

March 2024



Our Vision statement:

*Learn God's word, Teach
God's word and
Share God's love*

Our Mission Statement:

*Wesley United Methodist
Church is a community of*

*Christ's disciples who strive to know, love and serve God
more faithfully through Christ-centered worship,
education, fellowship and true compassion that show
God's love for all people in the name of Jesus Christ.*

Office: 235-3070

Pastor Chuck Emery

Notes from the Pastor

Many people begin reading the Bible eagerly until they get to the book of Numbers where they bog down and quit. Maybe it is because the wonder has worn off and they have reached the place where they live. That is the place one woman defined as between “Oh Lord, and thank you, Jesus”.

The story of the book of Numbers is written to a people whose lives are lived between the accomplishing of their beginning and its consummation, between the exodus and the Promised Land. The book starts by identifying this people as those who came out of Egypt. The story of the book of Numbers essentially picks up where the books of Genesis and Exodus left off. God chose for himself the family of Abraham and redeemed them from their bondage in Egypt. He then brought them into the wilderness to Mount Sinai where he graciously entered into a covenant with them. They were to be his people, and he would be their God. As a token of that promise, he gave them the tabernacle, a tent in which he would dwell in their midst. The Lord has done what he promised Abraham in bringing his descendants out of their bondage—but he has not yet brought them into the Promised Land.

They live in between the times, and their present experience is not one of the fullness of their salvation but rather of the wilderness along the way. This should all sound familiar to us. We live as they did—between the beginning and the end. We too live between times. What is more, our experience of this world is likewise often one of wilderness rather than fullness. Jesus promised his disciples one sure thing in this world—tribulation and he has been faithful to his promise. Wars, sickness, sin, broken relationships, misunderstandings, pain, tears—all of these are part of our experience in this world. We should surely therefore be able to identify with the experiences and temptations of the first wilderness generation.

However, as we journey on there is one other certainty that Jesus promised his disciples, isn't there? Jesus promised us his presence with us in the wilderness: “Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age”. This too matches Israel's experience in the wilderness, for God did not bring them out of Egypt and then abandon them to make their own way through the wilderness. The provision he made for them in the tabernacle in the wilderness should therefore speak to us also, for we have God's presence with us through his Holy Spirit.

Important Dates

Wednesday, March 13
Membership Care 2:00 pm
Education 6:30 pm

Tuesday, March 19
Council 6:30 pm

Wednesday, March 20
WORSHIP 1:30 pm

Sunday, March 24
Palm Sunday
8:30 a.m. Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Worship

Thursday, March 28
Maundy Thursday
6:30 p.m. worship

Friday, March 29
Good Friday
2 p.m. worship

Sunday, March 31
Easter Service

Online Services still available to view on Facebook and YouTube. See page 3 for instructions on how to subscribe to the Wesley YouTube channel.

(Continued from page 1)

What are the chief temptations of life in the wilderness? The first temptation is surely the danger of losing the plot. The people of Israel were constantly tempted to doubt that there really was a Promised Land ahead. The wilderness was very real, and the obstacle were very visible, while the Promised Land seemed very remote. They surely felt as if their whole lives were slipping away from them in one meaningless round of unsatisfying experiences.

Isn't that somewhat like our lives? You wake up, you go to work, you go home, you go to bed. There is never enough time to get everything done, never enough money to meet all your commitments, never enough of you left for yourself or to give to others. Events that God could so easily have orchestrated to make your life more straightforward regularly become tangled and twisted. This life is often a chaotic wilderness.

So, what is life all about? Sometimes we are tempted to believe that the wilderness we see is really all there is: that when all is said and done, there is no guiding purpose or meaning to this world. Our lives appear as meaningless as the game of cricket is to the uninitiated: days full of incomprehensible activity that at the end of them accomplish exactly nothing. On the surface our lives may seem to wander from one place to the next, driven apparently off-course by our grumbling and the vicissitudes of fate. Yet there is a story line to our personal stories, an intricate plot that will, after all of life's twists and turns, end up God bringing us into the place prepared for us. That is the reality to which we need to firmly hold.

That is what it means to live by faith: to affirm the reality of God's presence in our lives even when we cannot see it with our eyes. The first generation did not live by that faith; they believed their eyes and distrusted and abandoned God and so experienced the bitterness of death in the wilderness. The second generation, however, had a new opportunity to begin again on that journey and start afresh to live by faith. The story of the next generation has just begun at the end of the book of Numbers. The end of their story is left open because the writer is not simply interested in recording the faith or folly of ancient generations. He is far more concerned to challenge us as to our faith in God's promises. The lives of faithful pilgrims show the indelible marks of their faith. Their lives are utterly inexplicable unless the Word of God is true.



BIRTHDAYS

1	Mark Fournier	14	Velma Sowers Dale Lager
2	Noah Adelmeyer Ben Stein	15	Margaret Mortenson Susan Davies
5	Ted Eckstein	17	Dennis Monroe Tracy Roe
8	Beverly Heisler	19	Margaret Kurtz
9	Scott Witzke	22	Linda Fournier
10	Janis Emery Kyle Fournier	24	Gloria Smith
12	Donna Krystek		



Palm Sunday Breakfast

The Easter Breakfast on Palm Sunday, March 24. The buffet breakfast starts at 8:30 a.m. in Koeller Hall. Bev and Bob Heisler from LaSures will be catering the meal and a free will offering will be collected. There is a sign-up sheet for this breakfast to more accurately determine the number in attendance and how much food is to be prepared. We hope to see you there. Hosanna!



Facebook Lenten Bible Study started Thursday, February 15, with Pastor Chuck hosting. Pastor Chuck is requesting that we read a chapter a day from the book of John. He will post his thoughts on the chapter and is encouraging everyone to comment and join the conversation. This will be a private group on the Wesley UMC Facebook page. To join, go to Wesley UMC Oshkosh facebook page. Click on the group "Lenten Bible Study" then request to join and you will be added to the group. This makes sure the group stays private so everyone can talk freely. Hope everyone will take advantage of this new way for us to have a Bible study. Whether you're a seasoned daily Bible reader or just starting Bible reading, let's take this journey together!

Important Dates coming up:

The Sunday School children will be doing a processional with palm branches on Palm Sunday, March 24, to begin our worship service at 9:30 am.

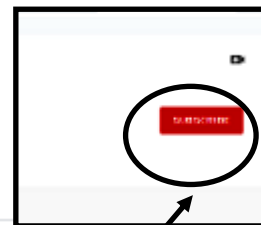
We will be hosting an Indoor Camping Experience on Saturday April 20 from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. It will include activities that many of us experienced during our annual Family Camp. We are making plans for playing Corn hole, a sing along around a campfire, games around the campfire, and there will be food. Right now the menu is Hot Dogs & Chips and, of course, S'mores.

An Ecumenical VBS (vacation Bible school) is planned for July 29-August 1, 2024. It will be from 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. (dinner included) for ages 3 & potty trained through 5th grade at All Saints Lutheran Church, 1072 Honey Creek Rd., Oshkosh. The theme will be Camp! No cost to individual families. A flat fee will be charged to each participating church. Churches attending an informational meeting in January were All Saints, Calvary, Trinity Episcopal, First English, Wesley UMC, Christ Our Savior and Peace Lutheran. They had 60 kids involved last year. Sunday School families please put the dates for this exciting event on your calendars!

That's all for now from your Education Committee. The next Education committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. Anyone is welcome to join us.

Respectfully submitted by Donna LaPoint, Education Committee Chair

1. Open **YouTube.com**
2. Click the Search button
3. Key **Wesley UMC Oshkosh**



wesley umc oshkosh|

4. Press **Enter**
5. Click the **SUBSCRIBE** button when you first view this YouTube site.

UMCOR, which stands for United Methodist Committee on Relief, will be our mission focus for the month of March. UMCOR is the humanitarian relief and development agency of the United Methodist Church and operates under the guidance of the General Board of Global Ministries. It is the committee that takes action when disaster strikes around the globe. It is often said that UMCOR is the first to arrive on the scene of a disaster and the last to leave. Currently, UMCOR is involved in relief efforts for those affected by the Israel/Gaza conflict, assistance to areas in Mexico devastated by Hurricane Otis, and continued support for the people of Ukraine. In the United States UMCOR is providing assistance for those in communities in Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Mississippi that were hit by tornadoes, the parts of California affected by the floods and mudslides, and the people in Hawaii wiped out by the wildfire. These are only a few of the areas where UMCOR is actively acting as the hands and feet of Christ's church, helping people in their darkest days. 100% of the monies donated to UMCOR projects goes directly to the relief efforts. None goes to administrative expenses.

This is possible because on Sunday, March 10, we will be observing UMCOR Sunday, formerly known as "One Great Hour of Sharing." Money given for this Sunday will go directly to cover the operating budget of UMCOR. This allows them to funnel 100% of other donations throughout the year to their relief projects. When making a donation, please designate whether you are supporting UMCOR relief projects or the UMCOR Sunday effort. This will help our financial people make sure the money goes where you want it to go.



To learn more about UMCOR visit: www.umcmmission.org/umcor

Flowers for Easter

No lilies were ordered because of the cost. Individuals may bring their favorite potted spring flower/plant to share and take home after the service.

Pot size should be 6-8 inches.



Newsletter Sponsorship

Susan Davies is the sponsor for the March 2024 newsletter. Please consider being a sponsor for the April-December 2024 newsletters. Your contribution helps defray part of the cost of the publication and is an extra gift of support to our expenses. Please contact the church office (235-3070) to 'reserve' your chosen month for 2024.



From the Study Book “Disciple’s Path - a guide for United Methodists”—March

In answer to the question about why I am a UM, I say, “I am a United Methodist because I follow Christ because: of the:

3. Wesleyan balance of personal piety with social action.

Personal piety is breathing in and Social action is like breathing out. Can’t have one without the other.

Faith without works is dead.

Do all the good you can.
In all the ways you can.
In all the times you can.

By all the means you can.
In all the places you can.
To all the people you can.

As long as you ever can.

God’s love made know to us must become tangible in this world through us.

Faith in our hearts must become love expressed with our hands. The faith in our minds is expressed through real issues

For Wesley This love of God and man was neither a feeling or noun, but a verb.

UMC Wesley CORNER

Sunday March 10, is UMCOR Sunday

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the humanitarian relief and development agency of the United Methodist Church. It operates under the guidance of the General Board of Global Ministries. UMCOR works to provide relief and long-term recovery assistance when a disastrous event overwhelms a community's ability to recover on their own, whether it occurs nationally or internationally. UMCOR has been rebuilding hope for nearly 80 years. (Read more about the work of UMCOR in the Mission of the Month article in this newsletter.)

UMCOR Sunday is the special Sunday of the United Methodist Church when all gifts marked "UMCOR Sunday" go to pay for the administrative and operating cost (the costs of doing business) of UMCOR. This ensures that UMCOR is able to keep its promise that 100% of other designated gifts goes to the specific project you have chosen to support.

On Sunday, March 10, a special envelope will be available. It will be marked UMCOR Sunday. Your generous gift will help UMCOR continue its great work in helping communities and individuals recover from earthquakes, storms, fires, wars and other devastating events. If you want to give and don't have access to an envelope, just be sure to mark your donation "UMCOR Sunday" and our financial team will get it to the right place.



Daylight Savings Time
Begins at 2 a.m. on
Sunday
March 10, 2024

**First Day
of
Spring
Tuesday
March 19, 2024**





March 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:30 a.m. Worship No Communion 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024.	4 5:30 p.m. MA	5 10 a.m. TOPS	6 5:30 p.m. MA	7 10:30 a.m. “Christian Believer” Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA	8	9
10 9:30 a.m. Worship Communion w/Pastor 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024	11 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. Trustees	12 10 a.m. TOPS	13 2:00 p.m. Membership 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. Education	14 10:30 a.m. “Christian Believer” Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA	15	16
17 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024	18 5:30 p.m. MA	19 10 a.m. TOPS 6:30 Church Council	20 1:30 p.m. Worship Com. 5:30 p.m. MA	21 10:30 a.m. “Christian Believer” Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA	22	23
24 8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast 9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024	25 5:30 p.m. MA	26 10 a.m. TOPS	27 5:30 p.m. MA	28 10:30 a.m. “Christian Believer” Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday	29 2 p.m. Good Friday Service	30
31 9:30 a.m. Easter Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024				MA= Martial Arts TOPS = Take Off Pounds Sensibly		

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Change Service Requested

March



*The Wesleyan Connection is
published monthly for the
members and friends of Wesley
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