

THE MESSENGER FOR MARCH, 2018

PASTOR JOSH'S MESSAGE



A word on peace-building from our General Board of Church & Society (GBCS):

In a world plagued by war and terror, violence and destruction, people of faith have a clear call to build peace with justice. Scripture is consistent in the call for followers of Christ to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44-45a), forgive others their trespasses (Matthew 6:14-15), to overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21), and to seek peace and pursue it (Psalm 34:14). Peacemakers are blessed and called the children of God (Matthew 5:9).

“As disciples of Christ, we are called to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as reconcilers of conflict. We must insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to work together to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises between or among them.”
— United Methodist Social Principles, ¶165.C

The Council of Bishops, in their pastoral letter, *God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action*, remind us that “Christ's resurrection assures us that death and destruction do not have the last word.” As United Methodists, our yearning for peace must move us to act.

We know the presence of political and social turmoil can be caused by a number of issues including economic disparity, environmental degradation, gender inequality, racism and xenophobia, and illness and disease. If we want peace, we must be committed to disrupting these conditions and systems that perpetuate injustice.

The United Methodist Church states that war is “incompatible with Christian teaching” (Social Principles 165.C). If we are to live into our mission of transforming the world, we must prioritize collaboration among nations, work to reduce the use and need for weapons, and foster just, equitable and durable solutions to the root causes of conflict.

The GBCS is responsible for implementing our Social Principles and other policy statements of our General Conference on Christian social concerns. For more information on the GBCS go to: <https://www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/peace-with-justice>

I am member of GBCS from Iowa. Please keep me & the GBCS in your prayers 3/15-3/20 as we convene in Berlin for our spring meeting.

Peace,
Pastor Josh

Sheridan Park United Methodist Church

**4100 E. Sheridan Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50317
SheridanParkUMC.org**

**Pastor: Josh Steward
Josh's Cell Phone: (515) 991-6368
Church Phone: (515) 266-6404**

FAMILY AND FRIENDS NEEDING OUR PRAYERS:

Marge Beals: has returned to Sunny View Care Center following a hospital visit. The address for Sunny View - 410 NW Ash Dr., Ankeny, 50023

Rosie Hollingshead: Is at Trinity Center for rehab

Please continue to pray for those in care facilities and/or are homebound:

(Mae Fuller, Pat Hartzler, Phyllis Moore, Marilyn Overton, Evelyn Tolkan, Mildred Philpott and Pearl Van Fleet)

NOTE – *If you have knowledge of someone that is hospitalized, may need a visit or phone call, please let Pastor Josh know. Also, if you wish to have a visit from Pastor Josh, please contact him at the church at 266-6404 or on his cell 991-6368.*

EDUCATION REPORT by Erin Lowe, Christian Education Chairperson:

- There are blessing bags available for those interested and we will be making more in the
- There will not be children/youth Sunday school during spring break (March 11th and March 18th).
- The last Sunday school before summer break will be on May 20th.
- The children/youth will be participating in the Palm Sunday worship service.
- UMC Camp information is available. There is a catalog in the office, or it can be located on the website.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

- Administrative Board will meet on March 20th at 7:00 PM.
- At the February 20th meeting we discussed how we should determine when to cancel church and/or scheduled meetings due to inclement weather. The decision is as follows:
 - **Administrative Board** meetings will be cancelled if the Des Moines Public Schools has cancelled school, or all after school events.
 - **Committee Meetings** will be left up to the actual committee.
 - **Worship Service** cancellation is deferred to the pastor and SPPRC. If cancelled the first point of contact would be via email with phone calls to those that do not have email.

Our discussion included that this should always be up to the individual to use their discretion and if you don't feel comfortable going out. are a volunteer do not let that effect your decision, it will be work out.

The 2018 Administrative Council includes the following: Josh Steward, Sharon Baker, John Ratcliffe, Marjean Moyle, Erin Lowe, Alice Nelson, Margie Brown, Mary Brown, Lois Nolte, Jennifer Medina, Carlos Medina, Phyllis Roe, Doris Sheeder, Dick Smith, Shirley Wilson and Jeff Woodard. Note – Mission team rotates attendance.

Note – Anyone is welcome to attend Ad Board meetings and minutes are posted on the board for your information.

HEALTH AND WELFARE by Sharon Baker

We have some health care items (walkers, wheelchairs, etc.) that have been donated, to be used by others. These items are stored in the furnace room and can be borrowed when needed. It is NOT necessary to first ask permission. There will be a check out sheet posted on the wall in the furnace room to indicate what and who borrowed a piece of equipment.

It would be appreciated, if the borrower would let Sharon Baker know at 266-0796 – leaving a message is fine. It is not necessary to let her know prior to borrowing the item.

WORSHIP REPORT by Jennifer Medina:

- ✓ If you are looking for a way to deepen your worship, consider volunteering for a part of liturgist, song leader, or for children's time.

- ✓ **Services during Holy Week will be as follows:**
Thursday, March 29th at 2:00 P.M. at Wesley
Friday, March 30th at 2:00 P.M. at Wesley
Friday, March 30th at 6:30 P.M. at Sheridan Park with communion
Easter Sunday: Sunrise Service at 7:45 A.M.
Breakfast immediately after Sunrise Service
Sunday school regular time – children Easter Egg hunt
Worship Service at 10:30 A.M.

- ✓ If you would like to help beautify the sanctuary by contributing an Easter lily you can put them on the table in the coffee room by Friday or Saturday, March 30 and 31st.

SPRC by Mary Brown, Chairperson:

March 19th at 6:30 PM – District Superintendent, Heecheon will lead a group in a “Peace Circle”, conflict transformation session. This will be limited to 12/15 individuals. We will be distributing invitations soon.

FINANCE REPORT by Margie Brown, Chairperson:

- ✓ Your finance team has been busy compiling, auditing and submitting the required reports to the Iowa Conference. ***We are in need of someone that would be willing to help with the audit process during 2018.*** If you are good with numbers and would be willing to help, please contact Margie.

- ✓ The Fund Balance Report that was due February 1st was submitted on January 31st via email.

- ✓ The **2017 Annual Statistical Reports** have been completed and were filed on-line to the Iowa Conference on February 16th. There has been a binder put together of the Financial Audit, Statistical Information and Financial Statements. If there is anyone that would like to look through the material compiled in order to meet Conference requirements please let Margie know. **Note:** If we had not submitted the Statistical Reports by February 28th our apportionments would have automatically been increased by 10%.

ATTENTION: We continue to receive offering envelopes without a name on the outside of them. Please be sure to include your name if you want to receive credit for your giving. While working on the above reports there is statistical information that I found interesting so instead of providing the usual financial information I thought you would also find the following interesting:

	2018		2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Membership	112	A	112	113	108	119	112
Average Worship Attendance	38		46	52	59	63	66
Number of Giving Units	37	B	57	73	101	92	105

	2017		2016	2015	2014	2013
General Budget Income						
Pledge Envelopes	67,671		74,409	80,502	79,295	78,967
Non Pledge Envelopes	10,937		14,787	13,253	19,647	16,954
Church School	638		784	924	721	841
Loose Money	130		203	199	170	184
Unknown Givers	100		157	1,663	1,443	
Extra Budget Giving "Members"	1,836		4,997	2,075	2,465	4,181
Special Budget Giving "Guests/Friends"	1,764		3,734	3,704	1,855	
Total UMW Special Giving	1,195		480	450	480	681
Church Usage Donation	835		801	765	718	1,002
Miscellaneous Budget Income	1,460		757	10	533	939
Total Budget Income	86,565		101,110	103,545	107,327	103,749
Total Budget Expenses	85,544	C	98,622	106,691	106,773	104,508
Total Income Less Expenses	1,022		2,487	(3,146)	554	(759)

A. Membership Breakdown	Active Members	Members (18 or Under)	Shut Ins	Inactive Members	Total Membership
	57	12	5	38	112

- B. According to the budget offering received so far in 2018 we only have 37 giving units.
- C. The total 2017 budget expense would have been \$100,543 if we had paid 12 months of apportionments. In other words, we would have needed an additional \$14,000 in income to meet our actual budget expenses.

MISSION REPORT by Mission Team

- The Mission Committee will host a **Taco Bar on Sun. March 4th**, immediately after church. Stay for lunch and enjoy tacos with multiple toppings, visit with church friends and toss in a free will offering!
- **Saturday, March 10** is the Bidwell Riverside Center Breakfast at Grace UMC from 8:30 AM to 12:30. Tickets are \$10 and available upon arrival. Head over to start your day with a hearty breakfast, visit with friends as you support this mission center in Des Moines.
- Once called One Great Hour of Sharing but now called UMCOR Sunday, this offering will be taken on **Sun. March 11**. For over 50 years, United Methodist congregations have participated in this special offering, laying the foundation of UMCOR's ministry of relief and hope. UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is the humanitarian arm of our denomination assisting individuals and communities following a natural disaster.

- The Cuba experience was unique. Working at Camp Canaan, the group painted 138 panels of roofing that had been blown down by Hurricane Irma last year. The tin/zinc panels were then replaced to cover a sports arena. Making plumbing equipment to hook up 4 showers, 6 sinks, 6 toilets and 4 mop sinks were accomplished with much frustration because many parts had to be hand made. The group then painted the bottom third of three dormitory buildings with swaying palm trees as part of the vista and Christian music wafting through the air. We were housed comfortably in a guesthouse along with resident (small) frogs/sapos.
- While in Havana we walked through Old Havana, enjoyed the cannon ceremony held nightly at 9 PM for over 480 years. The cannon ensured that the port was guarded from Pirates of the Caribbean. Restored 1950's cars are seen all over Cuba especially in Havana where tourists enjoy a ride along the malecon(sea wall).
- Thanks to Sheridan Park for their contribution to the building supplies used by the work team.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN by Shirley Wilson:

The UMW will be having a Spiritual Growth Day on Saturday, March 10th at the Conference Center. Please let Shirley know by March 3rd if will be attending, since the meal is being provided.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT by Jeff Woodard, Trustees Chairperson

- ✓ Thanks to those that have assisted with snow removal this winter. If you can help, a snow removal list posted on the board in the hallway.
- ✓ If you know of something at the church that needs looked at, or repaired, please let Jeff or one of the Trustees know.

PRAYER BAND GROUP:

This group meets every other Tuesday morning at 9:30 A.M.

March 13th – at the home of Barbara Potter

March 27th – at the home of Lois Nolte

SCRAPBOOKING:

This group meets every third Sunday in the Fellowship Hall. They often order food and share in fellowship. They invite anyone with any project or hobby that might benefit from the space to join them on **Sunday, March 25th from 11:30 to 3:30.**

YOUTH:

- The youth group (4th – 12th grade) meet each Wednesday at the church from 6 to 7 P.M.

- Thanks to all those who have provided dinner for the Youth Group so far this year (Michelle Griswold, Sharon Andrews, Pastor Josh, Margie Brown, Jen Medina, Mary Brown, Laura Squiers). The Youth Group gratefully appreciates your support and welcomes anyone to provide dinner and stay to participate in our discussions.

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- May 16th is the last Youth Group meeting of the school year.

MEN'S BREAKFAST:

Saturday, March 17th – 8:00 AM breakfast at Perkins on Euclid

GLEANERS CLASS - Fellowship Opportunity: Saturday, March 17th @ 5:00 PM at church

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES:

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

While Bidwell no longer works with these box tops, Brubaker still does. If you don't have another school that you donate these to, please trim, bring to church and Marjean will get them to Brubaker.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY SITE:

DMARC's mobile pantry is at the Norwoodville Community Center, 3077 NE 46th Avenue, each Thursday from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. If this would help you, or someone else, please check it out. For more information and other sites see

www.dmarcunited.org/food/mobile.

SUPPORT GROUP:

Mary Benz, mother of Jennifer Medina, runs an Alzheimer's support group for caregivers of those who have a loved one diagnosed with any type of dementia. It is the first Tuesday each month at Prince of Peace Lutheran from 1-2pm. Use the fellowship hall door on the church's north side. This is an Alzheimer's Association support group run out of the greater Iowa chapter.

Birthday Wishes:

1st Sharon Andrews
9th Frank Foresman
9th Lena Griswold
12th Michael Green
19th Jolanda Dotson
24th Sharon Baker
27th Marjorie Beals
29th Evette Mendieta
30th Robert Worth

Anniversary Wishes:

21st Jerry and Alice Nelson

Worship Volunteers

March 4th:

Ushers: Shirley Wilson (Capt.), Rosie Hollingshead, Joan Foresman, Doris Sheeder

Transportation: Dick Smith

Greeter (upper door): Shirley Wilson

Nursery: Mary Brown

Communion Stewards: Ray & Barbara Potter

Bulletin: Lisa Karen Hankey

March 11th:

Ushers: Jeff Woodard (Capt.), Marvin Barton, Dave Strock, Susan Strock

Transportation: Marvin Barton

Greeter (upper door): Dick & Lois Smith

Nursery: Phyllis Roe

Bulletin: Eldon Nolte

March 18th:

Ushers: Dick Smith (Capt.), Steve Piper, Marvin Barton, John Ratcliffe

Transportation: Barbara Ratcliffe

Greeter (upper door): Lois Nolte

Nursery: Sara Woodard

Cookie Sunday: Carole Gassaway (Hostess), Connie Thrasher, Margie Brown

Bulletin: Sharon Andrews

March 25th:

Ushers: Phyllis Roe (Capt.), Jaylene Barton, Charles Sears, Carlos Medina

Transportation: Lois Nolte

Greeter (upper door): Alice Marnin

Nursery: Lois Nolte

Bulletin: Mary Brown

MARCH, 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 6:00 P.M. - Youth Group 6:00 P.M. - Choir Practice	8 12:30 Esther Circle at church Hosted by Barbara Potter	9	10 UMW "Day Apart" @ Conference Center
11	12	13 9:30 AM – Prayer Band hosted by Barbara Potter at her home.	14 6:00 PM - Choir Practice No youth group	15	16	17 8:00 AM – Men breakfast at Perkins on Euclid 5:00 PM - Gleaners social @ church
18 Jim Smith will be doing worship service - love offering	19	20 7:00 PM - Adm. Board	21 6:00 PM - Youth Group 6:00 PM - Choir Practice	22 2:00 PM - Martha Circle @ home of Beverly Nolte	23	24
25 11:30 AM/3:30 PM - Scrapbooking	26 2:00 UMW Executive Board @ home of Lois Nolte	27 9:30 AM – Prayer Band at the home of Lois Nolte APRIL Newsletter information due	28 6:00 P.M. = Youth Group 6:00 P.M. = Choir Practice	29 Holy Thursday service – 2:00 PM @ Wesley UMC	30 Good Friday service 2:00 PM @ Wesley 6:30 PM @ SP	31
APRIL 1 Easter sunrise service @ 7:45 AM Breakfast following	<i>HAPPY SPRING!!!!</i>					