

The Messenger



Volume 17 No. 3

March 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 ...

KEEPING A FAITHFUL AND HOLY LENT

*Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray;
Teach us, with thee, to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.*

(from a Lenten hymn by Claudia Hernaman, 1873 — No. 269 in our Hymnal)

The time of preparation for Easter that we call Lent is a very ancient practice. Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday is forty days (Sundays don't count). Forty days parallels Jesus' time of temptation in the wilderness. It's a time for self examination, repentance, and special devotion. It's a time to once again take Jesus' sacrifice deep into our hearts and minds, and to resolve to live for his glory in our own acts of sacrificial love.

Within the pages of this newsletter are several opportunities for study, worship and reflection:

A small group study by Adam Hamilton to help us better understand what we mean by "the will of God" — devotions and prayer every Wednesday morning at the Federated Church — meaningful worship each Sunday and Holy Week.

This Lent we are also taking special steps to be reconciled to our inactive members. We are a congregation of almost 300, but well over half of us are not involved at all in the life of the church. Let's reach out to our inactive brothers and sisters and invite them to come back to fellowship and to the faith of Christ.

How will you use the forty days of Lent? May it be for you a true spiritual revival and an opportunity to glorify God in all that you do.

Steve Mindrup

Lent is our time to once again take Jesus' sacrifice deep into our hearts and minds, and to resolve to live for his glory in our own acts of sacrificial love.

Sunday Scriptures for March 2017

Wednesday, March 1 – Ash Wednesday

Joel 1:2, 12-17. *In a troubled time, the Israelites declare a solemn day of fasting and reflection.*

Psalms 51. *“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”*

2 Cor. 5:20-6:10. *“We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”*

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21. *Jesus warns against a show of piety that does not result in repentance.*

March 5 – The First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7. *The first man and woman want to “be like God.”*

Psalms 32. *“Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven.”*

Romans 5:12-19. *Christ breaks the curse of Adam’s sin, restoring a right relationship to God.*

Matthew 4:1-11. *Jesus experiences the power of sin and the seduction of evil.*

March 12 – The Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a. *In response to God’s call, Abram (Abraham) leaves his ancestral home.*

Psalms 121. *“I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?”*

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17. *Abraham is justified by his faithfulness, not by his good deeds.*

John 3:1-17. *Salvation means accepting God’s gift in Christ – being “born from above.”*

March 19 – The Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7. *God answers the quarrelsome Israelites with a miraculous gift.*

Psalms 95. *“O come, let us sing unto the Lord.”*

Romans 5:1-11. *We are at peace with God when we accept Jesus’ sacrifice for our salvation.*

John 4:5-42. *Jesus shows himself as Messiah through his encounter with a Samaritan woman.*

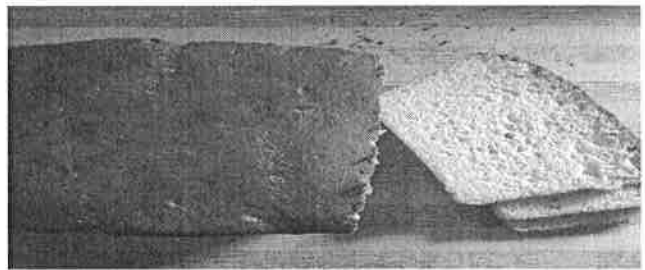
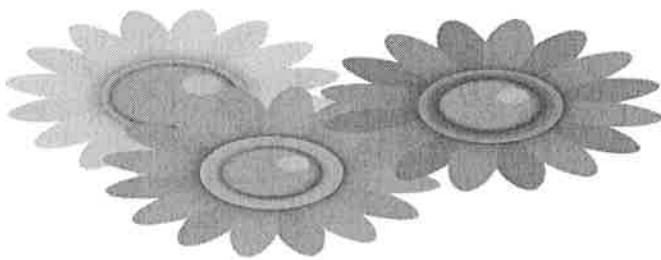
March 26 – The Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13 *Through Samuel, God chooses David as Israel’s new king.*

Psalms 23 *“The Lord is my shepherd.”*

Ephesians 5:8-14 *Live in the light of Christ’s love, not in the darkness of sin and death.*

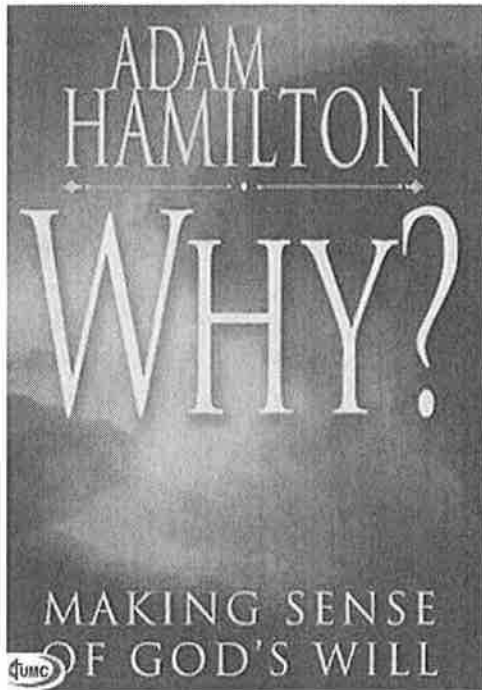
John 9:1-41 *Jesus heals a blind man, and provides an occasion to teach about who he is.*



Sign up for altar flowers and Communion bread

The 2017 Sign Up Sheets for flowers and Sunday Communion bread are in the narthex. Add beauty to our worship and strengthen our faith with a gift of flowers and your donation of bread for Holy Communion.

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. The evening session begins Monday March 6 at 6:30 pm. There will also be a daytime group starting Tuesday March 7 at 1:00 pm.

Cost for the study book is \$5.00. We'll collect the money at the first class. Books will be available on Sunday March 5.

Where is God when tragedy and suffering strike? 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.

Join us for Lenten breakfast each Wednesday, 9:00 am At Federated Church

Once again, our ecumenical Lenten breakfast gathering will help us focus on the love of God in Christ and the themes of Lent. "Stations of the Cross" will guide us to accompany Jesus on his journey to Calvary and allow us to make our journey of faith with him.

These one hour meetings include continental breakfast, singing and prayer, and a brief message:

March 1: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46)

Pastor Joe MacDonald, Emmanuel Church

March 8: Jesus, Betrayed by Judas, is Arrested (Mark 14: 43-52)

Pastor Anne Hoflen, Somonauk United Presbyterian Church

March 15: Jesus Condemned by the Sanhedrin (Luke 22:66-71)

Mr. Chuck Johnson, Federated Church

March 22: Jesus is Denied by Peter (Matthew 26:69-75)

Pastor Wayne Derber, Salem Lutheran Church of Sandwich

March 29: Jesus is Judged by Pilate (Mark 15:1-15)

Pastor Steven Mindrup, United Church of Sandwich

April 5: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb (Matthew 27:57-60)

Pastor David Johnson, Somonauk Baptist Church



Lenten Breakfast

THANKS GIVING

January 29	903.00
February 5	4264.00
February 12	1684.01
February 19	4758.00
Total	11609.01

Our generous gifts glorify God!



Tickets will be on sale this month for Chili Supper on April 5th. This event is sponsored by United Men Methodist.

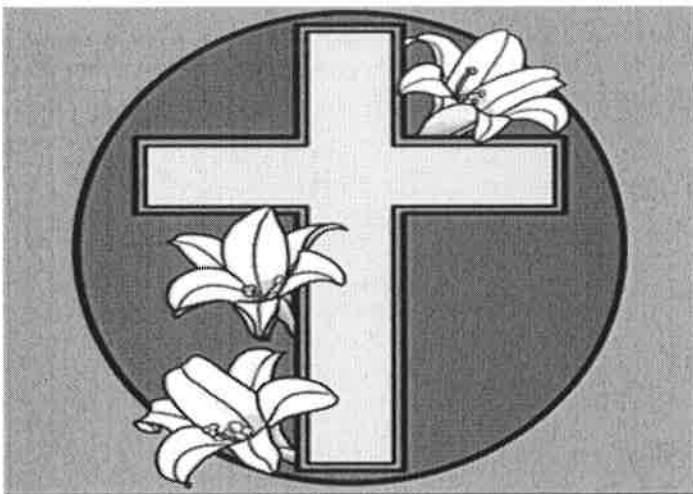


Epic Youth Group will be meeting at the Federated Church on Main St. in Sandwich this month.

Mission of the Month

ChildServ

ChildServ began in 1894 as the Methodist Deaconess Orphanage and later was named the Lake Bluff Home for Children. Today, ChildServ is a highly experienced, multidisciplinary child and family services network reaching children and families facing adversity in four Illinois counties: Cook, Dupage, Kane, and Lake. Our community based programs focus is to improve the lives of vulnerable children and their families, foster parents, and other caregivers. ChildServ reaches 3,000 at risk children and families annually. Programs include foster care and adoption, group homes, child care, early childhood education and parenting support, military and veteran family support, and healthy life style information.



Order forms for Easter lilies and Azaleas will be in weekly bulletins starting Sunday March 5th. The last day to order is Sunday March 26. . The cost will be \$15 per each flower you order. If you have any questions see Deb Seymour, or call the office between 8:00 am and noon.



Fairstand Committee will host Fourth Sunday Coffee Hour this month.



Fairstand Committee will hold their next meeting on Tuesday March 14th @ 7:00PM

March Worship Assistants



Greeters

3/1/17	Bev Lowe
3/5/17	John & Delores Lies
3/12/17	Al & Phyllis Whitehead
3/19/17	Ed & Jane Heyer
3/26/17	Kelley Mindrup

Ushers

3/1/17	Monty & Betty Reiners
3/5/17	Jim & Connie Mitchell
3/12/17	Ron & Bonnie Miller
3/19/17	Deb Seymour & Angie Miller
3/26/17	Doug Reiners & Earl Shaffer

Liturgists

3/1/17	Sandy Whiteis
3/5/17	Deb Seymour
3/12/17	Kevin Duy
3/19/17	Pam Nehring
3/26/17	Myrtie Warren

March Communion Ministers

Deb Seymour, Diane Salisbury, Angie Miller

Reaching our inactive members

During Lent, Pastor Steve is making a special effort to contact our inactive members and to invite them to come back to fellowship with us.

He would like those who have not participated in the life of our church for awhile to contact him and talk about their relationship to Christ and to United Church.

All of us probably see folks regularly who once were an active part of this congregation but who are no longer connected.

Reach out to them! Let them know that we miss them and want them to be with us! If you have a friend who has had a relationship to our church in the past, invite him or her to come to worship with you.

Lent is about many things; one thing it surely is about is *reconciliation* and the restoration of relationships. Let's make Jesus' forgiving love very visible!



3/1	Renee Reimer, Courtney Scharenberg, Jordan Bauer
3/2	Danielle Paul, Blake Breon
3/3	Dorothy Guseman
3/4	Dave Vegrzyn
3/5	Joshua Robinson
3/7	Myrtie Warren, Karen Joyce
3/8	Bonnie Bernhard
3/9	Ken Young, Robert Whiteis, Kali Olson
3/10	Mindy Chrestman, Matthew Miller
3/11	Nathan Heinekamp
3/12	Anna Henrich
3/13	Lindsey Olson
3/15	Katy Sommerfield
3/16	Jeffrey Merkel
3/17	Stacey Edwards
3/18	Sandra Whiteis
3/19	Bev Severson, Daniel Reedy
3/21	Alvin Warren
3/22	James McMahon
3/24	Ryan French
3/27	Etta Stahl
3/29	Scott Pence
3/30	Teresa Rebhorn, Heather Dannewitz
3/31	Anita Pence, Richard Bark

Anniversaries This Month



3/14	Anna & Robert Henrich
3/17	Kathe & David Schlapp
3/25	Joanna & Matthew Olson Sandra & Robert Whiteis

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

4:30 — 6:00 pm
Tuesday, March 28th
Union Congregational Church
305 S. Gage St.
Somonauk
815-498-2277

- 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 March 5th at 7:30 a.m. Men's group meet first Sunday every month for breakfast, fellowship, and devotions. All men are

welcome!

Lawn crosses as a Lenten witness

The Sandwich/Somonauk Ministerial Alliance is providing small white crosses to put in our front yards as a witness to our faith.

Christians in several communities across the nation have done this as a testimony to faith and a sign of their desire to follow Jesus. Our crosses were made by a family in Joliet.

We have some of these crosses available at church for a suggested donation of \$1.00. They are on the narthex table.

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 participating in our March 12th Sunday service, to celebrate Girl Scout Sunday. Following the service, the troop invites us to have lunch with them in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up on Sunday if you plan to stay for lunch.

Our Girl Scout program is active and enthusiastic. Come and honor our troop and its leaders on March 12.



2017

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3	4
			7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Wor- ship	1:00 pm Hope Circle meets 2:45pm-3:45 pm Tutoring at Woodbury	World Day of Pray- er. 9:15 amUMW host Breakfast	
5 7:30 am United Methodist Men's breakfast Easter Flower sale starts 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	6 Uniters Circle meets	7	8 6:30 pm Chimes 7:30 pm Choir	9 9:30 am UMW meets 2:45 pm -3:45 pm Tutoring @ Woodbury	10	11
12 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	13 10:00 am April Newsletter Dead- line	14 6:30 pm Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm Fairstand Meeting	15 6 pm Prayer Group 6:30 pm Chimes 7:30 pm Choir	16 2:45 pm-3:45 pm Tutoring @ Woodbury	17	18
19 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	20	21	22 6:30 pm Chimes 7:30 pm Choir	23 10:00 am Newslet- ter Assembly 2:45pm-3:45pm Tutoring @ Wood- bury	24	25
26 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Last day to order Easter flowers	27	28 4:30 pm 4th Tues- day Feast @ Federated Church	29 6:30 pm Chimes 7:30 pm Choir	30	31	

**The United Church
of Sandwich**

512 East Lions Road
Sandwich, IL 60548-2147



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE MESSENGER — MARCH 2017



The United Church of Sandwich

512 East Lions Road, Sandwich, IL 60548-2417

Church: (815) 786-9243

Email: ucssandwich@frontier.com

website: 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

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	