



# THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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February 2018

Serving since 1859!

Wisconsin Rapids, WI

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## Just Joshin'

It has been a quick start to this year! February is fast upon us and Lent is right around the corner. Lent, of course, is the time period leading up to Easter. It is a time of preparation before we get to the celebration of 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've 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've grown in the past year and where we've 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 on how it can change lives here on earth. Let us do so among another great gift from God — the fellowship of believers. We kick off the Lenten Season on Wednesday, February 14 — Ash Wednesday — and we'll meet on Wednesdays throughout Lent for a meal together and then a study to help us remember why we even pay attention to this special time of year. *Please take note of the Lenten Schedule in this newsletter.*

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

God's blessings,

Pastor Josh

### UMW Reading Program Picks

In the 2017 list for Spiritual Growth is Brock and Lettini's book Soul Repair: Recovering from Moral Injury after War. This book addressed a question that I suspect many of us have considered. What happens when a soldier believes a war is unjust or when actions are committed in the war that fundamentally violate moral conscience? "Veterans with moral injury have souls in anguish, not a psychological disorder." (p. 51) Life is often only breathed back into these souls shattered by war when these people are able to rediscover and repair their moral conscience, not by simply putting the war behind them and moving on. Though veterans make up about 7% of our population, 20% of our suicides are veterans. No wonder! When great wrongs are committed against others, great wrongs are committed against ourselves as well. As the authors conclude, "...we believe a society must never rush to war, but challenge its leaders to explain why it is the only alternative." (p. 117) This book can be found in our UMW library.

Another book found on the 2017 reading list is Kelly Minter's Wherever the River Runs; it is in the category Education for Mission. I believe it is the best faith book I have ever read! There is a line that when something or someone comes so close to your own thoughts and feelings it is like they have read your mail. Well, Kelly has apparently read mine. Quite by chance she becomes part of an Amazon River ministry in Brazil. Her experiences make her ask questions of faith that I have been asking. She discusses them, and she has provided me with suggestions and direction. If you are interested in reading this book, I will loan it to you, but it will stay in my library because I will need to be referencing and rereading it. I will be researching some projects because of Kelly's writing; I want to answer His call.

Jean Michaels

## United Methodist Women



What a crazy winter weather wise we have had! During those cold days of January I hope you all found a good book on the UMW's reading list to read. If not, grab a book Sunday morning from the library located outside of the Church office and enjoy!

February 11th will be our first meeting of the new year. We will meet after the coffee fellowship in the meeting room and all women are invited to attend. Judy Steele will be presenting the program. Please bring your coffee and treats and join us.

I know ladies are not thrilled with another meeting to go to, but give us a try. My thought on the length of the meeting will be the program as the most important as well as fellowship will each other and the business meeting will be only as long as necessary. Another idea that we may think of is to go to lunch after the meeting but that can be discussed and decided on later.

I am new to leading our unit and always open to entertaining new ideas for our group.

Looking forward, we have the Mission Action Day which will be held April 7th in Mauston. May 5th will be the North Central District Retreat at Pine Lake. Please consider joining us at these meetings. The programs at both of these meetings will be interesting, educational and along the way you will be meeting other women of faith and enjoy fellowship!

Warm blessings for February!  
Cindy



## MEN'S GROUP



**Meet  
for  
Breakfast**

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

## **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.swepsapantry.org](http://www.swepsapantry.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.**

The family of Mike Phillips would like to express their heartfelt thanks and appreciation for everyone's help and prayers during this time of grief. The service and luncheon were wonderful. Thank you for all the good food and willingness to provide.

Love, Mary Jane and Family

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**Sunday February 11, 2018  
will be Boy Scout Sunday!**

If you or your child is a Boy Scout please come to church dressed in your uniform for a special recognition during service that day!



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### **Wisdom Seekers**

Every Thursday: 9:30 a.m.

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### **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.

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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.



### Noisy Collection

**Sunday, February 11,  
2018**

**for Jennifer and  
Helping Hands Gospel  
Mission**

### February 18, 2018 Food Pantry 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 21, 2018

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**

### 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**



*Our Deepest  
Sympathy*

**To the family of Mike Phillips  
who passed away January 2,  
2018.**



## Prayer Calendar February

- 1—Brenda Dudley
- 2--Robert & Vivian Dudley
- 3--Art & Kathy Duerkop
- 4--Tom & Cindy Erickson
- 5--Brent & Ginnie Fletcher
- 6--Faith Frank
- 7--Judy Gitchel
- 8--David Goetsch
- 9--Lester Gukenberger
- 10--Zelda Guzman
- 11--Gwen Gygi
- 12--Myrna Hagen
- 13--Mary Jo Hane
- 14--Keith & Janet Hansen
- 15--Norman & Auril Harding
- 16--Gordon Harmon
- 17--Glen & Aida Harper
- 18--Eric Henke
- 19--Marlene Henke
- 20--Hi Young & Im Hong
- 21--Delores Hudak
- 22--Kevin, Tami, Riley & Owen Huiras
- 23--Bob, Pam & Danielle Ironside
- 24--Hubert & Betty Johnson
- 25--Bill & Mandy Jungwirth
- 26--Helen Jungwirth
- 27--Shirley Klapperich
- 28--Fred & Barb Kronenberg

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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

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6*

We need to hear this verse often, especially at this time of year. The winter seems to be dragging on forever. “Oh, no!” we cry as another day of sub-zero temperatures and snow is forecast. Our spirits sink at the onset of another gray day. All of these things bring me to prayer. When I get the winter blues, conversation with God is where I find peace. He has asked us to let him help carry our burdens. There is so much going on in our world today that makes us anxious. So take your fears and anxieties to God. Start each day with him. Share your fears and worries with you Lord. He wants to carry your burdens and give you his strength and peace to live each day in joy. As you go through today whenever you feel anxiety in your heart and mind, remember Philippians 4:6.

*Let us Pray: Blessed Lord, we thank you for your promise to help us carry the burdens of our daily life. All we need to do is ask and you are there to lift our fears and worries and give us peace. Be with us in this day. In Christ's name. Amen*



### February 2

#### **GROUND HOG DAY**



### February 4

10:15 am - Confirmation

### February 6

10:00 am - Bible Study

5:00 pm - Bells

6:00 pm - Bible Study

### February 7

8:00 am - Men's Breakfast

10:30 am - Disciplines

5:00 pm - Choir Practice

### February 8

6:00 pm - Futures Team Meeting

### February 11

#### **BOY SCOUT SUNDAY**

10:15 am - Confirmation



### February 12

4:30 pm - Trustees Meeting

### February 13

10:00 am - RCC Board Meeting

10:00 am - Bible Study

5:00 pm - Bells

6:00 pm - Bible Study

### February 14

#### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

#### **VALENTINE'S DAY**

10:30 am - Disciplines

5:00 pm - Choir Practice

5:45 pm - Ash Wednesday Service



### February 19

6:00 pm - Finance Meeting

6:30 pm - Council Meeting

### February 20

5:00 pm - Bells

### February 21

10:00 am - Disciplines

5:00 pm - Lenten Supper

5:00 pm - Choir

5:45 pm - Lenten Service

### February 27

5:00 pm - Bells

### February 28

10:30 am - Disciplines

5:00 pm - Lenten Supper

5:00 pm - Choir

5:45 pm - Lenten Service



#### **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](mailto:umc@wctc.net)

Pastor Joshua: [Joshua.peggram3@gmail.com](mailto:Joshua.peggram3@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