



Loving, Growing, Serving in Faith

MARCH 2018

Grace and Peace to you through our Lord Jesus Christ,

As we move through Lent I invite you to come to our Lenten worship services every Sunday morning as we retrace the footsteps of Jesus through a series of video vignettes and messages based on Rev. Dr. Adam Hamilton's series "The Way." Each week we explore the "5<sup>th</sup> gospel" as we view the grand geography and explore the historical and cultural background of key events in the Life of Christ to better understand the written gospels.

One of the more common practices is to give something up for Lent. Some abstain from chocolate, social media, shopping, or something else through the season. This is a religious practice known as fasting. We fast to reorient ourselves away from the distraction of those things, and back toward God. Another way to reorient your life toward God, is to focus on devotional practices like Bible study and prayer during the season. I suggest that you also look at what you can take up during Lent including participating in our Sunday worship services.

Many do not know where to begin when reading the Bible. The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide is available online at [upperroom.org](http://upperroom.org) will help guide you in this pursuit. Each day they provide a scripture passage and wonderfully thought-provoking and spirit-enriching material to read and think about. Another approach is to read through one or several of the gospels.

In the busyness of our everyday lives, prayer can sometimes get squeezed out. Lent is a wonderful time to intentionally work toward finding more time in your life for prayer. You can experiment with different ways to pray during the season, or really delve into a new-to-you way of praying. Enriching your prayer life is a great way to spend Lent.

Another way to observe a holy Lent is to take on a new way of serving. Throughout the forty days of the season you can adopt a new habit of volunteering in the community, making special financial gifts to service organizations, singing in the choir, or participating in a small group.

An important practice with which many of us struggle is the **spiritual discipline of rest or Sabbath**. We don't have to rest on Saturday, the traditional Sabbath day, or even Sunday. You can instead find moments during an ordinary day to be still in God's presence. You might choose to spend a few minutes during lunch with a desktop meditation, listen to sermons on your commute, or read a poem that feeds your spirit. Each can be a great way of enriching your Lent.

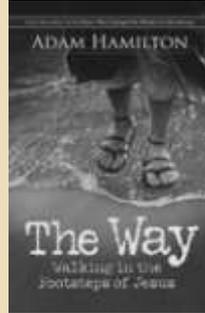
In the footsteps of Jesus,  
Pastor Brian LeBaron

# Growing in Faith

We are committed to growing as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Some of the ways we live this out are through our personal devotion, small groups, and worship.

## Lenten Journey and Study



Travel with noted United Methodist Pastor Adam Hamilton as he retraces the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Once again, Hamilton approaches his subject matter with thoughtfulness and wisdom. Using historical information, archaeological data, and stories of the faith, Hamilton follows in the footsteps of Jesus from his baptism to the temptations to the heart of his ministry, including the people he loved, the parables he taught, the enemies he made, and the healing he brought.

Designed to use as part of a 40-day church-wide emphasis during Lent and Easter, we will feature a video during worship in place of our lectionary readings as a lead in to a brief life application message by Pastor Brian LeBaron.

Mar. 4<sup>th</sup> **Third Sunday of Lent: "Proclaiming The Kingdom: *The Mountains*"**

Mar. 11<sup>th</sup> **Fourth Sunday of Lent: "Calming The Storm: *The Sea of Galilee*"**

Mar. 18<sup>th</sup> **Fifth Sunday of Lent: "Sinners, Outcasts and the Poor" *Samaria***

Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> **Sixth Sunday of Lent: "The Final Week" *Jerusalem***

April 1<sup>st</sup> **Easter: "Christ the Victor"**

## 2018 EASTER FLOWERS ORDERS



Easter flowers this year will be \$13 each and orders are due by March 9.

Please pay when you order, making checks payable to Faith UMC.

Place order form in offering or drop off at the office.

Easter Lily \_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinth \_\_\_\_\_ Tulip \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

With thanks to: \_\_\_\_\_

Purchased by: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions, please call Marilyn at the office 815.946.3212

## LOOKING AHEAD

March 11	Girl Scout Sunday	10:00 am	Faith UMC
March 25	Palm Sunday	10:00 am	Faith UMC
March 29	Maundy Thursday Service	7:00 pm	Faith UMC
March 30	Community Good Friday Service	7:00 pm	Church of Brethren
April 01	Easter Sunrise Service	8:00 am	Faith UMC
April 01	Easter Worship	10:00 am	Faith UMC

**MOVE CLOCKS FORWARD  
On MARCH 11**



THANK YOU  
TO  
MICHELLE KNIGHT  
SEMINARIAN

Michelle was shadowing  
Pastor Brian for two  
weeks and assisted at two  
of our worship  
services in January.



## TUESDAY PRAYER GROUP AT FAITH UMC



Every Tuesday, a small group of members meet in the church library to pray. We listen for prayer needs expressed by the congregation during Sunday services and other needs known by the group. When addresses are known for those needing prayer, the pray-ers send cards to them telling that the prayer team will be in prayer for the needs. Who among us does not need some extra encouragement when going through difficult situations?

Everyone is welcome to join the prayer team. Some prayer requests need to be kept confidential and believing that God answers prayer is essential. Jesus says, "When two of you get together on anything on earth and make prayer of it, my Father in heaven goes in action. And when two or three are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there." Matthew 18:19-20.



# Serving in Faith

We are committed to serving the people of Polo and the world.

Some of the ways we live this out are through our giving of time, talents, and financial gifts.

## MARCH MISSION FOCUS

### March Mission to support UMCOR



The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church (UMC).

UMCOR has been involved in disaster relief during recent hurricane, tornado and fire adversities. The Midwest Distribution Center in Chatham, IL, constructs cleaning kits (aka flood buckets) for victims of such disasters. The kits contain a variety of cleaning supplies, insect repellent, clothes pins and a clothes line, trash bags, dust masks, and gloves. Each kit is a \$65 value. We will ask for donations to support this important effort during the month of March .

## WORK DAY at VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

### Outdoor Work Planned to Support the Village of Progress on April 12

Last summer the Village of Progress in Oregon suffered extensive flood damage. They have completed much of the interior renovation. To celebrate this community effort, they are planning a May 18 Open House. To help prepare for this celebration, the Serving Team has volunteered to do clean-up work in the gardens and other landscaped areas around the building. If you would like to join the work crew on Thursday, April 12, let Nancy Ocken know at 815.440.5768.

## POLO FAITH UMC FINANCIAL INFORMATION

February 2018 Polo Faith UMC Financial Information

Monthly Income (General Fund)	\$	10,064
Monthly Expenses Paid	\$	12,005
Balance Current Fund	\$	(725)



Unpaid January bill total is \$4,551.

Expense amount does not include elevator or our outreach projects.

Thank you for your generosity throughout the year. If you are able to give a little extra now to support the basic costs of running the church, it will be greatly appreciated.

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## COMBAT HUNGER

### NEEDED NOW!

**Fruit**  
**Cake Mixes & Pancake mix**  
**Canned tomato products**  
**Juice**



March ongoing needs for Polo Lifeline are these:

Coffee	<b>Cream of Chicken Soup</b>
Tea bags	<b>Cream of Mushroom Soup</b>
Cereal	Cheese
Spaghetti & sauce	Canned fruits
Bread	Canned chicken
Ketchup	Cake mix
Any boxed potatoes	Deodorant, pain reliever
Pork & Beans	Toilet Paper, wipes
French Style Green Beans	Child lg. diapers
	<b>Child's large diapers &amp; wipes</b>
	Pain Relievers

Monetary donations are always welcome. Thank you for supporting our local food pantry!

## EVERY FRIDAY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM



"In Collaboration with the Polo Sub Stop we are hosting an After School Program from 3:15 to 5:00 PM. There will be fun games, tasty snacks, a place for kids to "hang out." This program is targeted to the upper elementary 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up into junior high. Pastor Brian and other adults will provide supervision and facilitation.

## WHEELS OF FAITH



**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE  
WHO NEEDS A RIDE?  
CALL 815.677.8194**

*Our  
Wheels  
of Faith  
bus is*

*making 3-5 trips a week taking people shopping and to the doctor. If you know of anyone who could use this wonderful service, please share the new flyer with them or the new number. The newest bus has a wheel chair lift and is air conditioned and will be comfortable for everyone.*



Our Table  
Community  
Meal

5:30—7pm

What: Free home-cooked meal  
When: The last Monday of the Month

March 26  
April 30, May 28

Where: Faith UMC, 702 E. Dixon,  
Polo, IL

We hope you will join us for this opportunity to get to know our neighbors better. Bring your friends.



Our United Methodist Women's unit is beginning their 2018 year with newly elected officers pictured here. Ginny Snodgrass, President; Margie Shore, Vice President; Donna Gillingham, Secretary; Donna Deets, Treasurer; Dorothy Kjolsing, Spiritual Life; Barb Sims and Jean Frey, Education and Interpretation; and Barb Sims, Nominations.

There are fifteen members who meet monthly at 1:30 p.m. In the Scout Room for programs and activities that support women, youth and children in the United States and around the world. We pledge \$2040 to the Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Women to support those ministries. Beyond that pledge, we gave donations to Midwest Mission Distribution Center at Chatham, IL, the Honduras Project (Bill Hare), Gifts in Memory, Rockford Rescue Mission, Project Christmas Star, McCurdy School, Espanola, NM, Red Bird Mission, Beverly, KY, Rosecrance, Joy in the Harvest, Polo Food Pantry, Pennies from Heaven, the PADS shelter in Dixon, and put up Faith UMC's "stocking tree" at PASS over Christmas.

All women of the church are invited to attend the meetings on the third Thursday of each month to enjoy fellowship, mission study and education. Watch the newsletter for details about our upcoming meetings and plan to join us!

*Jean Frey*

## SECOND HAND ROSE



### ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

February 27 - March 3 and April 3 - 7, 2018



Faith UMC provides workers for the Tuesday-Saturday weekly schedule every 5 weeks.

The schedule is:

Tuesday & Wednesday	11 am-2 pm & 2-5pm
Thursday & Friday	1 -5 pm, (or you can work 1-3 or 3-5 if 4 hours is too much)
Saturday	9-12 noon

If you are willing to learn this fairly easy but important job, we will have you work with someone who has more experience.

If you would like to join our team, please call Ginny Snodgrass at 779.770.6393 or the church office.



# Loving in Faith

We are committed to loving God and all people.

Some of the ways we live this out are through our praise, prayers, and fellowship.

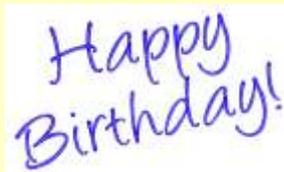
## WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

<u>Ongoing Prayers:</u>	Nancy Mackey	Growing tensions and divisions in our country
Verla Attig	Wallace Mackey	
Lenora Bakener	Annabelle Muench	Our need for thoughtful political discourse
Kay Dillard	Tabitha Naylor	
Joy Farrell	Eldon Ports	
Jean Frey	Arvilla Siddens	
Faith Glaman	National and World Leaders	
Betty Good	Our struggles to love our neighbors	
Harlan Long		
Marlene Mackey		

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

04 Dakota Meyer	19 Dawn (Naylor) Glassburn	27 Paul & Beverly Wiemken
06 Avery Grenoble	20 Jonathan Witmer	28 Ryan & Misty Buskohl
07 John Deuth	23 Cameron Folk	
09 Dick Styczynski	25 Renee Grenoble	
10 Diana Maginnis	27 Julie Fossler	
11 John Grenoble		
11 Matt Rogers		
11 David Ford		
13 Tony Norris		
18 Megan Strickler		
19 Jan Bates		



## MARCH WORSHIP SERVANTS

## MARCH UMW MEETING

### Greeters:

- 03-04-18 Matt & Margie Shore  
Need 2 volunteers
- 03-11-18 Bud & Lucille Wooden  
Need 2 volunteers
- 03-18-18 Mike & Karen Scholl  
Roger & Jane Palmer
- 03-25-18 John & Jean Deuth  
Need 2 volunteers



March 15

Soup & Salad Luncheon  
Please bring a salad or dessert to share. Soup & beverage provided. 12 noon

Scout Room

- Hostess: Jean Frey & Jan Bates
- Program: Pastor Brian
- Devotions: Dorothy Kjolsing

## AD COUNCIL MINUTES FEBRUARY 19, 2018

Attendees: Laura McKean, Marla Buskohl, Margie Shore, Judy Norris, Ron Hammer, Nancy & Randy Ocken, Pastor Brian, Phil Frey, Randy Hayes, Mark Maginnis and Marilyn Sura

The meeting was called to order by Phil Frey. Randy Hayes gave devotions based on Psalm 23.

The minutes of the January 15 meeting were approved following a motion by Nancy and seconded by Mark.

Finance: January's balance is (\$725.50). It was decided to post unpaid bills amount in newsletter. February's giving has been low. Church attendance low due to weather.

Serving: UMCOR is the March Mission focus. Offerings will go to flood bucket cleaning kits. March 11 is UMCOR Sunday. The next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday lunch at Prairie Apts. will be April 29. A cleanup workday on April 12 has been scheduled at the Village of Progress in Oregon. They need help cleaning up around their building after the flood damage of 2017. Another clean up date will be set to clean the kitchen at FUMC before Kidz Café starts. Next meeting is June 18.

Loving: FUMC and Church of the Brethren will co-host Our Table on March 26. The Loving committee is planning an event in April – more details to follow. They will honor the graduates on May 20 and will send cookies again to college students in the spring. Next meeting is March 12.

Staff Parish: Meeting was changed to Feb. 27 at 7:00 pm.

Trustee: An open trustee meeting was held on Feb. 4 after church. Randy Ocken agreed to serve as a trustee. Discussion was held on an interim placement of a motorized chairlift. It was brought up that money allocated for the elevator cannot go to fund a chairlift. We switched our phone and internet service from Frontier to Comcast as they will provide cheaper and faster service.

UMW: The next meeting will be on March 15 with a soup and salad luncheon and Pastor Brian will have the program. UMW also plans to help clean our kitchen.

Laura made a motion to elect Randy Ocken as trustee. Motion was approved.

Elevator: Randy Ocken presented an elevator pledge summary and an elevator project to date summary. \$36,093 is in the United Methodist Fund (Serving Team) account coming from the sale of Polo First's parsonage. Pastor Brian spoke to Rev. Young Mee Park about using this money for the elevator project. She indicated it is OK to use it for a major capital improvement project. Randy Ocken will ask the architect to work on the final drawings for the elevator installation. The project could start after Thanksgiving and be finished in March of 2019. The elevator will take up a 7' x 7' space from the lounge. Randy Hayes moved that we approve a transfer of the money in the UMFund for the Serving Team to the Accessibility Project and that the Ad Council is actively moving forward on the accessibility project taking it off of the hold. Nancy Ocken seconded this motion. Motion carried.

A visual of the elevator will be put up where the coat racks are now located and the space will be marked out in the lounge.

Pastor Brian asked that all committees give the office a schedule of their planned meetings for 2018 so we can get them on the calendar. We also need minutes from the committee meetings to keep in notebooks in the office.

March 19<sup>th</sup> will be the next Ad Council meeting. Pastor Brian closed the meeting with a prayer.



### MISSING BOOK

**If you have borrowed the book "Hollow Faith" by Stephan Ingram, please return it to the office immediately so that Carolyn may return it to the lending library.**

*Watch calendar, website and bulletins for upcoming committee meetings*

Copies of the Ad Council minutes and financial reports are available in the green folder on the table outside the office.

This newsletter is created by human hands directing Technology. If you notice any errors, kindly let us know. We will be happy to make any corrections. We reserve the right to change the wording of any articles submitted to reflect kindness, consideration, and the best intentions of all.

*April Newsletter Deadline is March 14*

### STAY IN TOUCH

Faith United Methodist Church  
Pastor Brian LeBaron  
Cell: 815.541.4207

**COME SEE US**  
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