

The Messenger

Volume 23 No. 3

March 2023

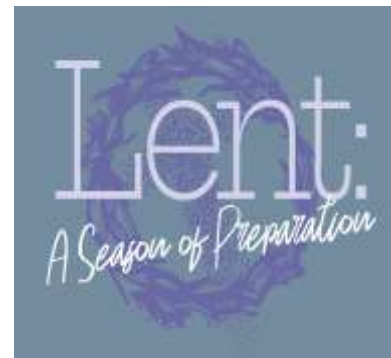


The Newsletter of The United Church of Sandwich

"Passionately united to feed all people — body, mind and spirit — to the glory of God!"

Greetings,

We are entering the month of March and heading toward the beginning of Spring. However, I invite you to pause and reflect on the spiritual season we are in during March. We began Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 22. Lent is a time of reflection and repentance. We are marching towards Easter. However, before we arrive at Easter we will reach Good Friday. Lent is a reminder of the amazing sacrifice that Jesus made for us by going to the cross to die so that we might live. Lent is the perfect time to examine His sacrifice. I encourage you to take this month to examine your life and the ways you can grow closer to God.



I read an account of Lent that resonated with me. *Not long ago, just as the season of Lent had got underway, a friend complained to me, "I know it's Lent, but where's the joy?" It is easy to understand why Lent is often misunderstood as a period of savage and destructive negativity. Doesn't it encourage a despairing view of life "full of sound and fury"? It begins, after all, with Ash Wednesday and the grim reminder that we are dust and to dust we shall return. This is hardly the prelude to a party! Nevertheless, reminders of our mortality are salutary. Understood in the context of a life of faith, they prepare us for a celebration. Lent is about getting ready for a banquet, about preparing for a wild party.*

While there can be a great deal of fun in a spur-of-the-moment party, the preparation for a great banquet takes a lot of time and effort. Getting ourselves ready for this particular wild celebration demands our being willing to be probed by hard questions about the meaning of our longing. This particular party requires that we bring with us, especially our passion and our need. We live in an age when everything has to be palatable and easily digestible. Hard questions and tough decisions have to be reduced to the consistency of cream of wheat. We have neither the stomach nor the teeth for solid food. Lent, however, is a time when real meat is served to feed the mind as well as the soul. There used to be a steak house in New York that displayed a sign: "If you find our steaks tough, then quit. We don't want weaklings here!" Lent is a serious time and, if the moment is right, it can present us with life and death issues. It isn't, however, meant to be a grim time. It is an opportunity for truth-telling, for our discovering the true grounds of joy and hope.

Alan Jones, Passion for Pilgrimage: Notes for our Journey Home

Easter is going to be a party in our hearts and in the world. Still, we must prepare and get ready for the 'banquet' of Easter resurrection. You can do so in a few different ways. First, we are inviting you again to join the team of prayer partners. You and another person will pray for each other every week. It may take 5 minutes of your time each day, but it will become some of the most valuable time in your week as you connect more with God. You will also strengthen your walk in the church by allowing another to pray for you.

Second, you can join in the Bible study on Sunday mornings at 9:00am or Tuesday mornings at 10:00am. We will explore Jesus through the Gospel of Luke. This is a great group Bible study. If you are unable to join the groups, I invite you to engage in daily/weekly personal Bible Study. The key is to dive into the Word to find connection with the Lord. Finally, I invite you to join the Wednesday Community Lenten Breakfast & Worship. We will meet at the Federated Church of Sandwich every Wednesday throughout March as we align into being the Body of Christ.

Lent is a time of preparation, but always remember that it is preparation for a destination. We are heading to the cross and then to the empty tomb. I look forward to saying 'He is Risen'. I look forward more to you responding 'He is Risen Indeed!'

God Bless!

Pastor Tom Bourke

Sunday Scriptures & Sermon Series for March

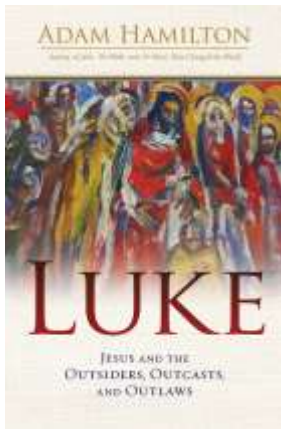
“Come Follow Me”

March 5 Isaiah 55:3-9, Matthew 5:43-48 ~ A New Way

March 12 Amos 5:14-15, Luke 10:25-37 ~ New Actions

March 19 Micah 4:1-4, 1 Peter 3:8-12 ~ The Way of Justice

March 26 Isaiah 64:17-25, 1 John 3:11-24 ~ The Way of Love



Adult Bible Study resumes Tuesday mornings, 10:00am.

February 28 - April 4, in the Chapel, the book of Luke will be explored.

Each book costs \$12. Please let Pastor Tom know if you have any questions or would like to order a book.

Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws

From Birth to Resurrection in the Gospel of Luke

Jesus came to lift up the lowly. Throughout his ministry to his final days on the road to the cross, we find stories of his relationships with ordinary, flawed, and unexpected people. He met, dined, and traveled with people who were not perfect. Many of them were struggling, some were outsiders or even outlaws. Whoever they were, from those he healed to the outlaws with him at his crucifixion, Jesus brought the good news of God's kingdom to those

who most needed to hear it.

Pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton explores the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Through Luke's stories we find Jesus' care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today.



Children's Sunday School,

9:00am, Sunday mornings.

All children are welcome to attend.

Have them bring a friend or two!

Check out the

UCS website:

unitedchurchsandwich.org

for a link for the Children's Activity Bulletin.

Age appropriate worksheets may be found.

If you have any questions call, 815-786-9243

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.)

March Activities



Worship Committee will meet Sunday, March 12th, following the service.

Administrative Council meets Tuesday, March 14th, at 6:30pm.

Finance Committee will meet Thursday, March 16th, at 6:30pm



Board of Trustees meets Tuesday, March 21st, at 4:30pm.

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee will meet Tuesday, March 21st, 6:30pm.



United Women in Faith will meet Monday, March 6th, at 11:30am.

U'Niter's meet March 6th, at 1:00pm in the Friendships Corner.

 Chimes & Adult Choir groups is open to anyone who would like to participate regardless of experience. 

Practices are Wednesday evenings, 6:00pm and 7:00pm, respectively. Both current and traditional selections are enjoyed. If you would like to join contact Kevin Duy or Pastor Tom.



Community Lenten Breakfasts

The Sandwich/Somonauk Ministerial Association announces the return of Lenten Breakfasts.

Everyone is invited to meet during Lent at the Federated Church of Sandwich to have refreshments, fellowship, and worship hour.

Please join them each Wednesday morning, March 1 - 29 from 9:30-10:30am.

We hope to see you there!

Federated Church is located at 403 N Main St Sandwich.



Let Pastor Tom know if you would like to be included in setting aside time to pray for a Prayer Partner each week.

Share a joy and a concern in prayer and you will find there are many benefits to praying for a Prayer Partner.



Fourth Sunday Coffee Hour Resumes
Finance Committee will host March 26.
All are invited to gather in the chapel immediately following worship service for coffee and fellowship!

MISSION OF THE MONTH & 4th Weekend Drive

Combine Efforts to Support
UMCOR Midwest Distribution Center

**Thank you for your continued support of the
Mission of the Month & 4th Weekend Drives.**

The United Methodist Committee on Relief U.S. Disaster Response (UMCOR USDR) seeks to alleviate suffering caused by disasters that strike within the United States and its territories.

With a “communities own their recoveries” philosophy, UMCOR supports local efforts to accomplish immediate relief and long-term recovery while providing for volunteers to offer compassionate ministry in the aftermath of disasters.

UMCOR’s Early Response Team (ERT) training program supports conference preparedness and immediate response efforts. Key activities for conference ERT and other response teams are supplying survivors with food, water, shelter and help with mucking out and cleaning up. UMCOR offers emergency financial assistance in the aftermath of a disaster to support local relief work.

For disasters that require long-term strategies, UMCOR provides conferences with expertise, grants and training for more extensive programming, such as disaster case management, materials and construction management, volunteer management and psychosocial support for survivors.

Current Needs:

Shampoo 12-19oz

Liquid Laundry Detergent 100-105oz total

Liquid Dish Soap 42-64oz total

Liquid Household Cleaner 54-80oz total — No Spray Bottles

Canned meat items

Requests excepted may be placed in the blue bin found in the narthex.

Make a monetary donation!

In 2022, for every \$1 spent, \$8.66 of in-kind supplies were sent.

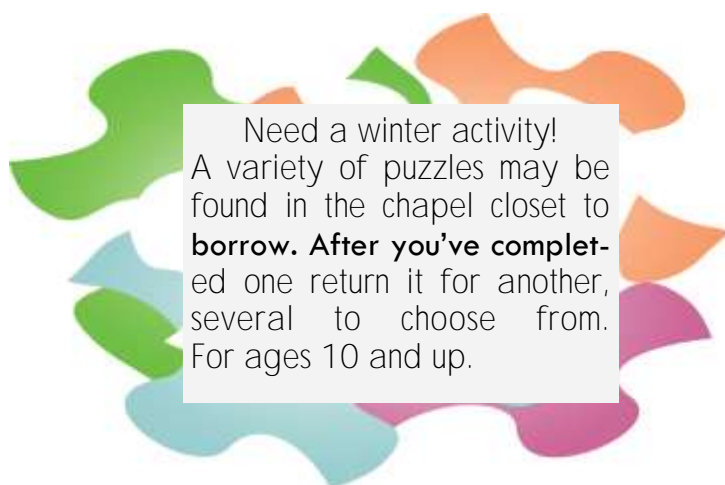
Thank you! The Missions Committee



UCS will be purchasing assistive listening devices and/or system and would like your input so the right equipment may be researched. If you are one who is having a hard time hearing during service please get in contact with Pastor Tom or congregational leadership.



Dear Friends,
Thank you for the chili on Super Bowl Sunday.
It was so good!
Also thank you for the goodies on Valentine's Day from the U'Niter's!
And, the flower from the church.
Love and Prayers, Bev Lowe



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Liturgists

03/05 Marilyn Steenwyk
 03/12 Deb Seymour
 03/19 Sandy Whiteis
 03/6 Kevin Duy

Greeters/Ushers

03/05 Josh & Mindy Chrestman
 03/12 Monty & Betty Reiners
 02/19 Carole Strock & Earl Shaffer
 02/26 John & Pat Hallaron

Northern Illinois Conference *Reporter*

United Church of Sandwich is a United Methodist Church and the connectional nature of our denomination is vital to our identity. Below is a link to the Northern IL Conference newspaper. to give you the opportunity to learn and discover the events and opportunities of the UMC at large. Please contact Pastor Tom if you have any questions on any topic that you read.

https://www.umcnic.org/media/files/Reporter/6-7-2021_web_reporter.pdf



Please send any joys, concerns, photos, thoughts or informational articles to the church office.
 815-786-9243



If you would like to be added to the church email prayer list please contact the church office or Pastor Tom. If you are unable or uncomfortable leaving your home we have church members who are able to make necessary trips to pick up basic home and food staples. We want to be in support for you and let you know that you are family and are not alone. If you are one able to make short shopping trips for members, please let Pastor Tom know and you will be added to the resource list of people to call. Thank You!

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

03/01	Cortney Scharenberg
03/02	Blake Breon
03/07	Myrtie Warren
03/08	Bonnie Bernhardt
03/09	Robert Whiteis
	Ken Young
03/10	Mindy Chrestman
	Matthew Miller
03/11	Nathan Heinekamp
03/12	Melissa Reiners
03/13	Lindsey Olson
03/18	Sandra Whiteis
03/20	Ione Martin
03/22	James McMahan
03/27	Etta Stahl
03/30	Heather Dannewitz
03/31	Richard Bark
03/17	Kathe & David Schlapp
03/25	Joanna & Matt Olson
	Sandra & Robert Whiteis

If anyone's birthday or anniversary has been missed please contact the church office. Thank You

Please send any email, phone number, and address updates such as winter addresses to the church office. Thank you!





March 2023

Sun

Mon




Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

 <p><i>Daylight Saving Time Begins March 12</i></p>			<p>1</p> <p>6:00 Chimes Practice</p> <p>7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 Al-Anon Mtg</p>	<p>3</p> <p>WORLD DAY OF PRAYER</p> <p>Apple Pie Order Deadline</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9:00 Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online (Holy Communion)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11:30 United Women in Faith Mtg</p> <p>1:00 U'Niter's Mtg</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00 Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:00 Chimes Practice</p> <p>7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:00 Pie Dough Making</p> <p>7:00 Al-Anon Mtg</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:00 Pie Baking</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>Apple Pie P/U</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:00 Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online</p> <p>11:15 Worship Cmte Mtg</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00 Adult Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 Administrative Council Mtg</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:00 Chimes Practice</p> <p>7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30 Finance Mtg</p> <p>7:00 Al-Anon Mtg</p>	 <p>Saint Patrick's Day</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8-12 Prairie South District Day of Spiritual Renewal</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:00 Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online (Holy Communion)</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p> <p>10:00 Adult Bible Study</p> <p>4:30 Board of Trustees Mtg</p> <p>6:30 SPRC Mtg</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:00 Chimes Practice</p> <p>7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 Al-Anon Mtg</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:00 Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00 Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:00 Chimes Practice</p> <p>7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00 Al-Anon Mtg</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Triple Berry Pie Order Deadline</p>	



During Lent, many of us are reminded once again to examine our lifestyles and ask, "What can we do for others?" Part of faith formation at any age is compassion and offering a serving heart to our neighbors. Lent is a good time to commit to giving money to a project that helps those in need.

Collect coins during the season of Lent and then following Easter, donate the money. First determine where you would like your money to go. Maybe you have a community food bank that could use funds to purchase food for the hungry. Perhaps you could contribute to a larger project beyond your local community. Select an agency that would appreciate your contribution. Once you have selected a project, decide what coins you want to collect. You may want to contribute a quarter for every item on the giving calendar. You may want to simply collect loose change and give whatever coins you have for each item. Make a container to collect the money. Use a plastic tub, jar, or a coin bank that you aren't currently using in your home, decorate it and place it where it can easily be seen. Items on the daily guide will remind us of all we have and how little others may have. Each Sunday, pray for the project and the people who will benefit from your gifts. Giving begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes with Holy Saturday. Check them off as you go!

- ◇ March 1: A coin for every type of bread
- ◇ March 2: A coin for every jar of jelly
- ◇ March 3: A coin for every bottle of salad dressing
- ◇ March 4: A coin for every jar of peanut butter
- ◇ March 5: Pray today, thanking God for the food you enjoy.
Pray for those who have no food this day.
- ◇ March 6: A coin for every ball cap or hat
- ◇ March 7: A coin for every pair of shoes
- ◇ March 8: A coin for every pair of jeans or pants
- ◇ March 9: A coin for every coat
- ◇ March 10: A coin for every t-shirt
- ◇ March 11: A coin for every sweatshirt
- ◇ March 12: Pray today, thanking God for clothing that protects you from the elements.
Pray for those in need.
- ◇ March 13: A coin for every ball or piece of athletic equipment
- ◇ March 14: A coin for every electronic video game
- ◇ March 15: A coin for every smart device (phones, tablets, etc.)
- ◇ March 16: A coin for every television
- ◇ March 17: A coin for every doll or stuffed animal
- ◇ March 18: A coin for every board or card game
- ◇ March 19: Pray today, thanking God for how entertainment is enjoyed in your home.
Pray for those who would be grateful to.
- ◇ March 20: A coin for every box of Band-Aids®
- ◇ March 21: A coin for every bottle of vitamins
- ◇ March 22: A coin for every box of tissues
- ◇ March 23: A coin for every bottle of hand sanitizer.

- ◇ March 24: A coin for every toothbrush and tube of toothpaste
- ◇ March 25: A coin for every cough drop found in your house.
- ◇ March 26: Pray today, thanking God for your health. Pray for those who are sick.
- ◇ March 27: A coin for every room in your home
- ◇ March 28: A coin for every electrical outlet in your home
- ◇ March 29: A coin for every chair in your home
- ◇ March 30: A coin for every desk in your home (virtual work/school)
- ◇ March 31: A coin for every bathroom
- ◇ April 1: A coin for every bed
- ◇ April 2: - Palm Sunday: Pray, thanking God for shelter. Pray for those who need shelter.
- ◇ April 3: A coin for every Bible
- ◇ April 4: A coin for every book of hymns or sacred songs in your home
- ◇ April 5: A coin for every cross in your home
- ◇ April 6: A coin for every prayer you say today
- ◇ April 7: A coin for every story of Jesus you can tell
- ◇ April 8: A coin for every person in your family
- ◇ April 9 - Easter Sunday : Pray, thanking God for Jesus and the many ways we can gather and worship God.

Pray for those who will receive the coins collected that they would see
God's presence through them.

PIE OF THE MONTH EVENT

*Our expert pie bakers have been busy baking
delicious pies just for you!*

Preorders and prepayment are required.



March: Apple Pie (2 crust)
Order Deadline-March 3
Pickup Date-March 11

April: Triple Berry Pie (2 crust)
Order Deadline-March 31
Pickup Date-April 8

May: Peach Pie
Order Deadline-May 5
Pickup Date-May 13

June: Strawberry Rhubarb Pie
Order Deadline-June 9
Pickup Date-June 17

PIE OF THE MONTH MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

3 Month Membership - \$55.00 for pies offered April-June 2023.

The Membership gets you the pies at a reduced cost but not required to purchase any pie of the month.

Pies may be purchased baked or frozen (with baking instructions).

Pickup only — no delivery

The Church will be open from 9AM-11AM on the Pickup date.

Please use south entrance

Checkout the UCS website: unitedchurchsandwich.org



Spring Plants

Lilies

7" with pot cover
\$18.00

Azaleas

6-1/2" with pot cover
\$18.00

Orders are due no later than
March 21, 2023.

Please make checks payable to:
The United Church of Sandwich.
Orders may be dropped off or called into the
church office, 815-786-9243.

Name: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

of Lilies: _____ # of Azaleas: _____
(\$18.00 per plant)

Total Enclosed: _____

Payment must be included with order form.

The United Church
of Sandwich

512 E Lions Rd
Sandwich, IL 60548-2147

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE MESSENGER — MARCH 2023

The United Church of Sandwich

512 E Lions Rd, Sandwich, IL 60548-2417

Church: 815- 786-9243

Email: ucssandwich@frontier.com

website: www.unitedchurchsandwich.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday, 10:00 am

Children's Sunday School, 9:00 am

Adult Bible Study, Tuesdays, 10:00 am

Church Office Hours

Monday — Friday, 9:00 am — 1:00 pm

Pastor: Rev. Tom Bourke

Office Hours: Monday–Thursday

9:00 am — 1:00 pm

or by appointment

Email: tombourkej@gmail.com

Mobile: 630-699-2474

Church Staff

Secretary: Donna Reiss

Tuesday–Friday, 9:00 am — 1:00 pm

Choir and Chimes Director: Kevin Duy

Organist/Pianist: Abi Mogge

Ministers and Missionaries: All Members

We are passionately united to feed all people —
body, mind and spirit — to the glory of God!

Leadership Team 2023

Church Council Chair	Sarah Stevens
Recording Secretary	Chris Bagwill
Treasurer	Linda Duy
Payroll	Pam Nehring
Financial Secretary	Pat Hallaron
Finance/Stewardship Chair	Pam Nehring
Staff/Pastor Parish Relations	Jerry Brown
Lay Leader	Jim Bernhardt
Trustee's Chair	Gary Anderson
Annual Conf. Delegate	Ken Young
Missions/Evangelism Chair	Phyllis Whitehead
	Bonnie Bernhardt
Memorial/Endowment Chair	Bonnie Miller
United Methodist Women	Marilyn Steenwyk
Fair Stand Chair	Reid Heinekamp
Worship & Music Chair	Deb Seymour

United Church of Sandwich's

We invite you to view the new website for
contact information and to learn more about
United Church of Sandwich

www.unitedchurchsandwich.org