



# Evergreen United Methodist Church

1120 Evergreen Court, Wahpeton, ND 58075

March, 2016

## Our church to join other Dakotas United Methodists in prayer on March 24, 2016

General Conference—the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church—will convene May 10-20, 2016 in Portland, Oregon. Two delegates from the Dakotas will join other United Methodists from around the world in making decisions that impact our denomination. Every annual conference has been invited to host a 24-hour prayer vigil in the months leading up to General Conference. Dakotas churches have committed to praying on **March 24**, and our church has signed up for **12:30pm to 12:45pm** on that day. Please join us in prayer at that time. If you feel so led, you may also sign up for an additional time as an individual at <https://www.slotted.co/dakotasprayervigil>.

### General Conference 2016 Sample Prayer for Vigil

Almighty and gracious God, as we prepare for General Conference in Portland, have mercy on your church, troubled and divided. Pour out your heavenly blessings; redeem, restore and remold your church until we are made new, that we may be one in Christ for the sake of the world. Instill within delegates humble hearts and discerning minds that hunger and thirst for your righteousness and justice, and your vision for our future. Through the decisions and spirit of General Conference, renew in the whole church a passionate longing for the coming of your kingdom, and unite us in one mission: to reach and make new disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world. Amen.



**Members and guests lined up to receive a Lenten blessing during Ash Wednesday service. Pastor Jen made the sign of the cross by lightly rubbing the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshippers. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. Historically, ashes signified purification and sorrow for sins.**

***Please join us on Sunday, April 3 for  
Camp Sunday.  
Casual camping entire is encouraged.***

**Evergreen UMC pays one-half** of each camper's early bird registration fee for one UM camp this summer. There are camps for kindergarten through adults at Wesley Acres (north of Valley City), Lake Poinsett (south of Watertown) or Storm Mountain (in the Black Hills). Brochures are on the bulletin board.



**Easter  
Sunday Worship  
@ 8 and 10 am  
March 27**

## Easter Activities: Just Around the Corner

March seems to have arrived quickly this year along with warmer-than-average spring weather. With the onset of the Lenten season beginning on Ash Wednesday, Easter is also just around the corner on Sunday, March 27.

The Easter Season, also known as Eastertide or the Great Fifty Days, begins on Easter Day and ends on Pentecost. Focusing on Christ's resurrection and ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost), Eastertide is the most joyous and celebrative season of the Christian year with the good news that in Christ's death and resurrection we, and all creation, are continually being made new by God's love and saving grace.

As always, Evergreen will hold special events during Easter Holy Week:



**Holy Week – Easter Schedule**  
**Palm Sunday Worship (Parade of Palms)**  
 10 AM, March 20

**Lenten Book Study (Final Night)**  
 7 PM, March 21

**Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion**  
 7 PM, March 24

**Good Friday Worship**  
 7 PM, March 25

**Easter Sunday**  
 March 27

**Worship at 8 AM & 10 AM**  
**Breakfast 9 AM**



Please join other members and friends for as many of these activities as possible.



**Youth and adults volunteered to pack backpacks in February at the Breck Elementary/Middle School. This program sends food items home with grade school age children each Friday to supplement their diets on week-ends.**

## Church Soup Suppers for Lent

Please join us Wednesday evenings during Lent for soup, fellowship and devotions. We will start serving at 6 pm and close before 7 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.

Serving Group :      March 2- Group 3  
                                  March 9 - Group 4  
                                  March 16 - Group 5

## Sunday School News

By Alinda Bassingthwaite and Emily Parnell

Welcome to March and Easter. In Sunday School, we have been learning about the events of Holy Week and Easter. After Easter, we will continue to learn about the things that Jesus taught His disciples and the people that gathered to listen to Him.

Our quilt for Project Linus is growing. Each person who comes to class gets to put together a block. Sunday School is held in the chapel from 9:00 to 9:45 AM, for children aged 3 years to 6th grade. We sing, listen to Bible stories, do an art project and have a snack. Parents are welcome to join us.

Remember Your Prayer Partner



**POWER  
PRAYER**

**Daylight Saving  
Time Begins  
Sunday, March 13  
Spring Ahead!!**





## UMW News—*Growing in Blessedness*

By Denise Eastin

UMW Sunday was blessed with shining success. Thank You to all who participated in the program, especially UMW President, Fern Bailey, who presented the message, "Created for Happiness". Our honorees for 2015 Special Mission Recognition certificates and pins were: Xander Bohn, Kathy Johnson, Gloria Plummer, and Tom Wynn. Congratulations! Love Ribbons were made available to the congregation and donations totaling \$49 were collected.

A portion of UMW's 2015 Year End Giving (\$300) will be given to the Wilkin-Richland Food Pantry this month. During the month of March monetary donations will be matched dollar for dollar by Minnesota Food Share. Every pound of food will be matched by a \$1 donation from Food Share, so this is definitely the month to donate heavy items to the Food Pantry! World Day of Prayer is March 4th from 2PM to 3PM at Breckenridge UMC. We encourage everyone to attend this global event. This year, the focus of worship is on the words, "Receive Children, Receive Me". This year the women of Cuba will share their stories.

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday of March. WDP was founded on the idea that prayer and action are inseparable in the service of God's realm.

The next general meeting of UMW will be held on Thursday, March 10th at 7PM, hosted by Sunshine Circle. **Linda Bailey** will present the program "Foundation of Blessedness".

Just a reminder: We're continuing to collect pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House. All aluminum pop tabs are collectible (pop cans, soup cans, pet food cans -- if the tab doesn't stick to a magnet -- it's aluminum!) The collection jar is in the church kitchen. There are also collection cans for Our Family UPC codes, Boxtops for Education, and a can for used postage stamps.

## Richland-Wilkin Relay for Life April 2

The Richland-Wilkin Relay for Life will be held on Saturday, April 2, at the Blikre Activity Center. The event starts at noon and will end at 8:00 p.m. Evergreen UMC will not be having a formal team registered for the event. However, as many of our family members and friends have been affected by cancer, we would like to encourage everyone to support and take part in the walk. The Mission Work Area will be collecting donations for the American Cancer Society - before and after the worship services -- on March 6, March 13, and March 20. Please note that suggested donations for the luminaries are \$10.00 for one bag or \$15.00 for two bags -- but all donations are greatly appreciated. There will also be a jar where you can deposit any loose change in your pocket or coin purse (paper currency is also accepted!!). Thank you for your support in the fight against cancer.

## Evergreen Celebrates March Birthdays and Anniversaries

\*Denotes anniversaries

1—Jim Schultz  
2—Bernice Oliver  
2—Pam Nagel  
2—Scott Schmitt  
5—Konstantin Arutyunov  
6—Tyson Stevens  
7—Anna Busta  
7—Justin & Tiana Bohn\*  
8—Viva Lelm  
9—Brent Meyer  
9—Carolyn Stone  
11—Merle Rubish  
12—David & Pam Burrer\*  
12—Bryan & Sarah Lutgen\*  
13—Jeanenne Thomas  
13—Alexis Stevens  
15 - Mary Poppen  
18 - Darren Johnson



18—Denise Eastin  
18—Chelsey Rau  
19—KrisCinda & Michael Erickson\*  
22—Marlys Frederiksen  
22—Emerson Johnson  
23 - Alan Noss  
23—Renee Ehlers  
24—Jadelyn Taylor  
24—Breanne Gripentrog  
24—Cody Meyer  
26 - Shirley McCann  
27 - Maxine Leinen  
28 - Connie Metcalf  
29 - George & Alinda Basingthwaite\*  
30 - Layne Levery  
31 - Mark & Kristie Boyer\*





## One Thing Offering Collects 341 Items in February

By Janet Moore

Thank you to everyone who has helped with donations to the Back Pack Project. During the month of February, we collected 186 cheese and cracker packs; 130 Boxes of Mac & Cheese; 17 jars of peanut butter; 4 cups of easy mac; and 4 fruit cups.

Please note there will be a table set up in the entry way before and after Church on March 6, 13, and 20<sup>th</sup> to collect donations and for the purchase of luminaries that can be decorated all of which will go to the Richland-Wilkin Relay for Life (American Cancer Society) which will be held April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 at the Blikre Activity Center.

During the month of MARCH the "ONE THING" collection is: Individually packaged pudding cups: any flavor.



## Youth Attend Confirmation Retreat

By Chase Schmitt

As some of you might know, Aaron Bohn, Pastor Jen, and I (Chase Schmitt) went on a Confirmation retreat to Lake Poinsett Camp. I'd say the car ride was the most intense because Aaron and I had a Mike & Ike challenge to see who could fit the most in their mouth.

The hotel-cabin we stayed in was pretty nice! We got to hear Pastor Jen's baptism story that was amazing; if you want to hear it you should ask her about it. We met a lot of new people and became great friends. Plus, we learned how The United Methodist Church was created!! You should go to Lake Poinsett with someone.



**Linda Bailey (left) shared a King Cake on Fat Tuesday at the Joy Circle meeting.**

## Youth Happenings

February was another full month for the youth, including two nights of service as we took our turns packing backpacks for the Richland-Wilkin food backpack program! This is one of our favorite things to do as a group, so it wasn't a huge surprise when we had 11 people show up our first week to help pack the bags! Thanks to everyone who helped out!

The following week, our Confirmation students (Aaron Bohn and Chase Schmitt) went with Pastor Jen to Lake Poinsett Camp and Retreat Center in Arlington, SD for Confirmation Camp. This year we partnered with Watertown First UMC for this camp; it was great fun to have such a large group to interact with! For more information on that retreat, see Chase's article about what a great time he had.

As March draws near, we are hoping for more nice days so we can get outside a bit more. We will also be working hard to prepare for Easter, as our youth are planning to help lead our 8am worship service on Easter morning (March 27), followed by breakfast hosted by their families. We hope to see you there!



**(At left) Pastor Jen and confirmation students strike out on a road trip to Lake Poinsett Camp on February 12.**

## Evergreen Staff

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

March, 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6 pm Lenten Soup 6 pm. Praise Team 7 pm, Choir 7 pm, Youth Group	3 9 am, Sewing 12:30 pm, NL folding	4 2 pm, World Day of Prayer service at Breck UMC	5
6 9 am, Sunday School & Coffee 10 am, Worship	7 7 pm, Lenten Book Study	8 7 pm, Joy Circle	9 6 pm Lenten Soup 6 pm. Praise Team 7 pm, Choir 7 pm, Youth Group	10 9 am, Sewing 7 pm, UMW Meeting 7 pm, Staff-Parish Meeting	11	12
13 <b>Daylight Saving Begins</b>  9 am, Sunday School & Coffee 10 am, Worship, noisy buckets 11:30 am, Confirmation Class	14 7 pm, Lenten Book Study	15 9:30 am, Hope 1:30 pm, Sunshine Circle	16 6 pm Lenten Soup 6 pm. Praise Team 7 pm, Choir 7 pm, Youth Group	17 9 am, Sewing	18	19
20 <b>Palm Sunday</b>  9 am, Sunday School & Coffee 10 am, Worship, parade of palms 12 pm, Depart for Breakthrough Prayer Training	21 7 pm, Lenten Book Study	22	23 6 pm. Praise Team 7 pm, Choir 7 pm, Youth Group	24 <b>Maundy Thurs.</b>  9 am, Sewing 12:30 pm, Prayer Vigil 7 pm, Worship with Communion	25 <b>Good Friday</b>  7 pm, Worship  <u>Bring Easter Flowers</u>  <u>Newsletter article deadline</u>	26
27 <b>Easter</b>  8 am, Worship 9 am, Breakfast 10 am, Worship	28  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	29	30 6 pm. Praise Team 7 pm, Choir 7 pm, Youth Group	31 9 am, Sewing 12:30 pm, NL folding		

## Pastor Jen Provides Thoughts on Winter Weather Cancellations

The first weekend in February, the terrible blizzard we were expecting was all over the news. "Don't go anywhere!" the reporters repeated again and again. "It's going to be terrible out there, so make sure there's food in the house!" they advised. "If you have plans for the Super Bowl," they warned, "be sure you pack a bag because you'll probably need to stay there!"

All of this excitement led to a series of questions I got about, "when, why, and whether we ever would (or should) cancel Sunday worship services." I thought it would be helpful to offer a few guidelines (not concrete rules!) we can live by in the case of future snow storms.

1. Use your best judgment! If you don't think it's safe to venture out, don't! While we love it when you can be here, Jesus loves you even when you have to miss a worship service (and we do, too).
2. Unless there is a no travel advisory issued, we will probably still have worship.
3. When in doubt about the safety of venturing out — stay home!
4. Unless worship is cancelled, there will probably be Sunday School. Worst case scenario: if only 2 of you show up, it will leave you with two options:
  - Have an amazing one-on-one conversation about the day's topic, or
  - Have an amazing conversation about life over a hot cup of coffee.
5. During the week, the same rules apply. Additional cancellations will be decided upon by Pastor Jen and the chair of the group meeting.
6. If school in Wahpeton is cancelled or closes early due to weather, all youth activities for the day will be cancelled, as well.
7. If you're unsure whether it is a good idea for you or your family to leave the house in the midst of a storm, don't.
8. If cancellations do take place, they will immediately be posted on our church website and Facebook Page, as well as on the local radio station ([www.evergreenumc.com](http://www.evergreenumc.com), [www.facebook.com/EvergreenUMC](http://www.facebook.com/EvergreenUMC), and KBMW 1450AM).

Hopefully, this is a helpful guide to get us started. If you have further questions, feel free to ask! But in general, remember: always use your best judgment, as we'd far rather have you be safe, than take an unnecessary risk.



**Plaster the pastor! On Feb. 14th, during the Sunday morning service, attendees were invited to purchase "love ribbons" and pin them on anyone in church. Pastor Jen seemed an obvious target, and the photo above (by Dianne Millar) suggests the effort was successful. The proceeds-\$45-will be used for projects to benefit children in our immediate conference.**

### Flowering Plants Needed: Easter

By Sandy Olson

We'd love to make the church a flower garden for Easter again this year. If you would like to help, please bring any flowering plant to the church by Good Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. The more variety, the better. Think tulips, hyacinths, azaleas, crocuses, lily of the valley, lilac, pussy willows, and lilies. Thanks in advance for your contributions.

Remember the Noisy Bucket Offering!

Second Sunday of each month. (\$97.88 in Feb.)

Proceeds support the Three Rivers Crisis Center - Kids Connection.



## Pastor's Ponderings

### **The Power of Prayer**

Prayer. It is perhaps the single most powerful element of my (our?) lives. It is my connection to God. To the world. To one another. It is the place I turn when I am overflowing with joy, and my place of solace when I am in pain beyond words. There is no greater assurance to me, than the one found in a moment of prayer when I am assured that God loves me enough to listen to and engage with me, no matter how great or small the occasion.

Describing the importance of prayer in our lives is seldom something that is easy to do, and it makes me wonder: how have you experienced prayer? Do you believe that prayer makes a difference in your life, and our world? How do you know?

Since I believe prayer to be the single most powerful element of our lives, that connects us to the single most powerful being (God) in the world, I am looking forward to spending some time talking about questions like these in the months to come. Specifically: on **Sunday, March 20, from 2:30pm-7:30pm**, the Dakotas Conference is offering a training on "Breakthrough Prayer" that will address these questions and more, and Evergreen UMC has been invited to participate.

During this training, we can expect to be inspired by testimonies of how the Spirit is moving in churches that have already engaged the breakthrough prayer initiative. Then, by the time we depart, we will have an action plan for developing a breakthrough prayer initiative right here at Evergreen UMC.

I believe this is important because Evergreen is at the cusp of something new and exciting as we prepare to take part in the **Journey Renewal Partnership**, which the Administrative Council voted to move forward with on Thursday, February 18. This Partnership is a part of the Thrive initiative you have been hearing so much about. Specifically, Journey Renewal is an opportunity for Evergreen to take part in trainings, leadership development, and discernment about ways we launch a new 'self-study' of sorts to discern how God may be leading us forward as we prepare to launch a new life cycle of the church.

Some of those words may sound scary or confusing, I realize. Yet what they really mean, is this: God is at work at Evergreen. Saying yes to Journey Renewal was a vote of affirmation to pray with and for one another, and for our community. After starting there, this program seeks to help us strengthen our church and its ministries through the trainings and feedback offered.

I believe Evergreen is full of potential for living into our discipleship in new ways that we have only begun to explore. I believe God has something huge in store for us, and I believe now is the time to step out in faith and see what that something may be. Yet I also know that we can't do any of those things on our own. Rather, we must rely on God and work together to allow prayer — and God's Spirit — to *breakthrough* our lives and community.



That's why I want to invite you to join me as together we seek to let prayer *breakthrough* our lives. To pray for our journeys as individuals, and as a community, to be renewed. To invite the Holy Spirit to *breakthrough* our lives and ministries, not for our sake, but for the sake of Christ, who calls us to be his hands and feet to the world around us.

May it be so, by the grace, courage, wisdom, and vision, which God provides.

Pastor Jen Tyler  
([evergreenpastor@702com.net](mailto:evergreenpastor@702com.net))

EVERGREEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
1120 EVERGREEN COURT  
WAHPETON, ND 58075

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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WAHPETON, ND 58075



Strength for Today; Hope for Tomorrow

Evergreen UMC has committed to supporting “Thrive,” the Dakotas Conference’s growth and development capital campaign. Evergreen’s financial commitment will be approximately \$20,000 spread over 5 years. As a faithful member of Evergreen, you are invited to prayerfully consider giving a gift to support this important project.

In addition to my annual tithe to Evergreen UMC, I commit to supporting Evergreen’s financial commitment to the Thrive program through my gift of:

- ☐ \$250/quarter = [\$1,000/year]
- ☐ \$100/quarter = [\$400/year]
- ☐ \$25/quarter = [\$100/year]
- ☐ Other: \$\_\_\_\_\_ [one time/quarterly] (circle one)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_