

March 2016

Volume XXI Issue 3



The Madison Methodist *Message*

The United Methodist Church
in Madison
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A Message from the Pastor

***Reminder: Daylight Saving Time
Begins Sunday, March 13***



The Circle And The Straight Line

The journey we are on each year at this time is the *Journey through Lent*. This year our theme is ***The Reflective Journey***. The scriptures (this year in the Gospel of Mark) present us with the life and teachings of Jesus from a particular perspective; that of the evangelist. Our book study this season has also focused on the evangelist using Rowan Williams' Meeting God in Mark.

Over time we might ask, *What is it about, this guided tour through Lent that would be considered a journey? After all we do it each year.*

Each year many of the same experiences confront us from repentance, through sorrow, to joy. We have five Sundays in Lent, followed by Palm Sunday and Holy Week. And of course Easter is right there at the end of the week when we proclaim *Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed!*

So in a way some may say we *go around in circles; repeating the same story over and over each year*. True. But we are also on a journey each year and it is somewhat different from the last. We are not the same people we were last year. Much has changed, for some more than others. The world has changed. No, God's gift of life does take us on a journey. It is not always a journey we want to take but we are moved.

Is it a circle or a straight line? The answer is **Yes**. It is more like a spiral. It moves us and we pass the same points each year but at a different *height*. Sometimes it is lower and sometimes higher, but each year we are moving.

My prayer is this season may provide you with the opportunity to move closer to God, closer to others and find the Reflective Journey has indeed been worthwhile.

Grace and Peace,

***“In worship, fellowship and service we seek God’s peace
as revealed in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.”***



Staff & Elected Officers

Pastor

Rev. Robb W. Shoaf, Ph.D

Student Assistant Pastor

Chelsea Jackson-Loesch

Director of Music & Organist

Susan McAdoo, D.M.A.

Director of Christian Education

Kathleen Keane

Admin/Editor

Natalie Dines

Sexton

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David Green *Assistant to Treasurer*

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Outreach Ministries

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Kathleen Keane & Chelsea Jackson

Trustees

Vic Schumacher Gordon Fleming

Mike Kroeger Luke McKinnon

Shin-Ok Ha Wade Merrick

JoAnn Van Sciver Nori Tadano

Dan Engel

Mark your calendars:



Thursday, March 24

Maundy Thursday Worship – 7:30 p.m.

Remembering the Last Supper

Friday, March 25

Good Friday Worship – 7:30 p.m.

"It is finished." The Death of Jesus

Saturday, March 26

Suffering Saturday Service—6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 27

Easter Sunday Worship – 7:30 a.m. & 10 a.m.

Christ is Alive!

8:15 a.m. Join us for a continental breakfast



Other News ... Bits and briefs



Easter Egg Hunt
HOP ON OVER
for an Easter Egg Hunt
celebration.
March 27
10:00 am

Easter Sunday Breakfast

Our Youth will be sponsoring a continental breakfast in between our two Easter services at 8:15 a.m. We would love for you to join us. Hope to see you all there!



Church Directory 2016

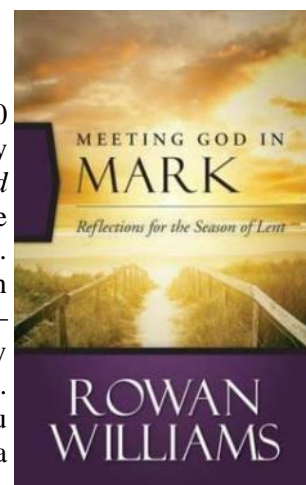
Our new church directory will be printed this April. Please notify the Church office of any changes. Thank you!

2016 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2016 are in the Sanctuary for you to pick up. If you have not been assigned offering envelopes and would like to start using them for your weekly giving, please contact the church office. Your use of envelopes is greatly appreciated by our counters!

New Book Study has begun

Join us on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. as we continue our study and discussion of *Meeting God in Mark* by Rowan Williams. The book study is lead by Rev. Shoaf, and will meet weekly in the Church Library from 7:30–8:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings through March 16. Please let Robb know if you would like to attend and need a copy of the book.



Driver needed

If you are able to help drive someone in need to get to church on a Sunday, we are looking for a few more names for our rotation list. Substitutes are welcomed. Please contact Vic Schumacher or the church office

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

The coffee hour and fellowship time after our Family Worship service is a vital element of our ministry. It's not only enjoyable, but an important part of building community. Volunteers are needed to host coffee hour on the following Sundays: Mar 13, 20, 27 (Easter), Apr 3, 10, 17 24.

The host brings a few items to eat, sets the table and cleans up afterward. Please consider if you can help on one of these dates and contact the coordinator, Natalie Dines (dines007@verizon.net) or, for your convenience you can go directly to the [SignUpGenius link](#) to sign up. Thank you!



March 2016



LENTEN
SERIES

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-------------------|---|---|--|--|---|
| | | 1 7:30 pm Trustees Meeting | 2 7:00 am Men's Breakfast 8 pm AA | 3 8 pm Chancel Choir | 4 8 pm AA | 5 |
| 6 8:30 am Early Service 10 am Family Worship 5 pm The Gathering | 7 8 pm AA | 8 7:30 pm Church Council 8 pm AA | 9 7:00 am Men's Breakfast | 10 8 pm Chancel Choir | 11 8 pm AA | 12 |
| 13 8:30 am Early Service 10 am Family Worship 5 pm The Gathering | 14 8 pm AA | 15 8 pm AA | 16 7:00 am Men's Breakfast 7:30 pm Book study | 17 8 pm Chancel Choir | 18 8 pm AA | 19 |
| 20 8:30 am Early Service 10 am Family Worship 5 pm The Gathering | 21 8 pm AA | 22 8 pm AA | 23 7:00 am Men's Breakfast | 24 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday 8 pm Chancel Choir | 25 7:30 pm Good Friday Worship Ser- vice | 26 6:30 pm Suffering Saturday Service |
| 27 8:30 am Early Service 10 am Family Worship 5 pm The Gathering | 28 | 29 | 30 7:00 am Men's Breakfast | 31 | | |

April Newsletter Deadline: March 19

Interfaith Food Pantry

In 2015, 4,170 households were served by the food pantry. On average 1,211 families were served each month. 984,380 pounds of food were distributed. While these statistics give a snapshot of the numbers, the following quote from a food pantry client gives you an idea of the experience beyond the numbers.

"I just wanted to say thank you for all you do & all you have given and taught my family. I had been to pantries before but never one that taught me how to use the food in a healthy way, never one where the staff and volunteers treated me with such respect, nor one that assisted all year long with school supplies, Thanksgiving and even Christmas. If you don't know, please understand that your help and service are greatly appreciated by my family.

Please continue bringing in your donations for the food pantry. They do make a difference! Items especially needed now include: Canned fruit (packed in juice), spaghetti sauce, low sodium soups, vegetables, and canned tomatoes, white and brown rice, pasta, parmalat, canned beans, dry milk, tuna fish, diapers-size 6, Enfamil infant formula, and baby food
- Stage 1 fruits, Stages 2 & 3 Vegetables and Meats.

Katy Galton

From the Student Assistant Pastor

As we journey through Lent I hope we all have found time to reflect, pray and center our hearts. I love the season of Lent, and find it a deeply humble and emotive time for connection with God, myself and others.

In this Lenten Season all are invited to "The Gathering and Lenten Potluck" on Sunday, March 13th. Service will start at 5 pm and the potluck will begin around 5:45 pm. The potluck will be simple, so we invite all to bring their favorite soup, salad or bread to share. We encourage all to take this time to check out "The Gathering," and enjoy food and fellowship as a congregation.

This Lenten season our youth have been working on a Climate Change inspired Stations of the Cross project. Each year Mary Button, an artist from Memphis, TN, creates a coloring book of the Stations of the Cross connecting it to a social justice issue or concern.

This year she created and published a Climate Change version which our youth are tirelessly coloring. These stations will be hung around the sanctuary throughout Holy Week. We invite you to view them, and use them as a spiritual practice that prepares our spirits and hearts for Holy Week and its great depth of emotion and meaning.

This Stations of the Cross collection will also serve as a foundational work for our upcoming Eco-Art Show. From April 17-24th the church will host a small Eco-Art Show that showcases and engages creative expression centering on care for, and appreciation of the environment. This show will showcase visual and written art of all kinds. ALL are invited to offer work for the show. If you are interested or have questions please let me know.

Lastly, I want to announce that during Holy Week Parker and I will be hosting a Suffering Saturday Service. Have you ever wondered what happens between Good Friday and Easter Sunday? Do you wonder why we seem to skip over it quickly without giving it much attention?

It has been understood that the Saturday of Holy Week is one of great pain, discomfort and fear, as it marks the one full day the disciples were without Jesus, likely mourning and hiding in fear of capture. However, as uncomfortable as it may be, we can learn a great deal from this day, and the suffering and dim hope it offers. Too often we live in a world that gleams over pain, only to create a type of surface level joy. But what if we experienced joy, even our Easter joy, at a deeper level because we allowed ourselves to be vulnerable to the uncertainty and struggle of Saturday? These are the types of things we will explore and engage with in the church's first Suffering Saturday service, at 6:30 pm on March 26th. We encourage all to come to this unique service, in hopes that it centers and prepares us even more for the joy that comes with Easter sunrise.

Thank you all for your continued support of the youth and other church ministries. We appreciate all those who gave to the Hoagie Sale and Souperbowl for Caring, and those who continue to work and pray for the youth and wide array of other church programs and ministries offered at UMC Madison!

*In Peace,
Chelsea*

OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

Honoring God's gift of Jesus by sharing with others

Lenten Series and Easter Offering

During the **2016 Lenten season**, the Outreach Ministry team is pleased to sponsor the **Lenten Speakers** series. Drawing on our Advent theme of The Reflective Journey, you will hear about mission outreach seeking peace and justice so that each individual can feel at home. While the specifics are still in the planning stage, Outreach Ministry team have invited guest speakers on three Sundays in February and March to bring a current topic and special interest to the congregation. In addition, we are offering the ever popular expanded coffee hour/brunch when you will have an opportunity to join in fellowship and to meet each speaker personally.

Lenten Speaker Series



February 21 – Peace Islands Institute –Fatma Demirbas (far left) gave us a presentation about the organization and the activities of their Center for Interfaith with churches, temples and other house of worships to provide a common ground of dialogue for every faith and non-faith tradition. Be sure to try a Turkish treat during coffee hour. Learn more: www.peaceislands.org/interfaith_affairs

February 28 – Erin Rowell (on right) spoke to us about the **TerraCycle** recycling program adopted by the youth services at **Madison Area YMCA**. TerraCycle is a highly-awarded, international upcycling and recycling company that collects difficult-to-recycle packaging



and products and re-purposes the material into affordable, innovative products. Learn how you and your family can join this environmentally focused program right here in Madison. Learn more: www.terracycle.com

March 6 –Laundromat Project - Director, Kemi Ilesanmi, will speak about the organization and its work in three anchor neighborhoods of NYC. She will also talk about how the organization uses creativity as a catalyst to bring change and networking to communities, so they take greater pride and ownership of their neighborhoods. Learn more: laundromatproject.org

Easter Offering designation to three organizations: **Peace Islands Institute**, providing outreach and education for interfaith and inter-religion dialogue to increase understanding; **The Laundromat Project**, this organization uses creativity as a catalyst to bring greater pride and ownership of NYC neighborhoods.



UMCOR – One Great Hour of Sharing, a special offering to cover overhead costs of the agency and allow 100% of designated contributions to go directly to each project.

Stop Hunger Now returns on **Saturday, May 21st**, for an ALL CHURCH led our Youth with the goal of packaging 20,000 meals for distribution overseas. We are hoping for over 65 volunteers from our congregation and other local partners! More details on Stop Hunger Now coming out soon.



News from Family Promise



Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the families hosted at St. Vincent's Martyr Church on Friday, February 19. There were a total of 8 adults and 3 children in shelter during the week, and they all had a good experience at St. Vincent's and were appreciative of the efforts of the many volunteers to make their stay as comfortable as possible. Our next time to help will be on Friday, June 24, when St. Vincent's will host during the week of June 19.

Family Promise will be holding its annual Volunteer Appreciation dinner on Thursday, May 5, at Meadow Wood Manor, Randolph, NJ, so I'm hoping many of our volunteers will be able to attend this evening of appreciation for their time and energy devoted to eliminate homelessness in our communities.

The latest Family Promises newsletter has a heartwarming report about the Holiday Party in December where gifts were given to 70 families, including 160 children, and brought joy and encouragement to these families and brightened their holidays. The newsletter also reviewed the numbers of people helped in 2015, including 40 individuals provided with temporary shelter and 9 successful transitions from temporary shelter to independent housing. The full newsletter with lots more good information can be accessed at www.familypromisemorris.org.

Laurie Hagerich

Known Birthdays in March



Selina Joy Cicogna

Thomas Galton

Timothy Gibson

Ryan Grzymala

Charlotte Lillard

Patrick McCormick

Courtney McKinnon

Blake Pierro

Justin Pierro

Travis Tumbleson-Pierro

Benjamin Shoaf

Rebecca Shoaf

Emma Voorhees

Our Church Family

People we remembered in prayer

The Hunter Family

Joe Carballo

Wade Merrick

The Family of Dick Ellyson

Wyatt Murphy
(Rory's father)

Judy Chesney

Frank Disporto

Patricia Warbasse



Did you know... UMC Madison has a Facebook page? Search "[United Methodist Church in Madison](#)," and see more photos from the annual pageant show mission trip and other up-



Fair Trade Coffee Sale — Mar. 6

During coffee hour in the church library

Worship Schedule



Early Morning Worship 8:30 a.m.

Family Worship & Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Childcare is available for infants and toddlers.

Coffee and Fellowship 11:15 a.m.

The Gathering 5:00 p.m.

Coming Up:

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| March 1 | Trustee's meeting at 7:30 p.m. |
| March 2 | Book Study @ 7:30 PM |
| March 6 | Lenten Speak Series— |
| March 9 | Book Study @ 7:30 PM |
| March 15 | Church Council 7:30 PM |
| March 16 | Book Study @ 7:30 PM |
| March 20 | Palm Sunday |
| March 24 | Maundy Thursday Service @ 7:30 PM |
| March 25 | Good Friday Service @ 7:30 PM |
| March 26 | Suffering Saturday Service @ 6:30 PM |
| March 27 | Easter Sunday and Egg Hunt (10 AM) |

Small Blessings.....

On Sunday, February 21st, the children, Chelsea and Rev. Shoaf blessed this blanket. The blanket will be shared amongst many who need a little comfort and love. Thank you to all that helped put this together.

