



# THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 2018

Serving since 1859!

Wisconsin Rapids, WI

## Just Joshin'

*"The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.*

*"He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.*

*"So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son."*

John 1:4-5, 10-14

The Gospel of John doesn't really have Jesus' birth story like the rest of the gospel accounts (Matthew, Mark, Luke). Instead, John points to Jesus being both God and human. Jesus was a part of the creation of the world, and then came down into his creation. John portrays the beginning of Jesus' life ministry in a different way. Some say he gets right down to business.

Verses 5 and 10 of this chapter have always intrigued me. We go from verse 5, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it," to verse 10 which says, "He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him." Isn't that interesting that the creator and the light wasn't recognized?

Do people enjoy being in the dark? Do they realize they're in the dark? The second question here may be the better one to start with. Maybe some people don't know. Maybe some people know of, but have never experienced the saving grace of God through Jesus. And yet, even those

who may be searching for something new and different didn't recognize the light shining into the darkness.

I'm reminded of the walks I used to take with my Grandpa Pegram. He was a walking machine later in his life. He'd let us grandkids come along sometime, as long as we could keep up (we weren't quite teenagers). It would be dark when we'd walk down his road and he'd have a flashlight. I was always wondering what was around in the dark spaces where I couldn't see. Grandpa would tell us to keep following the flashlight and moving forward (later on, I realized this was his way of keeping us focused and moving forward so he didn't have to stop and could keep his heart rate up).

With grandpa and his flashlight, I wasn't scared about the dark or what was there. I was with someone who knew the way, and what awaited us in the dark spaces (the neighbors' yards) if we ventured away from his flashlight. He kept us moving forward and brought us home safely.

Too many believe they can figure it out on their own. Sometimes, even those who've followed the light of Christ think they can handle it from here and venture off on their own. When this happens though, we miss out. We miss out on God's unfailing love and faithfulness. We miss out on God's guidance and strength. We miss out on knowing we're not in this world alone.

As we begin 2018, do we need to refocus on the light in this dark world? Do we need to invite somebody in our lives who may be struggling into this light and show them God's unfailing love and faithfulness? As we begin another year, let us remember the grace and love we have received from God, and the grace and love that is to come. Thanks be to God for sending his son so we, too, might know the blessing of the light.

### UMW Reading Program Picks

If you are looking for some books from the UMW Reading Program for 2018, I hope these suggestions might be helpful.

First, check out Pig Park by Claudia Guadalupe Martinez. It is from the 2017 list and is in the Leadership Development category. Fifteen-year-old Masi Burciaga lives a very uncertain summer in her fictitious Chicago neighborhood. The number one employer, American Lard Company, has pulled up stakes and relocated its business to China. Now what? Masi experiences a lot in a little time: a first crush, an absent mom, fear of losing home and friends, and her community's struggle. Some good things do happen.

Second is Class Lives: Stories from Across Our Economic Divide edited by Chuck Collins and others. It is from the 2017 list and in the Social Action category. Class is not a simple item. Class Lives is a collection of stories told by those born into poverty, the working class, the middle class, the owning class...and everywhere in between. Where do you fit into the spectrum? In one story a man from Haiti is working as a hospice nurse and attends to a dying white man of education. To his attending "black kid" nurse, the man says, "You know kid, at the end of the day none of this class and status stuff really matters. In the end, all that matters was what was true and truly felt and how we treated one another." (p. 210) And, I ask, "How do we get there?"

These two books can be found in the library outside the church office. Please do fill out the information and return them on a timely basis so that others interested can read them. As I continue to read, I will continue to share.

Jean Michaels



## MEN'S GROUP



**Meet  
for  
Breakfast**

**All men are  
invited January 3,  
2018 at 8:00 am**

**A big "Thank You" for the wonderful "send off". I will truly miss my church family and think often of you. Thanks too, to my Sara Circle friends for the luncheon in my honor. How blessed I am.**

**Jan Winn**

# United Methodist Women



In just a few days we will enter 2018! It's hard to believe 2017 is almost "in the books"! I want to thank Shirley Carpenter for all her hard work and efforts keeping our UMW unit on track and working with our awesome fellow officers in creating an interesting and fun year of activities. Shirley seemed almost giddy giving me the President's materials last Sunday. She did promise to stay active in our unit!

During the month of January I would like to challenge all ladies to select a book from the UMW Reading program and take time to sit and read it. I am picturing you all snuggled in with a cup of coffee/tea/hot chocolate and a blanket enjoying one of the many books available.

February 11th will be our first meeting of the new year and the program will be lead by Judy Steele. It will be after coffee fellowship and I promise it will not be a long business meeting. If you aren't a member, please come and check us out and if you are a member, put the date on your calendar and enjoy the fellowship along with the program. As always, feel free to bring coffee and treats from coffee fellowship with!

2018 activities to plug into are the Conference Mission Action Day and the North Central District Spiritual Growth Retreat at Pine Lake Camp. I encourage everyone to consider these two activities. You will not be disappointed plus you will get to meet new (or old friends) women of faith.

Wishing each of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year!

Christmas Blessings,  
Cindy

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**BETHESDA THRIFT SHOP:** The Bethesda Thrift Shop closed Dec. 30. We regret that this had to happen, but with the sale of the mall, we had to close our store. We searched the community for another location but the size that we needed at a good location at a reasonable cost was not available and what we found could have possibly become a financial risk for Bethesda to continue to operate a store in Rapids. We thank all the faithful non-paid volunteers who worked thousands of hours for the past 14 years. Thanks also to our donors and many wonderful customers. In the past 14 years, Bethesda profited more than 1.5 million dollars to help enhance the lives of the intellectually and physically disabled folks served by Bethesda. We thank you! The Bethesda Thrift Shop definitely was a positive part of this community and will be missed by many.



M225 Turtle Ridge  
Marshfield, WI 54449  
www.mycompassion.info  
715-387-2080



*Dear Compassion Friends,*

*Meet Ingrid. She is an 8 year old precious little girl that lives at the dump in Roatan, Honduras. We had the privilege of meeting her on our annual mission trip to the island. What you see is her house, a ragged mattress, sticks and a tarp amidst the filth of a dump. In January we took \$1000 worth of groceries to those living at the dump. We also spent the week hosting medical brigades on the island and providing care for the poorest of the poor. It is so heartbreaking! I try to wrap my head around children living in that filth and stench. They are hungry and homeless. Flies buzz around the rotten food and the smell is nauseating.*

*January of 2018 our team will return to the island to share the love of Jesus Christ through a conference about "The Father's Love." Our outreach will also include a food give away at the dump and a time of ministry.*

*September of 2016 Compassion In Action kicked off, The Creek.*

*It's a local, weekly recovery ministry to addicts and those abused. We serve a meal, minister to the kids, have worship, a testimony and a teaching from the Bible about recovery. We have seen so many of our guests give their lives to Jesus. As they begin their road to sobriety and healing, we continue to be amazed at the power of God as He transforms their lives!*

*As hurricane season ravaged our nation we knew we had to offer our assistance. We learned that Liberty, Texas was in great need after Hurricane Harvey made landfall. With a team of 25 strong, we gutted house after house damaged from the flooding. All of our lives were deeply touched as we saw the devastation. Many lost everything they owned and yet they continued to turn to the only one that could help them through it all, Jesus Christ.*

*We are returning to Salinas Victoria, Mexico with a team in March of 2018. Our outreach will include a marriage conference, children's ministry and construction. Our focus has changed from all mercy ministry to equipping them for ministry so they can reach their nation.*

*We have many financial needs to make all of these outreaches happen. Would you prayerfully consider a tax deductible donation to Compassion In Action to carry on this work? We operate solely on donations from our generous friends and partners in ministry.*

*As our world increasingly displays, violence, anger and hatred, we choose to make a difference one person at a time. We choose to love, not hate. We choose to love in word and deed. We choose to love because He first loved us.*

*Compelled By Love,*

*Tom and Cathie Shilts*

*Compassion In Action Directors*

*Send checks to: Compassion In Action, M225 Turtle Ridge Rd, Marshfield, WI 54449 or Donate securely on-line at [www.mycompassion.info](http://www.mycompassion.info)*





**Noisy Collection**  
**Sunday, January 14,**  
**2018**  
**for Jennifer and**  
**The Family Center**

**2018 NOISY COLLECTIONS**

(for Jennifer and local/UMC missions)

January 14 - The Family Center  
February 11 - Helping Hands Gospel Mission  
March 11 - Harbor House  
April 8 - United Methodist Children's Services  
May 13 - Boys and Girls Club  
June 10 - River Cities Clubhouse  
July 8 - Paul Webster at Mujila Falls Agriculture Centre  
August 12 - Opportunity Development Center (ODC)  
September 9 - Northcott House  
October 14 - UNICEF (UN International Children's Emergency Fund)  
November 11 - SWEPS Christmas Food Baskets  
December 9 - Humane Society

**2018 PANTRY COLLECTIONS**

January 21 - SWEPS - essentials  
February 18 - SWEPS - food  
March 18 - SWEPS - essentials  
April 15 - SWEPS - food  
May 20 - SWEPS - essentials  
June 17 - SWEPS - food  
July 15 - SWEPS - essentials  
August 19 - TNT COLLECTION (for our dinner in October)  
September 16 - SWEPS - food  
October 21 - SWEPS - essentials

**UMC 2018 SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS**

January 14 - Human Relations Day  
March 11 - One Great Hour of Sharing  
April 15 - Native American Ministries  
May 27 - Peace with Justice  
October 7 - World Communion  
November 25 - UM Student Day

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

**January**

**3 - Beverly Peterson**  
**4 - Ruth Topp**  
**4 - Julie Sering**  
**8 - Tom Erickson**  
**9 - Shirley Carpenter**  
**10 - Cathy Anhalt**  
**12 - Jaylee Williams**  
**12 - Kaylee Williams**  
**13 - Barb Sisco**  
**22 - Sandra Calverley**  
**23 - Marty Nolet**  
**23 - Brian Henke**  
**27 - Brad Russell**  
**27 - Acacia Sloat**  
**29 - Kathy Cole**  
**31 - Bob Liska**

*Happy  
Anniversary*

**1 - Brent & Ginnie Fletcher**  
**3 - Joshua & Katie Pegram**  
**7 - Stanley & Myrna Langowski**



*Our Deepest  
Sympathy*

**To the family of Cathy McNett  
who passed away November 23,  
2017.**

# Prayer Calendar January

- 1—Bruce, Jenny, Jaylee, Kaylee, Tristan & Alexandria Williams
- 2—Janet Winn
- 3—Audrey Wittenberg
- 4—Mark, Rhonda & David Wittenberg
- 5—Bob & Marcia Wright
- 6—Bill & Pauline Anderson
- 7—Steven & Susan Andrews
- 8—Elizabeth Anhalt
- 9—Jeff & Cathy Anhalt
- 10—Paula Baeurle
- 11—Wendy Baierl
- 12—Ed & Jamie Barker
- 13—Cassandra Bartram & Wyatt Coates
- 14—Dan & Tina Bartram
- 15—Joan Benner
- 16—Wayne & Wendy Boettcher
- 17—Harry & Carol Calverley
- 18—Robert & Sandra Calverley
- 19—Scott & Evan Calverley
- 20—Bill & Shirley Carpenter
- 21—Al & Janet Ciardelli
- 22—Katie Clark
- 23—Bill Clendenning
- 24—Kathy Cole
- 25—Rick & Ellen Cook
- 26—James & Cherri Correll
- 27—Tyler Cowan
- 28—Carol Davis
- 29—Helen Dillingham
- 30—Kevin, Karlene & Kasey Dillingham
- 31—Mike & Julie Dresen

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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 you will not leave in haste or go in flight; for the Lord will go before you, the God of Israel will be your rear guard. Isaiah 52:12*

As we enter a new year, it is a time of looking back and a time of looking forward. We remember the joys and sorrows of the past year and thank God for bringing us through safely. We have no idea of 2018 will bring us. There will again be joy and sorrow. And there is another constant that we can be sure of – Jesus Christ will walk with us through this new year. He will be there even when we are not aware of him.

My wish for all of you this year is an awareness of Christ's presence beside you each and every day. He will rejoice with you and he will comfort and carry you. He will strengthen you to meet each day and He will guide you – if you spend time with him each day. This is the resolution we all need to make: "I will take time to be with Christ in prayer each day of 2018." As Oswald Chambers tells us: "Leave the irreparable past in Christ's hands, and step out into the irresistible future with him." That is my prayer for each of you. God bless you in this new year!

*Pray with me: Blessed Lord, stay beside each of us as we travel through 2018. Help us be aware of your presence each day and let us find time to be with you in prayer for guidance and intercession in each and every day. Thank you for loving us and walking beside us. In the name of your Precious Son, Jesus Christ. Amen*

# JANUARY

## January 1

**HAPPY NEW YEAR  
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**



## January 2

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

## January 3

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

## January 7

9:00 am - Rich Rubietta Preaching  
10:15 am - Confirmation

## January 8

4:30 pm - Trustees Meeting

## January 9

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

## January 10

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

## January 11

6:00 pm - Futures Team Meeting

## January 14

10:15 am - Confirmation

## January 15

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

## January 16

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

## January 17

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

## January 21

10:15 am - Confirmation

## January 23

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

## January 24

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

## January 25

6:00 pm - Futures Team Meeting

## January 28

10:15 am - Confirmation

## January 30

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

## January 31

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

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