

The United Methodist Church of Antioch

THE MESSENGER

“The mission of the United Methodist Church of Antioch is to grow in faith, worship God following the teachings of Jesus Christ, and be instruments of God’s love, through the Holy Spirit, as we reach out to our community and the world.”

March, 2022
Volume 6, Issue 3

FROM PASTOR KATIE’S KEYBOARD...

March finds us with the beginning of the season of **Lent**. This is the time of the church year when we are called to look at our lives and do some soul searching. We can ask ourselves what in our lives is pulling us away from Jesus and then, when we can identify those things, we are called to lay them aside. Of course, that creates a gap then. With that space, we are called to renew our attention on Jesus Christ. We are invited to take the time we used to spend on what distracted us and focus on what we can do to strengthen and deepen our relationship with Jesus.

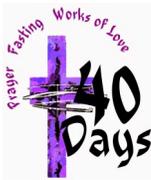
The United Methodist Book of Worship tells us this about Lent: “Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on **Ash Wednesday** and ends on **Holy Saturday**. **Lent** comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means ‘spring.’ The season is a preparation for celebrating **Easter**. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. The **First Sunday** describes Jesus’ temptation by Satan; and the **Sixth Sunday (Passion/Palm Sunday)**, Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the **Resurrection**” (p. 320).

This year for Lent, we are using the resource, *The Grace of Les Misérables*, a book written by **Matt Rawle**, a United Methodist pastor in Louisiana. We will be looking at different aspects of the story – Rawle sticks a little closer to the storyline in **Victor Hugo’s** novel than the musical, but the general story still is close enough – to help us find God’s grace in this season when we may be looking at things we need to remove from our lives to make more space for Jesus. There will be a focus on different characters, and a few of the settings or circumstances that help shape those characters to help us navigate the questions. They are good questions and questions that are still relevant for our lives – long after the time of the French Revolution.

If you aren’t familiar with the story, I encourage

you to read the novel or watch the movie (the movie is shorter!), but if you don’t have time for that even, you will still be o.k. There will be refreshers – or “freshers” I guess – for those who haven’t ever seen it – to help us all get the most out of it.

I hope you will join us for as many of the worship services as possible – including the special services that we will offer. Those, too, will incorporate the overarching theme. As we take the journey that gets us closer to the cross each week, we will struggle together with grace and the role it plays in all of our lives. And, by all means, if you have a friend who loves the musical or struggles with grace, please invite them to join us for worship!



- March 2 **Ash Wednesday**
6:00 pm **Imposition of Ashes**
Earthly Treasures Don’t Last
Matthew 6:1-6,16-21
- March 6 **Lent 1**
8:00 am/10:30 am
Communion
For Whom Will I Stand?
Luke 4:1-13
- March 13 **Lent 2**
8:00 am/10:30 am
The Long Game of Being Saved
Luke 6:32-36
- March 20 **Lent 3**
8:00 am/10:30 am
Is Grace Ever Just?
Luke 16:1-15
- March 27 **Lent 4**
8:00 am/10:30 am
UMCOR Sunday
The Great Human Invention
Matthew 25:41-46; Matthew 5:45b



Pastor Katie Voigt

DOUBT AND BELIEF

I wrote last month that we all question our motives. How we deal with doubt says a lot about who we are. In looking back over the last two years, and forward for that matter, hasn't doubt been a large part of our thinking? The pandemic, political

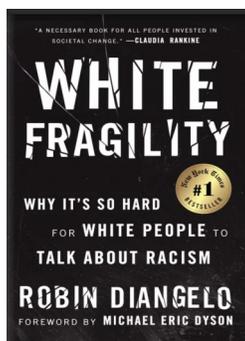


intolerance, gun violence, racism, etc., have all given us reason to doubt. I recently came across this: "If you are going to be a doubter,

you need to believe your beliefs and doubt your doubts, as well as doubt your beliefs and believe your doubts. This is how knowledge grows. We keep this process going in conversations with others, listening to good speakers, inquiry of various kinds, and reading books on issues of concern." (Willard, D., *The Allure of Gentleness*, 2015).



To grow in knowledge as Dr. Willard suggests, we will have a book study group to learn more about an issue of concern, *i.e.* racism. If interested, my emails are:



dettos@sbcglobal.net
OR
Mdetto57@yahoo.com

Mike DeBenedetto, Lay Servant

GIFTING SECURITIES TO OUR CHURCH

It's that time of the year again when taxpayers want to reduce their taxable income. One way of doing that is to gift appreciated securities to your church. Appreciated securities are stocks you bought, some time ago, that have appreciated in value over time. You may have considered selling but decided against it when you considered the tax liability.

By gifting that stock to the Church you avoid paying tax on the gain; if you itemize your deductions you get a tax deduction for the gift at fair market value at the time of the gift. You're a winner both ways.



GIFTING SECURITIES, continued

You can donate to our church by having your broker transfer the shares to the *United Methodist Foundation* which will sell the stock at no cost to you or the church and transfer the funds to our church and send you an acknowledgement letter.

MAKE
generosity
PART OF YOUR
GROWTH
STRATEGY

Information your broker and you will need can be found on the web at UMFNIC.org/donate-securities. Your broker will have his own form to fill out and the Foundation has a form to alert them of your pending gift.

This information and the Foundation form can also be obtained from our church office.

Jerry Topcik

MISSIONS

An Opportunity to Help Others

In the next few weeks five *Afghan refugee families* will be coming to the *Great America Islamic Center (GAIC)* located on Monaville Road in Lake Villa. GAIC will be housing these families in former classrooms at their church site. Many items will be needed to help. The mosque is asking for help with the following items: washer and electric dryer; two refrigerators; two microwaves; six queen size mattresses with bed springs and new bedding for each; bunk beds and new bedding for children. Due to COVID restrictions all items must be new. Some of the above are expensive. If you want to contribute money to help, please put your donation in an envelope marked "*Afghan Refugee Fund.*" We hope to buy one or more of the bigger items with our combined offerings.



The refugees are expected in Lake Villa in the next few weeks. If possible, please have your donation to the church by March 6th. If you have any questions or need additional information, please email *Dawn Vogel* drvogel@ameritech.net or call 847/395-2758. Sincere thanks to all.

Dawn Vogel

Lenten Journey

Our mission through this *Lenten Journey* is to be, "*More like you Jesus, more like you. Fill our hearts with your desire to make us more like you.*" So, as we journey together guided by this Lenten calendar, we will need to stop and look and listen to our Lord for what God's will is for us, as we journey through Lent.

Mission Calendar ~ Lent 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			3/2	3/3	3/4	3/5
			Take someone to an Ash Wednesday service.	Ask God, "What do you want me to do for you, Lord?"	Your answer from yesterday's prayer time is your mission for today. Enjoy!!	Send a thank you note to a community servant (police, fire, EMT, village officers, etc.).
3/6	3/7	3/8	3/9	3/10	3/11	3/12
Attend worship, either in person or online.	Write a love letter to Jesus.	Ask someone in your own family, "How can I help you?" and then help!	Take time to sing to the Lord, and thank a choir member.	Make someone a card to tell them you love and appreciate them.	"Be still and know that I am God." -Psalm 46:10	Practice the golden rule today.
3/13	3/14	3/15	3/16	3/17	3/18	3/19
Invite a neighbor or friend to come to church with you.	Pray for Pastor Katie and send her a note of appreciation.	Thank a medical staff person for all they do for all of us.	Spend some extra time in prayer today.	Reach out to someone who works for a school district and offer your appreciation.	Memorize a scripture that is meaningful to you or that someone has shared with you.	Spend some time with someone you haven't seen for a while.
3/20	3/21	3/22	3/23	3/24	3/25	3/26
Call or visit a shut-in or someone who cannot get out.	Bake cookies or plan a special treat for someone.	Call a neighbor to see if you can pick them up anything while you are out shopping.	Take a neighbor, shut-in, or friend for a ride to enjoy God's beauty.	Take a meal over to your neighbor.	Provide a ride for someone without a car.	When you wash your hands today, remember your baptism & consider its meaning to you now.
3/27	3/28	3/29	3/30	3/31	4/1	4/2
While at church, pick up a prayer cloth to keep and be ready to share it.	Read and pray Psalm 23.	Look for a local non-profit to support or volunteer for.	Discuss with someone what Lent personally means to you.	Pray for our church staff (Tekeesha, Christina, Debbie, Nicole) and/or send a kind note.	Start a "grateful jar" and add something every day.	Buy flowers for someone special in your life (for no reason).
4/3	4/4	4/5	4/6	4/7	4/8	4/9
Attend worship, either in person or online.	Offer to take garbage and recycle bins out to the road for a neighbor that may need help.	Put on the armor of God. -Ephesians 6	If weather is bad, offer to bring the mail and newspaper in to your neighbor.	Pray for our preschool- the director, teachers, and students.	Write a prayer and send it to someone.	Hold the door open for someone next time you are out.
4/10	4/11	4/12	4/13	4/14	4/15	4/16
Attend worship, either in person or online. Call someone and invite them to go with you.	Help someone put groceries in their car.	Send a note to an old friend from high school or grade school.	Smile and say, "hi" to someone you don't know.	Look in the mirror and repeat three times, "God loves me."	Take the first step to reconcile with someone you have been on the outs with.	Tell someone, "I love you."

MORE ON MISSIONS

PADS: Providing Advocacy, Dignity and Shelter

There are many programs offered by **PADS**. The **Day Resource Center** is the point of entry for anyone experiencing homelessness or a housing crisis. Individuals and families can have their most basic needs met in the short term and meet with a case manager to create a housing plan to help ensure long term success. At the Day Resource Center, they:

- Orient new clients on how to utilize the **PADS emergency shelter system**
- Assess clients for need and appropriateness for other programs and services
- Provide access to basic needs (including basic hygiene products, a mailing address, and more)
- Provide **Case Management and Counseling** services to support them in their journey out of homelessness and into housing.

This information is from the PADS website; read more at www.padslakecounty.org.

March Collection

March 27th will be our collection date this month; suggestions are listed below. Please remember microwavable items with pop tops and that refrigeration is not available. Please contact **Carol**, 847/265-1412 or ccichonski@comcast.net if you need pickup of your donation. Thank you.

Food Donation Requests:

- Granola bars
- Pop-Tarts
- Cereal
- Instant oatmeal packets
- Individual sized juice/water bottles/Gatorade
- 90-second rice packets
- Peanut butter/ Cheese cracker sandwiches



- Chips
- Apple sauce



Non-Food Requests:

- Hand sanitizer
- Grocery store gift cards
- Fast food gift cards
- Travel-sized spray bottles (for hand sanitizer distribution)
- Men's and women's sweatpants and sweatshirts
- Sports bras
- Men's

- underwear/
- Dura-



- and women's boxers
- ble, unisex
- wallets

Open Arms

Open Arms Mission is in need of new men's and women's socks and will be collecting them in March. If anyone would like to donate socks, they may leave them in the Open Arms cart in Wesley Hall or take them to 1548 Main St. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Fridays from 9:00 am to noon.



Rebecca Reckamp

OUR YOUTH

Youth Group

Thank you all for supporting our **Youth Group's Super Snack Sunday** event. Thank you for baking and for all of your donations! The youth have decided that with our proceeds we are going to make a \$100 donation to **PADS**, another \$100 donation to **Open Arms**, and the remainder of the funds will be used to further our "**Acts of Kindness**" mission that we've been working on this year! The Youth Group is looking for monetary donations or gift cards for our next "acts of kindness" project. Thank you so much for supporting our youth!

Beth Stahl



Sunday School

In February the **UMCA Sunday School** kids made some fun crafts, including pipe cleaner nets to be "**fishers of men**" and prayer jars!



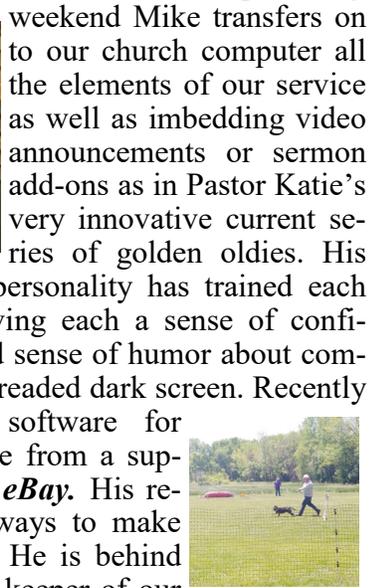
Elisa Gueffier



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Servant Spotlight

Our church family has a true servant in our midst. **Mike Lapke**, a treasured longtime member of our choir, has been the faithful keeper of the weekly **Power Point** presentations for worship. Every weekend Mike transfers on to our church computer all the elements of our service as well as imbedding video announcements or sermon add-ons as in Pastor Katie's very innovative current series of golden oldies. His patient, good-natured personality has trained each new sound person, giving each a sense of confidence. He keeps a good sense of humor about computer glitches and the dreaded dark screen. Recently he found additional software for songs that we often use from a supplementary hymnal on **eBay**. His resourcefully looks for ways to make worship run smoothly. He is behind the scenes but the true keeper of our screens! When not at church, you may find Mike proudly presenting his four-legged buddy, **Piper**, in competition. Thank you, Mike, for your servant's heart!



Debbie Gillette

CHRISTIAN WELLNESS MINISTRY

Christian Wellness Ministry Knitters and Crocheters have been busy making lapghans/blankets for wheelchair bound individuals and are donating 23 to the **Wisconsin Veterans' Home** and the **Dayton Care Facility Center**. Thanks to **Dan Fluck** for delivering these. If you know of places that could use lapghans, please contact **Shelby Wais**.



UMW

United Methodist Women will meet on March 2nd, 11:45 am in Wesley Hall. Bring your sack lunch! Coffee will be available. All women are invited. If you do not want to eat with us, you may join us for community with women of the church.

Rebecca Reckamp

WESLEY AFTERNOON CIRCLE

Wesley Circle will meet on Thursday, March 17th, at 2:15 pm in Wesley Hall. The program will be presented by **Margaret Zaller**, and refreshments will be served by **Cindy Chiappori**. If you require a ride, please call **Anne Dickson** at 224/818-8725. Hopefully, the weather will be great...Thanks to all who attended in the inclement weather at our February meeting!

Anne Dickson

FAST FROM...FEAST ON

Fast from judging others; Feast on the Christ dwelling in them.
Fast from emphasis on differences; Feast on the unity of life.
Fast from apparent darkness; Feast on the reality of light.
Fast from thoughts of illness; Feast on the healing power of God.
Fast from words that pollute; Feast on phrases that purify.
Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger; Feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism; Feast on optimism.
Fast from worry; Feast on divine order.
Fast from complaining; Feast on appreciation.
Fast from negatives; Feast on affirmatives.
Fast from unrelenting pressures; Feast on unceasing prayer.
Fast from hostility; Feast on non-resistance.
Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion for others.
Fast from personal anxiety; Feast on eternal truth.
Fast from discouragements; Feast on hope.
Fast from facts that depress; Feast on verities that uplift.
Fast from lethargy; Feast on enthusiasm.
Fast from thoughts that weaken; Feast on promises that inspire.
Fast from shadows of sorrow; Feast on the sunlight of serenity.
Fast from idle gossip; Feast on purposeful silence.
Fast from problems that overwhelm; Feast on prayer that [strengthens].



William Arthur Ward (1921-1994) an American author, teacher and pastor

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United Methodist Church of Antioch

Our regular in-person worship schedule is Sunday mornings at 8:00 am & 10:30 am. On Wednesday, March 2nd, we will gather for Ash Wednesday worship with the imposition of ashes at 6:00 pm. We also go live on our **Facebook** page. The link for the recorded service can be found on our website at umcantioch.org. Please join us in person or online for worship!

[Jesus said] “the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.”

John 14: 26

The Holy Spirit embodies the life force of the universe, the power of God, the animating energy present in all things and captured by none. Therefore we pray:

May the gifts of the Holy Spirit bring fire to the earth so that the presence of God may be seen in a new light, in new places, in new ways. May our own hearts burst into flame so that no obstacle, no matter how great, ever obstructs the message of God within each of us. May we come to trust the Word of God in our heart, to speak it with courage, to follow it faithfully and to fan it to flame in others. May the Jesus who filled [all kinds of people] with his Holy Spirit fill the world and the church with new respect for [all people’s value], power, and presence.

Give us, Great God, a sense of the Breath of Spirit within us as we pray for our church, our community, our Christian Education department, and ... (*State the goal in your own life at this time for which you are praying.*) —**Sister Joan Chittister**