

# The Messenger



Volume 17 No. 2

February 2017

The Newsletter of The United Church of Sandwich

*"Passionately united to feed all people — body, mind and spirit —  
To the glory of God!"*

*From the Pastor ...*

## **ACTING JUSTLY**

*"Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)*

We don't know about justice apart from actions that reveal it. Justice is the set of behaviors that come from right relationship to God and neighbor. It's about equality of opportunity, responsible living, fairness and inclusion.

When people living under the threat of terror and oppression are liberated, that's justice (i.e., the Israelites leaving Egypt, France after World War II, South Africa at the end of apartheid).

When those with special needs are given a chance to live with dignity and brought into participation in a community, that's justice (think of the clients of The Open Door).

When we extend our hand to the poorest of the poor, that's justice (think of Clara Biswas, the missionary we hosted last year, who works with street children in Cambodia).

We are doing justice right now at United Church by reaching out to our Hispanic neighbors by tutoring children, helping immigrants become responsible and law abiding citizens, and by helping youth plan for college. A grant from our Conference's Keagy fund has made that possible.

We are doing justice this month by delivering Meals on Wheels — helping our older neighbors stay in their homes and live more healthy lives.

Acts of justice, tempered with loving kindness, enable us to live in a God-centered, God-honoring world.

*Steve Mindrup*

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## **Sunday Scriptures for February 2017**

### **February 5 – The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

Isaiah 58:1-12. *Acts of justice and mercy are witnesses to the glory of God.*

Psalms 112:1-10. *"Happy are those who fear the Lord"*

1 Corinthians 2:1-12. *God's wisdom is not found in eloquent rhetoric, but in the cross.*

Matthew 5:13-20. *The righteous acts of the faithful illuminate the dark places.*

### **February 12 – The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20. *The way to true life is obedience and surrender to God.*

Psalms 29. *"I will praise you with an upright heart."*

1 Corinthians 3:1-9. *Paul continues to plead for unity and mutual servanthood.*

Matthew 5:21-37. *The absolute righteousness of God depends upon his grace alone.*

### **February 19 – The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany**

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18. *The "holiness code" of Israel contains the Golden Rule.*

Psalms 119:33-40. *"Give me understanding, that I may keep your law."*

1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23. *God's "temple" is not a building, but the community of saints.*

Matthew 5:38-48. *Jesus teaches us to move beyond ordinary morality toward a grace-filled life.*

### **February 26 – Transfiguration Sunday**

Exodus 24:12-18. *Moses enters the cloud of God's presence to receive the divine Law.*

Psalms 99. *"Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain."*

2 Peter 1:16-21. *The apostle recalls the tradition of Christ's appearance in glory.*

Matthew 17:1-9. *Jesus appears to his disciples in the fullness of God's glory.*



**THANKS  
GIVING**

January 1	\$2217.10
January 8	\$3362.00
January 15	\$2058.00
January 22	\$860.95
Total	\$8498.05

Our generous gifts glorify God!



**Help deliver Meals on Wheels this month**

We still have openings in February for volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels.

This is a vital service that improves the quality of life for many of our older neighbors.

Delivering usually takes less than two hours.

Contact Ed or Jane Heyer, Pastor Steve or Kelley Mindrup if you have questions. Sign-up sheets are on the narthex table.

**Mission of the Month**

**Global Refugee/Migration Response**



This month's mission is Global Refugee/Migration Response. Millions of refugees are fleeing war, persecution, and violence in their homelands, often running with just the clothes on their backs. They are traversing borders in Africa, Europe, the Americas, and Asia, in search of safety, protection, and a chance at life. UMCOR and Global Ministries address the global refugee and migration contexts to allow for safe passage, welcome, belonging, and caring for new arrivals.

Thank You  
Missions Committee



**TRUSTEE BOARD**

The next trustee meeting will be held on Tuesday February 14th at 6:30 p.m. If there are any questions please contact Matt Olson.

## February Worship Assistants



### **Greeters**

2/5/17 Jerry & Nancy Brown  
 2/12/17 Carole Strock  
 2/19/17 Deb Seymour  
 2/26/17 Bernice Nicholas

### **Ushers**

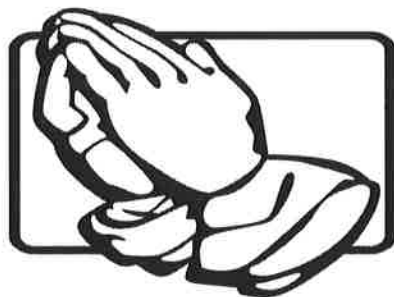
2/5/17 Doug Reiners & Earl Shaffer  
 2/12/17 Craig Johnson, Andrew & Diane Salisbury  
 2/19/17 Breon Family  
 2/26/17 Matt & Joanna Olson

### **Liturgists**

2/5/17 Sarah Stevens  
 2/12/17 Pam Nehring  
 2/19/17 Bonnie Miller  
 2/26/17 Doug Reiners

### **February Communion Ministers**

Jim Updike, Lori Updike, Doug Reiners



### **Pastoral Care**

Phone 815-786-9243 or Pastor Steve's cell 815-988-4992 if you or a loved one is in the hospital, a care facility, or homebound. Don't rely on the "grapevine"... please contact us directly. Persons may be added to the prayer chain if so desired by contacting the office.



2/1 LaVerne Strothman  
 2/2 Scott Rogers  
 2/3 Melanie Vegrzyn  
 2/4 Blake Stahl  
 2/5 Kevin Fox  
 2/6 Mitchell Johns  
 2/7 Gerrad Dannewitz  
 2/8 Melba Shaffer  
 2/9 Jacob Thompson  
 2/10 Heidi Heiman  
 2/14 Jennifer Whitmer, Kevin Carr  
 2/15 Amanda Olson  
 2/18 Kevin Duy  
 2/19 Melissa Morton  
 2/20 Joan Getz  
 2/21 John Swander Sr.  
 2/23 Spencer Keene  
 2/24 Joan Banko  
 2/26 Eleanor Anderson  
 2/27 JoAnn Schafer, Joanna Olson

## **Anniversaries This Month**



2/14 Dan & Renee Reimer  
 2/14 Kevin & Linda Duy

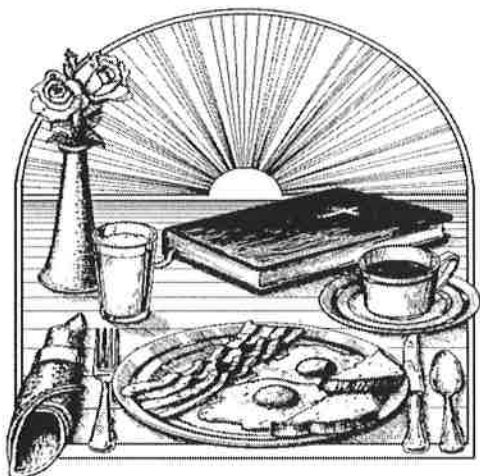
Sandwich/Somonauk  
Ministerial Alliance  
4TH TUESDAY COMMUNITY  
FREE FELLOWSHIP FEAST

4:30 — 6:00 pm  
Tuesday, February 28th  
Somonauk Baptist Church  
315 E. North St.  
Somonauk  
815-498-2312

- Looking for fellowship? Join us!
- Having trouble making ends meet? Join us!
- Love community dinners? Join us!



**ALL ARE WELCOME!**  
Invite your friends and family to come as well!



## MEN'S BREAKFAST

United Methodist Men's Breakfast will be held Sunday February 5th at 7:30 a.m. Men's group meet first Sunday every month for breakfast, fellowship, and devotion.

## Shopping on line? Help your church through UMCMarket.org

Here is an easy way to support UCS. Before you make an on line purchase, go to UMCMarket.org. Once you establish an account at UMCMarket.org, over 3,000 businesses will donate a portion of your purchase to United Church. Automatically.

It's easy to register. Just go to UMCMarket.org and set up an account. It takes less than five minutes. It will take you through the steps to get your donation directed to UCS. Then when you are shopping on line you can look on the UMCMarket site for what you want.

Each purchase you make will earn UCS a percentage of the total (in some cases as much as 5%). If a lot of us take advantage of this (especially on big ticket items like TVs or other appliances), the donations will add up.



Girl Scout Troop 1701 will be hosting a small worship service on March 12th for Girl Scout Sunday. Following they will host a small luncheon. They need a head count for food. Please sign up in the narthax for that.

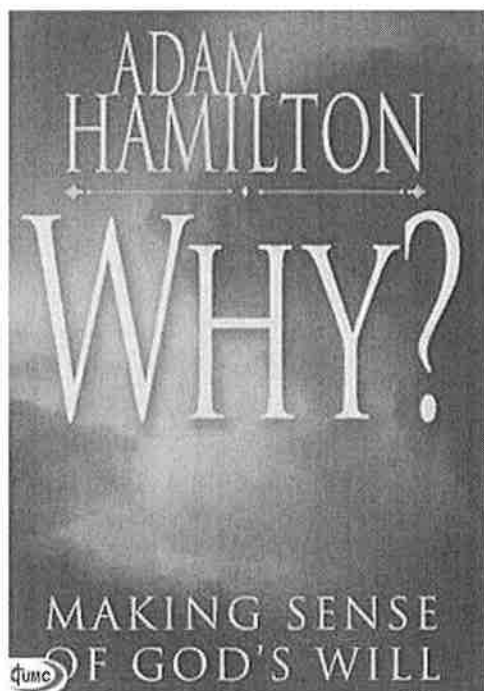


**2017**

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

			<b>1</b> 6:00 pm Prayer Group 6:30 pm Epic Youth 6:30 pm Chimes 7:30 pm Choir	<b>2</b> 1:00 pm Hope Circle meets 2:45pm-3:45 pm Tutoring at Woodbury	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 7:30 am United Methodist Men's breakfast 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	<b>6</b> 10:00 am March Newsletter Deadline Uniters Circle meets	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm Chimes 6:30 pm Epic Youth 7:30 pm Choir	<b>9</b> 9:30 am UMW meetS 2:45 pm -3:45 pm Tutoring @ Woodbury	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:30 am Valentine Packing for shut ins 6:30 pm Trustees Meeting	<b>15</b> 6 pm Prayer Group 6:30 Epic Youth 6:30 pm Chimes 7:30 pm Choir	<b>16</b> 2:45 pm-3:45 pm Tutoring @ Woodbury	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:30 Epic Youth 6:30 pm Chimes 7:30 pm Choir	<b>23</b> 10:00 am Newsletter Assembly 2:45pm-3:45pm Tutoring @ Woodbury	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 4:30 pm 4th Tuesday Feast @ Somonauk Baptist				

## Lent study will explore questions of evil, suffering



During Lent, we will offer a six week study of *Why? Making Sense of God's Will*, by Adam Hamilton. There will be both an afternoon and an evening session — dates and times will be announced soon.

Where is God when tragedy and suffering strike?

When the ground shakes, and a poor nation's economy is destroyed; when the waters rise, washing away a community's hopes and dreams; when a child suffers neglect and abuse; when violence tears apart nations; where is God? If God is all powerful, and if each one of us is a beloved child of God, then how can God allow tragedy and suffering to infest his creation?

In *Why?*, best-selling author Adam Hamilton brings fresh insight to the age-old question of how to understand the will of God. Rejecting simplistic answers and unexamined assumptions, he lays out core ideas for comprehending God's plan for the world, including:

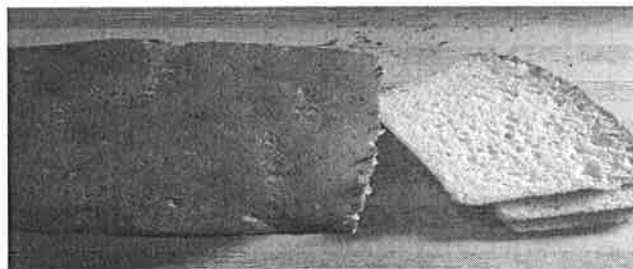
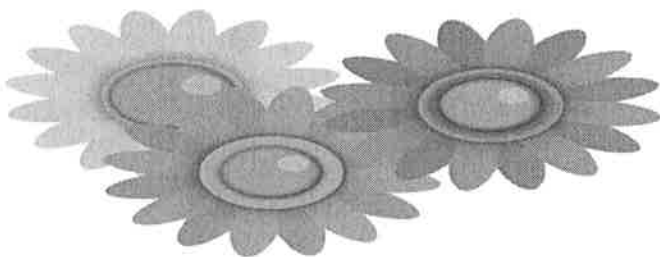
- God will not take away our free will, even when we use it to grieve him.
- God will never abandon us, especially in the midst of our suffering.
- While God is not the author of suffering, God will bring blessing out of tragedy.

## Begin Lent with Ash Wednesday worship, March 1, 7:00 pm

United Church will begin the observance of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service, March 1 at 7:00 pm.

We impose ashes to remind us of our mortality, and to teach us to rely fully on the grace of God. We impose ashes to remind us of our need to repent, to receive God's forgiveness, and to accept and forgive one other. We are all made of dust! We share a common humanity and a common need for mercy.

The Chancel Choir will sing, and we will receive Holy Communion to help us recall what Christ's sacrifice means — that God is mercy and not condemnation.



## Sign up for altar flowers and Communion bread

The 2017 Sign Up Sheets for flowers And Sunday Communion Bread is now set out. Add beauty to our worship and strengthen our faith with a gift of flowers and your donation of bread for Holy Communion.

**The United Church  
of Sandwich**

512 East Lions Road  
Sandwich, IL 60548-2147



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**THE MESSENGER — JANUARY 2017**



**The United Church of Sandwich**

512 East Lions Road, Sandwich, IL 60548-2417

Church: (815) 786-9243

Email: [ucssandwich@frontier.com](mailto:ucssandwich@frontier.com)

website: [www.unitedchurchsandwich.org](http://www.unitedchurchsandwich.org)

**Sunday Schedule**

Worship 10:00 am

Adult Sunday School 8:45 am

**Church Office Hours**

Monday – Friday

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

**The Rev. Steven Mindrup**

Office Hours: Monday–Thursday , 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

or by appointment

Email: [pastormindrup@gmail.com](mailto:pastormindrup@gmail.com)

Mobile: 815.988.4992

Kelley Mindrup's mobile: 815-988-7075

**Church Staff**

Secretary: Andrea Knasel

(Tuesday-Friday 8:00 am – 12:00 pm)

Choir and Chimes Director: Kevin Duy

Organist/Pianist: Carol Larson

Ministers and Missionaries: All Members

We are passionately united to feed all people –  
body, mind and spirit – to the glory of God!

**Leadership Team 2017**

Church Council Chair	Reid Heinekamp
Treasurer	Pam Nehring
Financial Secretary	Pat Hallaron
Finance/Stewardship Chair	Ken Young
Staff/Pastor Parish Relations	Sarah Stevens
Lay Leader	Brenda Moland
Trustees Chair	Matt Olson
Annual Conf Delegate	David Seymour
Missions/Evangelism Chair	Ed & Jane Heyer
Memorial/Endowment Chair	Nancy Brown
United Methodist Women	Myrtie Warren
United Methodist Men	