

Our Journey Together

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*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday
and today and forever.*

Hebrews 13:8

As we continue on in our Lenten study of “Embracing the Uncertain” we have to look around our world and see the uncertainty that surrounds

us on all sides. Families, jobs, the economy, politics, wars, droughts, etc, etc, etc. We must also face the fact that there is some uncertainty within our church’s denomination. Some churches are leaving the UMC, some of our close neighbor churches even. And that can leave us feeling unsettled, even here in our church where we should be safe from all the chaos.

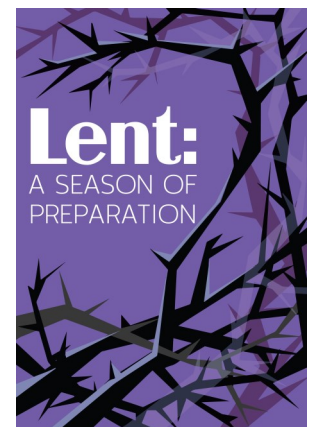
It is all too easy, when life, the world, the church are wrapped in uncertainty to feel ourselves becoming more and more anxious. It is easy to feel as though there is no safe place for us to turn. But we do have a safe place, we do have a refuge from all the turmoil.

No matter what the world may throw at us, Jesus is still on the throne. God is still good. The Spirit is still with us. God, the great three-in-one, will never leave us nor abandon us. When life feels unsteady, we can stand sure-footed upon the Rock.

As a part of my own Lenten discipline this year, I am setting aside 5 minutes at the start of every day to go over my to-do list or agenda and give it all to God. I am humbling myself to purposefully acknowledge that many things are beyond my capability, beyond my control, beyond my understanding, and the only way to move forward is with God’s guidance and help.

I hope that you, too, can find a way this Lent and beyond to invite God into your daily life and routine.

Pastor Teresa



Content Due

Do you have items
you would like
included in next
month’s newsletter?

If so, please have
them into the church
office no later than
Mar 24.





March Ushers and Greeters

March 5 Shawn Fernholz & CFI Folks

March 12, 19 & 26— still need volunteers

If you need to miss a week in which you are scheduled to usher, it is your responsibility to find someone to fill in for you.

Please remember also, there are other ways in which you can help serve the church. We are always looking for folks to serve coffee fellowship, to be communion stewards, and lead small groups.

Financial Update from Administrative Council

Financial Update as of January 31, 2023:

2023 General Fund Income Year to Date: \$13,003.84
 2023 General Fund Expenses Year to Date: \$16,090.69
 General Fund Difference: (\$3,086.85)



UMC DENOMINATIONAL DISCUSSION

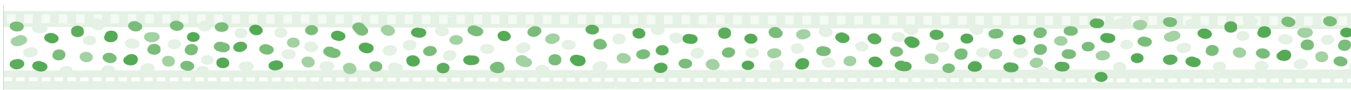
During the course of this month the Leadership Team will be presenting information regarding happenings in the United Methodist Church following worship services on the 5th, 12th, and the 19th.

The congregation will then be asked to submit any further questions they may have about the issue.

Those questions will then be addressed at a Town Hall style meeting on March 22nd at 6:30 in the sanctuary. We will have representatives present who will speak to both sides of the issues facing us.

ALL OF THE CONGREGATION IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!!!

Following this meeting a straw poll will be conducted of the congregation to help the Leadership Team determine our next steps.



Birthdays:

- Mar 2 Dawn Peterman
- Mar 4 Darla Welk
- Mar 5 Annie Gatzke
- Mar 6 Easton VanDerWerff
- Mar 8 Molly Kopecky
- Mar 9 Bobbi Larson
- Mar 10 Shawn Fernholz
- Mar 10 Walker Wagner
- Mar 13 Eleanor Steptoe
- Mar 14 Emily Hasart
- Mar 16 Ellie Gates
- Mar 16 Weslyn Smith

- Mar 17 Madison Bowar
- Mar 18 Deb Carr
- Mar 20 James Fritzsche
- Mar 20 Gary Larson
- Mar 21 Lloyd Schwartz
- Mar 22 Gage Russell
- Mar 25 Pat Hasart
- Mar 30 Linda Conkey
- Mar 30 Cody Peterman



MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversaries:

- Mar 15 Scott & Melanie Bower
- Mar 18 Merle & Judy Jenner
- Mar 30 Royce & Linda Blackburn

Leadership Team Meeting
February 15, 2023

***Please note these minutes have not yet been approved and are subject to modification**

Members present: Pastor Teresa Whetsel, Cindy Deuter, Andrea Fiala, Joe Fiala, Chris Keeter, Eugene Moncur, Karen Steptoe, and JoAnn Testerman. Merle Jenner present as a visitor. Absent were Sara Gates, Dwight Greenough, Mike Moncur, Kayla Wagner. A new trustee member still needs to be chosen.

Loving

- Opening Devotional – Cindy Deuter read today’s devotional from The Upper Room which was based on Matthew 6:25-34.
- Mission Statement of UMC: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Everything we do as a church should contribute to this mission
- 2-word check in- Pastor Teresa handed out some definitions to help us determine where the Team stands on the issues dividing the denomination. There was discussion of the terms and then a straw poll was taken. This showed us that 2/3 of the members present could be in a denomination in which not every congregation agreed on the issues surrounding human sexuality, and 1/3 could not.
- Prayer- Pastor Teresa lead the group in prayer

Learning

- UMC/GMC Discussion: Following the straw poll taken more discussion was had of educating our congregation on what information has been given out to the Leadership Team already and what more may need to happen. It was decided that a brief overview of the current status of denomination issues would be presented to the congregation on 2 consecutive Sundays immediately following church. These would be announced several weeks in advance at church, in bulletins, on multimedia, emails, on our Facebook page and website. Dates were set for March 12 & 19 to be followed by a Town Hall type meeting on the 22nd where presenters would be here to discuss both the UMC and the GMC. Between the informational overviews and the Town Hall, the congregation will have the opportunity to submit questions that the presenters will be asked.
- Election of Vice Chair- Andrea Fiala nominated Joe Fiala with Gene Moncur seconding the nomination. Nominations ceased. All voted in favor
- Officers for 2023 will be Cindy Deuter, Leadership Chairperson/ Finance Chairperson, Joe Fiala, Vice Chairman, Mike Moncur, Treasurer, JoAnn Testerman, Office Manager, and Pastor, Teresa Whetsel. JoAnn stated a new bank signature card will need to be signed with the new officers. She will get a copy of the minutes to Quoin Bank so these papers can be prepared.
- Input from those who worship on-line –
 - ⇒ Can’t hear singing during worship-can we have mics that pick up the congregation during songs? How much would it cost to upgrade the sound system?
 - ⇒ Automatic doors- the questioning person was told with the age of the building it was cost prohibitive at this point. Usher will help with doors and ring the church bell on Sundays.

Consent calendar items-

- Secretary’s minutes for January- Andrea Fiala made a motion to accept the January minutes, Joe Fiala seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

- Treasurer's report for January- Joe Fiala made the motion to accept the treasurer's report with Chris Keeter seconding the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Leading

Sub-Committee Reports/Focus for 2023

Finance:

Dollars for Scholars- The Finance Committee presented applications from Erin Moncur and Tyra Gates for United Methodist Higher Education Foundation Scholarship with the recommendation for the Team to give them both the \$1000 scholarship. Andrea Fiala made the motion to give the \$1000 scholarship with Chris Keeter seconding. All voted in favor. JoAnn will prepare the check and get it sent to the UM Dollars for Scholars office.

New Bank Card Signatures- JoAnn will get a copy of the minutes to Quoin Bank as stated earlier with the officers listed.

Trustees:

Building Use Policy update

Andrea is working on this. She asked for help with donation suggestion or cost to use. The Team decided \$100 should be asked for use of kitchen and dining hall. There should be a cleaning and damage clause put in the policy. It will also be alright for quests to use the wifi.

Sanctuary Multimedia – in process

TVs have been ordered – Karl's will install
Patrick Price has been contacted to do the installation of the wiring
Moving outlets? –

Lighting/Electrical Project – complete

Parsonage – in process

- ⇒220 V outlet in garage – complete
- ⇒New flooring – Dwight Gutzmer – being installed this week
LVP – kitchen, dining, entry hall, upstairs bathrooms
- ⇒Keyless entry for office door – in progress – Mike
- ⇒Kitchen Counter – front edge repair – pending (Bill)
- ⇒Message sign repairs – Gene (Royce & Bill)
- ⇒NW Entry – seal leaks – House of Glass – no update

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 with committee meetings at 5:00pm and full Leadership Team at 5:30pm.

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Come Be Energized

After some time away from the church, author Donald E. Miller returned to the fold. He writes: "One thing that brought me back ... was asking simply: What are the alternatives to the church? Where are the communities that sanction the pursuit of meaning and truth as a legitimate enterprise? that have material and personal resources to assist in this search? that provide regular occasions for confession of failures? that renew and inspire? that provide a setting where children are nurtured? where family members can be buried? where births can be celebrated? where social issues can be debated?"

Miller concludes: "There are a number of institutions that deal with one or several of these questions, but historically the church has demonstrated its ability to energize all of these activities."

