



The Lenten season has traditionally been the most celebrated Christian season before Christmas came along. That should not be a surprise since we can definitively trace the sequence of events when Jesus was crucified and then resurrected whereas we cannot know for certain when Jesus was born. And so I would like to bring back the Christian focus on Easter being a BIGGER holiday than Christmas, if only at The Brooke.

Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, is a period of 40 days (not including Sundays that precede Easter) of reflection, fasting, prayer and repenting. Many even placed ashes upon their foreheads on Ash Wednesday as signs of contrition and new beginnings. As people of faith, we are called to constantly search out the areas of our reality that need change. We search for space to become better human beings and even better members of God's creation. It is also during these moments of searching that we find ourselves realizing that we are not as close to God as we would like, and must find space for our Creator. We often forget this reverent obligation to our spiritual lives.

The Brooke will be busy with several activities to celebrate this Lenten/Easter season.

Palm Sunday: March 25 during 10:00am worship our choir will present Easter cantata

Maundy (Holy) Thursday: At 6:00pm on March 29 we will share a simple supper of soup and bread to remember Jesus' last supper with his Apostles. Supper will be followed by a short service.

Good Friday: March 30 the sanctuary will be open from noon-3:00pm for those who want to reflect during the time when Jesus was hanging, nailed to the cross. I will be in the sanctuary with you, in prayer. Please join me.

Easter: On April 1 Easter morning we will celebrate a SONrise service at 10:00 am. Don't miss it! We will be performing a modern-day Easter skit as our message.

Please mark all these important dates on your calendar. All are invited and welcome for these festivities. Come and celebrate this season of hope and resurrection with us as one body of Christ!

Resurrection Story Skit

I have some volunteers already but still need the following roles filled:

2 Roman soldiers/guards	Mary Magdalene	Mary (mother of Joseph)	Priest #2
John (disciple)	Peter (disciple)	Cleopas	"other"
Intermission sign holder			

Volunteers also needed for:

Making costumes

Constructing tomb with rolling stone (light carpentry and painting experience)

Pastor Nancy

March 4 Third Sunday in Lent**Focus** John 2:15*Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.*

The Temple was turned into a thriving market, until Jesus came along and questioned the practice in a BIG way. He made quite a scene in the temple, right there in front of God and everyone! We, too, have been given a wake-up call. We can't be about the business of just getting people to simply walk through our doors and sit down in our seats; we've got bigger fish to fry! We've got to be about the business of making disciples of Jesus Christ who are not only interested in being fed themselves, but who are also interested in feeding others.

March 11 Fourth Sunday in Lent**Focus** John 3:21*But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.*

Once we begin to look at the world primarily in terms of our own selfish goals and needs, we can't get out of the rut. The more we think about our own conditions, the more we think about ourselves. And the more we think about ourselves, the more self-centered and selfish we become. But when we raise our eyes and see Christ lifted up on the cross, when our heart goes out to his pain and his suffering, we stop thinking about ourselves – at least for a little while.

March 18 Fifth Sunday in Lent**Focus** John 12:26*Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.*

The selfishly driven, self-preserving, self-serving and individualistic part of us looks for Jesus because we want something from him. But the irony of the cross is that what really feeds our souls, what really heals us and satisfies us, is when we start to give more than we take. True satisfaction comes when we begin to grasp that it comes to us through hard work and sacrifice, and not from simply taking care of ourselves and filling up our lives with more and more stuff.

March 25 Palm Sunday**Focus** Mark 11:8*Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields.*

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. This is the week we have to walk with our Lord into the terrible events that lead to his final gathering with his disciples at the last supper, his arrest and trial, his conviction, crucifixion and brutal death on a cross, and his burial in a dark, cold tomb. But Palm Sunday is the calm before the storm, a brief respite before we forge ahead into this most difficult of weeks. The forecast for the week ahead is difficult. So, let us take a deep breath, hold on to the hope of resurrection, and prepare our hearts to listen as we get a glimpse of the events that lie between today and next Sunday.

From Our Lay Leader ~ Jim Groff

First of all, thank you for your kind words on my last article on apportionments. I enjoy writing and plan on doing more as your Lay Leader. I like to bring my points to life with a touch of humor, much like how I communicate. This month, however, the tone will be different. In light of current events, this month's article is on what to do if, God forbid, you're in an active shooter situation.

Instead of dragging out statistics that we have seen ad nauseum, I'm going to focus on survival tactics that several of us were taught in the last District Leadership Training Event. Law enforcement response time is 5 to 6 minutes and an active shooter event lasts less than 10 minutes. In other words, you (I'm generalizing) are on your own for most of the event. What steps should be taken?

Please allow me to introduce you to **ALICE**:

Alert Lockdown - Freeze Inform Counter - Fight Evacuate - Flight

Note: Before moving on, it is important to remember that these steps **do not** have to be performed in order

Alert

- Provide as much information to as many people as possible, using all available means, including texts, digital signs, or public address system.

Lockdown

- Barricade the door since locks can be defeated.
- Look around for resources in the room that can be used to secure the door. Always check out the room when entering for these resources. I know it is morbid, but it could be useful.
- Only open the door for uniformed law enforcement.

Inform

- Do NOT use code words, use plain language, since by the time people figure out what's going on, it may be too late.

Counter

- Use only as a last resort.
- Distract by throwing any items available at the shooter.
- Move around.
- Make noise.
- Keep your distance.
- There is power in numbers--SWARM!
 - * Do not pick up the gun if the shooter is disabled since a law enforcement officer will mistake you for the shooter. Instead, cover the weapon with a waste basket, jacket, or whatever else can be used.

Evacuate

- Know your traditional exits in advance.
- Determine non-traditional evacuation routes, such as windows.
 - *If you're trying to escape out a window and need to break it, do not attempt to break it from the center. Strike a corner instead, preferably an upper corner so gravity works with you.
- Have a rally point picked out.

When you encounter law enforcement it is important to:

- Keep your hands in plain sight with your fingers spread.
- Do not carry anything, such as a cellphone. It could be mistaken for a gun.
- Stay quiet and do not speak unless spoken to; they have enough going on.
- Typically, first responding officers will not help the injured-their purpose is to neutralize the suspect.

Please remember that there is no universal plan for surviving an active shooter situation, but **ALICE** is based on recommendations made by the New York Police Department and the Department of Homeland Security. Most importantly, hopefully none of us will have to use any of these steps. I'll be back to my old self next month.

Christian Education

First let us say farewell and good luck to Pastor Joe Warner as he retires and passes the torch on to me as chairperson for the 2018-2020 term. I will try to fill his slippers because his shoes cannot be filled. I will do my best to honor the faith he has in me. Hopefully he continues to mentor us as we welcome new members to our committee and church.

The spring Lenten study began February 15th and will continue through March 29th. Pastor Joe is leading this group and will follow the lectionary readings.

Joella Warner was leader for Living as a Covenant Community group that met January 9th - February 6th.

Put the first week of June on your calendar for Vacation Bible School. We'll need every "soul" to help: teachers, snacks, experiments and lessons, and music with Vicki hopefully!

Our next meeting will be Monday, March 5th at 5:30pm.

*Thank you,
Jacki Shaver*

Diabetes Group

The Diabetes Group will meet on March 21, 2018 in the library.

Fellowship

Please see Sharon Semple to sign up for future Sundays.

United Methodist Women

Thank you to everyone who donated items for Paper Angel Closet. We collected **51 items**, the most were bar soap and deodorant. Others were bleach, laundry soap, shampoo, dish soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, wipes, and feminine pads. Please continue to support this mission as we serve 6 families each month.

Our meeting will be on March 13, 2018 at 1 PM at the church. The program focus is presented by Ann Phillips on **Maternal & Child Health**. The annual Prayer & Self -Denial Offering will be taken. This special offering goes to develop leaders in UMW on the national and international levels. Char Mason and Carol Scribner are hostesses.



Within the heart of every believer is a story of how Christ has redeemed brokenness with transforming grace. We reflect on the ultimate sacrifice Jesus paid and celebrate the freedom we know through His amazing love. We remember that through Christ alone, we find new life, strength, and hope in the midst of any circumstance. We're reminded that, no matter what we face in life, He remains victorious.

Please join us
Sunday, March 25th during 10:00am worship
for our cantata
"Amazing Love"
directed by Vicki Jacobson

Monthly Finance Update

In an effort to inform the congregation, we will print in the monthly newsletter the following information:

January receipts:	\$ 9,245.33
January expenses:	\$10,476.23

This information is always available to anyone by contacting Finance Chair, Judy Parks or Treasurer, Sandy McCallum.

Thank You

Dear Pastor Vidad and Church Family,

Your generous donation to Carpenter's Place is deeply appreciated. Our guests are very grateful for the gifts of basic items most of us take for granted. Items such as shoes, coats, deodorant, pots, pans and all that is needed to set up their new apartment are such treasures to them! These items help rebuild their lives and begin the next positive chapter.

Bitter cold days are not just uncomfortable for our guests, they are very dangerous. They can be life threatening. It is critical we assure the homeless men and women who come to Carpenter's Place have warm winter clothing and boots. Our need for heavy socks, warm boots, jeans and jackets is great at this time. Will you please share that need with those you know?

May God bless you abundantly for your kindness and compassion for those who do not have a place to call home at this time. Together, we're making a difference! We're ending homelessness, one person at a time.

*Sincerely,
Carol Ayars
Community Engagement Manager
Carpenter's Place*

Dear Friends in Mission,

Thank you for your support of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Through your gift, you are helping to provide assistance for survivors of human trafficking, funding for health and development projects that alleviate hunger and poverty, holistic community-based health programs, and access to clean water and sanitation. This is just a sampling of the good works that gifts like yours make possible. Thank you for giving so generously.

Through The Advance, the designated giving channel of The United Methodist Church, 100 percent of your contribution will go to Undesignated - UMCOR, Advance #999895. Your gift received on 12/20/17 of \$467.00 is supporting programs that fight hunger and poverty, assist the displaced, and respond to disasters. Giving through The Advance enables United Methodists to partner with one another in mission and ministry around the world. Thank you for joining with us to "Be Hope" to those who desperately need it.

*Grace and Peace,
Roland Fernandes
General Treasurer
General Board of Global Ministries*

*Russell Pierce
Executive Director of Communications, Advance & Fundraising
General Board of Global Ministries*



Holy Week at the Brooke

Palm Sunday ~ March 25th

Worship ~ Cantata 10:00am

Maundy Thursday ~ March 29th

Soup & Bread 6:00pm

Devotions 6:45pm

Good Friday ~ March 30th

Sanctuary open for prayer Noon - 3:00pm

Easter Sunday ~ April 1st

Worship 10:00am



The lilies you order may be taken home following Easter Sunday Worship.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Lilies are \$10.00 each

Total number of lilies: _____ Total Cost: _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

**Please enclose payment with this form and return to church office
(1404 Brooke Road, Rockford, IL 61109) by March 18, 2018.**

**Please be sure to mark your check or
envelope indicating it is for Easter Lilies.**

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

1st	Jim Puls	12th	Sharon Albee	8th	Jim & Bev Clendening
3rd	Charlene Taylor	13th	Ronna Tewell Jim Clendening		
8th	Joyce Hairrell	25th	Terri Pomeroy		
9th	Joella Warner	27th	Don Faerber		
		30th	Phyllis Stafseth		

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	John Pippel	Bob Poppen
John Sauer	Charlene Taylor	Ronna Tewell	Laurece Thompson
Phil & Vivian Schwab	Ruth Winger		

Do You Want to Fast this Lent?

Fast from hurting words and say kind words
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
Fast from anger and be filled with patience
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope
Fast from worries and have trust in God
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity
Fast from pressures and be prayerful
Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others
Fast from grudges and be reconciled
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen



Get your free copy of
The Upper Room today
(in narthex).
Thanks to Brooke Road's
United Methodist Women
for providing this daily devotional.

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<u>1</u> 10:00am Lenten Study	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>4</u> 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Book Group at Warners'	<u>5</u> 5:30pm Christian Ed Committee	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> 6:00pm Celebration Choir 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir	<u>8</u> 10:00am Lenten Study	<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> 10:00am Lenten Study	<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> 10:00am Lenten Study	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>25</u> <i>Palm Sunday</i> 10:00am Worship ~ Cantata	<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	<u>29</u> <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 10:00am Lenten Study 6:00pm Soup Supper and Maundy Thursday Devotions	<u>30</u> <i>Good Friday</i> Noon - 3:00pm Sanctuary open for prayer	<u>31</u>

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

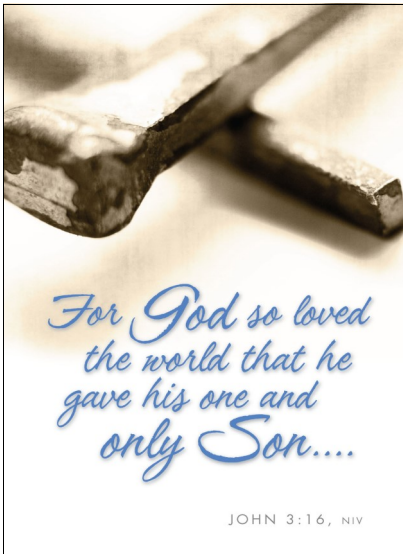
Church Office Hours

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 - 3:00 PM
Friday **CLOSED**

Phone: 815-398-8914

Website: www.the-brooke.org

email: brookeroadumc@outlook.com



Sunday Morning Schedule

Worship ~ 10:00am

Children's Sunday School during Worship

Nursery available for NB - 4 years

Fellowship ~ Following Worship