



First United Methodist Church
202 West Main Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158-5893
Phone (641) 752-3668

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CHILI
LUNCH
SUNDAY,
MARCH 22
11:00 AM
FUNDRAISER



WORSHIP SCHEDULE
8:30 am—Sunday School (all ages)
9:30am—Coffee time
10:00 am—Worship*
*Nursery available

Church Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday
9:00 am - Noon
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Closed on Monday

FUMC Staff
Senior Pastor: Jeff Kodis x1002
Organist/Bell Director: Jan Randall
Worship Arts Director: Jenn Pedersen x 1016
Education Director: Jenn Pedersen x 1010
Administrative Assistant: Jo Ruff x1000
Business Manager: Kay Coutts x 1007
Custodians: Steve Cherveney x1001
Becky Goodell

www.fumc-mtown.org
fumc@fumc-mtown.org

Please send articles for the April newsletter to Jo Ruff
at fumc@fumc-mtown.org by March 20.



MARCH NEWSLETTER



2020



Loving God, Growing Together, Sharing Christ

“By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” 1 Peter 1:3-5

It is not uncommon this time of year to encounter a bit of meteorological whiplash. We will have a few days like this last weekend when sun shines, the weather warms up a bit, and we barely need a jacket to go outside. Then the weather will turn cold again and remind us that it is still Winter. A warm spell is just enough to get us longing for the return of Spring.

But we know Spring is coming - we know it with certainty. We know the cold will give way to warmer weather, the world will turn green again, and before long we will begin talking about how hot it is. That certainty is what gives us hope when we find ourselves longing for what comes next.

The Season of Lent and Easter are a reminder that this same reality occurs in our spiritual lives. Lent is a period of waiting and preparation for Easter. We know that Easter is coming with certainty because we see it approaching on our calendars. We journey through the desert of life with intentionality and purpose, knowing that new life is coming soon.

But the significance of Easter goes much deeper than mere dates on a calendar. In the face of death, we are reminded of the certainty of the Resurrection. Death is not the end of this journey but the beginning of a new journey with God. In the brokenness and uncertainty of this life, we know that God is not finished yet and we will experience restoration and new life in the future. In the midst of our longing for new life and restoration, we know with certainty that God will bring it to completion.

So as Christians we are Resurrection people, not merely because we believe that the Resurrection happened for Jesus, but because we know the Resurrection will happen for us. We know that suffering, death, and brokenness do not have the final word. We know that God is always bringing about new life and our best days are always ahead of us. I pray that we can live with this certainty and hope as we journey with God in the days ahead.

Pastor Jeff

FAMILY MINISTRY by Jenn Pedersen

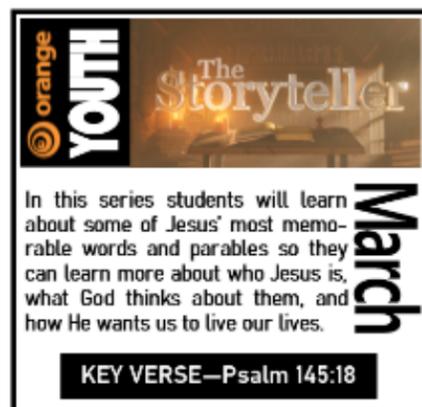
We continue with weekly learning opportunities each Sunday morning at 8:30 am.

Our March Children & Youth Sunday School Studies:



For PK - Grade 5 **-D.I.Y- Forgiveness in Up to You-** Our February series takes a look at forgiveness. Each of us has been hurt. Tough as it is, God helps us choose forgiveness: deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay. With His help, you can "do it yourself" - because forgiveness is up to you. Our key verse for this series is - "Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13

For Grades 6-12 - **The Storyteller-** In this series, students will take a look at one of the most powerful ways Jesus taught life-changing truths: stories. This series leads students through Jesus' parables and how to make these concepts real in their lives. The key verse for this series is Psalm 145:18 - "The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth."



WORSHIP ARTS MINISTRY by Jenn Pedersen

"Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God."
Joel 2:12-13



During the month of March we will be moving through the season of Lent. This is a season of preparation before Easter which begins on Ash Wednesday (February 26th), and ends with the celebration of Easter Sunday (April 12th). Lent is often characterized by a period of fasting, repentance, self-denial and spiritual discipline. The purpose of Lent is to set aside time for reflection on Christ - to consider his suffering and sacrifice - his life, death, burial, and resurrection. The goal of this season is to strengthen our faith and develop a closer relationship with the Lord.

During this season we will continue with our regular gatherings of worship and continue through our Experiment in Grace sermon series. Our worship teams, alleluia ringers and sanctuary singers will continue leading us in times of worship



Grant Fitz
Derek Johnson
Garrett Larson
Rob Larson
Scott Tasler
Scott Vial

This Month's Usher / Greeter Teams

Beth Ballard
Dawn Diser
Emily Frese
Ron Iole

Gary Ballard
Noel Diser
Stephen Frese
Meredith Miller

LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSIONS by Barb Matya

Collections for March will be dish soap for the Supply Closet and our church's Discretionary Fund for Change for Change. Thank you for all the soap donations last month.

We have donated most of the Christmas offering, leaving some money for anything that might arise between now and Easter. We gave \$1,000 to each of our 5 missionary families: Dave & Jen Carroll, Paul & Karen Haenze, Larry & Jane Kies, Lynn & Sharon Fogleman and Larry & Jill Couch. We also gave \$750 to each of the following: The Caring Center, HOC, Emergency Food Box, Salvation Army, Triumph Center and CIRSI. Thank you for your generosity so we can help these ministries.

Souper Bowl Sunday brought in 123 cans of soup that were delivered to the Food Box and Salvation Army. Thanks for your donations. The Chiefs were the winners in the Souper Bowl too!

We are working together with Hand in Hand on the Chili Lunch Sunday, March 22 following worship. Chili and dessert will be available for a free-will offering that will be used for our Discretionary Fund. This is the fund available to our members experiencing difficulties. I hope you will plan to attend. If you could make cookies, bars or other dessert for this event, please contact me.

"And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others." 2 Corinthians 9:8

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS 8:30 am by Duane Meyer

Starting Sunday, March 15th, Duane Meyer's Adult Sunday School Class in the Oasis will be doing a Lenten Study entitled, "Why Easter Matters" by Andy Stanley. This DVD study will last 4 weeks. In this Easter study Andy Stanley looks at some of the people whose lives intersected with Jesus in the weeks leading to his crucifixion. Each of them had an agenda that put them at odds with God and Jesus. As you'll see there's a little bit of them in us. If interested in joining this study, please contact Duane at 641-753-8271 for materials.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDIES by Reva Roland

Tuesday Bible Study: We will start our new study "It's Not Supposed To Be This Way" by Lysa Terkeurst on March 3. Classes are held in the Oasis Room at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. You're welcome to attend any or all of the sessions. All women and men of the community are welcome to attend. If you have questions please contact Reva Roland at 641-691-1335 or email her at rolandrjr2003@yahoo.com.

MARCH

Monthly Meetings:

Church Council: Tuesday, March 17, at 5:30 pm
Trustees: 6:00 pm, Staff Room
SPRC: No Meeting
Finance: No Meeting
Stewardship: No Meeting
Vision: No Meeting

Endowment: TBD

TLC: Thursday, March 26, at 1:30 pm and 4:00 pm

Hand in Hand: Tuesday, March 10, at 5:30 pm

Missions: Tuesday, March 10, at 11:00 am



In Christian Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go out to:

Lawrence & Shirley Mann and Family in the loss of Shirley's mother, Barb Cassens.

Brent & Echo Neuse & Family in the loss of Echo's father, Jim Hart.



**Communion
March 1**

March Collection:



Dish Soap



**Day-Light Savings
Time Begins**

Sunday, March 8

**Be sure to set
your clocks ahead!**

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Join us!



9:30 am Sundays



**March
Change for Change:
Discretionary Fund**



Temple Builders

**Exercise Class
8:15 - 9:00 am
Tuesday & Thursday
Fellowship Hall
All you need is an
exercise ball & mat.**



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

This is a reminder that for inclement weather closings the church office follows the Marshalltown Public School System, and closes when schools are not in session due to the weather.



**Prayer Shawl Ministry
Thursdays at 10:00 am in the
Staff Room.
Anyone is welcome to join in.**

**Insurance Requirement
Please do not sit in the
front row of the balconies.**

Chili Luncheon Sunday, March 22 Following Worship Free-Will Offering For Discretionary Fund



18 Commit to Youth Mission Trip 2020 by Gina Ruddock



Twelve youth and six adults have made their commitment to travel to San Antonio, Texas this summer to work with Blueprint Ministries. Blueprint Ministries is committed to restoring homes for elderly, disabled and low-income families in the heart of San Antonio. Youth will gain experience as servants and leaders, sharing the love, hope and grace of Jesus Christ.

Our mission trip will take place July 25-August 2. Many of you have already asked how you might help. Praying for our youth program is a great place to start! In April/May we will be doing some fundraising activities where you may lend some financial support.

We are excited for what we hope will be a life changing experience!

UMW by Bev Sloppy

The Valentine cookie sale was a huge success! \$314 was the total amount raised. Thanks to you with a sweet tooth, or maybe you bought to give to your sweetheart; we are grateful for you. We also want to thank the bakers and the decorators for their time and talent. Look forward to Easter ones next!

Our next big fundraiser is the salad luncheon, April 23rd. We have the committees, some decorations and a timeline we follow to make sure this all goes as planned. One thing for sure is we could not do this without all your help. You will have an opportunity to indicate your part in this when we have sign-up sheets available. Probably in early April.

You probably noticed the list of UMW giving in the February newsletter. This is why we work hard to be able to help these agencies.

March 4th the Lenten Breakfast is at the Hope UMC starting @ 6:30

If anyone would like to set in on our next board meeting, it is March 5th @9:30a.m. in the lower tower room. If you attend Church Women United we were notified they will not meet until further notice.

Be sure and browse our books in fellowship hall. If you would be interested in reading one, just fill out a card and put it in the box so Mary Long knows who is reading it.

THINK SPRING!

TLC by Ruth Jackson

We are a group of people who are busy visiting our members who are in Nursing Homes or are at home and unable to get out. Our goal is to see each one once a month. We are meeting in March to update our lists, to talk about our experiences and to be an encouragement to each other. We are getting together on Thursday, March 26 at 1:30 and 4:00 in the Lower Tower Room..

We could use some more volunteers. We also need names of people in need of these contacts. We want to be sure we are not leaving anyone out. Those who are at home are often neglected because we do not know about them. We want them to feel included in our congregation and to know we still care.

If these times don't work for you, I would be glad to meet with you at your convenience. Call Ruth Jackson - 641-328-1654- or e-mail her - ruthj5701@gmail.com if you have any questions or information. God is Good!

LENTEN BREAKFAST SCHEDULE 6:30 AM		
DATE	LOCATION	Address
March 4, 2020	Hope UMC	2203 S 3rd Ave.
March 11, 2020	New Hope Christian Church	3901 S Center St.
March 18, 2020	St. Henry Catholic Church	211 W Olive St.
March 25, 2020	Central Christian Church	300 W Main St.
April 1, 2020	First Friends Church	2409 S 6th St.
April 8, 2020	Elim Lutheran Church	302 W Church St.

Parking Request

On Sundays, if you are able, please park in the lot across the street to the east or on the north side of the building so people who have difficulty walking can park in our lot. Thanks for being considerate of others.

Weather Cancellations

To find out if church activities are cancelled, check
Email
KCCI TV Channel 8
Facebook

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY by Kathy Braga

Ever since mid November, we in the Prayer Shawl group, have been focusing on making winter hats and scarves. We have been distributing them at the Public Library and Salvation Army. Our goal was to provide warmth this winter for those in our community who are in need of some warmth during this cold winter. Since November, we have made a total of 207 items to give away, which included hats, scarves and even a couple of headbands. Thank you to those who gave us yarn or also made some of those items and donated them to our cause. We appreciate all of that help.

We also continue to make prayer shawls for anyone who needs a tangible warmth and touch from God. Our shawls are made and prayed over each week. If you or someone else you know is suffering somehow from illness, loss or just could use some comfort, these shawls are for you. When shawls are given, we continue to pray for the ones the shawls went to.

If you want to make a shawl and donate it to us, especially if you are not able to come to our daytime meeting, that is ok. Feel free to join us on Thursday mornings at 10:00 in the work room if you are able to help us make these shawls. We thank the church so much for their support of this group. We choose to try to bring comfort to others, out of love, so that they may feel closer to Christ.

Help us supply our shawl closet. I know there are people in the congregation who knit or crochet, so I have an idea. We can give you the yarn, you can make one shawl or lap blanket for us.

Shawls take about 3-4 skeins, lap blankets take 2-3 skeins. Shawls are approximately 60" long x 24" wide, blankets are approximately 40" long x 24-25" wide. Please contact me (text or call) 641-750-1863 if you are interested.

	Easter Cookies For Missions
	<p>Celebrate Easter with homemade decorated Easter cookies! UMW will have beautifully decorated sugar cookies before and after church on Sunday, April 5, for a free will offering. It is no secret that the best cookies come from the FUMC kitchens.</p> <p>If you would like to help decorate on Saturday, April 4th at 9:00 please let Mary Cowdrey know. It is loads of fun and NO experience is necessary. Contact Mary at home at 752-8809 or cell (515)240-1942. Fun + Missions = God's grace in Abundance. Come join us!</p>