

# Woodstock First United Methodist Church E-Newsletter



**March 2024**

Dear Congregation of Woodstock First United Methodist Church,

What is Lent??

Many Christians have heard of Lent, but do all know what it means? Lent means the 40 weekdays (excluding Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to Easter as a period of reflection, repentance, and fasting.

The Christian meaning of Lent revolves around preparation, reflection, and penance. During Lent, Christians often engage in practices such as fasting, prayer, and almsgiving as a way to deepen their connection with God and to reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Fasting during Lent typically involves abstaining from certain foods or luxuries as a form of self-discipline and solidarity with the sufferings of Christ.

The primary purpose of Lent is meant to be a time of repentance. That's not a feeling of shame but an awareness that sin separates us from God and what Christ endured to save us from sin, death, and the devil. "Shame has its place, but feeling shame over sin is not the same thing as repentance from sin" because "our tempter can take our obedience to God and turn it into a source of pride."

Lent is a time of inner reflection, self-sacrifice, denial, and repentance. If something has a grip on you, more than likely, it's become unhealthy. It may or may not be an idol. Lent season is an opportunity to grow closer to God, to remember Jesus' life and death, and to focus more on him and less on ourselves and our busy schedules. Fasting, or abstaining, for certain activities and items in our lives can help us focus on the life and sacrifice of Jesus. Here are 10 popular ideas for what to give up during the lent season:

1. Social media
2. Sugar
3. Alcohol
4. Online Shopping
5. Clutter
6. Complaining
7. TV
8. Video games
9. Soda
10. Eating out

Hope to see everyone in church Sunday and during the Lenten season.

God Bless  
Pastor Hyujae Lee  
Bev Limbaugh



**Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 10th, 2024. Turn your clocks ahead one hour so you are not late for church.**

### **New Prairie Central District Superintendent Announced**

Bishop Dan Schwein has announced the appointment of Rev. Wendy Hardin Hermann as the Prairie Central District Superintendent, effective July 1, 2024. Rev. Hardin Hermann currently serves at Mt. Prospect Trinity and will follow Rev. Jeffry Bross, who has been appointed as lead pastor at Libertyville United Methodist Church effective July 1, 2024.

Rev. Hardin Hermann was born in Alburn, Alabama, and is a lifelong United Methodist and a second-generation United Methodist clergyperson, following in the footsteps of her mother, an elder who served in Alabama and Georgia. Wendy has a deep love of God, God's people, and the church. Her passions for ministry include planning and leading meaningful and relevant worship, building Christian community among people of diverse backgrounds, empowering and challenging individuals and congregations to practice intentional discipleship, strategizing with churches to plan for their future, and being an ally in creating a boldly inclusive United Methodist Church.

She graduated from Birmingham-Southern College and from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. She was ordained and elder in the Northern Illinois Conference in 1999 and has served churches in Hinsdale, Rogers Park, Norwood Park and Glenview prior to her appointment at Mt. Prospect in 2017.

Bishop Schwerin asks Northern Illinois United Methodists to hold in prayer Rev. Hardin Hermann, her family, and everyone in an appointment transition.



### **JOYS AND CONCERNS - Please keep them in your prayers**

Becky Pender - Char Emricson - David Bohn - Phyllis Feldt - Bill Landis - Clifford Pierce - Gary Spice - Ray & Vi Uramkin - Bub & Lois Piper - Joe & Joyce Wiemuth - Revene Awe - Ed Fraase - Skip Howell



Please remember all of our home bound friends during this difficult time - Joyce Stackhouse - Pat Church

Pray for the Woodstock FUMC and their families, United Methodist Churches and our pastor.

There are many people who need your prayers and support, please share our love as

much as we can.

***God will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge. -  
Psalm 91:4 (NIV)***

*If you have a joy or concern you wish to share with the congregation, please let the church office know. You can call the office and send an email with the information.*

Anyone interested in joining in or helping out the Youth Group, please contact Pastor Jae.

Youth Group helpers are Michelle Foss, Anne Bierman and Sarah Fisher.

The Youth Group meets the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month from 4-6pm.

Upcoming events they are planning is an Easter Breakfast on Sunday, March 31st 8-9am and a silent auction.

A lot of volunteers are needed for this event. Please let Pastor Jae or one of the leaders know if you are able to help.



## **HELP WANTED!!**

Help is needed. We are in need of Sunday School teachers, teachers assistants and nursery help. Consider once a month to helping out.

Any time is greatly appreciated.

Please talk to Pastor Jae or Karen Hendrickson for more information.

Christian Education Committee:  
Karen Hendrickson - Superintendent  
David Gaines, Katie Moody & Ashleigh Starnes



We are collecting coins again this year during Lent.  
This year our mission is for the VBS & Sunday School Programs to receive the coins. We have calendars if you wish to follow along with a different daily activity to do while collecting the coins.  
Make it a fun family activity.



### **Worship & Music**

Maundy Thursday, March 28th we will be having a potluck dinner at 6pm in Fellowship Hall.  
All are invited and we ask that you bring a dish to share.

Good Friday Service, March 29th at 7PM.

Easter Worship Service, March 31st at 9:30am -  
Pastor Jae would like to see everyone wearing their favorite and colorful Easter bonnets and/or ties -  
a long lost tradition.

The Youth Group will be serving an Easter Breakfast from 8-9am.

Easter Flowers will be available again this year. We have lilies, tulips, daffodils or hyacinths for a cost of \$15.00 per plant. Please let the church office know as soon as possible - deadline to reserve your plant is March 13th.

### **W&M Committee members are:**

Val Williams - Chairperson  
Laura Biloz, Mike Eckert, Sara Fezell, Amanda Pinzon, Ron Smith and Laura Zurakov.



## **MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

The Missions Committee has received a request from the Midwest Mission Center for personal dignity kits. They are the number one requested item. The committee will be collecting kits, items for the kits or cash donations to make additional kits through the month of April. Please help if you can. We will put a bin out in fellowship hall. The mission bulletin board in fellowship hall is under construction. Please watch for updates to the board soon.

The Midwest Mission Center is in need of Personal Dignity Kits. Here are the items needed for the personal dignity kits if you care to help. Any questions please see Renee Witt or Pastor Jae.

The kit includes:

- 1 Hand towel (not a kitchen towel)
- 1 Washcloth (no dishcloths)
- 1 Adult toothbrush- no multipacks
- 1 Bar of soap 3-4oz
- 1 Shampoo 12-19oz
- 1 Deodorant 2-3oz stick, roll on or pump
- 1 Lotion 8-12 oz
- 1 1-gallon resealable plastic bag
- \$2 to purchase a carrying kit and toothpaste

Thank you. The Mission Committee will be collecting these items through the end of April. As always, thank you for the support you provide to our church and the mission committee.

### **Missions Committee members are:**

Renee Witt - Chairperson, Ruth Beard, Nicola Nelson, Linda Hastings, Ron Smith, Sara Fezell, Barb Passfield, Laura Zurakov, Sarah Fisher.

This story has been shared by 2 members of our congregation - Bev Hodges and Joe Scholpp. Hope you enjoy this story as much as the congregation did on Sunday.

## **SQUIRREL INFESTATION**

And then there is this:

The Presbyterian church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrel infestation. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded that the squirrels were predestined to be there, and they should not interfere with God's divine will.



At the Baptist church, the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistry. The deacons met and decided to put a water-slide on the baptistry and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and, unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim, so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Lutheran church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist church. Two weeks later, the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water-slide.

The Episcopalians tried a much more unique path by setting out pans of whiskey around their church in an effort to kill the squirrels with alcohol poisoning. They sadly learned how much damage a band of drunk squirrels can do.

But the Catholic church came up with a more creative strategy! They baptized all the squirrels and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard from the Jewish synagogue. They took the first squirrel and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel since.

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Please feel free to share your stories and jokes with us.



### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL GIVING**

*Thought for the Day - My smallest gift can be a huge blessing.*

We are now accepting Credit Cards for a few more events other than the Christmas Tree Lot. You can use a credit card for your offering, cookie walk and some of the dinner fundraisers., to name a few. You will have to pay the 2.6% service fee if you do use your credit card.

**IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR YOUR QUARTERLY AND YEARLY STATEMENTS - THEY ARE NOW BEING SENT VIA EMAIL - IF WE HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS FOR YOU. IF YOU NEED ANY INFORMATION ON THIS, PLEASE CONTACT BEV LIMBAUGH IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.**

#### **Finance Committee members**

Bud Blackman - Chairperson, Don Goers - Chair of Ad Council and Lay Leader,  
Bev Limbaugh - Treasurer, Phil Moore, Kathy McNeil, Brad Limbaugh, Steve Nelson,  
Rich Hodges, and Debbie Ruben

## **TRUSTEES REPORT**

**\*\*\*NEW DATE FOR MEETINGS: FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 6PM.**

The trustees and members of the congregation are here almost every Wednesday night from 5-7pm doing maintenance. They have been taking great care of the church properties.

**Thank you all for your help and volunteering this year!! We have taken care of a lot this year and we couldn't have done it without everyone's help!! Thank You ALL!!**

**Board of Trustees Committee:**

Brad Limbaugh - Chairperson, Ryan Pinzon - Vice Chairperson, Kedra Crain - Secretary, John Becker, Roberta Oakley, Bobby Fisher, Jason Moody, Bryson Calvin, Steve Ruben, Doug Polnow and Brenda Hale.



## Mission Opportunity for Everyone

United Methodist Women In Faith are sponsoring this mission opportunity. Please come and join us in providing blankets for our community. This organization donates blankets to our local hospitals and many local service organizations.

Bring your talents. There are several ways that you can help with making blankets. We will be making fleece blankets. However, if you like to crochet, knit or quilt you can also come and join to find out how you can make any of these types of blankets for McHenry County Project Linus. If you would like to donate fabric or money to purchase materials that would also be appreciated.

## **Project Linus *MISSION STATEMENT***

FIRST: Provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer "blanketeers."

SECOND: Provide a rewarding and fun service opportunity for interested individuals and groups in local communities, for the benefit of children.

Please checkout the website to get more information about our local organization.

Project Linus McHenry County <https://www.mchenryprojectlinus.com>  
Project Linus national website is [www.ProjectLinus.org](http://www.ProjectLinus.org)

We will be meeting:

Wednesday, March 6 at 6 pm.

Wednesday, March 20 at 2 pm following the UMWF meeting at 1 pm

Wednesday, April 3 at 6 pm.

Wednesday, April 17 at 2 pm following the UMWF meeting at 1 pm.

You can attend one or all times. All ages are welcome. You may also bring a friend who would also like to help volunteer to help others in our community. Please bring a good pair of scissors for cutting fleece.

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### United Women in Faith

This group meets the third Wednesday at 1pm every month.

## **Bake Sale on March 24th.**

If you have any questions about United Women in Faith,  
contact Bonnie Becker  
at 815-719-1061.

Bonnie Becker - President, Cherry Kot - Vice-President,  
Nancy Irwin - Treasurer,  
Karen Hendrickson - Secretary



## **FIRST UNITED METHODIST PRESCHOOL**

*Celebrating over 25 years!!*

815-338-8341

*fumpwoodstock@gmail.com*

*Registration is now open for 2024-2025 school year!*

### **IMPORTANT FUMC INFORMATION:**

Rev. Hyujae Lee, Pastor  
Bev Limbaugh, Administrative Assistant

Church Office Phone: 815-338-3310  
**Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9am-3pm, Friday 9am-Noon**  
Office is closed on Saturday and Sunday  
Pastor is not in the office on Mondays.

Email: [fumcwoodstock@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fumcwoodstock@sbcglobal.net)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/fumcwoodstock](https://www.facebook.com/fumcwoodstock) Website: [www.fumcwoodstock.org](http://www.fumcwoodstock.org)

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STAY CONNECTED





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