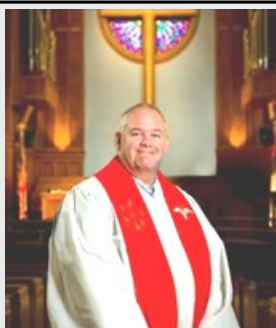


Tidings



Union United Methodist Church, Belleville, IL

February 25, 2021



Lent - The Journey

Lent has been described often as a journey, a planned trip moving us away from the birth event, Christmas, to following along with Jesus: He called his disciples; traveled intentionally to Jerusalem; prayed in the Garden; shared a last meal with his disciples; ended his journey at Golgotha and the cross.

As we make our own journey this Lent we are reminded lastly of the cross and the sacrifice that Jesus made for us there. In the midst of this journey there are words like forgiveness, mercy, grace and pardon. These words also remind us of what God has done for us through Jesus.

Let us keep in front of us in this Lenten season the Cross and the graces offered there. But, as David McDowell writes:

Our repentance does not earn for us the grace of God. He is a God whose very nature is gracious and who produces in us the very repentance that brings us back home.

We are the prodigal son and daughter. We are the ones who constantly find a way to rebel against God. And we are ones who come back to our Father over and over and over again only to be accepted back into God’s loving embrace. This is what Lent is about, the embrace of God’s grace and love made possible through Jesus.

Charles Wesley writes about this in his hymn, “And Can It Be?”, where in verse 1 he writes:

And can it be that I should gain
An int’rest in the Savior’s blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain—
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Refrain:

Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

To stand before the cross and to stand before a forgiving and loving God is the Journey we make until one day we all stand face to face with our Father. Until then, the journey we are on is filled with moments where we mess up, make mistakes, let others down, and simply fail as followers of Christ. But, it is also a Journey where we re-capture our own understanding of forgiveness, mercy, love and grace.

This is the Lenten journey. And so it begins.

Harvey

3
Journey

4-5
UMW

8
KOTG

9
Music Tidings

*dates and times subject
to Covid-19 restrictions*

Second Wednesday
10:30 am
United Methodist Women
McKinley Center
(no meetings January,
June, July, and November)

Third Wednesday 5:30 pm
United Methodist Men
Krause Room

Each Thursday 9:00 am
Ruth Circle
Quilters/Stitchers
Krause Room

Each Wednesday, 9 am
Horticulture
8 am, Coffee
Krause Room

Junior Church
(Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
Junior Church is held during
the 9:00 am worship service

Lenten Services

We will host a series of Lenten worship services this year; each service is at **6:30 pm**. This year's theme is, "Come, Follow Me." It is a series of sermons from the South Carolina Conference of the UMC. Here is a synopsis of the series:

At its simplest, if we identify ourselves as members of the church, we are free to come and go at will – the condition of many contemporary civic and service organizations. If we identify ourselves as Christian disciples, everything we do falls under the authority and power of Christ. We live our commitment to Christ through the church and through all our actions. Our lives are less about going to church and more about being the church. Our commitment to Christ becomes our commission to follow Jesus and to serve in the work of Jesus. "Come, Follow Me: A Disciple's Journey Through Lent" looks at defining moments in Jesus' ministry as presented in the Gospel of Matthew.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Preaching</u>	<u>Sermon Title</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Location</u>
Feb. 24	Harvey	The Baptism of Jesus (Soloist: Terry Mueth)	Matthew 3:13-17	Union
Mar. 3	Ed Weston	Wilderness and Temptations of Jesus (Soloist: Perry Danford)	Matthew 4:1-11	Union
Mar. 10	Joe Scheets	The Beatitudes, Salt and Light (Duet: Packy and Susan Botula)	Matthew 5:1-16	Union
Mar. 17	Allynn Walker	Prayer and Attitude (Music by Journey Praise Band)	Matthew 6:1-18	Freeburg
Mar. 24	Bill Pyatt	Healing, Exorcism, Service, Following (Music by The Crosswalk Praise Band)	Matthew 8:14-27	Union

Today I will be sending out a PDF study guide to go along with this series that has a lot of great background information and questions to go along with each Scripture and sermon.

Join us each Wednesday night at 6:30* as we journey in this Lenten season to Jerusalem and the Cross!

Harvey

*Information for live streaming will be posted later.

Tidings

Union United Methodist Church
721 East Main Street
Belleville, Illinois 62220
618-233-6375

Pastor: Rev. Harvey Gaither

Thel Lemons, Editor

Contributors may attach copy to
email or text the information
to the editor:
chefthel@aol.com
618/530-8435

Upcoming *Tidings* deadlines (10:00 am):

March 15

April 26

May 24

"If Jesus is King,
Then the people who
admire the king,
love the king,
& **worship** the king
would perhaps
act like the king,
talk like the king,
look like the king,
sound like the king
& **pick up the phrases**
& **actions** of the king."

—Tara Beth Leach
@RADIANTCHURCH



Union UMC celebrated Scout Sunday, February 7

**The gospel is less about
how to get into the
Kingdom of Heaven after
you die, and more about
how to live in the
Kingdom of Heaven
before you die.**

Dallas Willard

JOURNEY UMC

900 NORTH STATE STREET
 FREEBURG, IL 62243
 618-710-0224 WWW.JOURNEYUMC.ORG

Continuing the Journey *What's Happening in Freeburg*

"I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it / when it's all about you."

That's a line from a song by Matt Redman called "Heart of Worship" and it keeps coming up in my confessional prayer time.

So I caught my breath the other day when I was chatting on the phone with Kathy Thurston and she mentioned having come across the story behind that song. I don't believe in coincidence, but I do believe in God-incidence! So I had to look up the story and I encourage you to do the same. I don't have the space here to relate it, but it's easy to search on YouTube. And I'd like to share how it parallels our story – at least at Journey.

What is worship? What makes up a worship service? What elements do we have to have? Hold those thoughts....

A phrase from the same song is "...all is stripped away and I simply come..."

Last year when the pandemic hit, and continuing on even recently, we were stripped down to the core. People who only came occasionally stopped coming at all. Some were stripped of their health. Some were stripped of their finances or jobs. We were stripped of being able to meet inside our buildings at all or with only a very few people. Some were stripped of mental health. Some were stripped of their marriages. Our kids were stripped of education for a time. We were stripped of travel and mission trips and fun events. We were stripped of the Christmas Eve we were accustomed to. A couple of weeks ago, we were stripped of our entire band. (I am now filling in on keyboard and we had one additional singer.) It's not only been a health crisis, but also a faith crisis. What's left? Hold that thought, too....

Late last summer Sandy Merrill challenged me during a long conversation. She helped me to let go of the way things used to be, "should" be, or I wished they would be. Instead, she pressed, we had to ask ourselves, what CAN we do with what we have? Then she said this: "Jesus just met with people and talked with them. If that was enough for Jesus, then it's enough for us." I realized we had to quit "waiting until it's over". (I mean, I can do anything temporarily, but how long is temporary, exactly? Ha!)

Example: Was it better last fall to have 10 people inside our building or 60 people in the parking lot with the traffic whizzing by? I feel like I know which one Jesus would choose.

And I ask you again...what do we need for worship? What's left?

Each week, I remind JPB (Journey Praise Band) that we aren't there to perform or impress anyone. We are there to worship and hopefully lead others to do the same. That's it.

"I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it / when it's all about you."

Continuing the journey with God's help,

Cathy O.
 Interim Worship Leader

March 17th we will host a Wednesday night Lenten service with our District Superintendent Allynn Walker. Since it's St Patrick's Day, we'll be sure to sing at least one song by our favorite Irish band, Rend Collective.

Every Week

Sundays: 10:15 a.m. Worship with three options:

In person (masks required)

Facebook Live on the Journey page

Listen in your car from our parking lot on our short range FM signal at 106.9

Mondays: 7:00 p.m. Sr. High Youth with Sandy Merrill (618) 789-3151 or journeyunionyouth1@gmail.com

Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study with Cathy O. (e-mail cathy.obernuefeman@att.net) for the link)

UMW NEWS



Despite the frigid temperatures and subsequent icy weather, it was good to have our February executive board meeting 'in-person.' With the increase in vaccines and loosing restrictions, we are planning to have unit UMW meetings 'in-person' beginning in March. We will continue with masks and social distancing. We will not have a luncheon until the retreat in May. If you feel comfortable attending in-person meetings, we look forward to seeing you!

Our next meeting is March 10 – executive board at 9:30 am in the Krause Room with unit meeting at 10:30 am in the sanctuary. We will have a speaker from The Covering House in St Louis. This organization provides treatment and support for victims of sex trafficking. We have supported this organization since its inception. They have come a long way and I think you will be impressed with their progress – and we helped! The meeting is open to anyone in the church interested in this topic.

The **IGRC UMW Spiritual Growth Study** – 'Finding Peace in an Anxious World' - is scheduled for Sat, February 27, 10 am -12 pm. This will be a virtual seminar. Please see related flyer.



2021 Our Year of Hope – the annual Day of Giving for the UMW Legacy Fund is Tuesday, March 23. Generous donors have agreed to match gifts received for Day of Giving. The Legacy Fund is an endowment to cover administrative costs (utilities, copiers, salaries) so 100% of our mission money goes to the mission field. Let us honor our foremothers by giving to the Legacy Endowment Fund to ensure UMW can continue serving women, children and youth for the next 150 years! Members/circles should send their donations directly to the national office. Ways to give:

Online at: unitedmethodistwomen.org/150

By phone: 800-278-7771 (8am-5pm EST, M-F)

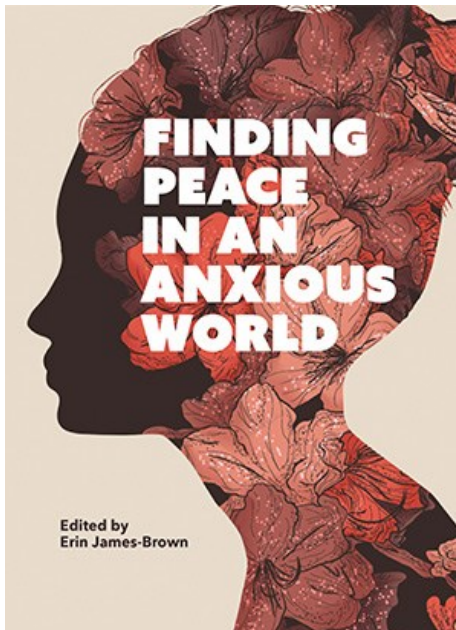
Check to: United Methodist Women

Attn: Development Legacy Endowment Fund;
475 Riverside Dr, 15th Fl; New York NY 10115



Jenny

2021 IGRC UMW Spiritual Growth Study: Finding Peace in an Anxious World



Finding Peace in an Anxious World uses the book of Proverbs and "The Serenity Prayer" as a guide to help Christians find their way through anxiety, worry, and fear and move towards God's peace that surpasses all understanding.

Using "The Serenity Prayer" as a scaffold, Finding Peace in an Anxious World explores ways to discover peace through scriptural and spiritual disciplines so that we can be rooted in God and energized to live fully as disciples of Christ.

Our facilitator is Betzy Elifrits Warren, Director of the Wesley Foundation at Eastern Illinois University.

February 27, 2021 from 10 AM-12 PM on Zoom

Registration is required and can be found here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpcuCrpjlvGtX3eZ_UOieZMN1JEvQurcB2

Contact Oleta Massie (dmassie@clearwave.com) for more information or Christina Krost (christina.krost@gmail.com) for tech support

Watch this seminar at Union UMC in the Krause Room!

Plan to arrive by 9:45 am.

Masks required!

Heart to Heart**Faith in Action**

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Heart to Heart – Faith In Action fundraiser! We have collected about \$500 and counting! These funds will be divided between Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House and Belleville District 118 for school supplies and cold weather items as needed.

We appreciate your support and generosity!
Our HEARTS will show our FAITH IN ACTION!



Pearl Spies and Connie Stein
Child Advocate Coordinators

SAVE THE DATE! UMW is sponsoring an Outdoor Granny's Attic on Friday, September 10 and Saturday, September 11. So save this date!!

It will be on the upper parking lot. You will rent a parking spot/spots and tables (optional) to display your goods. You can sell anything you wish and you can reap the sales. You will be responsible for your set-up, pricing, display, and cleanup. You can sign up for Friday, Saturday, or both days to sell your things.

We want you to know ahead of time so you can start cleaning out drawers, cabinets, closets, garages, etc... More details to follow. If you have any questions, call or email, Nancy Weston, at 806-0519, nancyweston96@gmail.com or Karen Milton, 971-5079, sewutt4@aol.com

Ruth Circle News

Here is a sample of some of the flannel receiving blankets and fleece crib and cot covers Ruth Circle made over the winter. They will be given to the Pregnancy Care Center and Project Compassion. We are also working on crocheted afghans using yarn donated by the family of Arline Wojda. We thank them for this wonderful assortment of yarn.

These projects are most often done by members in their own homes in their own time frame. Thursdays are spent quilting baby quilts and bed size quilts. We regret that our stitchers have not been able to meet with us during this pandemic, but hopefully will be with us again soon. If this is something you have always wanted to try, please come any Thursday, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. We will be happy to get you started. Bring your own lunch and we will provide the fun and fellowship.

Deborah Circle has invited Brooke Buzard, Associate Director of Advancement at Cunningham Children's Home, to speak at the UMW general meeting on April 14 at 10:30 am. She will present a slide show and give information on some of the new programs at Cunningham, including Caminos (caring for immigrant children who were separated from their parents during the Trump Administration).



Social distancing will be practiced and wearing a mask is required for this program in the sanctuary. No lunch will be provided. There will be a question-and-answer period after Brooke's presentation.

Please plan to attend. All women are welcome and invited to join us.

Did you know.....The church has assistance devices available for loan: wheelchairs, walkers, canes, potty chairs, and toilet booster seats. Please contact the church office if you need to borrow.

UMW Dates

- Feb 27 Conference Spiritual Growth Seminar
(Virtual meeting)
- Mar 5 CWU World Day of Prayer
- Mar 10 9:30, Board meeting, Krause Room
10:30, General Meeting, Sanctuary
- Mar 28 Grange Chicken Dinner
- April 14 9:30, Board meeting; Krause Room
10:30, General Meeting; Sanctuary
- April 3 UMW Bake Sale
- April 17 MRD Spring Meeting (Virtual Meeting)



The UMW is working creatively to raise money to continue our support of missions that support those in need. Soon you will have an opportunity to help by participating in our Drive Through Bake Sale to be held on Saturday, April 3rd, the day before Easter. Information can be found in the Tidings, church email, and extra order slips will be available in the Church Office as well as at the Welcome Center Desk.

Checks may be made payable to Union UMW. Thank you for your continuing support.

**Senior High Youth**

Mondays
7 pm at Journey

with Sandy Merrill
(618) 789-3151 or journeyunionyouth1@gmail.com

Congratulations to **Matt Hill** on achieving the rank of Chief Petty Officer, USN. After seven long months of training, he was pinned in a special ceremony at the Naval base in St. Louis on Saturday, February 6, by his wife Diana, daughters, Matilda and Madeline, and sponsor YNC Tina King.



"Navy Chief, Navy Pride"



UMW Bake Sale Availability and Price



Pies \$12.00 each

Cherry, Peach, Apple, Rhubarb, Pecan
Lemon Meringue

Cakes

Easter Bunny Cake (2 available)	\$12.00
Coconut Easter Lamb Cake	\$15.00
2 Layer Easter Cake	\$10.00
Sugar Free Cake	\$10.00
Angel Food Cake	\$10.00
Goey Butter Cake	\$10.00
New York Cheese Cake	\$15.00
9 x 13 Cake	\$ 9.00
1 Layer Cake	\$ 5.00

Cupcakes & Cookies

Easter Bunny Butt Cupcakes (4 dozen available)	\$1.00 each
Baker's Choice cupcakes	\$3.00 for 6

Cookies

Iced Easter Sugar Cookies	\$8.00/dozen
Baker's Choice Cookies	\$5.00/dozen
Gluten Free Cookies	\$5.00/dozen

Miscellaneous Desserts

Mint Brownies	\$7.00/dozen
Spiced Pecans	\$3.00 per bag

Mini Bread Loaves

Banana or Pumpkin	\$4.00 each
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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORT OF OUR MISSIONS

MY ORDER: NAME _____

TELEPHONE # _____

CHECK ONE _____ I will pick up 10 a.m. - 12 noon on April 3

_____ Delivery only to homebound Address _____

10 a.m. - 12 noon on April 3 - Telephone # _____

_____ I choose to make a donation by check.

Orders MUST be received no later than March 22, 2021

Checks may be written payable to: Union UMW

QUESTIONS? Call Marvinna at 910-9772 or Sandy K. at 233-5336

UMW Bake Sale **Saturday, April 3**

**Watch for further info to
Place your order!**

**Cookies, Cakes,
Cupcakes, Pies,
Easter Items,
and more!**



**There will be Curbside Pick-up
on Upper Parking Lot
10a.m. to 12 noon**



Children's Sunday School

We will start Sunday School in a limited capacity on Sunday, March 7. We will start after the service from 9:50-10:40. The Pre-K children will stay in the nursery area. Donna will teach the kindergarten and 1st graders. Jane will teach the 2-4th graders and LeAnna will teach the 5th and 6th graders. We are not sure about the junior high and high school students yet because of teacher availability. We will use old material until after Easter and then we will reevaluate how we go forward depending on attendance and teachers.



If any parents have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 618-235-3804.

Jane Peters

Family Paint Party Day/Family Movie Day KOTG, MOMSConnect, Junior High Families



This Saturday, February 27, we will have our **FAMILY PAINT PARTY** from 1:00 – 2:00 in McKinley Hall. Jules and Katie have made some wonderful Easter paint projects. Thank you for registering. If you would like to come in person and paint, please be at church by 1:00. If you are picking up your project, stop by during that time for pick up.

On Sunday, March 14, from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., we will have **FAMILY MOVIE DAY**, featuring "A Dog's Journey". We will serve popcorn and drinks. We will practice safe social distancing, seat by family groups and wear a mask until seated. Please bring your lawn chairs and blankets.

Please RSVP by Friday, March 5th to donna@unionumc.org. Hope to see you there!



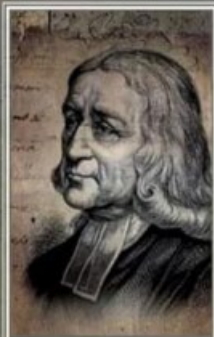
Mark your calendar!

"Spring Forward"
Sunday, March 14, at 2 am

Be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour before bed on Saturday night!

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Neither is love content with barely working no evil to our neighbor. Love continually incites us to do good: as we have time, and opportunity, to do good in every possible kind, and in every possible degree to all men . . .

—John Wesley, *The Law Established Through Faith*



Visitation and Other Good Stuff

with Dr. Joe Scheets

Phew --- what a month we've had --- Inauguration, Inoculations, and Some-Third-World-I-Can't-Find. In light of all of that, I'm going a different direction right now. **If you're like the rest of us, you could use a respite.**

To quote a line from an old song, "Lighten up, Baby, I'm in love with you!" To paraphrase that, hear the Good News of The Gospel: "Lighten up, Everybody, God's in love with you!"

Take a moment here and smile a bit. Try these on for size ---

1---Simon Holland says, and I do quote: **"After many years of marriage, one piece of advice I can give is this: For some reason, they just really like the towels folded in thirds."**

(I read that to Patty, and she smiled, laughed, and then said, "That's a smart husband!")

2---I miss being with you. I miss catching up with you in the hospital and elsewhere. But let's continue to responsibly follow the CDC and IDPH guidelines so we can all come out together on the other side of this pandemic.

Meanwhile, know that on more than one occasion I've been with someone and noticed a book or two lying out open or closed but bookmarked. Takes one to know one; right there with ya. As a man told me long ago, **"I'm not addicted to reading. I can quit as soon as I finish one more chapter."**

3---From an online comic series that I love called *Coffee with Jesus* comes this dialogue:

I sure wish you'd speak to me, Jesus.

When's the last time you cracked open your Bible, Kevin?

Oh, I understand that you speak through the Word, Jesus. But you know what I mean: I want to audibly hear you speak.

So read your Bible out loud, Kevin.

4--- Tough to follow that one! Let me simply remind you that **I love being able to, well, to quote Kevin from *Coffee with Jesus*, "audibly hear you speak"** so call me directly anytime for any reason on my cell phone at **217.377.8049**. You can also text me using that same number. You can also **email me directly at joescheets3@gmail.com**.

Yours in Christ,

Joe

Dr. Joe Scheets
Visitation & Other Good Stuff
and check out my daily blog:
www.joescheets.com



Union United Methodist Church
721 East Main
Belleville, Illinois 62220
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GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2

Assistant pastor, Dr. Joe Scheets, will preach at our Good Friday services at noon and 7 pm.

We will gather according to the prevalent COVID-19 mitigation guidelines for our Good Friday Service of Divine Worship. You'll also find this online, just like our other worship services.

"In keeping with both our tradition and current practices," Joe says, "Scripture, music, a homily, and time for reflection will be included. I'm honored to be working with the rest of our staff on this cornerstone event."



Union Methodist
live stream services can be accessed
through
<https://www.youtube.com/user/Kent5122>
or later through YouTube Union United
Methodist Church,
Belleville, Illinois



MUSIC TIDINGS



O Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth! Sing to the Lord, bless his name tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.
Psalms 96:1-4a

Live stream services at 9:00 am and 11:15 am

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

9 am - Special Music:—duet with Natalie and Brent Gravois: "The Potter's Hand"; David Gravois: guitar

Rev. Joe Scheets sermon: "The Body of Christ"; Romans 12:4-5

Drama skit with Ellie Dintelmann and Khloe Manno: "No Small Part", written by Zona Ludlum

11:15 am - "Crosswalk"

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, **COMMUNION**

9 am - Special Music—quartet with Dick and Pat Hunsaker and Packy and Susan Botula: "O Lamb of God" with cellist: Ethan Edwards

Rev. Gaither's sermon: "Bearing One Another"; Galatians 6:1-6

11:15 am - "Crosswalk"

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

9 AM- Special Music—quartet with Steve and Cindy Bloomer and Jim and Carole Eckert: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

Rev. Gaither's sermon: "Prayer for One Another"; James 5:13-20

11:15 am - "Crosswalk"