

The Messenger

Volume 20 No. 3

March 2020

The Newsletter of The United Church of Sandwich

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



Greetings,

To fast or not to fast? That is the question. Ash Wednesday was on February 26. This marks the beginning of a 40-day journey through lent to Easter Sunday. Traditionally, Christians have used the Lenten season to fast. This follows in the footsteps of Jesus who went without food for 40 days while in the desert. The question I ask you, should you fast this Lent? That is a deeply personal question that should be decided between you and the Lord. However, I have some thoughts that may help you focus your decision for Lent.



LENT BEGINS

First, let's begin with the purpose of Lent. Lent is a time of examination, repentance, and renewal. Easter Sunday is a resurrection experience for us spiritually. The impact of Easter Sunday can be affected by how we journey through Lent. Lent can be an interesting time. I found this quote. 'the season of Lent is like a roller coaster ride with emotions that are down and up again and again as the story of our salvation makes plain our sinful ways and the cost of redemption.' From, *A Guide to Prayer for All who Seek God*. So, Lent is a critical time for us. For this reason, engaging in the spiritual practice of fasting is a wonderful response to the importance of traveling towards Easter Sunday.

How do I fast? One misconception of fasting is that we must take what we love the most and give it up during Lent. Fasting is not meant to be punishment we inject on ourselves. It is not meant to be a painful experience. 'Lent is not a six-week inconvenience in an otherwise abundant year, during which we have to somehow please God with voluntary if minor suffering.' Marjorie Thompson. Fasting is a time of spiritual house cleaning. We give up something in our lives so that we may divert our attention to God. What we decide to fast can be as varied as the people in our congregation. It can be different for everybody. Fasting is not easy, but the struggle helps us to find our strength in the Lord.

If you decide to give something up for Lent, I encourage you to only do so if you can also use your energy towards engaging with the Lord more. For example, if you were to give up Facebook, use the time you would normally be on Facebook to pray or read the scriptures. If you gave up chocolate, use the money that you would have normally spent on chocolate to buy a devotional and read some of it each day throughout Lent. Fasting is an opportunity to be renewed by the spirit because we are seeking to become less of us, and more of God.

Finally, I want you to remember the math of Lent. I know it sounds weird to discuss math when focusing on Lent but it is just as important as the fasting. Lent is 40 days. However if you were to do the math on the calendar, you would notice that there are more than 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter. The numbers don't add up. Why? That is because each Sunday during Lent is not actually a part of Lent. Sundays are meant to be a mini Easter. Sundays are a time to reflect and focus on the resurrection of the Lord and of our spirit. If you wish to give up something for the entire time of Lent, you may do so, but Sundays during Lent are meant to be a break from the focus of repentance and a chance to experience some resurrection joy! I encourage you to spend the next week in prayer. Consider what you may be willing to give up this Lent. Let that sacrifice not be the focus of your lent, but the Catalyst towards re-engaging in your relationship with God. Enjoy your Sundays with joy in your heart for he is risen! Most of all, use this Lent to prepare for the resurrection of Christ. He died for us, and he rose for us!

God Bless,
Rev. Tom Bourke



Sunday Scriptures and Themes for March

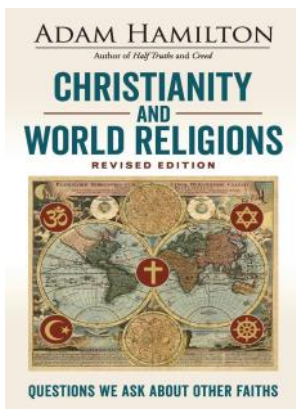
March 1 Mark 1:12-15 ~ A Time For Learning *Wilderness Time*

March 8 Mark 1:12-15, 2 Corinthians 4:8-11~ A Time For Challenge *Wilderness Time*

March 15 Mark 1:12-15, Hebrews 4:14-16 ~ A Time For Dependence *Wilderness Time*

March 22 Mark 1:9-15, Mark 9:24b ~ A Time of Doubt *Wilderness Time*

March 29 Mark 1:9-15, 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10 ~ A Time of Comfort *Wilderness Time*



Adult Sunday School is currently discussing the Bible Study Series, ***Christianity & the World Religions***, thru March 29. Below is the description...

In ***Christianity and World Religions***, Pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton explores four major world religions—Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism—and the beliefs of each with those of Christianity. He deals openly and honestly with questions people ask about other religions like:

- Why are there so many different religions?
- How should Christians view other religions?
- How is God at work in other religions?
- What is the fate of those who earnestly pursue God through other religions?

In examining these major world religions and the beliefs of their followers, Hamilton urges us as Christians to build bridges with others so that we might grow in our faith, seek peace in our world, love our neighbor, and find positive ways to share the gospel. If you have any questions, please contact pastor Tom at tombourkejr@gmail.com or 630-699-2474.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

*NIU Wesley Foundation at
Northern Illinois
University*



The mission of the Wesley Foundation at Northern Illinois University is to bring the excitement of life with Christ to the Northern Illinois University community. Campus ministry at NIU is to develop faith and a safe community in NIU Wesley Foundation every semester. This faith community in NIU supports and encourages students to be connected to each other, to grow in faith, and to be leaders for the world that we want to transform.

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

Who came to Jesus by night to ask him questions, and what famous Bible verse was part of Jesus' answer?

- Martha; "I am the resurrection and the life ..."
- Peter; "Do to others what you would have them do ..."
- Thomas; "I am the way and the truth and the life ..."
- Nicodemus; "For God so loved the world ..."



Answer: D (See John 3:1-16.)

MARCH Activities



United Methodist Men meet on Sunday, March 1st at 7:30 am for breakfast and fellowship. All men are invited to attend!



U'Niter's meet March 2nd at 1:00pm in the Friendship Corner.

United Methodist Women will meet Thursday, March 12th at 9:30am in the chapel.



EPIC Youth Group will be meeting at the Federated Church for the month of March. Sundays 4-6 pm. Students in 6th grade through college are welcome to participate in games, Bible study, and dinner. Please join them for their,

Cooperative Youth Ministry
Chili Cook-Off
Fundraiser
Sunday, March 1st
4-6 PM



Union Congregational Church Somonauk

Come sample a variety of different chili recipes and vote on your favorites, OR come to enjoy a bowl of United Church of Sandwich Fair chili! Cost is just your time and a donation to the CYM. Volunteers are needed to make this a successful event! Please consider making YOUR famous chili to be among the options (6-8 qt batch/crockpot). Be creative! Think green chili, white chili, vegetarian chili, chicken chili, etc. Leave a description so others will know what you're making. Donations of supplies and toppings are also needed and greatly appreciated. Contact Autumn Battaglia for more information.



BAKE SALE BAKE SALE

Sunday, March 1st will be the next bake sale to benefit the Apportionment Commitment. Luncheon committee #1 will have an assortment of baked items to sell. If you have any questions, please see Pam Nehring.

Thanks for your help.



Worship Committee meets Sunday, March 8th, following service.

Staff/Parish Relations Committee will meet March 10th at 6:00pm

Trustees Board meets Tuesday, March 17th at 6:30pm

Finance Committee meets Thursday, March 19th at 6:00pm.

Administrative Council will meet Thursday, March 26th at 6:00pm.



Fourth Sunday Coffee Hour hosts for March 22nd is UMM. In the chapel following worship service.

Sandwich/Somonauk Ministerial Alliance 4TH TUESDAY COMMUNITY FREE FELLOWSHIP FEAST

4:30 – 6:00 pm
Tues., March 24th, 2020
United Church of Sandwich
512 E Lions Rd Sandwich
815-786-9243



ALL ARE WELCOME!

Invite your friends and family to come as well!

Upcoming feasts:
Tues., March 24 @ United Church of Sandwich
Tues., April 28 @ Somonauk Baptist Church
Tues., May 26 @ Salem Lutheran Church

SAVE
the
DATE

JUNE 14, 2020

UNITED CHURCH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ARE ASKED TO SAVE THE DATE AND BE READY TO CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH MERGER THAT CREATED THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANDWICH. THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY A LUNCH. SOME OF THE CHURCH HISTORY WILL BE ON DISPLAY FOR VIEWING. PLEASE BLESS THE CELEBRATION WITH YOUR ATTENDANCE. DONATIONS WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED TO OFFSET THE EXPENSES.

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. Our Newsletter will begin to share the news of the UMC with you 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 you read. He would be happy and honored to connect with you.

<https://files.constantcontact.com/62925eb8001/c458dfc1-d3ad-496c-8b62-37c178f46739.pdf>



Spring Plants

Lilies

7" with pot cover
\$16.00

Azaleas

6-1/2" with pot cover
\$16.00

Orders are due no later than March 16, 2020

Please make checks payable to The United Church of Sandwich.

Orders may be dropped in the offering plate or brought to the church office.

Name: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

of Lilies: _____
(\$16.00 per plant)

of Azaleas: _____
(\$16.00 per plant)

Total Cost: _____

Payment must be included with order form.

2020 COMMUNITY LENTEN BREAKFAST SERIES

The Federated Church
403 N. Main St., Sandwich
Wednesdays, 9:00—10:00 a.m.



- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| February 26 | “I Am The Bread of Life” (John 6:35-40)
Mr. Chuck Johnson, Federated Church |
| March 4 | “Before Abraham Was, I Am” (John 8:31-51, 58)
Rev. Dave Johnson, Somonauk Baptist Church |
| March 11 | “I Am The Light of the World” (John 9:1-5)
Rev. Chris Schoon, St. John’s Lutheran Church |
| March 18 | “I Am the Good Shepherd” (John 10:1-18)
Rev. Wayne Derber, Salem Lutheran Church |
| March 25 | “I Am The Way, Truth, Life” (John 14:1-6)
Rev. Tom Bourke, United Church of Sandwich |
| April 1 | “I Am The Vine” (John 15:1-17)
Rev. Matthew Jones, Church of the Nazarene |

Please join us for a continental breakfast, fellowship, worship, prayer and study!

Everyone in the community is invited and encouraged to attend.

A free will offering will be taken to benefit the Good Samaritan Fund.

Call the office at the Federated Church with any questions: 815-786-8595.

AN UPDATE!

The Federated Church will again be hosting the Lenten Worship Breakfasts. Each Wednesday they are asking the church of the Pastor that is giving the message to provide food. This will only be the breads, muffins, coffee cakes, etc. They will provide the fresh fruit, drinks, table service and do the serving. UCS's Wednesday is March 25th. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex. Each person will need to provide something that will make at least 24 portions. If what you provide needs to be cut, please do so before you take it. It will need to be at the Federated Church no later than 8:30AM. If you are unable to take it there then please let Pam Nehring know and have it at the United Church by 8:00AM. It is recommended you use a non-returnable container but if that is not possible make sure your name is on it.

Thank you, Pam Nehring

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Liturgists

03/01 Deb Seymour
 03/08 Bonnie Miller
 03/15 Kevin Duy
 03/22 Diane Pearson
 03/29 Les Banks

Greeters

03/01 Bev Lowe
 03/08 Gary & Judy Anderson
 03/15 Phyllis Davis
 03/22 Ed & Jane Heyer
 03/29 John & Pat Hallaron

Ushers

03/01 Monty & Betty Reiners
 03/08 Jim & Connie Mitchell
 03/15 Al & Myrtie Warren
 03/22 Doug & Melissa Reiners
 03/29 Deb Seymour/Angie Miller

March Communion Ministers

Deb & Reid Heinekamp, Angie Miller

If you would like to add a touch of beauty to the worship with a gift of flowers or donate bread for Holy Communion, sign up sheets are in the narthex.



NEWSLETTER HELPERS

Thanks 
 Bev & Ione!

MARCH Birthdays & Anniversaries

03/01	Cortney Scharenberg
03/02	Blake Breon
03/03	Dorothy Guseman
03/05	Joshua Robinson
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
03/21	Alvin Warren
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



Thank you to those who have filled out the member information cards. If you haven't filled one out yet, please send any email, phone number, and address updates to the church.



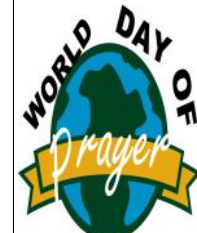




Prayer List



If you would like to be added to the church email prayer list please contact the church office or Pastor Tom.



MARCH 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 7:30 UMM Breakfast</p> <p>8:45 Adult Sunday School</p> <p>9:00 Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Worship ~ Communion</p>	<p>2 1:00 U'Niter's Mtg</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 9:00 Lenten Breakfast @ Federated Church</p> <p>6:30 Chimes</p> <p>7:30 Choir</p>	<p>5 6:30 Al-Anon</p>	<p>6 </p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Daylight Saving Time Begins</p> <p>8:45 Adult Sunday School</p> <p>9:00 Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Worship</p> <p>11:15 Worship Cmte Mtg</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 6:00 SPRC Mtg</p>	<p>11 9:00 Lenten Breakfast @ Federated Church</p> <p>6:30 Chimes</p> <p>7:30 Choir</p>	<p>12 9:30 UMW Mtg</p> <p>6:30 Al-Anon</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 8:45 Adult Sunday School</p> <p>9:00 Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Worship ~ Communion</p>	<p>16 Flower Orders Due</p> 	<p>17 Newsletter DEADLINE</p> <p>6:30 Trustees Board Mtg</p>	<p>18 9:00 Lenten Breakfast @ Federated Church</p> <p>6:30 Chimes</p> <p>7:30 Choir</p>	<p>19  Welcome Spring</p> <p>6:00 Finance Cmte Mtg</p> <p>6:30 Al-Anon</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21  National Quilting Day</p>
<p>22 8:45 Adult Sunday School</p> <p>9:00 Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Worship</p> <p>Coffee Hour Hosts~ UMM</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 4:30-6:00 4th Tuesday Feast @ UCS</p>	<p>25 9:00 Lenten Breakfast @ Federated Church</p> <p>6:30 Chimes</p> <p>7:30 Choir</p>	<p>26 10:30 Newsletter Assembly</p> <p>6:00 Administrative Council Mtg</p> <p>6:30 Al-Anon</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Apportionment Sunday</p> <p>8:45 Adult Sunday School</p> <p>9:00 Children's Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Worship</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	 <p><i>"Lord, IT IS GOOD THAT we are here."</i></p>			

The United Church of Sandwich

512 E Lions Road
Sandwich, IL 60548-2147



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE MESSENGER — MARCH 2020

The United Church of Sandwich

512 E Lions Road, Sandwich, IL 60548-2417

Church: (815) 786-9243

Email: ucssandwich@frontier.com

website: www.unitedchurchsandwich.org

Sunday Schedule

Worship 10:00 am

Adult Sunday School 8:45 am

Children's Sunday School 9:00 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: tombourkejr@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: Carol Larson

Ministers and Missionaries: All Members

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

Leadership Team 2020

Church Council Chair	Ken Young
Recording Secretary	Chris Bagwill
Treasurer	Linda Duy
Payroll	Pam Nehring
Financial Secretary	Pat Hallaron
Finance/Stewardship Chair	Pam Nehring
Staff/Pastor Parish Relations	Gwen Fox
Lay Leader	Sarah Stevens
Trustee's Chair	Matt Olson
Annual Conf. Delegate	Bonnie Miller
Missions/Evangelism Chair	Phyllis Whitehead
Memorial/Endowment Chair	Carole Strock
United Methodist Women	Myrtie Warren
United Methodist Men	
Fair Stand Chair	Reid Heinekamp
Worship & Music Chair	Deb Seymour
CYM: Joint Youth Coop Rep.	Joanna Olson