

theVine

Strength for the Day

It's March. Time for tulips to push their way up through the last of the snow drifts. Time to fly kites on the softening tundra of public parks and school yards. And time for the important spiritual journey of Lent to begin. Lent is the period before Easter when Christians are called to remember, to reflect, and then respond to the greatest love the world has or will ever know—the love of God as shown through His Son, Jesus the Christ.

We'll look again at the life and teaching of Jesus, and at the events leading up to his arrest and crucifixion. We'll silently wait—and then joyously celebrate as we run to—and see—the empty tomb on Easter Morning. And we'll share the good news of Easter with others.

What we're describing in our Lenten journey is the "2-Channel Rule of Communication." That is—if something's important for people to hear—it's important for them to see as well. Important news should be communicated both ways.

The Bible is the self-communication of God to people, to you and me. It's the self-revelation of God's mind, God's will, God's purpose and plan, and most importantly, God's infinite and relentless love for the world and all of humankind He has created.

The Bible is the quintessential love story in all of history. It's the story of a love so strong it found expression in creating something and someone to love. It's the story of love lost, spurned, rejected. A story of a pursuing and protecting love, a love that cares for and promises to save, the one loved. A love story that can have a beautiful or tragic ending, for each person who reads it.

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Contacts & Times

When an article says to contact someone for more information, see *Contact Info* on the back page. Also, times listed in *The Vine* are p.m., unless noted otherwise.



Lest ye didn't know, there are three teaching teams for our 3rd – 5th grade Sunday School class. Ed Belcastro, my co-teacher, and I thoroughly enjoy our time with these youth.

Ed even gets a bit impatient when we don't get to teach for a few weeks. We adults do need to set good examples about sharing and taking turns though, right? Although I'm not quoting Ed here, I'm confident he'd agree with me when I say our students keep our spiritual lives well stoked.

Some Sundays the lesson itself reenergizes Ed and me. Other times it's the expression on a youth's face when they realize for the first time what something in the Bible means to them. Our most recent lesson could best be described as a "spiritual plot twist."

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Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, a period of reflection and penance leading up to Easter. Our Ash Wednesday service will begin at 7:00 on March 1.

Childcare will be provided and members of our F.I.R.E. youth ministries are encouraged to attend.

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With our recent blizzard, the following illustration seems timely. Maybe you've heard the story of the Iowa farmer and his wife sitting one night looking out their picture window during a late winter blizzard at a large group of sparrows who were getting blasted by wind-driven snow and were so disoriented they didn't know how to find shelter.

Knowing they would die if something wasn't done, the farmer braved the storm, clawed his way out to his barn, and opened the door so the sparrows could take shelter. The sparrows didn't seem to understand and kept getting blown around his yard. So the farmer went out again and turned on the flood light over the open door, hoping that would attract the sparrows. It didn't work. As the situation grew more desperate, the farmer, out of compassion for the little birds and his frustration with how to save them, blurted out to his wife, "If I could just be a sparrow for one minute, I could go out there and tell those birds to follow me to the barn, and I could save them."

Which brings us to the Living Word of God

"En arche hvn ho Logos, kai ho Logos pros ton Theon. Kai ho Logos HVN ho Theos."

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word WAS God."

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." (John 1:1, 14)

The farmer did become a sparrow. But we can't stop here. Because we've only talked about one channel of the 2-channel rule of communication. Does the Bible, the Word of God, address the other channel? The one about seeing as well as hearing?

Be a VBS Hero

Youth in our Vacation Bible School (July 9 – 13) will go adventuring alongside some of their favorite Bible heroes, seeking qualities that make them heroic in God. Contact LuCinda to get involved.



Noah's AARP Service Project

WUMC attenders in the 50-and-over crowd will be doing a service project at the Waukee Area Christian Services (food pantry) in the near future.

Watch for details about how you can get involved in helping to reorganize their grocery area.

How's that for the ultimate example of the power of the 2-channel rule in communicating a message.

Jesus, the Living Word of God, makes no bones about it. He tells us straight-out in the written word, "If you have seen ME, you have seen the Father," because "I and the Father are ONE."

So—if you want to know what God is like—His nature, His character, how God thinks and acts towards others—if you want to know how God would have you live your life in relationship to Himself and others—look at how Jesus lived.

If you want to know how much you mean to God and how much He loves you—look at how Jesus died.

Toward that end, you're invited to join with others in a special Lenten journey beginning Sunday, March 12 entitled Renegade Gospel: The Rebel Jesus, a congregational study and optional small group experience by United Methodist pastor and author Michael Slaughter.

Discover the Rebel Jesus. Learn to live His revolutionary lifestyle. Confront the most important question you'll ever have to answer. Find where to see Jesus in the world today. Follow the way of the cross. Experience the Resurrection. And share it with others.

Come and see. Go and tell. And that's how we live out the 2-channel rule of communication as a follower of Jesus Christ. Have a blessed Lent.

Peace,

Pastor Jamie



Our Loving Church Family...

Thank you all for the loving support and prayers throughout Denise's battle with cancer. We take great comfort in knowing our church family will always be there to keep us steady as we stumble forward.

Bart and Marisa Van Heuveln

What's Up with Waukee UMC Youth Group (AKA F.I.R.E. Youth Ministry)

Faith Inside of Righteousness on Earth

Have you been wondering what this is all about? If so, this should help. F.I.R.E. Youth Ministry is a ministry of Waukee United Methodist Church that exists to help students love God, love others, and serve. By doing those things, we can better reach generations in need of a Savior (Jesus Christ).

Our hope and prayer is that through the resources with which we're so richly blessed, we can reach out to the students of Waukee and the surrounding area in a loving and caring way. This should help them realize they have a safe place to come to and a leadership team who not only cares for them, but also loves them. While we gather to teach them to be more like Christ today than yesterday, we also focus on them Knowing Christ and Living Like Christ.

Change...the one constant in life. We're making some (productive) changes to our youth group gathering. We've split our large group in half, with 6th – 8th graders meeting first – around 6:50 – for their lesson/discussion. The high school youth will join us around 7:30 for large group fellowship time. We'll invest this time together eating (snacks, not a full meal) and having fun (Valentine candy heart charades is hilarious). After eating, our high school youth get to spend time studying.

Our first big event of 2017 has been planned. We'll have a lock-in on March 10 and 11. The theme for this weekend will be "Surrender; what are you holding on to?" I believe a lock-in can provide an opportunity to gather with other youth and study the Word in a little less formal setting. We'll worship, play games, eat, study, eat, play more games, eat, pray, did I mention eat.... did anyone notice what was missing in that list – SLEEP.....I must be CRAZY. However, I'm very excited to see how this time will impact our youth.

Here's the funny story for the month.... As you may recall, the weather on Wednesday, Feb. 22 was great. Pastor Jamie thought it would be a great idea to move the youth group meeting outside and at 3:30 in the afternoon I completely agreed. With a basket of bats, balls, and Frisbees, I was ready to head to the park to play. I walked out of the food pantry (by the way, KoG did a great job) at 6:30 and all I could see was a billion stars. Stars? Yes, because it was pitch dark. At that point it was too late to make other arrangements, so off to the park we went. Our youth were absolutely great.

We actually got to play (they ran and ran and ran – I watched). No issues at all. We stopped long enough for a quick snack and lesson. Honestly, I had a blast. Hopefully our next trip to the park will be in the daylight.

As always, if you have questions about what our youth are up to -- or ever want to help-out – please let me know. The Green Room doors are always open; we'd love to have you stop by for a visit.

Thanks for your support and prayers,
Pastor Jeff

Let's Go Camping

Our Church Family Outreach Ministries (CFoM) team is thinking ahead to summer. They've selected July 21-23 as the weekend for our first Waukee United Methodist Church **free camping weekend**.

We'll be camping at Saylorville Lake, so reserve those dates on your calendar now.



Lunch Bunch

Make the Third Thursday Lunch Bunch one of your Spring Break events. We'll be meeting in the north party room at the Pizza Ranch at 11:30 March 16 for another time of food and

fellowship with members of your WUMC family. All ages are invited.

Trinity Supper Club: March 13

We'll be serving up a picnic dinner ... hot dogs, chips, baked beans, peaches, and ice cream bars.

Sign-up sheets were passed during both celebrations on Feb. 26 – but look for the clipboards on March 5 in case we still need volunteers or dinner contributions.

If you give just 165 minutes (3:45 – 6:30 p.m.) of your Monday to volunteer, Lauren Kratz promises you'll sleep better at night because you'll know you made a difference in the lives of 160-200 grateful people.

They might not all say "thank you," but they'll be appreciative of your generosity and feel the love of God that we share.

March WUMC Events

- 1 (W) KoG, 5:45
 ✱ Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00
 (all F.I.R.E. youth to attend)
 Chancel Choir, 8:00
- 2 (Th) Women's Small Group, 7:00
- 3 (F) ✱ World Day of Prayer
 Prayer Vigil, 7:00 am – 7:00 pm
- 4 (Sa) ✱ Women's Retreat
- 5 (Su) Communion
- 6 (M) Mission Quilters, 6:30
- 7 (Tu) Missions, 6:30
 Imagineering, 7:00
- 8 (W) ✱ UMW, 9:00
 See Wednesday Line-Up below.
- 9 (Th) Finance Team, 7:00
- 10 (F) ✱ Lock In, 7:00
- 12 (Su) No Sunday School – Spring Break
- 13 (M) Prayer Shawl, 6:30
 ✱ Trinity Meal
- 15 (W) No youth or choir events
 Worship meeting, 7:00
- 16 (Th) ✱ Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am
- 20 (M) Trustees, 6:30
 Mission Quilters, 6:30
- 21 (Tu) SPRT, 6:30
- 22 (W) See Wednesday Line-Up below.
- 27 (M) Prayer Shawl 6:30
- 29 (W) See Wednesday Line-Up below.

Wednesday Line-Up

The following events are scheduled each Wednesday evening unless noted below:

KoG ~ 5:45 – 6:30

Bells ~ 6:30

✱ F.I.R.E. (6th – 8th grade) ~ 6:50 – 7:45

F.I.R.E. snack ~ 7:25 – 7:45

F.I.R.E. (9th – 12th grade) ~ 7:45 – 8:30

Chancel Choir ~ 7:00

Testaments/Treble on the Mount ~ 8:00

Praise Team ~ 8:30



Book Talk

The next Book Talk discussion will be held 7:00 Monday, May 15, at Ann and Greg Ruble's home. We'll be reading Bill O'Reilly's most recent best-selling book, *Killing The Rising Sun*.

A reviewer describes the book as "An enthralling, gripping account of the bloody battles, huge decisions, and historic personalities that culminated in the decision to drop the atomic bomb and brought the war in the Pacific to its climactic end. A masterful, meticulously researched work that captures the barbarity of the war waged by those who swore allegiance to the Japanese Emperor – and by those who crushed the military might of the Rising Sun."

If this book piques your interest, read it and join in the discussion in May and stay for dessert.

Marvelous March Days

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 ~ Gina Graham | 20 ~ Kelsey Kunath |
| 3 ~ Chuck Black | 21 ~ Ayla Krohn |
| 6 ~ Stephanie Wanned | 21 ~ Janice Hanks |
| 7 ~ Emma Bailey | 22 ~ Joe & Theresa Swaim |
| 7 ~ Beth Baumeister | 26 ~ Cameron Cutler |
| 7 ~ Jane Clowser | 26 ~ Laura Allen |
| 7 ~ Logan Pekarek | 26 ~ Rieley Rodman |
| 10 ~ Becky Hayden | 26 ~ Ron Plagmann |
| 10 ~ Susan Dunn | 27 ~ Dawson Barnett |
| 11 ~ Kenny Lee | 27 ~ Graham Johnson |
| 13 ~ Molly Bramble | 27 ~ Roberta Swain |
| 15 ~ Tim & Jen Berger | 28 ~ Sophia Beltman |
| 16 ~ Alissa Mills | 29 ~ Don Morrison |
| 16 ~ Miranda Krohn | 29 ~ Gabby Magee |
| 17 ~ Colleen Monahan | 29 ~ Linden Beglinger |
| 17 ~ Pat Gutshall | 29 ~ Steve Hawbaker |
| 18 ~ Alicia Evans | 30 ~ Bob Rhinehart |
| 18 ~ Andy Cutler | 30 ~ Dick Applegate |
| 18 ~ Calvin Pieper | 30 ~ John Shaffer |
| 19 ~ Jean Corrigan | 31 ~ Brett Thayer |
| 19 ~ Jeff Menz | 31 ~ Lisa Thayer |
| 19 ~ Reese Connor | 31 ~ Mark Craigmile |

Food Pantry Needs

This month, the Waukeee Area Christian Services Food Pantry (especially) needs:

- pancake mix and syrup
- pizza sauce and mix
- 100% fruit juice
- diapers, size 3 & up
- laundry soap





Buzzing Along with UMW

Our next United Methodist Women (UMW) meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. on March 8. Connie Bronnenberg of Spring Valley Honey Farms in Perry, will discuss her family's beekeeping/honey business.

Serve God by Serving Others

If you'd like to serve our church family as a greeter, usher, or communion server, please contact LuCinda.

March 5 – 8:30	March 5 – 10:00
Greeters: Ron/Karen M	Greeters: Gordon/Lauren K
Ushers: Jim/Pam R	Ushers: Kevin/Shari B
Communion: Don/Deb M, Ann R	Communion: Tyler D, Gordon/Lauren K
March 12 – 8:30	March 12 – 10:00
Greeters: Colleen M	Greeters: Mindi/Kevin S
Ushers: Pat G, Flora W	Ushers: Sue Ellen K, Kathy K
March 19 – 8:30	March 19 – 10:00
Greeters: Sandy S	Greeters: Soughan Family
Ushers: Roger/Claudia K	Ushers: Gordon/Lauren K
March 26 – 8:30	March 26 – 10:00
Greeters: Marilyn T	Greeters: Tope Family
Ushers: Allan/Gina G	Ushers: Showalter Family
April 2 – 8:30	April 2 – 10:00
Greeters: Shirley T	Greeters: Tim/Jen B
Ushers: Ken/Paula W	Ushers: Kevin/Mindi S
Communion: Amanda G, Jim/Pam R	Communion: Kathy K, Solomon/Smitha L

World Day of Prayer Vigil Friday, March 3

World Day of Prayer is an annual, worldwide movement led by Christian women. This time of prayer concentrates on mission work and its impact on promoting world peace. WDP originated in the late 1800s when Christian women in the U.S. and Canada introduced activities supporting the role of women in mission activities at home and abroad.

Their work is now recognized around the world as Christians focus their prayers on a pre-selected country or cause each year.

Prayer vigils honoring WDP 2017 will focus on the Philippines, which was struck by Hurricane Yolanda in 2013. The resulting devastation prompted Christians from all walks of life to lend a hand.

Waukee UMC will host a prayer vigil on Friday, March 3, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Christians of all denominations are invited to attend. Please mark your calendar and join us in this time of prayer. You're welcome to come-and-go as you please. Can you spare five minutes?

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We'd been discussing Jesus's parables for a few weeks, a topic I thought I knew inside-and-out. However, when I opened the teacher's guide to prepare for session 13, the title said, The Parable of the Forgiving Father. Had my Sunday school teachers accidentally skipped that one? Then, after reading the parable in the Bible, I realized it's "really" the Parable of the Prodigal Son. That set my mind churning.

Why would a parable get renamed? So I asked Pastor Jamie for input. Something he said reminded me our focus should be on learning about God when we read and study Scripture. After all, the Holy Bible is God's revelation of Himself to us. Somewhere in history, long before my Sunday School days, someone had titled that parable The Prodigal Son.

Since that day, anyone who studied The Prodigal Son has probably learned how important it is to do what Dad says, be careful with our money, admit when we're wrong, and be willing to ask for forgiveness. Those are solid lessons to take from that parable, but those are lessons about humanity, not God

However, by making Dad the center of attention and focusing on his actions, you'll gain some key insights about God. He helps us learn how we're expected to live (through the Bible, prayer, fellowship, etc.), watches as we exercise our free will, and welcomes us back with Open Arms when we return to Him seeking forgiveness.

When that plot twist hit me, renaming this parable *The Forgiving Father* made perfect sense. The resulting discussion with our young Followers of Christ was lively and invigorating. Perhaps the best lesson learned (by all) that Sunday was the benefit of finding the silver lining in each cloud God places in our sky.

If your spiritual life needs a little pick-me-up, contact LuCinda about teaching S.S. or helping with Vacation Bible School. Spending time with our youth is a wonderful way to serve God. You may even learn how to use your cell phone more effectively.

Good to the Last Drop Slurp

Our UMW cooks extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who prepared/packaged and purchased Chicken & Noodles during their recent get-it-to-go event. The money raised will help support UMW mission work throughout the year.





Stay Connected



Curious about upcoming events at WUMC?
If so, check-out any of these information sources:

- **Facebook** – be sure to “like” Waukee United Methodist Church while you’re on Facebook.
- **Weekly church bulletin**
- **The Vine**
- **Waukee Wire** – to subscribe send an email to info@waukeechurch.org
- **Twitter** - search for @waukeechurch
- **WUMC website** - www.waukeechurch.org

Celebration Times

8:30 – Traditional

10:00 – Contemporary

10:00 – Sunday School (for all ages)

Contact Info



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