

The Sidney United Methodist Church

News-n-Views

Volume 2019 Issue 3

March 2019

March



Church Office Hours:

***Monday-Friday
9:30am-12:30pm***

***Pastor's Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday
9:00a.m.-2:00 p.m.
or by appointment***

Sunday morning

***Worship time:
10:15 a.m.***



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Greetings my brothers and sisters in Christ,

So there I was on the First Sunday in Lent a few years, at the Homer Avenue United Methodist Church (a church that I was serving as the pastor of at the time), when something hilarious happened. I was doing the children's message during the Sunday morning worship service, and often I would ask the kids a question to get them thinking.

Well on this Sunday, I asked the kids what the season of Lent was. Without fail, one of the young girls announced very quickly "that every time that her grandma does laundry that she pulls Lent out of her dryer". With this, the whole congregation broke out into incredible laughter!

When I was serving at the Homer Avenue UMC, it was the practice to give a wrapped box to one of the children every Sunday, and then that child would put something in that box for the next Sundays children's message. The way it worked, was that whatever was in this box, I then had to use in my children's message for the Sunday morning service. I always joked with the kids that they could put anything church appropriate in the box, as long as it wasn't alive or ticking. As it turned out, the young girl that told me that Lent was what her grandma takes out of the dryer had put a sandwich bag lint, not Lent, in the children's message box! We once again had incredible laughter in the congregation!

As we move into this church season of Holy Lent, while he have funny stories that we might think of, Lent is a season of preparation. In this 40-day season, not counting Sundays, we are called to spiritually prepare ourselves for the coming crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ on Good Friday, and then his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

One of my favorite scripture in the season of Lent, as I prepare myself for the crucifixion, death, and then the resurrection of Christ, is Romans 5:8, which says:

"But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8, NRSV).

In this season of Lent, which starts on Ash Wednesday, which is Wednesday March, 6th, we are called to prepare and to be open to what is coming. We are called to give-up, give-away, and to draw closer to Christ.

Even though we are sinners, even though we are broken, the grace of God is so abundant, that he sent his Son Jesus to die for us. I pray that you have a blessed March and reclaim the power and love of Jesus Christ anew!

In the hope of Jesus Christ ☺,
Pastor Paul W.



Lay Leader's Letter
"March! March! March!"

They are coming. The birds of the heavens are coming home. You can hear them in the wind so strong. They come singing their different songs while flying in the winds of heaven. As the birds fly to the trees to build their nests so they can bring new life to March. As the baby birds cry in the wind for their mommas to come and feed them.

We see the trees branches are dancing in the wind as they start to bloom with the warm sun hitting them. The trees produce their buds, that will turn into different shades of greens, and some will be red, As the wind blows you can hear the branches and the leaves sing their new music through the wind storm.

There comes the new blooms of the flowers. When the March winds; blow the winter snow and ice off the flowers, we can see the new blooms sprout. We can see that the blues, oranges, purples, yellows, and so many more colors of so many different array of flowers. It is a blessing to see the glorious choir of dancing flowers.

The March wind blows a gentle breeze, and as it blows softly to start the Heavenly band for the Lord and for the world to hear. The wind captures the drift of the birds wings, while they are flapping their wings to the different tunes as the wind blows.

Then the dancing trees dance gracefully through the wind, giving gentle music while the wind blows. As the wind blows the flowers of multi-colors decide to join in on the March wind's band. As their petticoats of petals dance back and forth. They are adding their graceful music also to the March winds band.

As we walk through the park or on the sidewalks. We can quietly listen with our ears; to the special and blessed heavenly music from the March winds band that plays everyday for us to hear. So now we are blessed the March wind is a gift given to us from our Father in Heaven. Thank you March Wind for your special gift.

Written by: Echo

Lord of wind and spirit, your playful breath refreshes us, carrying away our many cares and lifting the burden of hectic schedules. Let us rejoice in its animation and experience the liveliness of your Spirit. Blow into our hearts with your life-giving Word. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lay Leader,
Echo Adams



Days of Creation

Play this game to remember when God made each of his masterpieces.

What you need;

Paper

Rulers

Pencils

Markers or crayons

Dice

Bibles (open to Genesis 1:1-2:3 for reference)

What you do:

1: To make game boards, draw a grid with four rows and seven columns totaling 28 squares.

2: Across the top row, write DAY 1 in the first square and continue through DAY 7.

3: Take turns rolling one die, or all players can roll at once. For the number rolled, draw something God created on that day in the correct column.

4: When you fill an entire row, draw a smiley face in the DAY 7 square. The first player with two smileys wins.

New Class to Begin

NEW - There will be a "Leading Prayer" Class on March 29-31st
5:30-8:30 Friday, 9-1 Saturday, Sunday 5-8

Location: Sidney UMC

Register with Pastor Dave at: pritchard.dave06@gmail.com

Class will be lead by Rev. Paul Winkelman and Rev. David Pritchard



Sunday morning coffee hours are an important and enjoyable means of fellowship and connection among our members; to meet friends, and more important, to get acquainted with those we don't know. To hold coffee hours requires commitment, planning ahead and some work. The long standing situation is that the same few people keep needing to do them because others do not sign up.

Ways to solve the problem are to (1) not have coffee hours any more or (2) for more people to participate. Some may believe they would be expected to practically furnish a lunch, with a large quantity of food. That is not the case. Some people have supplied sandwiches, crackers, fruit and dessert all at one time. That might make some people feel they will be judged for doing less. All that is really necessary is to make coffee and tea and Kool Aid (furnished by UMW) and bring some milk for the coffee/tea, cookies or other dessert. A few of our members need to eat gluten-free, which means no regular wheat or rye flour. For those folks fruit and cheese are appreciated. Two couples, or 3 or 4 individuals can provide a simple repast: beverage and a snack, and of course clean up afterward.

A three month coffee hour sign-up sheet is on an easel in Fellowship Hall, near the store room door; currently February thru April. Some people might be unable to work a specific Sunday but could bake or donate store bought cookies, fruit or cheese and crackers. If you've never helped with a coffee hour, ask someone you see doing it to "show you the ropes." Peg Stilson, Terri DeRoche, Vi and Dick Stevens, Daryl and Phyllis Forsythe are some of the people who could show you the routine and where supplies are located.

Reach out and involve our new members. Helping out and working with others is a good way for them to get acquainted and begin to feel a personal connection with the church. The more people who participate in attending and helping with coffee hours, the richer the fellowship!

The comfort of our middle-C God

During college, while living in a boarding house, author Lloyd Douglas befriended a retiree. The man, a homebound former music teacher, shared a morning ritual with Douglas, who would walk down to the man's floor, open his door and ask, "What's the good news?"

Every day the man responded by tapping a tuning fork against his wheelchair and saying, "That's middle C. It was middle C yesterday. It will be middle C tomorrow. It will be middle C a thousand years from now. The tenor upstairs sings flat, the piano across the hall is out of tune, but, my friend, that is middle C!"

If middle C's pitch value isn't exactly 261.63 Hz, then your piano needs to be tuned. How comforting that dependability is for musicians — and their listeners.

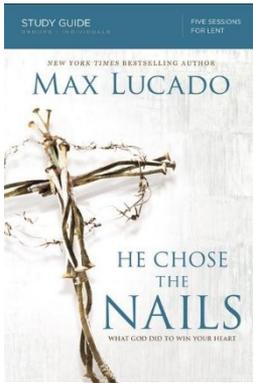
Like middle C, God is steadfast and reliable. In this fast-paced world, praise God for the good news he declares to us: "I the LORD do not change" (Malachi 3:6).



March Dates to Remember

- World Day of Prayer, March 1, 2019
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, March 3, 2019
- Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019
- First Sunday in Lent, March 10, 2019
- Daylight-Saving Time begins, March 10, 2019
- Second Sunday in Lent, March 17, 2019
- First day of spring, March 20, 2019
- Third Sunday in Lent, March 24, 2019
- Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 31, 2019

Lent Study – “He Chose the Nails” – By Max Lucado



Week # 1 – Monday March 11th – 11:00 am

Tuesday March 12th – 4:30 pm

Week # 2 – Monday March 18th – 11:00 am

Tuesday March 19th – 4:30 pm

Week # 3 – Monday March 25th – 11:00 am

Tuesday March 26th – 4:30 pm

Week # 4 – Monday April 01st – 11:00 am

Tuesday April 2nd – 4:30 pm

Week # 5 – Monday April 08th – 11:00 am

Tuesday April 9th – 4:30 pm

Week # 6 – Monday April 15th – 11:00 am

Tuesday April 16th – 4:30 pm



Ash Wednesday Service: Wednesday March 6th - 7:00 pm
- at Sidney UMC

Join us for this worship service on this the first day of the season of Lent. We will have the imposition of ashes and an opportunity for healing prayer with anointing oil. Below is more details about the season of Lent:

"In Ash Wednesday being the first day of this the season of Holy Lent, we are given a forty-day period, minus Sundays, to prepare our hearts, our minds, our souls, and our bodies, for the death and then soon after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is a season of holy preparation, reflection, repentance, love and goodwill, and a season where we can reflect upon our lives and how we live" (Pastor Paul W).



**W.A.M.
Five Regional Gatherings
Celebrating Worship and Mission**

Oneonta District (The UMC) Presents: WAM! 5 regional gatherings celebration Worship And Mission. 5 great locations – Come One, Come All!!! Come to one or come to all 5! Break the winter blues, hear and sing great music, celebrate great mission programs to neighbors far and near, see new and known friends, be informed and inspired. Times and places:

March 3	- Cooperstown region
March 10	- Sidney UMC

To God You Shall Return

The traditional Ash Wednesday words “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return” might seem depressing. But in our often death-denying culture, some might find it refreshing to hear the frank statement that we can do nothing to save ourselves, physically or spiritually — that, no matter how we try to avoid sin, we can’t untangle ourselves from self-interest. How liberating, then, to know we don’t have to! God loves us as we are and sent Jesus to break sin’s power over us.

A pastor described Ash Wednesday as the point you can pinch in the middle of a long piece of ribbon, such that when you lift it high, the two ends — one symbolizing our baptism and the other, our funeral — meet and touch. We come from dust and will return to dust, but we also come from God and will return to God. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we’re always safe in God’s love.



Tossed Salad

On the “Three Sides” podcast (ELCA, Sept. 6, 2018), Wendy Davidson, a leader at the Kellogg Company, shares how her Christianity informs her work. Because her adult faith emerged from several denominational influences, she considers variety to be a strength, not only spiritually but throughout life.

Davidson encourages her co-workers to bring their unique personalities and ideas to the table to create a metaphorical salad. “It doesn’t mean that the salad now becomes one homogenous blob; it is still distinctly the flavors of the salad ingredients,” she says. “But they’ve all found a way to come together to make something that much more flavorful than they could have been all on their own.”

Viewing church and our communities this way could be transformative. What if we welcome different people, invite ideas and resist melding everything into one giant blob? Then we can savor each “ingredient” and the resulting gourmet dish. Delicious!

Youth Ministry News

2018 was a great year for our youth ministry program at Sidney UMC. Our team planned many events including a great V.B.S. program. We have been meeting to plan our 2019 program and are really excited for what God has placed on our hearts. The highlights of our program are listed below.

Sunday morning Sunday School began on September 16. Though our numbers are small every Sunday we have a lesson planned for whomever God has brought into our church. We currently have one class with mixed ages utilizing a rotation of dedicated teachers ready to teach.

Beginning January 13 we are using the "Cry Room" as a nursery. We would like to begin calling this area "Nursery" to help those with little ones have a place to take their child(ren) while they attend worship. We will have 2 adults assigned to the room to care for any children 2 and under.

Monthly J.A.M. program will be changing to the first Saturday of every month beginning on Saturday, February 2. We have moved our start time to 10:30 to accommodate sign-in/registration. Youth will be given a snack when they arrive. Our team has decided to hold our program the first Saturday of every month to help parents remember the dates. We have been offering a parent discussion during J.A.M. led by Kelly Hromada-Johnson, Licensed Clinical Social Worker that has been well received by the parents. Kelly will continue through February. If you know of another resource we could ask to help us out, please contact any of our Youth Ministry Team.

Exciting upcoming events being planned:

Vacation Bible School planning has begun!!! We will hold V.B.S. from August 11 -15. This year's theme will be "To Mars and Beyond". We are looking for volunteers to help in any area. If you can give of your time for all or part of these 5 days, please see Sharon Bassett. We are also looking for any decorations that would go along with this theme.

Thank you to all who support this important ministry and a huge thank you to the Youth Ministry Team who are dedicated to bringing the message of Jesus Christ to our youth in the Sidney area.

Your Youth Ministry Team:

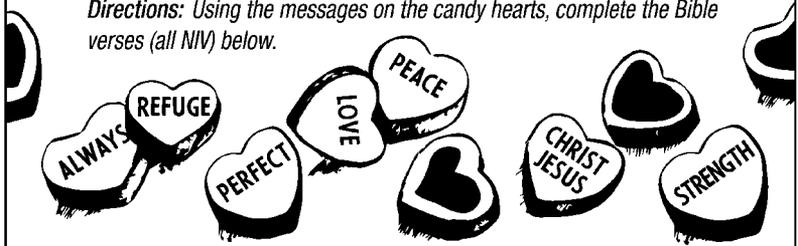
Echo Adams, Sharon Bassett, Kristie Carey, Terri DeRoche, Barb Doyle, Becky Helm, Deb Hromada, Nichole Mattice, Abby Platt, Sam Smith, Peggy Stilson, Melissa Watkins, Pastor Paul Winkelman



WITH LOVE FROM ABOVE

The Bible is full of special words from our loving God.

Directions: Using the messages on the candy hearts, complete the Bible verses (all NIV) below.



God is our _____ and _____,
an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

“Surely I am with you _____.” Matthew 28:20

And the _____ of God ... will guard
your hearts and your minds in
_____. Philippians 4:7

Whoever lives in _____ lives in God,
and God in them. 1 John 4:16

_____ love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18

Answer: refuge, strength, always, peace, Christ Jesus, love, Perfect

Puzzle!

Find and circle these words associated with the Lenten journey to the cross.

colt	denial	kiss	repent
confess	donkey	lots	silver
cross	forsaken	palms	sins
crown	Gethsemane	penance	suffer
crucifixion	Golgotha	Pilate	thorns
death	hosanna	prayer	vigil

E N A M E S H T E G R L W Y
 C L E U X B M T H B U C W B
 N R I K Y P A T E T I Y X Y
 A V J G A L B R E Y A R P B
 N G N L I S N L A I N E D X
 E W M P R V R D H B N R D F
 P S O G O L G O T H A B S C
 D L N R O C O N F E S S I K
 O T H T C P E K W U O U N D
 M N S H N P W E D R H F S K
 U N F O E T K Y C S G F O E
 H E C R E V L I S W Q E C M
 H V H N C X S O C C J R L O
 F Q E S U D S H C A A Y M C
 C R U C I F I X I O N S R V



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