



March Calendar Dates

We will meet on the following dates:
6, 13, 20, 27

Darren Dewitt, Youth Director
574-276-3453

Confirmation class retreat has been rescheduled for
March 29 & 30 we will be staying at The Oaks at
South Paw Farm, Mishawaka, IN



Upcoming Event

Kids Church
(everyone welcome)

What: Pizza Party
When: **March 10th**

Where: OUMC Fellowship Hall
Time: 12:30pm-2:00pm

Contact Miss Angie with questions
at 574-361-9913
perkeya@hotmail.com

Contact our office at 574-679-4435 www.osceolaumc.org
For Prayer Requests, email: prayerministry@osceolaumc.org
431 North Beech Road., Osceola, IN 46561

If you would like to sponsor the news letter, contact the church office.

Osceola United Methodist Church
OUMC
431 N. Beech Road
Osceola, IN 46561

The Messenger - March 2019

Monthly Newsletter of Osceola United Methodist Church



Six Week Sermon Series

- Simon Peter- Flawed but Faithful Disciple, by Adam Hamilton
- March 10: The Call of the Fisherman, Luke 5:1-11
- March 17: Walking with Jesus in the Storms, Matthew 14:22-34
- March 24: Bedrock or Stumbling Block, Matthew 16:13-19, 21-23
- March 31: I Will Not Deny You, Matthew 26:31-35
- April 7: From Cowardice to Courage, John 21:12, 15-17
- April 14: The Rest of the Story, Acts 2:14, 38-41

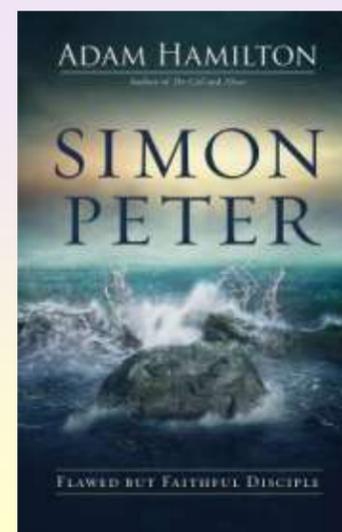
In This Issue

- Six Week Sermon Series
- Ash Wednesday
- Lenten Study
- Pastor's Corner**
- Prayer
- UMW
- Trustee's**
- Monthly & On Going Events
- Mom's Night Out**
- College Scholarships
- Financial Update
- Ad Council
- Laity
- Youth Group Calendar
- Kids Church Event



Ash Wednesday, March 6th Service Times

7:00AM Ash & Dash Morning Service
7:00PM Full Service



Church Wide Lenten Study Adults, Youth and Children

He was not rich or educated, but was familiar with hard work. He was quick-tempered and impetuous, but possessed a passion that would change the world. He left everything to follow his teacher, yet struggled with doubt and fear.

Join Pastor Will in this six-week Lenten journey, and take an in-depth dive into the life, faith, and character of Simon Peter.

Books available in the Narthex for \$15
Children's Sunday School and Youth Group will also be doing the same study during Lent.

The Pastor's Corner

We are getting ready to celebrate Lent! If you're like me and didn't grow up celebrating Lent you might wonder what that word even is. Lent comes from a Latin word that means spring. Its a time set aside in the church to consider our lives and how they are aligning with the call of God. If you think about it, times like this are a real gift to us. It is important for us to take time and renew our thoughts, renew our goals, renew our priorities, and contemplate what Jesus is calling us to. Often throughout history people have chosen to fast from food, or something else in their everyday lives like chocolate, facebook, television. They give something up in order to clear some space in their head to think about Christ and his sacrifice. Its a chance to allow Christ to renew your thoughts. Because lets be honest, we all need to change the way we think. We have developed bad patterns and habits. Lent helps us reflect on who we have become and make changes if we need to. I was just talking with someone about this process recently. I told them people have lost the skill of critical thinking. We often can see the faults in others thinking but when it comes to our own line of thought we have trouble being critical of it. Lent is a time to critically think about your life. Are you who you want to be?

Lent is an opportunity to ask God for his perspective of your life. We all need to quote the Psalm writer of Psalm 139 and say,

“23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. **24**Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

This Lent season let's ask God to help rid us of our stinkin' thinkin' and lead us along the path of everlasting life. How will you make room for Christ to do his work in you this season? Maybe you will schedule some daily time with him. Maybe you will give up something in order to make room for him. One common complaint is people don't have enough time to spend with God. They are too busy. I do believe we are busy people but I don't believe this holds up as an acceptable excuse to not be with the giver of life. If you google how much time the average person spends on social networks you will find they spend an average of 1 hour and 40 minutes scrolling through their feeds. Maybe you don't use the internet and you still are busy. I can promise you there is nothing more valuable then finding time to be renewed by God. How will you make that space this Lent?

Peace, Love, and Happy Lent Season,

Pastor Will



The Disciples asked about prayer!

With all the miracles Jesus did and his great preaching and stories you would think the disciples would want training in these areas. But, no, they asked him about prayer. Part of the answer Jesus gave them was the Lord's Prayer. We will be having a Prayer Retreat on Saturday, April 6 from 9-4. Our main purpose is to learn about prayer and specifically how to understand and use the prayer Jesus taught. So, we study the Bible and use an outside reference on prayer

which people can take home with them. The pamphlet we will be using states the Lord's Prayer is a dangerous, life-changing prayer. I think we have some things to learn about this prayer.

Quite a while ago we decided to not spend the retreat time praying (we can do that at home) but to spend time learning. There is a morning session from 9 to noon and then after a pot luck lunch there is an afternoon session from 1 to 4. People can come to either session or both sessions.

The sessions are designed for all types of people from those who have never prayed before to those who are considered prayer warriors. Besides reading scripture, we also have discussions and can ask questions. It's really a great time to get away and do something different as a Christian.

We meet in the Wadsworth Room just off of the south parking lot at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS), 3001 Benham Ave in Elkhart. It is an easy place to find and the room has a big area to meet and a kitchen. The way we pay for the event is through donations. The sessions are led by Susan Baldwin, so call (574-291-8637) to get the exact directions and answers if you have any questions. We'd love to have you join us.

OUMC STAFF

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willdeeds@osceolaumc.org

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wise_w@sbcglobal.net

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Jenaro Delprete

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Noah's Ark Childcare
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Custodian:
Mike Wilfret, Maintenance:
James Trader

Nursery Team:
Emily Egendoerfer
Becky Wennerstrom
Emily Wennerstrom
Brenda Blanton

Worship & Choir
Accompanist:
Lynn Lambert

Choir & Handbell Director:
Jim Gramza

Visual Communications:
Neil Bakshi
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Ad Council Chair's Thoughts – waiting

Waiting is such a hard place to be. You know something will be happening but it hasn't happened yet. You know it will cause you to modify what you are doing but you are not sure of those details yet. You want to jump in and make things go faster but God is not ready yet.

If you think waiting for OUMC to move to new service times to provide a time between services to have teaching, fellowship, discipleship, etc. look at what the followers of Jesus had to do. Jesus had risen from the dead and had been with them for 40 days. In Acts 1:4-8 are the last words Jesus said before being lifted up into heaven. "Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait...they were asking Him...He said to them 'it is not for you to know times or epochs...but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses...'” (underlining is mine).

We are in the same position as those followers. We have to wait until all the pieces of the puzzle are put together from getting the curriculum for the kid's classes to who will coordinate the food each week. It includes the exact times of the services and what rooms each group will have. It is also coordinating the people who offered to help teach the kids and those who will bring in food.

Our committee has started meeting on making sure everything is in place for our changes. The final decision will be with the Ad Council that meets March 14. If you want information on our progress, please contact me at 574-291-8637. If I write where we are now it will be out of date by the time you get this newsletter. You can reach out to me or other committee members (Gary Godfrey, Janet Keller, Deb Fox, Susan Adkins and Pastor Will) if you want to share your thoughts or get some information.

Jesus asked His followers to wait and He did tell them what they would do when the Holy Spirit came. We are to wait and we, too, will be witnesses for Jesus. So, as you wait, talk to Jesus about what type of witnessing He is encouraging you to do.

Susan Baldwin – Ad Council chairperson



Pray, Pray, Pray

by Allen Bishop

And then pray some more!! The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray continually." He also told the Philippians 1:4 "In all my prayers for all of you, I pray with joy." The list goes on, so that we should know there is no

doubt that prayer is important. It is our way of conversing with God, our Heavenly Father. We need to be a people of prayer, praying for each other praying for the church, praying for our local, state and national leaders, praying for the lost and broken, the sick the poor.

Praying for ... ???

If you are not sure how to pray there are over 200 prayers in the Bible. The best known is the "Lord's Prayer" found in Mathew 6, and Luke 11. If you can't seem to find the words, rest assured in this verse, Romans 8:26 "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."

As I write this the delegates are beginning to assemble in St. Louis, MO for the special conference of the UMC to decide on the "Way Forward", so whatever decision was made during the conference we will be hearing after February 26th, and we all need to be in prayer for wisdom and understanding so that the leaders of our churches can then help us all to understand what was decided.

PRAY, PRAY, PRAY!!!

Lent Offering Will Fund College Scholarships.



You have the opportunity during the season of Lent (begins on March 6) to help fund our College Scholarship Fund. Each year we offer a one time \$500 scholarship to those students planning to attend college to further their studies. Over the past 19 years, 72 scholarships have been awarded.

Enclosed in this newsletter is an envelope you may use for your contribution. There will also be envelopes available on the credenza. We hope you will prayerfully consider contributing to the fund so these scholarships can continue.

Guidelines and applications for these college scholarships are available in the wall display case in the narthex and also in the church office. If you are planning to attend college and have been an active member of OUMC during the past two years, be sure to take advantage of the opportunity. Prepare one of the applications and turn it into the office by May 20 for consideration by the Scholarship Committee.

Scholarship Committee: Janet Keller, Chair, Jo Ann Wolfe, Susan Adkins, & Pastor Will Deeds.

Financial Update

On behalf of the Finance & Stewardship Committee, here is a financial summary for 2018:

• The total budget was \$292,000. Donations were at 93% of budget, and expenses were at 94% of budget, resulting in a net loss of \$3000 for the general fund in 2018. A transfer was made from savings to cover this shortage so that the general fund starts 2019 at zero.

- We tithed to our Denomination (10% of our income to the Conference, 1% to the District).
- We implemented new accounting practices that assure the integrity of all our financial reports and accounts. I wish to thank our bookkeeper, Jennifer Witmer, for her efforts.
- We completed over \$23,000 in building improvements, including new parsonage flooring, new security doors, a new AC unit, and a new refrigerator.
- The Congregation successfully matched a \$20,000 donation to the building fund, resulting in a balance in this fund of nearly \$57,000 at the end of 2018. This will be used to support a growing list of building needs in 2019.
- The Day Care ministry is on solid financial footing, ending the year with a net gain of \$41,000.
- The Endowment Fund governing document was updated and simplified. The Endowment ended the year at \$126,000.
- The Finance committee developed, and the Ad Council approved a budget for 2019 of \$276,000 which is more in line with what was received in 2018.
- One of the changes made in 2019 to support the budget reduction was to cover the Missions expenses this year through existing designated mission related funds rather than through the general fund. The congregation is reminded that any personal donations marked for "missions" will be added to the designated fund earmarked for this purpose.

Overall, I am very pleased with the results and accomplishments in 2018. I am very grateful for the committee members who have helped us get through a challenging year, the leaders of the various organizations in the church who are responsible for assuring our expenditures are responsible and effective, and all other individuals who had an active role in managing the church's resources.

We thank you for supporting the mission of our church in 2018. The Finance & Stewardship Committee is looking forward to your continued support in 2019 as we work together to make disciples for Jesus Christ. Please reach out to any committee member if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions.

David Fox
Finance & Stewardship Committee, Chair



Where does all the money go? A report from the United Methodist Women

Each year the United Methodist Women plan several fundraisers to help fund their mission budget. We have a Swiss Steak Supper, one Rummage Sale, and a Holiday Bazaar. During 2018, thanks to the dedication of many workers and the support of our very generous congregation, we have earned over \$7,157. With other donations and a balance from the previous year, we were able to disburse the majority of our funds in the following way.

\$2,650 UMW Missions through Conference channels
 \$1,000 Conference Advance Specials, Soup Kitchen at First UMC, South Bend, Hope Ministries, Bishop Judith Craig Children's Village, Liberia, Ganta UMC School, Liberia West Africa, AIDS Ministry
 \$1,400 Women's Abuse Shelter (St. Joseph county YWCA), Hope Ministries, Habitat For Humanity-Women Build, North Central Indiana Food Bank, St. Margaret's House, Mission on the Move-Education Scholarship, Broadway Christian Parish
 \$1,300 College Scholarships, Camp Scholarships
 \$ 500 Guatemala Mission Trip
 \$ 500 Contribution for the new refrigerator
 \$ 500 Emergency donation for a local family
 \$ 500 Building Fund
 \$ 90 Gifts in memory of those women who have passed during 2018
 \$ 350 OUMC Food Pantry
 \$ 172 Christmas gifts for 2 children
 \$ 100 Caring Hands Ministry.
 \$ 148 Flood Bucket Ministry
 \$ 9,210

We also use funds to provide programming for our Mother's Day Brunch, the Women's Fall Brunch and the Women's Christmas Party. Funds are also used for funeral dinners that are provided throughout the year.

A sincere thank you to all of the men and women of our church family who have helped out in so many ways to support these various projects. These activities couldn't have happened without the support each of you has given. Thank you.

Janet Keller, President
Osceola United Methodist Women



The Trustees will be changing the restrooms by the Reception Room to unisex restrooms as of the first of March. It is felt that this would make better use of the facilities. (Also, we are trying to get the hand dryer fixed, but we've run into several delays and complications along the way.)

Several people have asked about the Red Cross van in the parking lot. We at OUMC are an emergency Red Cross shelter should the need arise. Red Cross provides beds, blankets, and food. We provide a sheltering building. The van contains the beds and blankets that might be needed. Also, with regard to hosting the persons who need the shelter, we need a team of people from our church who could be a host/representative/help while the shelter is in place. If you would like to be a host for our church during the emergency, please contact Dena Phillips, 679-4133. Red Cross representatives will train us.

The Trustees
Dena Phillips & Bob Hughes
Co-chairpersons

4 well hello, **march**

Young At Hearts Luncheon

Help Pat Eller celebrate St. Patrick's Day early by having lunch on Wednesday March 6th, 11:30am, at **Beef O' Brady's, 12749 St. Rd. 23 Granger.** RESERVATIONS need to be made with Pat by Monday, March 4th, by phone at 574-522-4796, or email: peller72@hotmail.com or let her know at church Sunday.

Christian Book Club
 Sunday March 10, at 4pm
 We will meet at the home of Pam K Iing, 30450 Lantern Ct. Elkhart, IN phone: 264-0295.
 Our selection of the month is: *Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling*, by Ross King.
 Join us at Pam's for discussion of this informative selection.

Christian Book Club Reading List through June 2019
March 10, Michaelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling, by Ross King
April 14, Shelter Me, by Juliette Fay
May 12, The Mountains Between Us, by Charles Martin

Women's Breakfast Bunch Macadoo's
 March 27 at 9:00am
 2108 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka
 We hope you can join us !!
 Contact: Linda Trader 574-256-9567 if you have questions .

POSTPONED Due to scheduling conflicts, we are postponing our annual Swiss Steak Supper from March 23, to October 19.
 Plan to attend at that time to enjoy this delicious meal, sponsored by the United Methodist Women.

Euchre
 March 24
 5:30-7:30
 Everyone welcome
 Bring a snack to share.
 Play cards, eat food, have fun!!! See you there!



All are welcome!
 Anyone interested in cutting material, blanket tying, crocheting prayer shawls, helping with lap quilts, or just come and fellowship with us, we meet the 3rd Friday of each month in the parlor from 9:00am - 12pm contact Susan Sebesta with questions @ 850-3259 (We take a break the months of June, July, Aug)

FOOD PANTRY *Food Pantry Update*
 On February 16, we took care of **46 families, and 132 individuals.**
 Our next scheduled food pantry day will be on Saturday **March 16, 2019.** All food donations can be dropped off to the food pantry anytime.
 Thank you supporting this wonderful ministry.

HELPING HANDS Can you lend a helping hand from time to time?
 We are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus and there are so many ways in which we can do this; praying for others, sending cards, phone calling, or taking in a meal to someone who is sick or going through tough times. **If you'd be willing to provide a meal when needed,** please contact Susan Adkins in the office or Janet Keller at 679-8646

Prayer Quilt Ministry
 The prayer quilt displayed in the Narthex is for Jim Trader. Jim fell recently and fractured his leg. He had surgery to repair the bone and is in rehab at Creekside Village on Douglas Road. Please pray for complete healing and recovery for Jim.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS
 Immediate help in the Nursery on Sunday mornings needed. Contact the church office if interested. 679-4435

5 **Ongoing Events**

SUNDAYS	MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS	SATURDAYS
8:15, 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages	9:30 a.m. Tai Chi (YR)	9:00 a.m. Tuesday a.m. Bible Study (P)	9:30 a.m. Tai Chi in the (YR)	4:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting (P)	9:30 a.m. Tai Chi (YR)	9:00 a.m. BBS practice ev/oth wk (S)
9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service		6:00 p.m. Modern Worship Band Practice (S)	6:15 p.m. Handbells rehearsal (S)	6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop Meeting in the (FH)		
11:00 a.m. Modern Worship Service		8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (RR)	6:30 p.m. Youth Group Meeting (YR)	6:00 p.m. Thursday Evening Bible Study (P)		
11:00 a.m. Children's Church			7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal (S)	8:00 p.m. BBS practice ev/oth wk (S)		

****Consult the church website calendar or church bulletin for further information.****

Promise Keepers Breakfast: Every other Wed of the month at Bravo Café at 6 a.m.
Real Services Senior Lunch: Monday – Friday at 10 a.m. in the reception room
Promise Keeper's Lunch: Every other Tuesday of the month at O.C. Café at 11:30 a.m.
Women's Breakfast Bunch: Last Wednesday of every month Macadoo's Restaurant at 9 a.m.
Young at Hearts Senior Luncheon - first Wednesday of the month at an area restaurant at 11:30
Caring Hands Meets the 3rd Friday of each month (Parlor) 9am -12pm
Christian Book Club Once a month 2nd Sunday of each month (off site & times, TBA)
Euchre Meets the 4th Sunday of each month at 5:30-7:30

All Moms need a NIGHT OUT

 Last month we had an article in the news letter for a monthly mom's night out group. We are still in the development stages of this group, but... do not fear moms. We have not forgotten you, and your well deserved night out! This group is for all moms, single, or married. We know sometimes you need a break and what better way then to take a break with other moms that know the ups and downs, highs and lows, that you go through day in and day out. We want to help you by giving you a few hours, one night a month, to relax, and hang out with the girls.
 In order for us to get this up and running for our moms, we are asking for volunteers to help with childcare here at the church. We will share the childcare responsibility with some of our youth group kids. If this sounds like something you'd like to be involved with, please contact Susan Adkins in the church office. We would like to offer our first Mom's Night Out in April. More information to follow in future bulletins, Enews, and April's news letter.
 Please see the sign up sheet in the Narthex for you to fill out if you'd like to help with childcare.

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