March 2025

The Good News Herald

Zwingli
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A Small Church with a Big and Open Heart!

Check out our Zwingli UCC - Paoli Facebook page! https://www.facebook.com/zwingliuccpaoli

From the Pastor

The Church season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday March 5 and continues until Easter on April 20. While many view this as a miserable season, its purpose is not to make anyone miserable. Its purpose is about returning to delight in God! Steve Garnaas-Holmes writes, "Lent invites us back into the loving arms of God. Lent is about confronting all the life-draining ways we seek cheap substitutes for God's love and grace and mercy, and chucking them and turning to the Real Stuff. It's about giving ourselves the gift of receiving the love we crave. No matter what we may 'give up for Lent,' what we're really giving up is the habit of withholding God's love from ourselves by seeking it elsewhere. We give up junk to receive treasure. But, yeah, sometimes the giving up is hard. Because we're addicted. But there's life on the other side."

If you would like to reflect on what to give-up of habits and attitudes that keep you from being your best self, check out this list of 40 things to give up for Lent (if you need a hard copy, just ask me). Don't try to give up all 40, but reflect on these and any others that might come up for you and choose 1-2 to work on giving up for Lent -- and see how it impacts your life (be gentle with yourself). Many people also choose to take-up something for Lent. It might be a spiritual practice and/or a service activity. This short article might help you reflect on what you might take up during Lent.

Years ago I discovered the poem on the following page by Jan Richardson and think every Lent should begin with reading and reflecting on her words, so I share them with you here inviting all of us to take-up the truth of our Belovedness:

Lenten Blessings,

Karla

Beloved Is Where We Begin

If you would enter
into the wilderness,
do not begin
without a blessing.
Do not leave
without hearing
who you are:
Beloved,
named by the One
who has traveled this path
before you.
Do not go
without letting it echo
in your ears,
and if you find
it is hard
to let it into your heart,
do not despair.
That is what
this journey is for.
I cannot promise
this blessing will free you
from danger,
from fear,
from hunger
or thirst,
from the scorching
of sun
or the fall
of the night.

But I can tell you
that on this path
there will be help.
I can tell you
that on this way
there will be rest.
I can tell you
that you will know
the strange graces
that come to our aid
only on a road
such as this,
that fly to meet us
bearing comfort
and strength,
that come alongside us
for no other cause
than to lean themselves
toward our ear
and with their
curious insistence
whisper our name:
Beloved.
Beloved.
Beloved.

—Jan Richardson
from Circle of Grace
paintedprayerbook.com

Many thanks
to
Summer and Kyla
for joining our
acolyte crew -- and
to their Uncle Larry
for teaching them!





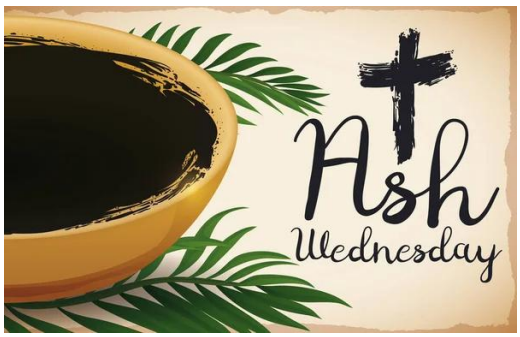


PartyGras at Zwingli

Tuesday March 4, 5-7:30 pm!
(corrected time)

We have a great group signed up for PartyGras . . . the potluck menu looks delicious! Even if you haven't signed up, you are welcome to come and join the fun! Bring family and friends and join your Zwingli family for a Potluck and Bingo party night! The day before Ash Wednesday has traditionally been known as Fat Tuesday, when believers would eat all the fatty foods in their house so that they could fast for Lent. In the States, this evolved into the Mardi Gras celebration! While we won't be focusing on consuming fat nor celebrating the Mardi Gras style, we will be holding our own PartyGras Celebration before beginning the more somber season of Lent. We will end the evening with a few moments of worship - song and prayer -- to enter the season of Lent.

The evening will begin with a potluck at 5 pm, followed by Bingo fun for all (children welcome too!), including prizes! Please help us to plan on how many are coming by signing up on the bulletin board with the number of people in your party, and what you plan to bring to the potluck -- or call Louise or Sue (who are taking the lead in this event) and let them know so they can sign you up! We hope you (and yours) can join us for the fun!



Ash Wednesday Service- March 5

6:30 - 7:15 pm

In the Church calendar, the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. This begins the 40 day season of Lent (not counting Sundays) leading up to Easter. Over the centuries many churches (especially Catholic churches) have practiced the ritual of imposing ashes on those who would like to receive ashes in the form of a cross and as a symbol of our mortality and repentance. During this service we will offer ashes to those who wish to receive them (on forehead or hand). We hope you will join us for this service -- and encourage you to invite friends and relatives. Ash Wednesday is a way to begin the Lenten season with the knowledge that we are blessed and beloved children of God.

FLOWERS FOR EASTER

We will be offering the opportunity to order spring flowers for Easter in honor or memory of loved ones. Watch the Friday emails and the weekly bulletin for details. Please sign up on the bulletin board or contact Kriss Ace to place an order!





FRIENDS OF THE STATE STREET FAMILY

Giving HELP and HOPE to Madison's Homeless

Snack Kit Project

Our church will be taking part in this project in March and April. The Friends of State Street Family provide snack bags to the homeless community in that area. We would like to put together as many snack packs as we can to give them. We don't have a date yet for delivery, but it will likely be in April.

We ask that you start bringing items to church and on March 23 after worship we will pack up the bags together.

Snacks to bring include: granola bars, candy bars, small cracker packages, cookie packages, nuts, raisins, fruit snacks, Rice Krispie bars and similar items.

Thank you in advance for taking part!

Judy Batker and the Church Council



It has been noted that many of you donate items to our congregational life beyond your monetary gifts. Kathie has created a document for us that will be proof of the items and amount they cost, which the Council reviewed and approved. This is for those who itemize deductions on income taxes. The forms can be found in a wall pocket by the coat racks. You can fill one out for each individual purchase or add up a number of things and submit it all at once. After you fill out the form (the business name is Zwingli UCC, Paoli), please put it upstairs on the table and Larry Brunkow will sign it and return it to you for your records. We want our members to get what is deserved for all your generosity!

Thanks to everyone for all your gifts!!

Items of Note

March Birthdays

Eldon Ace

Heather Beloungy

Morgan Boley

Gail Dahlk

Gregory Eichelkraut

Eileen McCormick



Liturgists needed

We are scheduling liturgists for the next six to eight weeks. It would be most helpful if you would sign up now for a Sunday or two.

MARCH CALENDAR

March 2 -- Worship, Communion & Friendship time

March 4 – PartyGras, 5-7 Bingo & Potluck

March 5 – Ash Wednesday

March 9 – Book Group

March 16 -- Council Mtg following worship

March 23 -- Pack Snack Kits after worship

March 30 – One Great Hour of Sharing Offering



MARCH 9, 2025

CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the January 19, 2025, meeting are now available in the wall pockets near the mailboxes. Contact the church office to request an electronic copy.

On March 30 the United Church of Christ recognizes One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday. This is one of four special mission offerings of the UCC. This Lenten offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC within Wider Church Ministries.

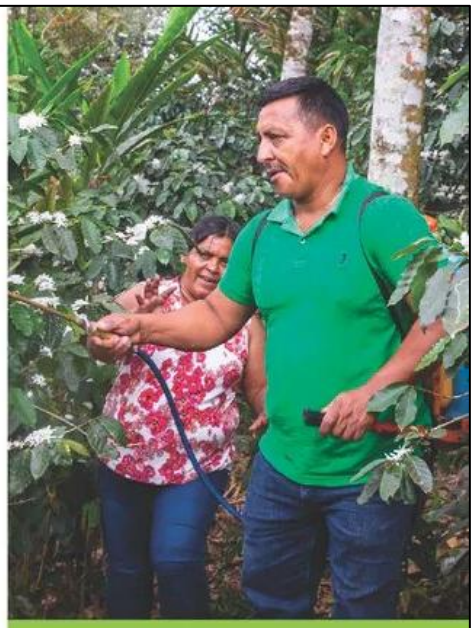
For several Sundays in March, you will find envelopes in your bulletins where you can place cash or a check for OGHS. Please make the check out to Zwingli and Zwingli will send it on to the UCC. You can also just put a check in the offering plate and mark OGHS in the memo line. Thank you for supporting this very important mission of Zwingli. If you choose, you can give to OGHS at any other time during the year as well.

SHINING THE LIGHT ON FOOD SECURITY.

Orfelina works with families in the northern regions of Honduras to help them understand how to transform their families and communities through agriculture. The list of things she does is mindboggling: Checking on local farmers' harvest. Monitoring water projects. Teaching the women in the community how to prepare more nutritious meals for their families. Chatting up community leaders for support. Running workshops for things like creating organic fertilizers and sprays.

But Orfelina doesn't just *work* with farmers and their families, she supports and encourages them. Visiting them in their homes. Bringing God's light to everyone she meets. And all of this is made possible through your giving to One Great Hour of Sharing. Because of your giving, projects like these and thousands more around the world are changing lives. Transforming communities. And spreading God's light. Be the Light. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.

One Great HOUR OF SHARING | UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



You're here to be light**, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—**shine!

– Matthew 5:14-15

Dear Friend:

I'm truly fortunate to witness every day how the giving spirit of groups like yours can change the world. No matter how much circumstances change, one thing remains the same: People continue to show generosity and dedication to the families we serve.

Which is why I want to entend my sincere appreciation for your group's recent contribution of **$320** to Heifer. Your compassion makes a per,anent difference in so any lives. I'm reminded of the quote by Mr. Fred Rogers: "All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we're giving or receiving hel.p, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors – in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver." **And to magnify the joy of your gift, an additional group of generous donors has matched your donation, doubling the impact of your gift!**

….. I hope you know how much we, and the families who are touched by your generosity, appreciate you all. Our work would not be possible without you by our side.

With appreciation,
Christy Moore
Senior Vice Prewsident of Marketing

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Dear Congregation:

Thank you for your contribution to the Oregon Area Food Pantry (OAFP). …..

OAFP is on the front lines of combatting food insecurity for all residents of the Oregon School District. ….. We provide weekly shopping to our guests where they can choose the food and essential items that their household needs. …. We also share our surplus perishable foods with the Oregon Senior Center.

We are so grateful for your partnership in helping neighbors in need access affordable food in an atmosphere of dignity and respect. Your incredibly generous gift of **$25** makes a difference in the lives of hungry flamilies and helps them gather around their tables for a wholesome meal.

With deep appreciation,
Sjeri Polock – Pantry Executive Director
Stephanie Tervort – Chair, Board of Directors

OAFP
OREGON AREA FOOD PANTRY

Multigenerational camps & events are for families of all definitions!

There is no one way to define a family.
Grandparents/parents/children/siblings/aunts-uncles/cousins/partners/neighbors…
we are all family at camp!

Wisconsin's United Church Camps offer a variety of options. Moon Beach (between Eagle River and St. Germain) hosts five weeks of traditional summer Family Camp each season. Camp AweSum Family Camps, Memory Camp, and Rainbow Retreat bring together groups with shared experiences. Many guests create lifelong friendships.

Among the most popular mulitgenerational camps is the **& Me** camps hosted at Daycholah Center in Green Lake. **& Me** is a shorter camp experience for K-2nd graders to come to camp with a special adult in their lives. Each session provides plenty of one-on-one time, group activities, swimming, arts & crafts, archery, campfires, and more. To support different stages of development, there is a special session for preschoolers and for 3rd-4th graders.

Cedar Valley is 100 acres of pastoral beauty nestled in the heart of Washington County, just a short drive north of the metro Milwaukee area. Art classes and workshops are offered year-round in many different mediums like watercolor, alcohol inks, journal making, enamel, stained glass, Plein Air, and much more! The instructors are accomplished artists themselves and classes are small offering individual attention. No previous experience or skill level is required–just come and create!

To learn more about the various camp offerings, go to: https://ucci.org/events-calendar/

Looking for an opportunity to express your opinion on US public policy? New Opportunities are in bold.



As a member of the United Church of Christ, Zwingli is supported with resources by our national offices. Among these resources is an *Office of Public Policy and Advocacy in Washington DC*. This Office gives information to understand the issues and legislation -- and the ability to easily express our opinion to our political leaders. Go to this website to access these opportunities to express yourself (if you do not have a computer, check out your local library). We will update this announcement with new opportunities (as they are added) so you can know the current issues you can respond to. You can also get alerts in your inbox by signing up here. Currently, there are opportunities to express you opinion on **Protect DEI, Protect Medicaid and Food Stamps, Protect LGBTQ Civil Rights,** Protect Everyday Consumers, Have a Heart for God's Planet, Foreign Aid, Federal Funding Freeze, Supporting Survivors of Human Trafficking, Immigration Policies, Trans Protection, Voting Rights, Affordable Internet, Indian Boarding Schools, and Military Aid to Israel. We know that some of you want to put your faith beliefs in action and hope those of you who wish to advocate find this resource useful.