



The Wesley Witness



Sunday, March 13
Daylight Savings
Begins!

Wesley Worship Schedule

8:30 Coffee
Fellowship

9:00 Traditional
Worship

10:10 Children's
Music/Sunday School
for all ages

11:15 Contemporary
Worship

Church Office Hours

M—Thurs 9:00 a.m.-
1:00 p.m.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 20

Coffee Fellowship at 8:30 am
Traditional Worship at 9:00 am
Sunday School for all ages at 10:10 am
Contemporary Worship at 11:15 am

Maundy Thursday, March 24

Soup supper served at 6:00 pm
Worship Service at 6:30 pm

Good Friday, March 25

Worship Service at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, March 27

Easter Sunrise Service at 7:30 am
Coffee Fellowship at 8:30 am
Traditional Worship at 9:00 am
Sunday School for all ages at 10:10 am
Contemporary Worship at 11:15 am

Our purpose is to make new disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.



Birthdays



- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Antoinette Ellis | 22 Marlene Nolte |
| 3 Nora Van Looy | Bryan Hutchison |
| Kenneth Gaffrey | |
| 4 Bill Harlow | 23 Anne Bryson |
| Mark O'Connell | 24 John Evans |
| Sue Rue | Amelia Snortland |
| Dorothy Wilson | 25 Curtis Scheevel |
| 5 Mark Holm | Lily Snortland |
| Sharla Hoff | 28 Renee Machart |
| Leah Batstone-Cunningham | 29 Kellie Burgess |
| 8 Sandy Wogaman | Helen Evans |
| 9 Kate Nygaard | Patricia Klokstad |
| Rebecca Yaeger-Bischoff | Mark Hoffmann |
| Jacob Curtis | 30 Kajon Ferguson |
| 10 Amanda Bass | 31 Diane Daucsavage |
| 11 Pam Galegher | Dillon Hoff |
| 12 Heidi Asche | Nicholas Holm |
| 14 Jane McDonald | |
| 16 Joey Wikoff | |
| Oliver Taylor | |
| 18 Kari Olson | |
| 19 Virginia Tupa | |
| 20 Del Kindem | |
| 21 Grant Wicken | |

Anniversaries



- | |
|--------------------------|
| 5 Lyle & Marion Wicken |
| 21 John & Sharon Stewart |



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”
~John 10:10

The other day on Facebook I changed my profile picture. It had been a picture of the Denver Bronco’s logo in honor of their Super Bowl victory. Now, it’s a picture of me riding my bicycle. I put the bicycle pick up in hopes of hurrying spring along. After all, even though it hasn’t been very snowy or cold, winter still feels like it is dragging on and I am beginning to yearn for spring time.

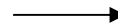
I suppose I get that way every March. The weather heats up a bit. The snow starts to melt a little. Sometimes, like this year, I can even see patches of grass in my yard. All these, and other signs, cause my mind to wander to the bike trail,

and the river, and the hill at Lincoln Park that my kids like to roll down, and the beautiful flowers at the Japanese Gardens, and the little path that meanders around Turtle River State Park. I just want the winter to be done. I just want to be outside again—in a way that doesn’t involve a shovel in my hand. I want to hop on my bike and zip around the city or take the kids fishing at Ryan Pond. Instead, I’m still stuck in the house, or in the office, or in the car.

I suppose that’s the way many feel in life, and not just during the winter. Many feel stuck in a rut, stuck in the same circumstances, stuck in the same career, stuck in the same community, stuck in the same relationships, and stuck in the same life. I’d be willing to bet that many folks in our neighborhoods and in our community are longing for something deeper, more fulfilling, and more rewarding than just the same old, day in and day out routineness of life. They are longing for springtime in their life where they can come out of the dead of winter and experience new life.

The Good News for anyone who has ever felt this way is that it is possible. It is possible to have a better life, a more fulfilling life, and a life of deep meaning. As Christians, we believe this life comes from a relationship with Christ. Jesus frequently commented that he came to bring new life into the world. His mission wasn’t simply to teach, or to forgive, or to perform miracles, but it was to offer up to the world a new way of being and living—a way that would lead us into a life giving relationship with God.

We see this “new life offering” played out most significantly during the season of Easter. In just a few short weeks we will celebrate that death cannot contain Jesus, and that just as Jesus was given new life, we can have new life. It is this new life that those of us who have chosen to follow Christ have already experienced. It’s also a new life that is meant to be shared. I wonder, is someone in your life stuck and longing for something different? Do you know of anyone who might be interested in hearing how God could help transform their life? If so, I’d like to encourage you to invite them to church on Easter Sunday. It’s one of the easiest days of the year to invite someone to church. Many folks who don’t attend church regularly are already considering going somewhere, and even if they aren’t many of these folks are aware that something big is happening in churches



that Sunday. It's as simple as asking, "Hey. Would you like to come to Easter worship with me?" But that simple invitation could change someone's life forever. Who will you invite?

Peace,



Pastor Howie

**Wesley United Methodist Church, Church Council and Finance Meetings
January 14, 2016, 7 PM—Library**

Present: Pastor Howie Baird, Penny Millsbaugh (Council Chair), Berniece Holm, Judy Christy, John Galegher, Doug Williams, Steve Schlasner, Ryan Zerr, Jessica Zerr, Jeff Steckman
Opening devotion & lesson by Pastor Howie—"A Picture of Biblical Community: Acts 2 Community"

Recited our purpose: To make new disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.

MCCI Report

Pastor Howie noted that first MCCI prescription has been completed with the special worship service affirming and celebrating the new mission statement. Initial teams are ready, and arrangements are being made to put teams in contact with coaches. Coaches may meet by phone and/or fly in to meet with teams. Coaching will begin soon. Teams are Declutter Team, Lobby/Fellowship Planning Team, and Signage Team. The Council prayer walked the lobby/fellowship to bathe the work to be done by these teams in prayer.

Finance Meeting Called to Order by Penny Millsbaugh.

- I. Doug Williams reported that an audit has been completed by Doug Williams, Judy Christy, and Jerry Griffin. Accounts seem to be order. Late payments to the IRS have been made; outstanding penalties of approximately \$800 are due by Jan. 26, 2016.
- II. John Galegher reported that the 2015 fiscal year would be closed by the end of the week with exact figures available then. The following preliminary points were discussed:
 - a. Nearly \$4,000 in Christmas offering will be sent to the general conference as approved at the December council meeting.
 - b. We have an approximately \$20,000 increase in paid apportionments over the previous year. Everyone agreed this is something to celebrate; however, we do expect to be approximately \$14,000 short in fulfilling our total commitment to support the work of the conference (apportionments) for 2015.
- III. John also reported on the fall stewardship campaign & 2016 financial outlook, highlighting the following:
 - a. \$217, 000 pledged income to date, representing an increase of \$31,000 over pledges in 2015.
 - b. 79 pledges received, including 15 new pledges (meaning they did not pledge in 2015). 62% of repeat pledges increased their pledged amount. 15 pledged last year but did not pledge in 2016, so John will be following up with these.
 - c. Electronic giving has 21 participants. Doug and John would like to encourage more electronic giving because of the consistent and dependable nature of this method of giving.
 - d. Reminder: Council will need to approve a long term budget in the March meeting to replace the three-month interim budget approved in December. Additional fundraising will be discussed as MCCI prescription implementation gets underway.

Financial meeting adjourned.

(continued)

Council Meeting Called to order by Penny Millspaugh

I. Council—Old Business

- a. Approval of minutes from October, November, and December. Doug Williams made a motion to approve all minutes with discussed corrections. The motion was seconded by Berniece Holm. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Trustees Report
 - i. Projects completed: coat hooks in Sunday School hallway and tree
 - ii. Upcoming projects: address heating problems in the lobby/fellowship area
 - iii. Election of Trustees Officers for 2016:
 1. Duane Sandwick, Chair
 2. Jeff Steckman, Vice-chair
 3. Mark Hoffman, Secretary
- c. SPRC Report: Interviews for the church secretary position have been completed, resulting in a recommendation by the SPRC sub-committee to offer the position to one of the candidates pending a clear background check. The position is for 16 hours/week, Monday—Thursday.
- d. UMCOR Sager-Brown Depot Trip: two individuals interested.
- e. Safe Sanctuaries policy draft still under review by various parties and undergoing proofreading.

II. Council—New Business

- a. Pastor Howie asked the council to discuss modifying the church office's business hours to Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM—1:00 PM. Discussion followed, noting the low office traffic on Fridays and the ability to prepare Sunday bulletins by Thursday each week. John Galegher made a motion to set the church office hours to Monday—Thursday, 9:00 AM—1:00 PM. Doug Williams seconded. The motion passed unanimously. New hours will into effect January 18, 2016.
- b. Report by Pastor Howie on the Dakotas Conference capital campaign: Thrive. Thrive is the five-year conference capital campaign to raise \$6.2 million for building new churches, leadership development, and revitalization of existing churches through the MCCI process and Journey Renew, which focuses on smaller churches. Rev. Randy Cross, our district superintendent, will meet with us in February to talk about Thrive and the way our congregation can support the initiative through a congregational pledge. Any congregational pledge would be approved by council and is considered separate from our apportionments. Pastor Howie will schedule the February meeting with Rev. Randy Cross.
- c. Berniece Holm announced UMW Sunday is February 7, 2016. Circles have been challenged to think about how UMW will support the work of the MCCI prescriptions.
- d. Lent (February 10—March 24, 2016)
 - i. Ash Wednesday Service to be held at Zion UMC on February 10.
 - ii. Planning for Wednesday Soup Suppers with a time of worship—tentatively a 5:30 PM supper with worship following. Youth will lead the Lenten worship one week.
- e. The Contemporary Service's formal launch is scheduled for Jan. 30. The service is going well. The Young Adult Group will begin again on Jan. 24 following the Contemporary Service.

Meeting was closed in prayer by Pastor Howie and then adjourned.

Next meeting: February 8, 2016 at 7:00 PM

Submitted Respectively by Jessica Zerr



There are many ways that you can participate in the life and ministries of Wesley Church!

How can I Help?

1. By Sharing your Prayers

Prayer Focus for March: People living at Northlands Rescue Mission
(See back page for additional prayers)

2. By sharing your presence, time & talents

This month, we say Thank You to:



- All who have helped with Sunday morning worship by serving as Welcome Teams, Lay Readers, Communion Preparers and Servers, Sound Board Monitors, Nursery Helpers, and by providing music for our Sunday worship services.

- Those who serve on Church Council, Board of Trustees, Staff-Parish Relations Committee, Finance Committee, Memorial Committee, and in all other leadership roles within our church.

- Quilters for making quilts to donate to RRVCA's Shelter House.

- and those who:

- have provided meals for youth group, young adult/college group, and/or Wednesday Lent soup suppers
- are serving or will serve on a team for our MCCI prescriptions.
- are helping plan, organize and lead activities for our youth.
- have volunteered to help lead Sunday school classes or help in other ways with our Christian education program
- help provide, prepare, serve and cleanup for Sunday coffee fellowship and provide cookies, other treats or coffee.
- polish brass offering plates, candle holders, etc., and fill the oil candles.
- count the weekly offering.
- care for and water the plants inside the church building.

And thank you to the many others who share their time with our church and community in ways that we do not always know about.



3. By sharing your gifts, such as

- Items for PATH totes— see pg. 9
- Additional contribution to the general fund of Wesley UMC.
- Batting for the Quilting Group.
- UMCOR kit supplies
- Funds for church building updating/repair projects.
- Coffee mugs with lids, backpacks or small suitcases, sheets & towels for the Northlands Rescue Mission.

Volunteer Needs for this month:

- Substitute Children's Sunday School teachers & helpers
- Sunday worship Welcome Team at 9:00 & 11:15
- Sunday worship lay readers at 9:00
- Help polish brass candles, offering plates, etc., fill candles

Offering Received

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Prepaid		
Pledges	\$14,372.06	\$6,200.00
January	\$19,922.87	\$23,572.45
February	\$18,656.71	\$20,562.68
Total	\$52,951.64	\$50,335.13

SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Feb. 7	71 + 46 = 117
Feb. 14	66 + 41 = 117
Feb. 21	88 + 36 = 124
Feb. 28	74 + 48 = 122

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Feb. 7	32
Feb. 14	28
Feb. 21	31
Feb. 28	26

Contact Judy Christy, Coordinator of Lay Ministries, at 772-1869 or judy.gfwesley@midconetwork.com for more information or to volunteer. Also watch for sign-up sheets in the church lobby, or announcements in the weekly bulletin. Training will be provided as needed.

Are there are other projects or activities you would like to see happen? Email Judy about that too!

How you can help



On-line giving

You can now manage your giving on line through our web site at gfwesley.org. Click on the "online giving" tab and follow the steps to "make a donation". Or simply scan the QR code below.

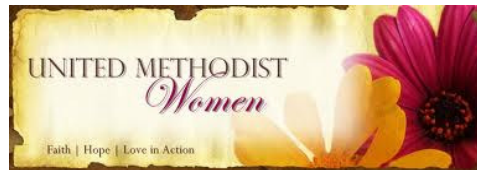
**We thank
you for
your
support!**



It is with deep gratitude that I thank the members of your congregation for your generous donations of beautiful hats for the children of the Grand Forks Public Schools. I have shared these resources with every elementary school in the district and in particular our English Language Learners. I cannot express what it means to the children to have beautiful handmade hats. They are filled with so much joy and gratitude and I cannot thank you enough.

Jennifer Modeen, MSW LCSW
School Social Worker, Winship & West Schools
Homeless Liaison GFPS

AS WE EXPRESS OUR
gratitude,
WE MUST NEVER
FORGET THAT THE
HIGHEST APPRECIATION
IS NOT TO
UTTER WORDS, BUT
to live
BY THEM.
-JOHN F. KENNEDY



Join United Methodist Women members around the country on March 23 for the **second Annual Day of Giving** to the **Legacy Fund**, part of our five-year 150th anniversary celebration.

A Day of Giving will be a 24-hour giving festival. Members and friends may give:

Online at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund.

- By phone: 800-278-7771 (8 a.m.-6 p.m. EST, Monday-Friday).
- Text **Legacy150** to 41444.
- By check to Office of the Treasurer, United Methodist Women, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115. Write "The Legacy Fund" in the memo section.

A Day of Giving gifts go to **The Legacy Fund**, a permanent endowment that will support the mission outreach of future generations of United Methodist Women as they address the needs of women, children and youth of their day. Members in every conference participated in the first Day of Giving in 2015, giving more than \$100,000 through online gifts, toll-free calls, smartphone texting and mailed-in checks.



The Youth Group participated in a lock-in at the church Friday, February 21st. There were 15 youth who attended. They started off the evening by attending Cosmic Bowling, then returned to the church for snacks, night games of Sardines and Romans and Christians, before settling down to watch movies at 2:30 a.m.! The lock-in concluded with juice, hot chocolate, and donuts at 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning. They all had a great time honing their bowling skills, as well as hiding and navigation skills during the night games! (Have you ever tried to find Patrick Lamberson when he hides in a pitch dark church?? It is virtually impossible!)

The Wesley Youth Group will be working with PATH-ND, Inc. to put together totes of supplies to help aid older foster children as they age out of foster care. We are aiming for five (5) totes. We would like your help as well! Some items that would be useful are: **towels, sheets (twin size), blankets, kitchen towels and supplies, silverware, pots, pans, grocery store gift cards, Wal-Mart gift cards, soaps, cleaning supplies etc.** These totes would be used when the youth aging out of care transition into their own apartment, going to college etc. A collection box will be in the Narthex. The totes will be put together on March 13th. Donations will be accepted up until then. If anyone has any questions, please see Kellie Burgess.

Please continue to support our Youth Group and their leaders with your prayers. We are averaging 15 Youth each Sunday evening. We are truly blessed to have such an awesome group to work with, mentor, and lead as they continue with their faith journeys.

UP COMING EVENTS:

March 6: Lesson

March 13: Lesson/project

March 20: Lesson

March 27: Easter! No meeting

April 1-2: 30 hour Famine

April 10: Laser Tag

April 17: Lesson

April 24: assemble May Day Baskets

May 1: deliver May Day Baskets

May 8: No Meeting

May 15: Lesson

May 22: Last Day of Youth Group!





The Children did a great job singing with the Adult Choir as well as their own special music on Sunday, February 21st. There weren't very many who sang, but those who did, did so with gusto and enthusiasm! Please mark your calendars for the

remaining dates the children will be singing:

March 20 Palm Sunday – they will wave palms at the 9:00 a.m. service as well as sing praise songs for the congregation

May 8 Mother's Day – they will sing special songs for the congregation at the 9:00 a.m. service

Thank you for your dedication in bringing your children to Sunday School at Wesley. They really are a joy to work with. If anyone has any questions, let me know.

Kellie Burgess, Children's music leader



Reach people, change lives, and raise up a new generation of leaders through starting new churches

Strengthening our existing churches

Training and equipping passionate leaders

Thrive: Strength Today, Hope for Tomorrow is our Dakotas Conference initiative to fund a 7-year plan for congregational development. As spiritual vision partners, our church can support this effort in many ways.

The Thrive Congregational Development Plan is focused on reaching new people to grow in love of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world through 1) Starting new churches, 2) Strengthening existing churches, and 3) Developing existing leaders and preparing the next generation of leaders.

In the near future, we will have an opportunity to hear more about the Thrive initiative and how we can support this plan. Everyone is invited to attend this presentation, but those serving in leadership roles within our church are especially encouraged to be there. Watch for a new date (postponed from Feb. 22) when our District Superintendent Randy Cross will come and share the story of Thrive with us.



Thank you for all who contributed calendars for use by Roger Ose Ministries. Roger Ose has expressed appreciation for the 86 calendars sent by our congregation, which will be used by prisoners in Minnesota.



Lent Soup suppers began on February 17th at 5:30 pm. and continue each Wednesday during Lent through March 16th. Please join us for good food and fellowship and stay for the Wednesday Lent service at 6:00 pm. If you are willing to provide soup, bread or dessert for one of these meals and/or help serve, you may sign up at the table in the church lobby or contact Pat Henry at 775-5904. **Soup supper will also be served on Maundy Thursday, March 24th at 6:00**

Baby shower for Baby Jesus

Thank you to everyone who attended the Baby shower for Baby Jesus or who made donations for UMCOR layette kits. We were able to assemble 13 layette kits to be sent to the UMCOR depot and then sent to wherever they are needed most.



March 15
@ 7:00 p.m.
At Wesley UMC

Book: Go Set on a Watchman
by Lee Harper

New members are always welcome!
For questions, call Pat Henry at 701-775-5904 or email @
pathenry@gra.midco.net



QUILTING GROUP

Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m.
in the quilting room on 3rd
floor.

**Everyone is
Welcome!**

For questions, call Helen
DeMaster @ 701-772-3584

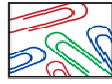
Phone: 701-772-1869

Fax: 701-772-1940

E-mail:

gfwesley@midconetwork.com

Check out the Newsletter online at: www.gfwesley.org



**Office
Hours**

Worship Schedule

See Calendar and front page for worship times

Office hours: Mon. thru Thurs.. 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Pastor: Reverend Howie Baird

Coordinator of Lay Ministries/bookkeeper:.....Judy Christy

Choir Director/Organist: Marjorie Myrold

Choir Accompanist:Carol Lamberson

Secretary:Rachel Bontrager

The Wesley Witness

A publication of Wesley United Methodist Church. Published 12 times each year to keep members and friends informed of programs of the church and to report news about the Wesley family.

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WEBSITE**



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at

www.gfwesley.org

and like us on

Facebook to keep up
with what's going on
at Wesley



For our Prayers ---

We offer our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Shirley Sand who passed away on Feb. 2.

Those in Care or Assisted Living Facilities:

At Parkwood Place: Jean Beach, Ellen Gray, Virgil Haake,

Darlene Hinsz, Beulah Hodges, Phyllis Sand, Emolyn Skinner,

Lois Weisser; *At Wheatland Terrace:* Kyle Whitcomb's parents;

At Valley Eldercare: Joan Bristol, Carol Clark, Dean Hruska; *At Good Samaritan,* East

Grand Forks: Velma Fruetel, Charlene Kotts, Verle Ralston.

At Home:

Ole Dahlen, Alice Darling, Marlo Gade, Shirley Hoff, Pat Klokstad, Carolyn

Strand, Ray Spicer, Marijo Whitcomb's mother and father.

If there are people, joys or concerns that you would like to have included in next month's prayer list, please email them to judy.gfwesley@midconetwork.com.

If you are interested in being part of a morning prayer group that will meet at the church to pray for joys and concerns expressed in worship on Sunday mornings or shared on prayer request cards, please talk to Pastor Howie, Judy Christy or Penny Millsbaugh.

