** is Special Offering Sunday for Native American Ministries. An envelope with more information and for your convenience will be included in the bulletin.



## MEN'S GROUP



**Meet  
for  
Breakfast**

**All men are invited**  
**April 4, 2018 at**  
**8:00 am**

### 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.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April

**3-Wyatt Coates**  
**7-Kevin Dillingham**  
**10-Ed Barker**  
**14-Kolt O'Keefe**  
**15-Mary Jane Phillips**  
**18-Hubert Johnson**  
**22-Pauline Anderson**  
**26-Riley Huiras**  
**27-Marinah Russell**

## Happy Anniversary

**16--Bill & Annette Spaulding**

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.



*Our Deepest Sympathy*

**To the family of Delores Hudak who passed away on Tuesday, March 13, 2018.**

### SWEPS

Thank you to Helen Dillingham, Tami Drew-Huiras, Kathy Duerkop, Judy Gitchel, Mary Jo Hane, Karen Rifleman, John and Judy Steele, Diane Swiggum, and Audrey Wittenberg for volunteering at the food pantry on March 12, 15 and 16. We also appreciate the staff at SWEPS in helping find alternates to work on March 15th so our members could attend Delores Hudak's funeral. God bless all of you for helping with this very important mission to provide food for the hungry.



# Prayer Calendar

## April

- 1--Wendy Schwartz
- 2--Jim & Judy Seegert
- 3--Wayne & Shirley Sering
- 4--Roberta Shaurette
- 5--Robin Shaw
- 6--Patti Sisco
- 7--Tom & Barb Sisco
- 8--Holly Skinner
- 9--Scott & Judy Skinner
- 10--Eileen Slinkman
- 11--Mike & Diane Sloat
- 12--Bill & Annette Spaulding
- 13--Greg, Karla & Taisa Staven
- 14--Molly Staven & Kaden Hicks
- 15--John & Judy Steele
- 16--Mike & Lynn Swanson
- 17--Diane Swiggum
- 18--Michael & Ruth Topp
- 19--Cindy Tyjeski
- 20--Tom & Sara Tyne
- 21--Frances Waite
- 22--Don & Fay Whitley
- 23--Scott & Deb Whitney
- 24--Bruce, Jenny, Jaylee, Kaylee, Tristan & Alexandria Williams
- 25--Jan Winn
- 26--Audrey Wittenberg
- 27--Mark & Rhonda Wittenberg
- 28--Bob & Marcia Wright
- 29--Bill & Pauline Anderson
- 30--Steven & Susan Andrews

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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

*Psalm 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.*

What are your thoughts as you read these words? It is easy to think of God watching over us, but I find it harder to conceive of God instructing, teaching and counseling me. I know that the Bible gives us instruction and guidance – that learning process I understand; but do I hear God's voice teaching me? And how about counseling me? That sounds like a two-way conversation. I must admit that my listening skills are not too good. When I go to God in prayer, I do a lot of talking, asking and even pleading. But how can I know what he wants to say to me if I don't stop talking and listen? I do try to hear him. I try to empty my mind and listen for his voice, but thoughts keep popping up into my mind and I get distracted. I am afraid I get a little discouraged and soon move on in my prayers. Are you like me? Do you tend to talk more than listen? I think most of us are that way. We must not get discouraged and give up. Just keep disposing of these stray thoughts when you are trying to listen. There are times that thoughts pop into my mind during my prayer time. I have come to believe they are from our Lord. I do listen to them when these ideas demand action, I try to obey. So let us not give up listening, even when you find it hard. Remember the thoughts that pop into your head during prayer – often these are the voice of the Lord.

*Pray with me: Lord God, please be patient with me when I talk more than listen. Find ways to reach me and get my attention. Keep me aware of your blessed presence in my life. I thank you for loving me Lord. In Jesus Name, Amen.*



#### April 1

**HAPPY EASTER**



#### April 2

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

#### April 3

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

#### April 4

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

#### April 8

10:15 am - Confirmation

#### April 9

4:30 pm - Trustees Meeting

#### April 10

10:00 am - Bible Study  
10:00 am - RCC Board Meeting  
5:00 pm - Bells  
6:00 pm - Bible Study

#### April 11

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

#### April 15

10:15 am - Confirmation

#### April 16

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

#### April 17

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

#### April 18

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

#### April 22

10:15 am - Confirmation

#### April 24

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

#### April 25

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

#### April 29

10:15 am - Confirmation

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#### **Church Office Hours**

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

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#### **Pastor Joshua's Office Hours**

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

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#### **E-mail Addresses**

Church Office: [umc@wctc.net](mailto:umc@wctc.net)  
Pastor Joshua: [joshuapeggram3@gmail.com](mailto:joshuapeggram3@gmail.com)

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#### **Church Office Phone**

715-423-8860

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

Cell: 920-896-3976

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#### **Sunday Services**

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

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#### **Wisdom Seekers**

Every Thursday: 9:30 a.m.

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#### **Nar-Anon**

Every Thursday: 6:30 p.m.

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#### **The Neighborhood Table**

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