

# MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER

## ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Rev. Rosemary Captain

**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**



With our crazy Midwest weather, it's hard to say if that adage is true. What is true is that the season of Lent is upon us. Ash Wednesday is March 6. I encourage you to take part in one of the services offered that day, at 12 noon and 7 pm. Each service will not be long; I may not even preach, so that's an incentive right there. What is true is that ashes will be offered for those who so desire. I'm such an up-beat person, I will not say "ashes to ashes, dust to dust" when you receive the ashes. I plan to say something like "Turn away from the sin of the world. Believe the Good News."

I realize Lent is supposed to be a time of fasting and repentance of all sinners, and since we are human, we are all sinners. We can all do better. To me the season of Lent is one step closer to the Resurrection; the sweetest gift God could give us. If we want to eat the chocolate bar, we first have to wrestle to get the wrapper off. (That's probably a poor analogy, sorry God.) So, without Lent, we have no resurrection.

As we enter this season together, I hope you will take advantage of worshipping with us every Sunday. My goal is to talk about "salvation" and how to imagine that word as more than what happens to us when we die.

Beginning on Wednesday March 13 we will have our Lenten Study in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to have a light supper beforehand, come at 6:00 pm. Our study will begin at 6:30 pm. This year we will explore the symbolism of the cross, using the wisdom of "Making Sense of the Cross" by Rev. David Lose. I hope you will join us for some of the Wednesday evenings, if not all.

Peace on your Lenten journey, Pastor Rosemary



### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- |     |                  |      |               |
|-----|------------------|------|---------------|
| 3/1 | Dee Schott       | 3/9  | Jan Miller    |
| 3/3 | Hayden Myers     | 3/9  | Barb Whitaker |
| 3/8 | Nancy Eisenhauer | 3/12 | Carol Bulva   |
| 3/8 | Donna Isselhard  | 3/19 | Terry Kissel  |
| 3/8 | Tiffany Baldwin  | 3/20 | Mary Lou Baum |
| 3/9 | Ardella Morris   | 3/30 | Ruth Ogles    |

### MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 3/11 Pat Bregen & Larry Cates # 14
- 3/14 Mary Lou & Urban Baum # 55
- 3/16 Amy & Cody Brink # 17
- 3/17 Tiffany Baldwin & Lew Thomasino
- 3/20 Jan & Tom Miller # 48



### PRAYER LIST

Prayers for healing: Tom Petroff, Dave Seneczyn, Roger Fox, Eric White, Sandy Fort, Stacy Bunetic, Ethan Reiss, Gary Carr, Craig Meyer, Becky Ballard, Jacquie Mantle, Don Akridge  
 Shut-ins: Darleen Bax, Terry Kissel, Ardella Morris, Alice Stidham & Jacquie Mantle

### EVENING CIRCLE

The Evening Circle met Tuesday, February 18th for our regular meeting. After the meeting we had our annual movie night. This year we watched “I Can Only Imagine” which is about the band Mercy Me. We would like to thank everyone who bought sub sandwiches and turtles this year. The ladies have worked hard this year on our projects and at our April meeting those funds will be disbursed to various charities. The Evening Circle meets the third Monday **(March 18)** of the month and all ladies of St. John are welcome. Hope to see you all there!





## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School meets every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month. The children stay in worship until Children's Time, after which they have a lesson in the educational wing. The first Sunday of the month is family communion worship. The children come to a table in front of the sanctuary for quiet activities. Our team of Sunday School teachers is ready each Sunday to provide a lesson with substance and fun!

The pennies for mission in March will be for Heifer Project.

## CHOIR NOTES

How about joining choir as a Lenten discipline? There is room for you! Our next practice/performance is **Sunday, March 17**. See you at 9:00 that morning.



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## **ONE LAST WORKDAY!** **(THIS TIME I MEAN IT, I THINK)**

The good news – all the feminine hygiene kits for Peru are done! All we have to do is to put labels on them and pack them for transport. If you can help, come to church on **Tuesday, March 5, at 10:00 a.m.** The Peru Project will be dedicated to **God during worship March 31.**

### ***More good news!***

We have a lot of plastic bags for homeless mats.

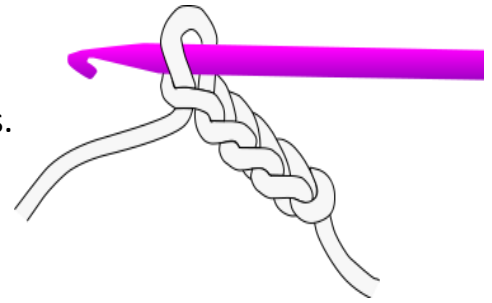
There are three different jobs that need to be done.

1. The bags need to be folded and cut into strips.

Those cutting the plastic will need scissors.

2. The strips need to be joined into a continuous piece of plastic for crocheting. **You don't have to be able to crochet to help with this project.**

3. We will have someone (Chris, who helped with the Peru Project) who will teach us how to crochet with the plastic. You will need a crochet hook, size N. I used a coupon and got one very cheaply at Joann's. Below are the instructions, for reference.



With two groups working, our hope is that we can work until about noon and be done with the packing and have a good beginning on the crochet project. See you on the 5<sup>th</sup>!!

We promised another project – a little painting work on our wall sculpture for the fellowship hall. We are postponing that until later.

Questions? Call Nancy at 233-5894 or email at [neisenhauer3859@gmail.com](mailto:neisenhauer3859@gmail.com)

Instructions for making the mats can be found on Youtube and many websites.

#### **Here is a simple pattern:**

1. Flatten the plastic bag and straighten any of the bags creases. Keep folding bag vertically (from left edge to right edge) until the fold is approx. 1 inch wide.
2. Cut off the top handles and the bottom seam. (Put unused scraps in a bag to recycle at grocery store drop-off).
3. From top to bottom of folded bag, cut 1 1/2 inch strips across vertically (left to right). Each strip should be a loop when opened up. (If any strip has an opened end, tie a very small knot to make it a loop).
4. Hook the loops together with a basic “larks head knot”. This is done by overlapping two of the loops end-to-end, then pulling the top of one end through the middle intersection of the two loops. Repeat this step.
5. Roll the looped strips into a ball of plarn.
6. Using size N crochet hook, crochet 60 chain stitches (approx. 3 feet wide). Continue to crochet rows of single crochet stitch until the sleeping mat is approximately 6 feet long and 3 feet wide.
7. Crochet a chain stitch of plarn long enough to attach to one end and tie up the rolled mat. This serves as a carrying handle.

# **SERVING IN WORSHIP**

## **USHERS**

Sunday, March 3 – Mike & Melinda Stidham

Wednesday, March 6 (noon) – Judy Hartmann

Wednesday, March 6 (7 pm) – Lew Thomasino

Sunday, March 10 – Chuck Kistler & Rosemary Williams

Sunday, March 17 – Ginny Ganschinetz & Sue Sharp

Sunday, March 24 – Urban & Mary Lou Baum

Sunday, March 31 – Cheri Schutzenhofer & Sue Ganschinetz

## **LITURGISTS AND SCRIPTURE TEXTS**

3/3	Sharon Banjavcic	Exodus 34:29-35	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
3/10	Sue Williams	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Romans 10:8b-13
3/17	Sue Sharp	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	Philippians 3:17-4:1
3/24	Anne Brown	Isaiah 55:1-9	1 Corinthians 10:1-13
3/31	Eileen Gammon	Joshua 5:9-12	2 Corinthians 5:16-21



**Hopefully the mic will work!!**



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME  
BEGINS SUNDAY MARCH 10!!**

ONE HOUR LESS SLEEP.

**PASTOR, DON'T IGNORE YOUR ALARM CLOCK!!**

\* \* \* \* \*



**ASH WEDNESDAY** is March 6.

Two services offered: 12 noon and 7 pm.



## WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN STUDY

For 5 Wednesday evenings, beginning on March 13, we will begin a study based on the book “Making Sense of the Cross” written by Rev. David Lose.

To quote Dr. Lose from the introduction, *“A **Unique Approach** – this book has been written as a complete narrative. After introducing the question of why the cross matters so much to Christians in the first chapter, we consider the primary narratives of Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection contained in the four New Testament Gospels.*

*In Chapters 3 and through 5, we look at three primary approaches, or theories of atonement, used to make sense of the cross during the two-thousand-year history of the Christian tradition. In each case, we will honestly gauge both the strengths and weaknesses of the approach in question as well as compare and contrast them with each other.*

*In the sixth and final chapter, I offer a slightly different way of approaching the question that I hope you will find meaningful. While the book proceeds as a complete narrative, however, I have found that many people profit from reading this kind of material in a group where they can discuss it with others.”*

Our study will begin at 6:30 pm and end at 8:00 pm each Wednesday. A light supper will be served at 6:00 pm for those who would like to eat before the study.

There will be copies of the book available to borrow or buy (\$10). We have a DVD to guide us. I hope you will attend as often as you can. Pastor R.

# March

2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Boy Scouts will have an overnight	2
3 10am Service of Word and Sacrament followed by Fellowship Time 8:30 Adult Bible	4	5 Work day with Nancy	6 Ash Wednesday Service and Imposition of Ashes at 12 noon and 7 pm	7	8	9
10 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS 8:30 Adult Bible Study 10 am Worship	11	12	13 6:00 pm Light Supper (Optional) 6:30 -8:00 pm Lenten Study "Making Sense of the Cross"	14	15	16
17 8:30 Adult Bible Study 10 am Worship	18 Evening Circle 7 p.m.	19	20 6:00 pm Light Supper (Optional) 6:30 -8:00 pm Lenten Study	21	22	23
24 8:30 Adult Bible Study 10 am Worship Newsletter articles are due	25	26	27 6:00 pm Light Supper (Optional) 6:30 -8:00 pm Lenten Study	28	29	30
31 8:30 Adult Bible Study 10 am Worship						

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**The weather is really hitting our treasury HARD. I had to transfer funds from the savings in order to pay first of the month bills. Please remember that our bills continue on even when we don't have services. Please give for every Sunday and remember like your bills, our bills are high during weather extremes. With a \$910 utility bill last month, we need your weekly contributions.**



## **WOMEN'S INTERFAITH CONFERENCE**

Thursday, March 28, 2019

Talk to Pastor Rosemary if you think you might be interested in attending.  
She has all the information.