

The Word



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March 2023

Ministers Musings

I invite you, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent.

These words are part of the liturgy for the service we held on Ash Wednesday. A holy Lent is specifically a season in which Christians allow their lives to be marked by disciplines, practices and behaviors which encourage our faith. The whole month of March this year is part of the season of Lent. Adopting a new practice of holy behavior for the season is part of a long tradition in the church. And people take up Lenten disciplines not because they have to, but because it's good and healthy for our faith to pay attention to how we encounter God, in order that we might live out the gospel more faithfully.

Prayer – Daily prayer brings us regularly into God's presence. Prayer is not a magic potion or spell that gets us things that we want. It's a practice of resting in the presence of the Spirit, sometimes speaking, sometimes listening, sometimes weeping and allowing the Spirit to pray for us in 'sighs too deep for words.' (Romans 8:26) Taking up a regular discipline of prayer in Lent, early in the morning, late at night, or perhaps on Tuesdays or Thursdays in your pew in the sanctuary (you're always welcome. The church is open from 9-3, Monday-Thursday, and there are Lenten devotionals and a simple prayer collection available.)

Fasting – A change in routine allows us to step back and notice – notice how we depend on things or chocolate instead of depending on God for our joy, notice how God carries us through difficult experiences, notice what we truly enjoy and what we simply do because we always have. Once we pay attention to these things, we can choose what is helpful and what isn't for our ongoing life as followers of Jesus.

Gratitude – Adopt an attitude of gratitude. Remembering that all we have and all we are is a gift of God keeps us focused on saying thanks. So a word of thanks each time you sit down to eat. If you already do that, add another word before your head hits the pillow, thanking God for the day and for the people whose lives touched yours.

Giving – Grace is at the heart of our faith, God's grace given freely to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Giving of what we have is an

essential part of our response to that grace, which is our life as disciples of Christ. That is, giving is not an add-on to being a Christian, it's what we do as Christians. As we give – of our time, our money, and our effort – we grow in faith. UMCOR, UMD, and Doctors without Borders all could use the money you have to give. But the practice of giving strengthens your faith even more than their need. If we are to follow Jesus, we need to hear his words, 'sell your treasures, give to the poor.' Give not because they need it but because you need to give, you need to share, you need to get out of yourself and give of yourself to grasp what it is to be part of the kingdom. Lent is a good time, a set-aside time, to begin a regular discipline of giving.

And plan to come to church. That's always a good practice. We love being with you on Sunday mornings!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Cathy



Highlights of February Parish Council

The February meeting of Parish Council opened with devotions. Council discussed the goals that were generated at the Retreat on Sunday and decided on a very specific list which includes:

an update to the website, improvement of stewardship, improving long term financial stability, better communications between council and the congregation, exploration of alternative options for building projects, bringing mission and community groups into worship to engage with the congregation and trying to have a presence at more community events starting with the St. Patrick's Day parade.

Pastor Cathy reported that she attended the Playschool Board meeting (Eloise was ill and couldn't attend). They will be having a bake sale at the St.

Patrick's Day parade. They also talked about doing a spaghetti dinner in April. Council would like to help with this project. Playschool board would like to give Pam and Tracy a raise and will incorporate that into next year's budget.

Laura Clark presented the Treasurer's report for January. Laura expressed a concern that there was a negative balance in the current expense and benevolence funds in 2022 that carried over into 2023. Finance Committee will look at this further at their next meeting.

Trustees met on February 7th. Gideon will be the chair; Ruth is secretary and Peg Baldwin is treasurer. Jeff has decided not to continue with trustees. Gideon reported that he will be taking some time to catch up on all the things that Trustees have been working on. The first transfer of \$20,000 from investments has taken place. They are looking into installing two removable railings by either lectern to help with accessibility, while looking into installing a ramp. A spring clean-up day will be scheduled with the hopes of aligning it with SUNY Delhi service day.

Stephanie McCann reported that Finance met and discussed the investment meeting that occurred in January. They also addressed the HSA error in Pastor Cathy's 2022 paychecks. Fran, Carol and Stephanie will meet tomorrow night to map out a plan to correct it. The committee also discussed ways to increase stewardship engagement.

Barb Jones reported that SPR would be meeting the following day.

Pastor Cathy reported it has been a month full of collecting statistics, filling out reports and getting ready for the Annual Meeting. She had multiple visits with Leona and led her service. She continues to be busy with Kids Club, worship planning and book study. Pastor Cathy will be leaving March 5th for a week's vacation and Chelsea will preach that Sunday.

Cathy Johnson shared that coffee hours have continued to be held every Sunday. The luncheon for Leona's funeral went well and many hands helped as well as many donations of food were received.

Edie and Carol reported that they will be submitting a grant through the NY Annual Conference to support the Food Giveaway program. Barb Jones is also looking into grants that could be used to help with the operating funds of the Food Pantry. Council approved the application for the grant.

Edie, Carol and Cathy are working on a list for the postcard mailing to members who aren't very active at the moment. The list will be forwarded to Fred so he can complete this witness project.

The transfer of Bette Aikens to Elm Park Methodist Church was approved by council. Deb is following up on the sound for online worship. Council also discussed having the Lenten Offering go to UMCOR earthquake relief in Turkey. It was brought to the attention of council that the side door to the sanctuary is not unlocked on Sunday mornings for worship. Discussion followed and it will be brought to Trustees.

Our meeting was closed in prayer.

Any questions about anything that goes on at our council meetings? Please feel free to contact myself or any member of council..

~Carol Greene



Food Pantry

We are need of empty egg cartons. Apparently the chickens haven't been laying so we are not getting donations of eggs. With the price so high I haven't been buying any. i would like to be able to buy eggs in either 18 packs or 30 packs and divide them into smaller boxes to give away.

Also Carol is in the process of applying to the Methodist Frontier Foundation for a grant to help with our senior box giveaways.

Lenten Devotional

Copies of a Lenten devotional based on the poetry of Wendell Berry are available for your Lenten prayers. The devotional is also available online, via the United Ministry Facebook page. There are a few copies of *This Day*, the poetry collection the prayers are based on, in the bookshelf outside the Pastor's office. Take one, use one, enjoy it.

Women's Open Circle

Women's Open Circle will meet Thursday, March 9th at noon in the Harder Room. Bring your own lunch, beverages and dessert will be provided.

Daylight Savings Begins

Turn clocks ahead 1 hour before bed on Saturday, March 11th! Daylight Savings time begins at 2 am on Sunday March 12th.

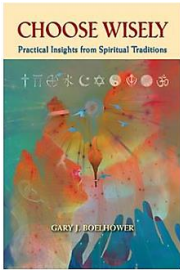


Parish Council Retreat

The Parish Council began the year with a short retreat on February 19 after church. We focused on creating goals for the church for 2023, with a plan to revisit them in the summer and fall to see how we're doing. Those goals are:

- Improve communication within the church, including updating the website
- Increase our participation in community events
- Stabilize our financial health
- Update and improve stewardship
- Include mission moments in worship regularly
- Pursue Trustee building projects with an eye toward creativity about funding.

Book Study



The Thursday book study will begin discussion of a new book on Thursday, March 16. *Choose Wisely: Practical Insights from Spiritual Traditions*, by

Gary Boelhower, is a conversation about ethics, grounded on faith, Christian and non-Christian. Anyone is welcome to join us on Thursday mornings at 10:30; talk to Pastor Cathy if you'd like a copy of the book.

Lenten Offering



Our Lenten Offering this year will go to UMCOR in support of earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria through boxed envelopes or envelopes in foyer

Volunteers Needed

The church will offer coffee and hot chocolate on the Square during and after the 🚗 **St. Patrick's Parade** 🚗 on March 18. Let Carol Greene know that you can be there to help.



Bible Quiz



In the Gospels, Jesus raised several people from death. Which of the following was not one of them?

- A. Tabitha
- B. Jairus's daughter
- C. A widow's son
- D. Lazarus



Answer: A (See Acts 9, Mark 5, Luke 7, John 11.)

Play School News - March 2023

Fundraiser Event: Play School is planning a **Play School Bake Sale** on **Saturday, March 18th from 10-2 pm**, all items are by donation. Donations will benefit the Play School Program. If anyone would like to donate baked goods for this event, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Pam Savage at (607)746-6869 (Home) or (607) 746-2191 ext. 206 (Church) or email at playschool.umod@gmail.com to donate to a great cause - Play School! Thank You!!
Growing Strong Together

Pre-registration for the 2022-23 school year is now available, please contact Pam Savage at playschool.umod@gmail.com for more information.

The children are so excited to come to school each morning and they are learning a lot. During the month of February we had fun with Groundhog Day and predicting what will happen - will he see his shadow or not, Valentine's Day projects and a fun class party, dinosaurs, stories, and games. We enjoyed having Mrs. Arehart in class for a dental unit and Mr. Brent in for some Lego fun with the class!! Thank you to Joanna Matusick for all your help!!

We will go into March geared up for St. Patrick's Day, Play School Bake Sale, outdoor play, and Spring! We will continue our letters of the week and fun topics. We are also looking forward to inviting additional community members into the classroom to share their special gifts and talents with the children. If you would like to share something with our class, please contact Pam Savage at playschool.umod@gmail.com and we can plan a date.

Continued Thanks to everyone who has donated to Play School and has shared their time and support! Thank you to the Scott Family for the donation of \$2,000 for the Play School Program. This has truly been a blessing for the children's learning, growth and development!! They are so curious to see what we are going to learn about next! It's amazing to see!!

Wishing you all continued health and happiness!

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Savage, Play School Director



Fun at Play School





Dental Unit



PIPE ORGAN RECITAL CURT SATHER

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023 - 2 PM



CELEBRATING THE 338TH BIRTHDAY OF JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
Including LISA RUTH MAYS and CATHERINE SCHUYLER singing solo arias
and a duet.

THE UNITED MINISTRY OF DELHI

1 CHURCH STREET, DELHI, NY 13753 (607) 746-2191

FREE WILL OFFERING

SPRINGTIME SNACKS



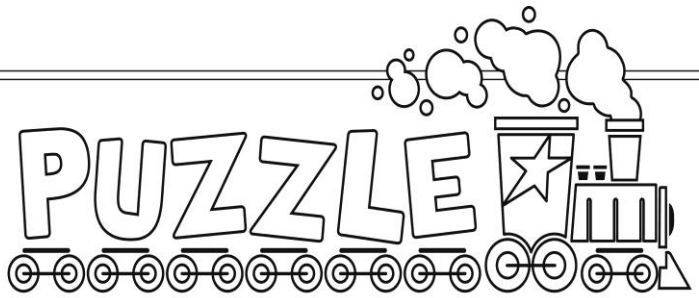
Whip up a plate of these cute, healthy treats!

What you need:

- Celery sticks
- Cherry tomatoes
- Cucumber circles
- Olives
- Cream cheese spread
- Fresh basil leaves (optional)
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Have an adult help you wash and cut the veggies.
2. Spread cream cheese inside the celery rods.
3. Place a cucumber circle upright in the cream cheese to make a bug body.
4. Add the tomato as a head.
5. Arrange basil leaves on a plate and place the veggie bugs on them.
6. Making different-shaped bugs with your favorite veggies. Enjoy!



A seasonal reminder


Signs of spring remind us of God's promises.

Directions: Use the picture code and clues to complete Isaiah 61:11, NIV.


 plants grow here

 seeds are planted in this

 to coil and jump
(also a season of the year)

 when watered, these make plants

 to expand and get bigger

 another word for seedling

For as the _____ makes the _____

_____ come up and a _____ causes _____

_____ to _____, so the _____

Sovereign LORD will make righteousness

and praise _____ up before all nations.


ISAIAH 61:11, NIV



Lily Order Form

We have ordered lily plants to decorate the sanctuary for our Easter Worship service. If you would like to help defray the cost, or would like to make a donation to the Food Pantry in memory or in honor of a loved one or special event in your life, please fill out the form below and return to the church office by Sunday, April 5th.

Please fill out the form **exactly** as you would like the dedication to read:

Lily plant(s) for the Sanctuary

In Memory/Honor of _____
(circle one)

By: _____

In Memory/Honor of _____
(circle one)

By: _____

\$_____ for _____ plants at \$12.00 each.

Or: _____ I will supply my own plant



Food Bank Donation made

In Memory/Honor of _____
(circle one)

By: _____

In Memory/Honor of _____
(circle one)

By: _____

Total \$_____ donation to Food Bank

Please pick up your plant after worship on Easter Sunday.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Phil Jensen	3/6	Patti Kruppo	3/17	Rozlyn Burrows	3/24
Natalie Anderson	3/6	Bonnie Hamilton	3/18	Laura Mills	3/27
Phoebe Fisher	3/7	Bob Russell	3/20	Chuck Hill	3/28
John Sandman	3/14	Pam Vogt	3/20	Cyndy Harder	3/28
Nikki All	3/14	Lynn Hoffman	3/23		



Coffee Hour Hosts & Flowers for the Sanctuary



Have you signed up to host Coffee Hour yet? Coffee, tea, lemonade, and paper goods are

supplied. Cookies are optional. Sign up on the sheet on the Bulletin Board or call the church office to pick your date.

Would you like to commemorate a loved one or special event in your life? Garden and wild

flowers are always welcome! If you are uncomfortable creating the arrangement, call the office and we can make the arrangement for you.



Coffee Hour

Mar 5 _____

Mar 12 Girl Scout Troop 61045

Mar 19 _____

Mar 26 _____

Flowers

Mar 5 _____

Mar 12 _____

Mar 19 Tom Pandick

Mar 26 _____

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board outside the office.

Word and Worship

Sunday, March 5

Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

Sunday, March 12

Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

Sunday, March 19

Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-11; John 9:1-41

Sunday, March 26

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

Guest Preacher

On Sunday, March 12th we will have a Guest Preacher. We will welcome Chelsea Frisbee Johnson to our pulpit that morning while Pastor Cathy is out of town.

Lectors

Mar 5 Barb Onasch

Mar 19 Ann Peet

Mar 12 Gideon Frisbee

Mar 26 Rev. Rick Edwards

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