

The Brooke ~ February ~ 2018

February – nothing much usually happens in the month of February. So, the entrepreneurs became creative and really hyped Valentine’s Day to what it is today. Like Christmas and Easter, this holiday has deviated from its original intent. The date of February 14 is believed to have been the date of St. Valentine’s death or burial. There are many variations of who the real Valentine is, but one of the more popular versions is best described by History Channel:

“According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first ‘valentine’ greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl—possibly his jailor’s daughter—who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed ‘From your Valentine,’ an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legend is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly—romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.”

In short, the original intent of the celebration of Valentine’s Day was to remember a man’s death; a man, who is most remembered for sending a love letter to a girl he loved. Today, the word valentine is synonymous with romantic love. The card and candy industries LOVE it when you buy their products to celebrate this holiday (“Love” as in “\$\$\$\$ love”). Just remember that, like during Christmas and Easter, the ultimate expression of real love, agape love or Christian love, is that you would lay down your life for another. This is what Jesus did for us. Jesus died for us. Jesus was willing to die for us so that, through his death, your sins and my sins will be forgiven.

However you celebrate Valentine’s Day, and for whatever reasons, don’t forget who your REAL Valentine is. This man, who was also God, is best remembered not only for his death but also for his resurrection.

Pastor Nancy

February Scripture and Sermons

February 4 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Readings Isaiah 40:21-31 and Mark 1:29-39

Scripture Focus Mark 1:36-37 “And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, ‘Everyone is searching for you.’”

Sermon Where’s Jesus?

It seems strange that Jesus would sneak out to find some “alone” time in the midst of people lining up to meet him, waiting to be cured. Perhaps, as it has been often suggested, Jesus was trying to avoid the adulation of the crowds and wanted to continue with his original mission of proclaiming the nearness of the kingdom of God.

Continued on following page

February 11 Transfiguration Sunday**Readings** 2 Kings 2:1-2 and Mark 9:2-9**Scripture Focus** Mark 9:2-3 "Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them."**Sermon** Too Good To Be True

Three disciples saw Jesus speaking with Moses and Elijah and did not know how to respond. A voice from the cloud instructed them to listen to Jesus. It was a moment of such magnitude that, quite naturally, the disciples, or at least Peter, hated to let go of it. But as with any high moment, it was fleeting. They could not contain it, but it changed their vision in a lasting way. What are our moments of transfiguration?

February 14 Ash Wednesday**Readings** Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 and Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**Scripture Focus** Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."**Sermon** Ashes to Ashes

Ash Wednesday is the start of the Lenten journey of forty weekdays (Monday through Saturday) that takes the church to the eve of Easter. Ash Wednesday is about corporate penitence and facing our mortality. We confront our mortality and our sinfulness, and we do this together. We acknowledge and embrace our mortality through the imposition of ashes as a corporate sign of our corporate acknowledgment and repentance, both individual and corporate. We confess and turn away from our sinfulness through confession and pardon. These two actions—embracing our mortality and acknowledging and turning from our sin—are the heart of this service.

February 18 First Sunday in Lent**Readings** Genesis 9:8-17 and Mark 1:9-15**Scripture Focus** Mark 1:12-13 "And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him."**Sermon** Jesus' Temptation

Every year Lent begins with the same story -- Jesus' temptation by Satan after a 40-day fast in the Judean desert. This beginning of Lent is not simply because the synoptic gospels begin their story of Jesus this way, but also because the baptismal covenant begins this way, too. The very first question Christians have historically been asked, from the earliest forms of baptismal covenants to the present, is "Do you renounce Satan and all his works." Though we use a somewhat different language in our current ritual ("Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world and repent of your sin?"), the effect is the same. The first Sunday in Lent is a call for us to declare renunciation as the first act of faithfulness to the Christ who calls us to follow.

February 25 Second Sunday in Lent**Readings** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 and Mark 8:31-38**Scripture Focus** Mark 8:36 "For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?"**Sermon** Now What?

During this season of Lent, as we consider Jesus' call to deny ourselves, take up our crosses and follow him, what changes do we need to make in order to succeed? What self-centered motivations do we need to release or push off to the side in order to see more clearly the path that is stretched out before us?

Diabetes Group

The Diabetes Group will meet on February 21, 2018 at 10am in the library.

United Methodist Women

Our meeting will be on February 13, 2018 at 1 PM at the church. The program focus is English as a Second Language (ESL). Sheryl Thogerson, Executive Director of *The Literacy Council* will be our speaker. She states there are 34 nationalities in this area.

Lyla Flynn is hostess.

Thanks to all who donated to the Paper Angel Mission Project. Will have a count of the collection in next month's Newsletter.

Fellowship

Please see Sharon Semple to sign up for future Sundays.

Northern Illinois Food Bank

The Northern Illinois Food Bank starting in February will have a Senior Market for Winnebago County residents. This will be on the first and third Thursday of the month for seniors 65 and up. On the second and fourth Thursday it will open to other Winnebago County residents. The location is 765 Research Parkway in Rockford.

Lenten Study

A Lenten Study will be held starting February 15. The time is to be determined by the signups. The signup sheet asked what time you would attend. The class will be at 10:00 AM or 6:00 PM. Please signup soon so that the time can be determined. If there are enough it will be held both times. We will be using the lectionary reading for this year. A list will be available soon. Pastor Joe will lead the class.

Monthly Finance Update

The Finance Committee has provided the following Current Fund information:

December income: \$26,615.03 **December disbursements:** \$12,051.27
(\$14,042.91 from giftwrapping)

This information is always available by contacting
Judy Parks (Finance Chair) or Sandy McCallum (Treasurer).

Thank You

Brooke Road Staff, Parishioners, and Ray Scribner,
Thank you so much for your generous donations of food baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas. The families were so grateful to receive them. Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Scribner for delivering them!

Lori Poppen
Children's Home and Aid

Donations

If you purchase supplies for church, please submit item/amount to office (whether or not you want to be reimbursed). This will give a true picture of operation costs.

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”
John Wesley

“Give until it feels good.” Paul Stanley

With the Christmas season still fresh in our rearview mirrors, the spirit of giving is still fresh in our memories. From buying a toy for the Mountain of Toys, food drives at school and, ahem, church, not to mention the little red buckets with the bell ringers, we can feel with confidence that we did our “fair share.” But there is an area that needs our attention as a congregation: APPORTIONMENTS!

We have all heard ad nauseum about the importance of apportionments, from our sermons, announcements, and newsletters. I know what you’re thinking: “We need to take care of our church first!”

I totally understand that way of thinking. Please don’t get me wrong, it is important that we have enough money to keep on the utilities, pay other bills, and pay the salary of our beloved pastor and fantastic members of the church’s staff, but we are also part of a bigger organization.

As United Methodists, we are also part of a global congregation. Our apportionments reach out into the world to spread the Good News, feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and help God’s children -wherever we are. Our mission is to recognize those in need and give generously. As Jesus said, “You received without payment; give without payment.” (Matthew 10:8b). In other words, you received the gift of God’s love without having to pay him, so give without expecting to be paid back.

Our present-day worldwide denomination includes more than 10 million members in approximately 42,000 local churches. Thanks to our apportionments, we can turn our blessings into necessities such as food, clothing, medicine, and other forms of assistance for those who need help. When we give, we become the eyes, hands, and heart of our loving God.

Giving is the essential of Christian life. Author Herb Miller once wrote, “Stewardship isn’t just an opportunity to enter into God’s service, but an opportunity for God to enter you.”

-Portions excerpted from “Apportioned Fund Communication Kit” published by United Methodist Communications

The church does not determine how apportionment offerings are distributed amongst the funds. That is determined by a formula maintained by the District Conference.

Below is a non-conclusive list of the funds supported by Northern Illinois Conference.

- The Africa University Fund - established by the General Conference in 1972 to support education efforts on the continent of Africa with global reach because of the work of graduates, instructors and support.
- The Black College Fund - Supports 11 historically black colleges and universities developing leaders for the church and community.
- The Episcopal Fund - supports active and retired bishops and their and their episcopal leadership for the denomination.
- The General Administration Fund - supports administrative, collaborative processes throughout the denomination.
- The Interdenominational Cooperation Fund - aids the Church in being in ecumenical relationship with other faiths.
- The Ministerial Education Fund - prepares principled Christian leaders for work throughout the connection of United Methodists.
- United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) - Aids humanitarian relief and disaster response, sustainable health, and global health. When disaster strikes, UMCOR is first in to help and last to leave.
- The World Service Fund - Supports the great diversity of Christian mission throughout the denomination.

Submitted by Jim Groff ~ Lay Leader

February

Anniversaries

1st Gene & Sharon Semple
11th Lloyd & Charlene Mason

Birthdays

3rd	Becky Groff	23rd	Victoria O'Connell
4th	Jan Cook	27th	Sandy Moderhack
	Joanne McKinney	28th	Ruth Winger
6th	Ann Phillips		Jill Below
16th	Lyla Flynn		John Dyke
19th	Kim Winger		
21st	Jerry Johnson		

Our Military

Matt Cowan, Matt Crabtree, Scott Dickson,
Thomas Helser, Will Hoyum, Ian Long, Joshua Mattson,
Jonathan Modler, Jerry Nettles, Stacy Huser,
Christine Tornow, Tommy Turnure, Ryan & Kate (Vowles) Levack

Family and Friends

Chris Beebe	Rick Bried	Dorothy Carpenter	Mary Danekas
John Dyke	Ardene Friest	Thomas Helser	Ian Long
Mike McClanahan	Dan O'Connell	Jackie Parod	John Pippel
Bob Poppen	John Sauer	Charlene Taylor	Ronna Tewell
Laurece Thompson	Phil & Vivian Schwab		

February 2018

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>4</u> 10:00am Worship Following Worship Worship Committee	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> 10:00am Living as A Covenant Community	<u>7</u> 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u> 9:00am SPRC
<u>11</u> 10:00am Worship	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> 1:00pm UMW 5:30pm Finance 6:00pm Trustees	<u>14</u> 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>18</u> 10:00am Worship	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> 10:30am Paper Angel Closet 6:00pm Council	<u>21</u> 10:00am Diabetes Group 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>25</u> 10:00am Worship	<u>26</u> 12:30pm Serve lunch at Carpenter's Place	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u> 9:00am Breakfast Group at Alpine View 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir			

Our Mission at The Brooke Is.

to transform lives
through faith, love, and service.

Our Vision for The Brooke is.

to be a transforming congregation
of believers to serve the community,
renew lives, and build faith.

**BROOKE ROAD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**1404 BROOKE ROAD
ROCKFORD, IL 61109**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor Nancy

Phone 815-988-9976
Email nancy.vidad@gmail.com
Address 4949 Radnor Drive
Rockford, IL 61109

Church Office

Monday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Tuesday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Wednesday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Friday **CLOSED**

Phone 815-398-8914
Email brookeroadumc@outlook.com
Website www.the-brooke.org
Address 1404 Brooke Road
Rockford, IL 61109

*If you feel like you're
in deep water,
trust the
One who walked on it.*

Sunday Morning Schedule

Worship ~ 10:00am
Children's Sunday School during Worship
Nursery available for NB - 4 years

Fellowship ~ Following Worship