



New London United Methodist Church News

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March/April 2023

What Does Resurrection Look Like?

The season of Lent is a time for self-examination, repentance, and recommitment to our spiritual practices. A season that takes us to Good Friday and the death of Jesus on a cross. And yet by this death we are prepared to celebrate resurrection on Easter. We cover a lot of emotional and spiritual ground during Lent. And we are the better for it.

I feel that we also have covered a lot of emotional and spiritual ground during our congregational discussions on January 15 and February 5 as we discussed both where we're at financially starting 2023, and where we're at in the typical life cycle of a church. If you are a church member who has not taken part in our annual Church Conference, or monthly Church Council meetings, you might not have seen our financial statements or annual budget. Many members of the congregation didn't realize that we have monthly Winter bills of over \$1,000.00 for natural gas heating. Or that we can easily spend another \$900.00 a month on plowing and salting. Or that the mortgage balance is almost \$41,000.00 since we re-mortgaged to help pay for the new roof on the church. Over the past five years we have hovered near balancing income and expenses, but usually haven't. We all have a role to play in achieving this balance, and we are thankful for the faithful stewardship of so many people. We are also grateful for the work that Cheryl Rykken does as our Church Treasurer to match up cash flow with bill payments each month. During these Winter months that is not easy to do.

We all know that our church building is both an asset and a very large overhead expense because it is simply very large! We spend a great deal of time and energy on fundraising with the food wagon each Summer to help pay for things like snow plowing and building maintenance. Imagine what it would be like to do fundraising for things like medical supplies for people in Turkey and Syria injured by earthquakes; or providing ongoing assistance to people who have been displaced by the war in Ukraine; or substantially supporting the work of the Community Cupboard and Mission of Hope House in New London.

We have work groups that are gathering information about: our community context for ministry; how our congregation is similar/different to other area churches; how our church leadership functions; what our fiscal and facility assets are; and how our current ministries align with emerging needs. As part of our ongoing work of information gathering and assessment, our District Superintendent Park Hunter will be joining us on Sunday, March 19 to preach during worship and to share lunch and discussion afterward. (That week we will only have one worship service so everyone can worship and interact with the D. S.)

I invite you to pray with me that through this Lenten season of congregational self-examination and recommitment God will lead to us to resurrection, and that we will not only see what that looks like – but that we will feel the Holy Spirit move through us to bring new life to all around us.

Pastor Joyce

Lent in Plain Sight Discussion Groups

There are still copies of the Lenten devotional book, *Lent in Plain Sight*, by Jill Duffield available at church and you can jump into a discussion group before worship any week during Lent. On Sundays we meet at 9:00 AM. On Mondays at 5:15 PM. The topic of each week's readings will also be the worship theme for that week.

How Do I Reach Pastor Joyce?

If you want to avoid the disappointment of not finding me at the office when you stop by, you can call before you come, or make an appointment so I'll be ready to see you. If you need to leave a message you can leave a voice mail message at church (920) 982-4703 or on the parsonage answering machine (920) 250-5543.

Women's Prayer Group

Do you want to study how women in the Bible offered effective and purposeful prayers? Do you want to learn how to offer effective and purposeful prayers? The first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM, starting on March 7, you can do just that! Cheryl Rykken and Jeanne Lee will be leading this new group, and it will be meeting at Jeanne Lee's home. If you have questions please speak to Cheryl or Jeanne.

Think About Taking a Walk to Emmaus

The Spring men's and women's Walk to Emmaus weekends are coming up in late April at Camp Fairwood in Westfield, WI. Speak to Keith or Cheryl Rykken for more information, or look up the Fox Valley Walk to Emmaus online.

Why Have an Anointing?

To receive an anointing with oil is one way to ask for God's blessing and healing. Following the worship services (when the camera is no longer recording) on Sunday, March 26 and Monday, March 27 anyone who wishes to receive an anointing with oil (on the forehead or the back of the hand) and prayer for healing (for either themselves or for someone else) can come to the kneelers at the front of the sanctuary. You can choose to kneel or stand. Pastor Joyce will ask you if the prayer is for yourself or for another person (you can say their name or not), and whether you wish to be anointed on the forehead or hand. A small amount of unscented oil will then be used for the anointing in the shape of a cross. Pastor Joyce will then place her hands on your shoulders and offer a prayer for healing. You can then choose to stay where you are and offer your own prayers to God, or to depart.

Holy Week Plans

Holy Week starts with palms and Holy Communion in worship on Sunday, April 2 and Monday, April 3.

We will remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples on Holy Thursday, April 6.

There will be an ecumenical Good Friday service here at NLUMC on April 7 from 12:15 to 1:00 PM.

On Sunday, April 9 and Monday, April 10 we will celebrate the Easter blessing of Jesus' resurrection.

Meals, Meals, Meals!

There will be pizza and pasta salads for lunch on **Sunday, March 19 when we have our District Superintendent with us**. You can make a freewill donation to help cover the costs.

Our **Monday night free theme meals** will be: "Luck of the Irish" (traditional corned beef and cabbage) on **March 13**; and "For Starters" (the British term for appetizers) on **April 17**. Meals start at 5:45 PM, with worship at 6:30 PM. If you want to sign up to bring something for a meal, talk to Pastor Joyce.

We provide the evening meal to the residents of **Mission of Hope House** on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Thanks to everyone who already signed up to help with the March meals. If you'd like to provide the meal on: April 6; April 20; May 4; or May 18; please talk to Pastor Joyce.

Zoom Bible Chats

The Wednesday 6:00 PM Zoom Bible Chats will be on hiatus during Lent, and resume on Wed., April 12. The weekly scripture readings from the Common Lectionary are as follows:

- **April 12** – Psalm 16; John 20:19-31; Acts 2:14a, 22-32; I Peter 1:3-9
- **April 19** – Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Luke 24:13-35; Acts 2:14a, 36-41; I Peter 1:17-23
- **April 26** – Psalm 23; John 10:1-10; Acts 2:42-47; I Peter 2:19-25
- **May 3** – Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; John 14:1-14; Acts 7:55-60; I Peter 2:2-10

Food Wagon Dates

Our church food wagon is scheduled to be these fine events:

- Rhubarb Fest at Thern Farm on Sat., June 10.
- The Thresheree at Symco, July 27, 28, 29
- Symco Hot Rod & Kustom Weekender, Aug. 11, 12
- New London Fall Fest on Sat., Sept. 9

If we missed your celebration - Call 920-982-4703 to let us know

March Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Debbie Woeshnick	3/01
Chris Thompson	3/05
Alyssa Duch	3/08
Jessica Duch	3/08
Megan Duch	3/08
Scarlet Sakowski	3/17
Ernie Anderson	3/18
Ann Rieckmann	3/19
Norval Swinford	3/26
Judy Liebeck	3/28

Happy Anniversary

Keith & Cheryl Rykken	3/04
Bruce & Sheila Lee	3/25
Tim & Karen Nitke	3/30

April Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Tom Wolfe	4/03
Mary Bellile	4/08
Wanda Ohare	4/08
Rollin Tews	4/18
Bruce Lee	4/20
Rick Cook	4/21
Sheri Gose	4/23

Happy Anniversary

Tom & Sue Wolfe	4/03
Glenn & Rosella Bigford	4/12
Jim & Ann Rieckmann	4/21

Scrip Card Program

Scrip cards can be purchased Sunday mornings before or after church, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Scrip can also be purchased anytime the church office is open: Monday 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM; Tuesday 7:00 AM to Noon, Thursdays 7:00 AM to Noon. Tell your family, friends and neighbors they can use the program too. All scrip orders are placed by noon on Sundays. Scrip card inventory at time of printing:

Gas: Kwik Trip 1 @ \$10, 7 @ \$40 (Car wash only, \$50 value), 2 @ \$20 Fuel only, 7 @ \$25 (10%), 2 @ \$25 (15% Grocery Only), 4 @ \$25 (20% Grocery Only), 1 @ \$50 (20% Grocery Only), 1 @ \$50, 17 @ \$50 (10%), 13 @ \$100 (10%).

Grocery Stores: Festival 4 @ \$25, 6 @ \$50, 1 @ \$100; **Pick n Save** 1 @ \$50; **Woodman's** 4 @ \$50, 2 @ \$100.

Restaurants: Applebee's 1 @ \$25; **Buffalo Wild Wings** 2 @ \$10; **Chili's** 2 @ \$25; **Chipolte** 1 @ \$25; **Dairy Queen** 4 @ \$10; **Golden Corral** 2 @ \$25; **Jimmy John's** 1 @ \$10, **Little Caesars** 1 @ \$20; **McDonald's** 4 @ \$10; **Outback Steakhouse** 1 @ \$25; **Panera Bread** 1 @ \$25; **Red Lobster** 1 @ \$25; **Red Robin** 1 @ \$25; **Subway** 4 @ \$10; **Taco Bell** 1 @ \$10.

General Shopping: Amazon 2 @ \$25; **Barnes & Noble** 1 @ \$25; **Cabela's** 2 @ \$25; **CVS** 1 @ \$25; **JCPenney** 1 @ \$25; **Kohl's** 1 @ \$25, 1 @ \$100; **Marcus Movie Theatre's** 1 @ \$25; **Maurice's** 1 @ \$20; **Menards** 1 @ \$25, **Staples** 1 @ \$25; **Walgreen's** 1 @ \$100; **Walmart** 1 @ \$25, 2 @ \$50.

Thank you for your continued support of the Scrip program.

Prayers

Please keep our Circuit Partners in your prayers: Clintonville UMC; Seymour/Cicero: New Life UMC; Waupaca Area Regional Ministry; Manawa UMC; Iola UMC.

With our members or family members who are looking for work.

With all of our Service Men and Women who serve here and abroad for our freedom.

With Nancy Gretzinger as she is at Brewster Village.

With Jon Heise and family on the loss of Jon's brother-in-law, Scott Gorges, on February 27, 2023.



United Women in Faith

Women of Faith met Feb. 16th. We decided to spend \$100 on "Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive" sponsored by the Salvation Army here in New London. We will shop for items and bring to church.

We also discussed plans to hold our spring salad luncheon. We are aiming for the date of April 26th, a Wednesday, we found that Friday was not a good day which we tried at our fall luncheon. We are hoping to do also do a bake sale that day.

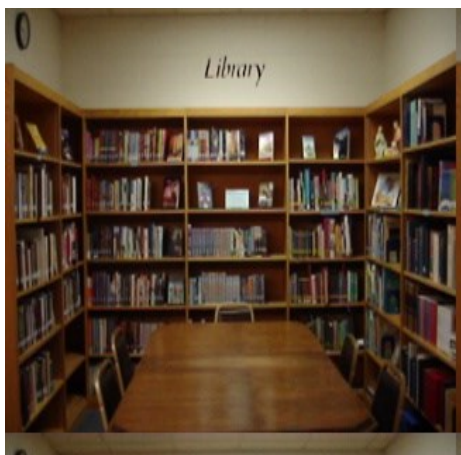
We also discussed our pledge to the district Women of Faith. Sadly we had to cut it by \$500 as we have not had enough fund raisers or meetings to meet our previous pledge. We thank those members who have donated to our treasury as often as they could. With faith we will get back on track.

We invite all women to join us, we need many hands to carry on the mission work of the Women of Faith. We also need the ideas of women of all ages. We always meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at 9AM at Marley's. Our next meeting will be March 16th.

Mission

We would like to recognize special groups within the city of New London. If you have any suggestions or ideas on what we could donate or who we should recognize please contact Sheila Lee or Jane Martinson.

Our penny jar for Mission of Hope is now the UMCOR Coin Jar. So you no longer just need to put in pennies.



News from Our Library

New Non-fiction books:

155 Morgan, Richard

Light of setting suns

977 Lamers, Sharon (Author from New London)

Junny's Marie

New Fiction books:

Reid, Ruth

The Promise of an Angel

Thompson, Victoria

Six titles in the Gaslight Mystery series

(featuring a midwife in turn of the century New York)

Wick, Lori (Wisconsin Author)

Three titles in the English Garden series