

# MARCH 2020

Dear Friends,

I was told to write something inspirational. I thought first that would be a high bar and it would be, if I were the one to inspire, but of course it is not me but the one who brings us together that inspires. It is the One who brought us into this world that inspires. It is the One that has been with us in times of darkness and the one who continues to be with us in times of joy that inspires. It is because of these kinds of times when we remember God as our source of inspiration we have decided to be part of God's church. This will sound corny, but being a part of God's church has really made all the difference in who we are and how we see things in our lives and in the world.

I believe that the church has never been more important for our community and for the world than at this time in history. We need to be **excited** for the church and the witness it can be for us, and for the world. We need to **commit** to the church so the church can continue to make and be a difference for us and our neighbor. We need to **invite** others to be reminded of God's inspiration in their lives and to help see the need for the church in the lives of others.

In short, that old term "Hospitality" is to be practiced, and is what makes the church the church. Henri Nouwen writes in his book *Reaching Out*: "Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place". Now that is inspirational!

Pastor Bob

## Lenten study

### Meeting God in PAUL by Rowan Williams

**March 4:** Reading: Introduction & Chapter 1, pg. 3-10

**March 11:** Reading: Chapter 1, pg. 11-25

**March 18:** Reading: Chapter 2 pg. 29-43

**March 25:** Reading: Chapter 2 pg. 43-55

**April 1:** Reading: Chapter 3 pg. 59-81



In addition the study book includes a scripture for each day of Lent and reflection for each Sunday in Lent to use as you wish. Also there are reflection questions that we may use in our time together for each of the 3 short Chapters in the study book. I will have additional questions for us to consider and will be given to you when you get your book (\$4), but our primary objective is to enjoy our time together and perhaps learn something along the way that will help grow our faith. This study is for anyone no matter our knowledge of the Bible, because there really are not wrong answers, and we will learn from one another. Please sign up (signup sheet in the back) and be prepared to have fun. God bless.

6:00 - Lenten Lunch

6:30 – gathering and singing

6:40 – 7:30 Lenten Study and Children's Activities

Child care provided

## The Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace;  
where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life

### Servants for MARCH

#### Greeters/Ushers

**March 1** Judy Mether, Joan Stiffler  
Shirley McClurg, Pat Benda

**March 8** Deenie & Danny Higgins  
Andrea Walker, Diane Roberts

**March 15** Gary & Sherry Sheffler  
Amanda Sheffler, Jessica Albertsen

**March 22** Cindy Morse, Pat Palmer  
Gary & Colleen Schulz

**March 29** Jim & Karen Stevens  
Wayne & Jasmine Gaston

#### Liturgists

**March 1** Ethan Wellman

**March 8** Laurie Driscoll

**March 15** Teri Klockner

**March 22** Judy Hora

**March 29** Peg Mullen

#### Children's Time

**March 1** Pastor Bob

**March 8** Pat Benda

**March 15** Lynne Peters

**March 22** Mary Fratzke

**March 29** Bonnie Allers

#### Fellowship

Youth Committee

#### Communion

Set up Jasmine Gaston

Serve



April 2– Maundy Thursday Service  
7:00 pm

April 3– Good Friday Service  
7:00 pm

April 5– Easter Sunday Service  
10:00 am

## Education News

Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> Children's Choir sings at church service (10:00)  
EASTER Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> NO Sunday School  
Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> "Senior Sunday" (recognize our seniors)  
Children's Choir sings at church service (10:00)  
Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>: Mother's Day!!  
Final Sunday School for 2018-19; Children's Choir sings at church



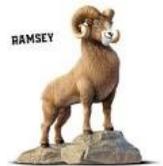
Heifer Project continues!

Keep those QUARTERS coming! The First Sunday of the month Quarter Collection will continue for our Sunday School friends through May. Have your children bring their quarters to donate for this important mission project of our church.



**"ROCKY Railway; Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through"**

SAVE the Dates! VBS June 22-25<sup>th</sup>



Plans have begun for this summer's Vacation Bible School! Wouldn't YOU like to be part of the inspiring and uplifting fun? Soon it will be time for registration of children, volunteers to be "rounded up", our church to be transformed into a 'Rocky railway'! Don't YOU want to be on the 'right track' through faith-building experiences, too? Contact the church or Mary Fratzke, 319-240-7347...and we will get you 'aboard'!

## Outreach



Mission Opportunities

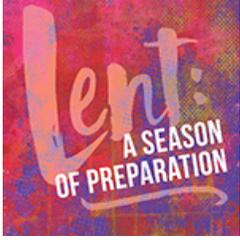
Our congregation has been so blessed to become a channel for God's love. When we did the 2019 report for the Iowa Conference, our local giving was \$6,425.15. When the state, national, and international were added, it became \$16,172.94. Finally with the apportionment missions, the grand total was \$22,969.94. Just think how many lives we touched with Jesus' love!!

Thank you for your grocery bags filled with items for our local food pantry.

During the Lenten season we will have a special offering for three ministries.

1. Missionaries Larry and Jane Kies work at Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Larry teaches Practical Agriculture, with emphasis on hogs, chickens, and fish. Jane helps impact students who will become leaders in Africa. The country is dealing with hyperinflation.
2. Heifer International supplies animals so families can start independent businesses. This improves individual families' lives with income.
3. The Salvation Army in Waterloo helps people who are down on their luck, to be able to start to rise above the difficulties in their lives. The Salvation Army is known for being very efficient stewards of their donations.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



Soon we will be entering the most important season of our Christian Year. February 26 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of our Lenten Season, don't miss our service at 7:00 PM. Our Lenten Evening Services start on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. They will continue on March 11, 18, 25, and April 1<sup>st</sup>. We will have a light supper at 6:00 PM with our Lenten Study starting at 6:30PM. Make plans now to come for an evening of inspiration and fellowship during this Lenten Season as we prepare for Easter.

During Holy Week we will be having Maundy Thursday Service on April 9 and Good Friday Service on April 10. Both of these services will help us as we continue to prepare for Easter Day. Both of these services will begin at 7:00 PM.

Many thanks to Meekness Circle, and to all who attended their delicious soup luncheon in January. The proceeds will be used for a Mission Project.

Senior Recognition Sunday will be April 26 during church service. We will be awarding our Senior Scholarships at this time. If you know of a senior in our church who should apply for this scholarship please let us know. We will be sending our applications to the seniors that we know of. Applications must be turned into the church office by April 19 after church.

Our Bible verse for March is found in Philippians 4:4-5.

*"Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad! Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people. The Lord is near."*

Blessings to you and your loved ones as we prepare to celebrate all that the Lord has done for us and continues to do for us each day.

Pat and Charlene

### *Lenten Season Calendar*

Plan to join us for the Wednesday Lenten fellowships. Supper will be served at 6:00 Then there will be a singing time, followed by an interesting study of the apostle Paul's life.

March 4– Maid Rites, Chips, and Bars

March 11-Sub Sandwiches

March 18– Walking Tacos

March 25– Pulled Pork sandwiches and Cheesy Potatoes

April 1– TBA



There is a collection box for socks for area needs located in the library. Be sure to pick up your Upper Room for March and April for the Lenten season.

Be sure to pick up your Upper Room for March and April for the Lenten season.

Blessing to you,  
Outreach Committee

**Thoughts from your Lay Leader: Cindy Morse**

Looking forward to this month of March as we are beginning the season of Lent; author Alva F. Pingel Jr. shares that God's Promises are open invitations to all of us.

Christ is always standing at our door, knocking constantly. He is ready to come into our homes and hearts. One of the reasons the lives of so many are filled with misspent hours and years, with bitterness and regret, is that they heard the knock, but never came to the door.

He offers a comforting touch when we're toil-worn and troubled.

Fellowship with Him means the comfort of "Your sins are forgiven" fellowship with Christ means the joy of thankfulness, peace, comfort, healing....whatever we need at any point in life's journey.

In Revelation 3:20 from The Living Bible Jesus says "Look! I have been standing at the door and I am constantly knocking. If anyone hears Me calling him and opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him and he with Me.

Let us remember this Lenten Season and all year round that we only need to answer the knock at the door to have fellowship with our Lord.



**2020 Community Easter Cantata Announced**

Over the last few decades, a chorus of community singers have performed an Easter cantata. First of all, let's define what a cantata is...it is a collection of songs. In this case, the Easter cantata highlights and celebrates the Easter season and usually during Holy week from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. This year's cantata, "**Once Upon a Morning**" is unique as the cantata's scenario begins post-Easter when Jesus arises. Therefore, the cantata will be performed the Sunday AFTER Easter – April 19<sup>th</sup> in both Dysart and LA Porte City.

If you have a love for music but have never joined the community chorus, chorus members strongly encourage you to "try it, you'll like it". All voices are welcome. From the perspective of people involved, whether singing or serving as narrators for the event, the experience of the cantata practices adds so much meaning to the Lenten season.

Please contact Deb Oliver, 2020 Easter Cantata Director, if you have any questions.... [oliver@netins.net](mailto:oliver@netins.net) OR 319-538-1410.

Practices rotate between Dysart UMC and St. Paul UMC on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 pm.

**FEBRUARY REVIEW**

Date	General Budget
Feb. 2	\$3,720.01
Feb. 9	\$2,120.00
Feb. 16	\$3,201.00
Feb. 23	\$4,888.00
Needed monthly:	\$13,352.00



Thank you for sharing your talents and resources with the church's work.  
Finance Committee



# March



Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 8:45 Cantata Practice St. Paul @ 4 pm	<b>2</b> Pastor Bob in Office 9-12 Fitness @ 6 pm Shawl Ministry 7 pm	<b>3</b> Outreach Mtg. 5:30 pm Trustees Mtg. 7 pm	<b>4</b> Prayer 9:30 am Worship Mtg. 9 am Chimes 4:15 pm Finance 6:30 pm Education 7 pm Lenten Meal 6 pm and Study 6:40 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> World Day of Prayer	<b>7</b> Fitness @ 8 am
<b>8</b> Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 8:45 Cantata Practice @ Dysart @ 4 pm 	<b>9</b> Pastor Bob in Office 9-12 Fitness @ 6 pm Shawl Ministry 7 pm	<b>10</b> Council Mtg. 6:30 pm	<b>11</b> Prayer 9:30 am Worship Mtg. 9 am Youth Group after school Chimes 4:15 Lenten Meal 6 pm and Study 6:40 pm	<b>12</b> Fitness @ 6 pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Fitness @ 8 am
<b>15</b> Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 8:45 Cantata Practice St. Paul @ 4 pm	<b>16</b> Pastor Bob in Office 9-12 Fitness @ 6 pm Shawl Ministry 7 pm	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b> Joy Circle 9 am Prayer 9:30 am Chimes 4:15 pm Choir Practice 5 pm Lenten Meal 6 pm and Study 6:40 pm	<b>19</b> Fitness @ 6 pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Fitness @ 8 am
<b>22</b> Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 8:45 Kids Sing Cantata Practice @ Dysart @ 4 pm	<b>23</b> Pastor Bob in Office 9-12 Fitness @ 6 pm Shawl Ministry 7 pm	<b>24</b> Newsletter Articles due!!	<b>25</b> Joy Circle 9 am Prayer 9:30 am Chimes 4:15 pm Choir 5 pm Isaiah Study 7 pm	<b>26</b> Fitness @ 6 pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Fitness @ 8 am
<b>29</b> Worship Service 10 am Sunday School 8:45 Cantata Practice @ St. Paul @ 4 pm	<b>30</b> Pastor Bob in Office 9-12 Fitness @ 6 pm Shawl Ministry 7 pm	<b>31</b> Meekness meets @ 7 pm				

St. Paul United Methodist Church  
 501 Sycamore St. Box 187  
 La Porte City, IA 50651



Pastor Bob Holdorf  
 Email: [robertholdorf16@gmail.com](mailto:robertholdorf16@gmail.com)  
 Cell phone: 319-290-5649  
 Phone: 319-342-2208 -Church  
 email: [lpcumchurch@gmail.com](mailto:lpcumchurch@gmail.com)  
 Website: [www.lpcsaintpaulumc.org](http://www.lpcsaintpaulumc.org)

St. Paul United Methodist Church  
501 Sycamore St. Box 187  
La Porte City, IA 50651



# NEWSLETTER