



Evergreen United Methodist Church

1120 Evergreen Court, Wahpeton, ND 58075

February, 2016

Christian Education Committee Takes A New Look at New Member Outreach



The Christian Education Committee, Pictured above, left to right: Becky Dockter, Alinda Bassingthwaite, Jenny Schmitt, Sandy Olson, and Emily Parnell. Pastor Jen is shown in the foreground, taking the group selfie.

The Christian Education Committee has been meeting to make some changes. Not only are they looking for a new name to match a new set of goals, but they are also looking to dramatically expand their efforts to recruit new members and guests to Evergreen.

That was part of the discussion the group had when they met on January 11. Specifically, the group is looking for ways to better reach out to families in our area by planning more and different family-friendly events, as well as reaching further into the community with outreach efforts.

While the planning is still in progress and the plan has yet to take its final form, the group hopes to develop and then unveil its plan within the next six months.

Emily Parnell, a new member to the church as of last year and a first-time committee member said of the committee, "Everyone was respected and they listened to the others around the table; no idea was discounted. Brainstorming ideas was fun and then we built on each other's ideas to develop the beginnings of a plan. I'm looking forward to working with this group again."

The group will meet again on February 15.



The final phase of the project designed to make Evergreen ADA wheelchair accessible, is now complete. The front pews on each of the side wings of the sanctuary have been cut down in order to make room for members' and guests' wheel chairs. This will make church services and activities within the sanctuary open to a larger audience.



See Page 6 for exclusive interviews with Lay Leader Michael Beeson (right) and Assistant Lay Leader Tiana Bohn (left).

Ash Wednesday Service is February 10 @7:00 PM

Sunday School News By Alinda Bassingthwaite

Welcome to February! It is always exciting to know that we will see more sunshine and hopefully high temps. In Sunday school, we continue to study Jesus' life, and we begin talking about Lent. Our mission project for the rest of the year is to make one or more blankets for Project Linus.

Project Linus provides homemade blankets to children and youth, ages birth to 18, who are in hospitals, shelters or who are in crisis and need the security of a blanket, as the character Linus from the Peanuts cartoon strips did. These blankets may be quilts or tied fleece, but must be home-made. They can be made in a variety of sizes. The Sunday School students will "build a quilt." Every time we are at Sunday school, each student will select five pieces of cut fabric that will be sewn together to make a block. We will have a bulletin board for the quilt, so we can watch it grow.

Other individuals or groups are also invited to make blankets for the project. If others get involved, we would have more to send at the end of the year. Anyone who is interested, is invited to call me for more information (642-6575).

Sunday School will take place on President's Day weekend, February 14th.

Sunday School is held in the Chapel from 9:00 to 9:45 AM on Sunday mornings, for children age 3 to 6th grade. Parents are always welcome to attend as well.



The Youth Group plays ping pong during their meeting in January. (Left to right: Myar, Rayne, Rylan, Griffin and Aaron)

In other news....from Becky Dockter

"Soup-er" Sunday

The congregation is invited to wear beloved sports team gear and attire (whether your team is in the Super Bowl or not) on **February 7**—also known as Soup-er Sunday. Plan to participate in a soup pot luck. Please bring something to share based on the first letter of your last name:

Pre-Game Appetizers:	A—G
Soup-er Bowl Soup:	H—N
Half-Time Bread or	
Extra Point Dessert:	O—Z

Winter Jam

Winter Jam is a fun community event for kids in grades K—3. It will be held on **Sunday, Feb. 28 from 1—3 PM** at Evergreen. Activities will include an art project, a movie, popcorn and music. Join us and invite friends for an afternoon of fun.

Chase, a confirmation student, takes part in a confirmation activity in the sanctuary. In the United Methodist church, students in grades 6—8, take part in confirmation and this usually results in students professing their faith and then becoming a member of the church. The current confirmation class will be confirmed this spring.



February Circle Meetings:

February 9, 7 pm, Joy Circle

February 16, 9:30 am, Hope Circle

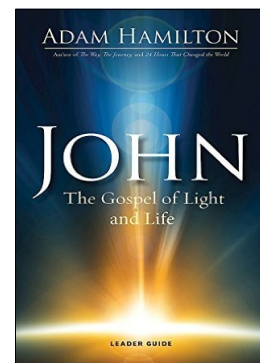
February 16, 1:30 pm, Sunshine Circle

Lenten Book Study Begins!

John
The Gospel of Light and Life

Mondays Feb. 8 – March 21

Book Cost is \$13.00





UMW News—Growing in Blessedness

By Denise Eastin

Our first UMW general meeting of 2016 was held on January 14th, with 15 members in attendance. President, **Fern Bailey**, led members in reciting the Purpose. **LaRae Gripentrog** read the Devotional. **Jean Freden** presented the morning's program: *Call to Prayer and Self-denial*. Joy Circle provided refreshments.

Program Resources coordinator, **Lois Berndt**, advised that we may now use 6 years (2011 - 2016) of books for our UMW reading program. Program materials may be found in a separate area of our church library.

In our business meeting, Treasurer, **Dianne Millar**, read "Thank You" notes received from the various recipients of UMW End of Year Giving, as well as personal notes for the Christmas gifts to shut-ins.

UMW Sunday will be January 31st. Fern Bailey and the Executive Committee are planning a wonderful morning of worship and promotion of UMW to our congregation. Several of our church family members will be receiving Mission Recognition by UMW. **Love Ribbons** will be available before church service on UMW Sunday and again on February 14th, just in time for Valentine's Day. A donation of \$1.00 (or more) is suggested. Evergreen has received grants from the Love Ribbon Project in the past for our Christmas Kids Program, outfitting children in need with winter outerwear.

The **February Birthday Parties** are coming up soon at the Leach Home on February 5th at 2 PM, hosted by Joy Circle and at St. Catherine's on February 12th at 2 PM, hosted by Sunshine and Hope Circles. Please arrive by 1:30 PM in order to help prepare refreshments.

World Day of Prayer will be hosted by Breckenridge UMC on March 4th. (Time to be determined).

Our next general UMW meeting will be on March 10th at 7pm, with **Linda Bailey**, presenting the program "Foundation of Blessedness". Sunshine Circle will be providing the refreshments.

Wednesday Soup Suppers begin February 17

Please join us at 6:00 PM Wednesday evenings during Lent for soup, fellowship and devotions. We will start serving at 6:00 PM and close before 7:00 PM. A free will offering for the meal will be received for a mission project. Please join us as we use this time to prepare our hearts to welcome the coming of Easter.

The serving groups will be in charge of the suppers. Group 1 will have the first supper on Feb.

Remember Your Prayer Partner

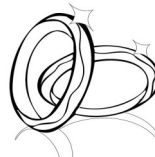


POWER PRAYER

Evergreen Celebrates February Birthdays and Anniversaries

*Denotes anniversaries

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Rudolf Arutyunov | 19. Allan Gripentrog |
| 2. Edie Nelson | 19. Yelena Arutyunov |
| 4. Amy Boyer | 19. Alta Lehmann |
| 4. David & Renee Taylor* | 19. Jennifer Faul |
| 5. David Taylor | 20. Jeanette Plummer |
| 7. Dawn Wells | 22. Renee Taylor |
| 7. Jayce Werner | 22. Jack Rittenour |
| 12. Tyrel & Jennifer Rau* | 23. Chase Schmitt |
| 13. McKenzie Gripentrog | 24. Josh Deike |
| 14. Ethan Schmitt | 24. Chris & Suzanne Johnson* |
| 15. Cheri Boyer | 25. Paula Harris |
| 16. Aaron Deike | 25. Janice Deike |
| 17. Marjo Johnson | 26. Guy & Roberta Whitehead* |
| 17. Evelyn Williams | 27. Bryan Metcalf |
| 18. Dianne Millar | 27. Alinda Bassingthwaite |
| 18. Chris Johnson | 28. Ryla Morin |
| 18. Joyce Gripentrog | 29. Clark Gripentrog |





Congratulations, Pastor Jenny Hallenbeck Orr! On January 16, Pastor Jenny, who served Evergreen UMC from 2011-2014, was married to Derrick Orr at McCabe UMC in Bismarck. Congratulations, Jenny!

Youth Happenings

January was a quiet month—only meeting a couple of times—but the year is off to a great start! We have begun to establish some new rhythms, including shifting to the youth taking turns leading us in our devotions and our opening prayer at the beginning of our weekly activities. After a couple of Wednesdays off in January, we are looking forward to February, with more opportunities for spending time together. This time will include service projects, such as the always-fun activity of packing backpacks for our partner of the food backpack program in area schools.

February Dates:

February 3 — Packing Backpacks (meet at church, we will ride together)

February 10 — **No Youth Group** — Ash Wednesday worship at 7pm

February 12-13 — Confirmation Retreat at Lake Poinsett Camp

February 17 — Youth group in Zion Chapel

February 24 — Packing Backpacks (meet at church, we will ride together)



Mac and Cheese Needed for February "One Thing" 300+ Items Collected in January

By Jan Moore

During the month of February the "ONE THING" collection is BOXES of Mac and Cheese (not individual servings this time). The Mac and Cheese will be sent home for school families over spring break.

Evergreen has committed to filling bags for the Backpack Program during the month of February. Please mark your calendars and come help! All are invited and encouraged to help with this worthwhile community project. This should take approximately 1 hour of your time.

Dates and times:

Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2016 at 7:15 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 8, 2016 at 5:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 at 5:15 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2016 at 7:15 p.m.

Location: Breckenridge School, Room @255. Enter through door #10. Call Becky at 403-0330 if door #10 would happen to be locked.



Thank you to everyone who has helped with donations to the Back Pack Project during the month of January. We collected 258 cheese and cracker packs; 8 jars of peanut butter; 10 packets of hot cocoa mix; 24 pudding cups; 50 packets of oatmeal; and 24 packs of cookies.

Finance Committee members Tiana Bohn, Mike Beeson, Jerald Stewart, George Bassingthwaite, Wayne Millar, Julie McGovern at January 19 meeting.



Evergreen Staff

701-642-6202 - evergreenoffice@702com.net

Pastor:	Reverend Jen Tyler
Administrative Asst:	Julie McGovern
Children's Ministry:	Alinda Bassingthwaite
Newsletter:	Dr. Philip Parnell

Monthly Offering

Totals through January 24

\$22,189.01

Monthly Need:

\$21,425.00

Noisy Bucket Offering in January: \$90.80



February, 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 6 pm, Praise Team 7 pm, Choir 7 pm, Youth Group 7:15 pm, Packing backpacks	4 9 am, Sewing 6 pm, Music Ministry	5 2 pm, Leach Home Birthday party sponsored by UMW	6
7 9 am, Sunday School & Coffee 10 am, Worship 11:15 pm, Souper Potluck 12 pm, Confirmation	8 5:15 pm, Packing backpacks 7 pm, Lenten Book Study	9 6 pm, Worship Committee 7 pm, Joy Circle	10 6 pm, Praise Team 6:30 pm, Choir 7 pm, Ash Wednesday Service No Youth Group this week	11 9 am, Sewing	12 Confirmation Retreat 2 pm, St. Catherine's Birthday party sponsored by UMW	13 Confirmation Retreat
14 NOISY BUCKET 9 am, Sunday School & Coffee 10 am, Worship 	15 7 pm, Lenten Book Study 7 pm, Christian Ed Committee	16 9:30 am, Hope Circle 1:30 pm, Sunshine Circle 5:15 pm, Packing backpacks	17 6 pm, Lenten Soup Supper (#1) 6 pm, Praise Team 7 pm, Choir 7 pm, Youth Group	18 9 am, Sewing 6 pm, Administrative Council	19	20
21 9 am, Sunday School & Coffee 10 am, Worship	22 7 pm, Lenten Book Study	23	24 6 pm, Lenten Soup Supper (#2) 6 pm, Praise Team 7 pm, Choir 7 pm, Youth Group 7:15 pm Packing Backpacks	25 9 am, Sewing Day	26 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Newsletter Articles Due</div>	27
28 9 am, Sunday School & Coffee 10 am, Worship 1-3 pm, Winter Jam at EUMC	29 7 pm, Lenten Book Study	March 1	March 2 6 pm, Lenten Soup Supper (#3) 6 pm, Praise Team 7 pm, Choir 7 pm, Youth Group	March 3 9 am, Sewing 12:30 pm, Newsletter Folding	March 4 World Day of Prayer Service @ Breck UMC	
<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Visit the Church Web Site:</p> <p>www.evergreenumc.com</p>  </div>						



Lay Leaders Mike Beeson and Tiana Bohn: A Vision for Evergreen UMC

This edition of the newsletter sees the beginning a series of interviews/articles that will shed light on many of the volunteer positions within the church—those positions that keep Evergreen running like a well-oiled machine. This interview highlights the Lay Leader position which is currently held by Mike Beeson. New to an assistant Lay Leader role is Tiana Bohn. (Both pictured at left.)

In the United Methodist tradition, a Lay Leader has a number of specific responsibilities, but Mike Beeson characterizes his duties this way: “Of the things that I have given time and effort to, a common thread that runs through most if not all is this: to encourage development of the spiritual life of each of us a laity (all of us not called into full time Christian work) within our church congregation.” While Tiana acknowl-

edges she is still working through her “learning year,” she see her role as similar to Mike: “A Lay Leader looks for opportunities for the church to start new ministries or strengthen existing ones in order to connect our congregation to the community. Lay Leaders are to be a living example of a good Christian disciple, committed to growing in their faith—and to encourage others on their spiritual journey.” Both stressed their role of assisting the pastor to fulfill the mission of the church.

“I think that this is of great importance that all of us develop a habit of reading and studying the Bible. We, as Christians, believe that the Bible is God’s holy word written for and to us,” said Mike. “Therefore the more we know about the Bible, the more we know, personally, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, and we begin to experience the awesome love God has for us”

Tiana hopes to work toward a goal of a healthy and active church congregation that, “provides opportunities to understand what it means to be United Methodists,” in how we include, “outlets for prayer, Bible study, worship service, mission, and the application of the three forms of grace.”

Both Tiana and Mike are involved in other church activities as well. Mike serves on the Finance Committee, the Nominations Committee, works with staff-parish relations and is part of the Administrative Council. Tiana is active in the church’s music ministry, singing both in the Praise Team as well as the Church Choir, although she says, “Although you see me up front leading a song, I am actually really nervous every time I am in front of a group.” She also attends Adult Sunday School and has been active in the church’s youth events. Mike has been in the Lay Leader role since the years of Pastor Randy Spahr and Tiana is in her first year as Associate Lay Leader.

Mike and his wife Bonnie have attended Evergreen since soon after they were married in 1972. They became members in 1974. Tiana was raised in a small Methodist church in Minnesota but began attending a Lutheran church upon marrying her husband and moving to Wahpeton. “As my children got to be old enough to attend Sunday school, I decided to try Evergreen to return to my UMC roots.” She became a member of Evergreen a few years ago.

Outside of church activities, Tiana works for CDI Services as a corporate trainer, where she focuses on workplace development by identifying and delivering training topics and skills. Mike and Bonnie have “six children—three children and each is married—and six grandchildren. “

Food Pantry Needs Volunteers

Volunteers are needed at the Richland/Wilkin Food Pantry to unpack and sort food donations and to assist clients using the Food Pantry. Contact Lois at the Pantry at 701-642-1921 with any hours you would volunteer. The Food Pantry is currently open Monday from 4:00-6:00 PM, Tuesday-Friday from 1:00-3:00 PM and Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 PM.

Remember the Noisy Bucket Offering!

Second Sunday of each month.

Proceeds support the Three Rivers Crisis Center - Kids Connection.



From the Pastor

It's hard to believe, but in just under two weeks, the season of Lent will already be upon us. Lent is a season of the Christian church composed of the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter (not counting Sundays). In the early church, this season was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, we seek for Lent to be a time of reflection, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter.

This year, Ash Wednesday is on February 10, when we will once again be gathering to worship at 7pm in our Sanctuary. For the five Wednesdays following, we gather in our fellowship hall for a time of feasting, food, and devotions. I hope you will plan to join us!

One of the things I am most looking forward to this Lent through Easter, is our **new sermon series titled, "Choosing Light."** This series will be based on Adam Hamilton's new book, "John: The Gospel of Light and Life."

In addition to our series on Sundays, my prayer is that you will join me adding a Lenten discipline to your life. For some of us, we have done this countless times before. For others, this may be an entirely new idea. For all of us, finding the best way to connect to God in the midst of our busy lives can be a great challenge. That is why we will be doing some of these together, and I would love for you to join me in any or all of these opportunities:

1. Join us for a **book study on Monday nights beginning February 8** (note this is the Monday *before* Lent begins). This 7-week study will use Hamilton's "John: The Gospel of Light and Life," which walks through themes (using the entire text) of the Gospel of John. A sign-up is available on the bulletin board, and books will be available from the office soon.

2. Join me in my discipline of praying while coloring. It may sound simple, but coloring is a great way to quiet your mind and open your heart. Starting on Ash Wednesday, I will have 40-day mini coloring books available, complete with a Scripture verse of the day and a short devotional. I hope you will join me in praying by coloring throughout Lent!

3. Join me in reading the entire Gospel of John during Lent. I will have a suggested reading schedule available for you to break it up, or you can read at your own pace. Whichever path you choose, I hope you will commit to reading (or re-reading) this life-giving text that helps us to explore the identity and meaning of Jesus' life.

Time and time again, Lent has proven to be a meaningful season in my own personal faith journey. Some years, that has been more true than others, and a big part of that has been how well prepared I am emotionally, physically, and spiritually as the season begins. This year, I have already begun praying that I — we — would open ourselves up to God who speaks to and through us in unexpected ways. I hope you will join me in that prayer today, and in doing the work of opening ourselves up through prayer, disciplines, and studying Scripture during this holy time.

As we do so, may God continue to meet and surprise us at every turn, as we turn toward God, preparing ourselves for the coming of Easter.

Pastor Jen Tyler
(evergreenpastor@702com.net)



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

People in the Bible Names that start with S

T	H	S	X	S	A	P	P	H	I	R	A	V	K
S	R	H	B	A	R	E	S	I	S	J	W	L	Q
I	K	A	B	B	M	F	R	S	I	D	O	N	N
M	N	D	G	A	Y	J	N	S	A	R	A	H	T
E	C	R	H	S	B	J	K	T	Z	W	G	Y	Y
O	T	A	A	C	A	E	N	A	H	P	A	H	S
N	A	C	L	R	N	U	H	N	O	S	M	A	S
N	L	H	E	T	N	M	L	S	H	T	M	S	R
E	L	R	H	S	M	O	F	L	W	D	H	W	H
H	A	H	S	E	I	K	M	S	E	A	K	A	N
P	B	X	H	K	V	L	I	O	P	U	R	B	L
E	N	S	G	T	X	M	A	H	L	A	M	N	C
T	A	X	V	X	O	B	A	S	L	O	P	A	L
S	S	D	Z	N	D	T	L	K	L	D	S	G	S

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Samson	Sheba
Samuel	Shelah
Sanballat	Shem
Sapphira	Sidon
Sarah	Silas
Sarah	Simeon
Saul	Simon
Shadrach	Sisera
Shaphan	Solomon
Shaphat	Stephen