

# Oregon United Methodist Church

## The Messenger



March 2020



*By the sweat of your brow  
you will eat your food  
until you return to the ground,  
since from it you were taken;  
for dust you are  
and to dust you will return.”  
Genesis 3: 19*



I have many memories of attending our family church, Trinity United Methodist in Keokuk, Iowa. One Sunday morning when I was in first grade sticks out in my mind. I attended Sunday school, as usual. We did some kind of coloring activity. There was a big box of broken down crayons we kids shared as we worked around a table. I found a gorgeous pink/purple crayon stub that I fell in love with. It was so bright, so happy, so pinky purple-ish! I had to keep it. It would make me so sad to put it back in the box where other kids might use it, break it, or lose it altogether.

Fortunately (or so I thought), I was wearing my Kate Greenaway dress that day. Kate Greenaway was a brand of children's clothing back in the 60's. Besides being cute, they had a remarkable feature—a hidden pocket. Along the side seam of my dress was an opening to a small pocket, perfect for hiding a crayon in. So that's what I did.

I have no recollection what happened to the crayon after that, but I knew as I did it that it was stealing. And I've never forgotten my guilt. All these years later, I remember this naughty thing I did, in church, against the God who was present to me there.

We just celebrated Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent and the one church holy day (for United Methodists) that focuses on our guilt. The purpose of Ash Wednesday is to start us into Lent with our guilt, and repentance, foremost in our minds. Remembering this allows us to appreciate Jesus' sacrifice for us, and gives us a fresh start to our life and faith.

As the ashes are imposed on our foreheads, the pastor traditionally says, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This comes from Genesis 3: 19, which is part of God's admonition of Adam as God drives Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. God's words emphasize our mortal, guilty, helpless nature.

But our God of love never leaves us in this state. In time, he sent his son Jesus to us, who for a period would also be made of dust—the dust of a human body. And like all human bodies, he would die, just like us...

...but that's not the end of the story! Jesus rose again, defeated the grave, conquered death, and brought salvation to humanity. We may be made of dust, but it is the dust of God's creation, cosmic dust, the stuff of stars and planets, the dust of God's redeeming.

(cont'd next page)



*(Pastor's letter cont'd)*

For this reason, I have trouble with the traditional words: "...and to dust you shall return." It's true that God spoke them to Adam, but then God sent Jesus. By his grace, we are forgiven of our guilt, restored to right relationship with God, redeemed by his love. We are God's beloved dust!

So, if you attended the service on Ash Wednesday and came to me for ashes, you heard me say as I crossed your forehead: "Remember you are dust, and trust in the grace of Jesus Christ."

Lent begins with guilt, confession, and repentance. But God never leaves us there. There is always grace, the free gift of God's love and redemption. We never have to grovel in our guilt. Jesus forgives us and raises us up every time! You don't need to keep your guilt in a secret pocket, locked away in shame. Jesus invites us to confess it, and then to release it into his grace, which forgives and redeems!

So as we say in the Ash Wednesday liturgy, "...observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word." But also observe a holy Lent by remembering the grace of God, and the forgiveness, mercy and redemption of Jesus!

*Pastor Megan*



Ash   
Wednesday





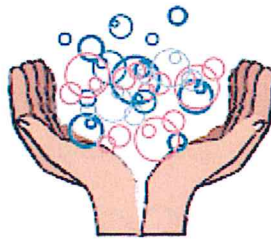
## Taking Care of Our Temple

Worried about eating leafy greens due to warnings lately? Following some basic cleaning guides can keep you safe. One suggestion is to purchase whole heads of greens as fewer leaves are exposed to tainted water or dust in the fields. Follow good practices at home.

1. Be sure the work area is clean. Vinegar is a good cleaner, but 1 tsp, of bleach in a quart of water is more antibacterial. Spray and let the surface dry for about 10 min.
2. Wash your hands well with soap while singing Jesus Loves Me (antibacterial soap not recommended).
3. Wash the leaves under cold running water.
3. Use a salad spinner if possible to dry the leaves well. If not, use paper towels to pat dry (the recommendation is to rinse pre-washed greens also). Store the clean greens in a plastic container or bag in the refrigerator. I can keep greens fresh 1 to 2 weeks this way.

Enjoy! Read Genesis 1:30.

Shalom,  
Sheryl.



## Thank You

A heart felt *Thank You* to our Church family for support and caring for us following the loss of Virgil. Thank you for the cards, hugs, visits, food, phone calls, prayers, and memorials. These are so appreciated. Thanks to those who greeted and ushered at the service. A special thanks to those who provided food and helped with the lunch following the service. It was wonderful. Thank you Pastor Megan for helping us make the service a true celebration of Virgil's life. You too, Jamie..... especially for the last song. We thank God and ask for blessings on all of you.

The Virgil Rocke Family



### Crafting for a Cause



Meets every Tuesday in March - 1:00pm

No special skills or supplies are necessary.

Come to one or all of the meetings.

Everyone is welcomed!!



### Lifeline Food & Self-Help Project

We would like to Thank everyone for all the contributions of food and donations of money and their health. We are very grateful for everyone's support of Lifeline. **THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!**

For the month of January we served 130 clients. We are in need of jam or jelly, pancake mix, syrup, canned soup, Hamburger Helper, pork & beans and kidney beans.

Any questions please call 815-564-8234.



### Easter Plants

*Orders are currently being taken for the annual Easter Plants for decorating the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Last day to order is Sunday, March 29th. The cost is \$14.00 each. Checks should be made payable to Oregon UMC.*

*There will be a variety of spring plants, however, no choices can be made due to availability of specific flowers. Please be sure to take yours home after the Easter Worship Service.*

*An order form is included with this Newsletter, and will also be inserted in the March 22nd & 29th Sunday bulletins.*



## **"Faithful and Inclusive" Bible Study**



"Faithful and Inclusive" is a Bible Study led by Pastor Megan and put out by our denomination to lead us to engage with scripture in an educated and, perhaps, new way. It is not designed to change anyone's mind concerning the crossroads that we, as a denomination, are experiencing.

Classes are being offered in a series of 6 weekly sessions (having started in February) at 3 different times. Classes are ongoing during the months of March and April.

**9:00am Sunday mornings**—March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

**10:00am Tuesday mornings**—March 3, 17, 24, 31 and April 7

**6:30pm Wednesday evenings**—March 4, 11, 25 and April 1 & 8

This is an exciting time. New possibilities are opening up. We have every reason to hope that we will be stronger, clearer, and ever more grounded in God's love on the other side of this wilderness.

Please be a part of this journey!



**Spring Forward**  
**Sunday, March 8th**



## **Upcoming in Worship**

March 1	"The Journey: God Is With Us"
March 8	"The Journey: Love, Them Trust"
March 15	"The Journey: Wilderness Grows Us"
March 22	"The Journey: Low Points are Never Last Points"
March 29	"The Journey: Courage Is a Virtue"





**Confirmation:** This class is offered for our 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade students or older wishing to confirm their vows of membership. We meet on Sundays at 9 AM during our Education hour.

March 1 Communion

March 8 Baptism

March 15 Wesleyan Quadrilateral

March 22 Prayer

March 29 Prayer



**UMY (United Methodist Youth) Fellowship:** This is a fellowship opportunity for our current 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade students and their friends. Usually this occurs on a Sunday 11:30 AM-2:00 PM with a lunch being provided. However, there are some events which take place at different times or on different days. The youth Facebook (private group) and Snapchat are tools used to disperse information to youth and parents.

March 1 Aerial yoga at ADM Studios (cost \$5; must have consent form signed)

March 15 Lunch and then attend OHS musical, Beauty and the Beast

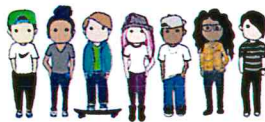
March 22 Movie outing- I Still Believe (details TBA on Facebook and Snapchat)

**Wednesday Night Alive:** This midweek option is offered to have an hour of reconnection. This time is used to be involved in Bible study, fellowship, prayer, or sometimes a meeting to take care of business associated with our youth program. We meet 6:15-7:15 which follows our 5:30 meal.

March 4 presentation on Serenity Home

March 11 create spring cards for our "Friends at Home"

March 18 BINGO



## 2020 Youth Summer Mission Trip IMPORTANT DATES

April 5

\$110 payment (Oregon UMY)

April 9

Stock Sales & training (lock-in)

May 17

Tool safety training

June 20-28

Mountain T.O.P

June 30, July 7 & 11

Worship service planning & prep

July 12

Worship service



\*\*\*All fundraising monies are put into the general fund to be used for van rentals, gas, & food\*\*\*





## Join the Lenten Journey



As Pastor Megan leads us in worship by using the story of Moses leading the Israelites through the wilderness, the Education committee would like to invite you to join us on the Lenten journey:

Hope in the Wilderness. We are asking that you would be involved in prayer, fasting, and a special giving project for Serenity Home. Each week during Lent, we will have a bulletin insert for everyone which will include paper chain links that have a special focus for each day in terms of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, gratitude, acts of kindness/ Christian love, and then 2 blank links for you to fill in as you see fit. We would like for you to return these links the following Sunday so that we can link together our church family's weekly activity and display in the Family Life Center. In addition to the paper chain links, the ED committee would also like for you to return your paper footprint to our "Hope in the Wilderness" path in the Family Life Center to show our Christian family journey on the path of spiritual discovery and growth.

The following items will be collected on the Sundays of Lent:

Sunday, March 1 dish clothes

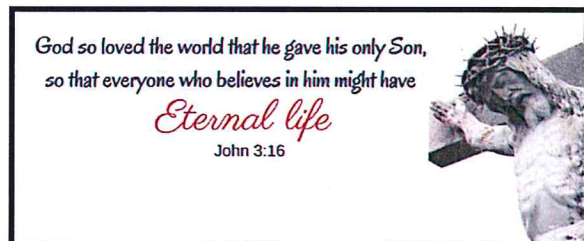
Sunday, March 8 prepackaged individually wrapped snacks

Sunday, March 15 meal cups

Sunday, March 22 baking chips

Sunday, March 29 cans of coffee or tea bags

Sunday, April 5 Free & Clear laundry detergent or Free & Clear dryer sheets



## Prayer Partners

Dear Lord during this Lenten journey, I pray for not only **(prayer partner's name)** but also our church as we journey through the wilderness in search of your will to be done. "O God, our deliverer, you led your people of old through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide now the people of your church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen." (UM Hymnal #268)



## CHILDREN'S COIN COLLECTION 2020

January - Pegasus Special Riders \$260.00

February - Lot 12 , Mt. Morris \$85.50

March - Midwest Distribution Center

April - 2020 Mt. Top Youth Mission Team

May - Bishop's Appeal

June - Northern IL Food Bank

July - Lifeline Food Pantry

August - Habitat for Humanity

September - Serenity Home and Hospice

October - Pegasus Special Rider's

November - Dangerous Hope

December - None

Coin Collections are held on the 4th Sunday of month.



LUCKY

St. Patrick's Day

**March 17**

Four Leaf Clover

Shamrock

WEAR GREEN

Pot-o-Gold



### Naomi-Ruth Circle

Naomi-Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, March 4, 2020 in the Family Life Center at 9:30 a.m.

Ellie Brauhn from Pegasus will be our guest speaker. Susan Zickuhr, and Myrle Fuller will be our hostesses.

### Missional Giving

Please keep track of your non-monetary giving to the church programs and put your receipts in the box in the Narthex. If you don't have receipts for items such as potluck or funeral luncheon dishes, the cost can be estimated, and the total dollar donation submitted.

Missional giving total for the month of December 2019 was \$1161.18. The January 2020 total turned in was \$762.16.







**March 2020**  
***Food, Fun, Fellowship!***



Wednesday Night Alive or “WNA” began as an idea to reconnect people to the church mid-week in the fall of 2007. Over the years, the program has grown and evolved into what it is today. An affordable meal is served to 45-60 people each week followed by activities, classes, and opportunities for Christian growth and fellowship for all ages.

WNA has supported projects in our church and community by giving back some of the revenue from the meals. This year, WNA sponsored the baked potato bar fundraiser for the Community Vacation Bible School, graduation Sunday fellowship time, the free lunch following VBS that served nearly 100 kids and parents, and provided new items for the church kitchen.

***Your help is needed...***

WNA is in need of volunteers to help each week. Do you have a passion for working with kids? Can you share a talent or lead a group of adults in a Bible study? Can you help prep or serve a meal? Would you consider wiping down the tables after dinner? Signup sheets are in the narthex for volunteers. Many hands are needed to keep this program successful. Please prayerfully consider how you can support WNA and sign up!



**WNA schedule:**

5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Meal is served

6:15-7:15 p.m. Classes & Activities



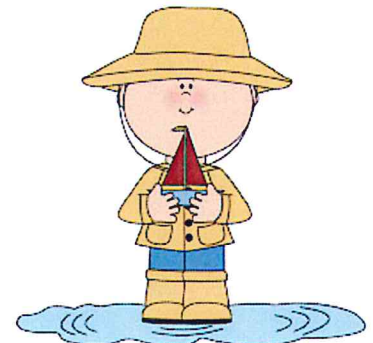
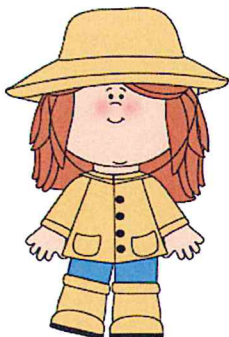
**WNA Schedule and February Menu\***

The cost of the meal is \$5.00 per adult/\$3.00 per child with a maximum of \$15.00 per family. Please sign up for the meal in the signup binder on the information desk in the Narthex or call (732-2994) or email ([oregonumc@outlook.com](mailto:oregonumc@outlook.com)), the church office by noon on Mondays. You can also text Joyce at 815-440-2682.

Mar	4	Taco Bar, Nacho Chips, Ice Cream
	11	Oven Baked Beef Stew, Biscuits, Salad Bar, Dessert
	18	Hot Dogs/Chili Dogs, Tator Tots, Salad Bar, Dessert
	26	<b>Spring Break—NO WNA</b>

\* Subject to change

**Come and be a part of this exciting  
ministry at OUMC!**



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mary Jo Moser  
Jacob Davis
- 2 Caleb Wright
- 3 Erika Waldsmith  
Kathi Tremble
- 4 Scott Sanders
- 8 Christopher Ditto
- 13 Mya Engelkes  
Tyler Hammer
- 14 Shelly Gertman
- 15 Connor Beesing
- 22 Steve Devine  
Eli Rufer
- 23 John Shenberger
- 24 Landon Lewis
- 25 Scott Stephens
- 30 Dale Beesing
- 31 Finley Cann



## ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Mark & Kathi Tremble
- 26 Rod & Teresa Rogers






# March

# 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:00am Faithful & Inclusive Class 9:00am Fellowship/SS 10:00am Music, Meditation & Fellowship-Communion 10:15am Announcements Begin	<b>2</b> 9:00am Staff Mtg 6:00pm Scouts 6:30pm SPRC Mtg	<b>3</b> 9:00am Faithful & Inclusive Class 1:00pm Crafting for a Cause 6:00pm Scouts	<b>4</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study 7-7:00pm Prayer in Chapel 9:30am Naomi Ruth Circle 5:30pm WNA 6:15pm Serenity Presentation 6:30pm Faithful & Inclusive Class 7:15pm Church Council Mtg	<b>5</b> 10:00am Mission Committee Mtg 6:00pm Scouts 7:00pm Habitat for Humanity	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00am Faithful & Inclusive Class 9:00am Fellowship/SS 10:00am Music, Meditation & Fellowship 10:15am Announcements Begin	<b>9</b> 9:00am Staff Mtg 6:00pm Scouts 7:00pm VBS Mtg	<b>10</b> 1:00pm Crafting for a Cause 6:00pm Scouts 7:00pm Finance Mtg	<b>11</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study 7-7:00pm Prayer in Chapel 5:30pm WNA 6:30pm Faithful & Inclusive Class	<b>12</b> 6:00pm Scouts	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00am Faithful & Inclusive Class 9:00am Fellowship/SS 10:00am Music, Meditation & Fellowship 10:15am Announcements Begin <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00am Staff Mtg 6:00pm Scouts	<b>17</b> 9:00am Faithful & Inclusive Class 1:00pm Crafting for a Cause 6:00pm Scouts 7:00pm Worship Committee Mtg 	<b>18</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study 7-7:00pm Prayer in Chapel 5:30pm WNA 6:15pm Evangelism Committee Mtg	<b>19</b> 6:00pm Scouts	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:00am Education Committee Mtg 9:00am Faithful & Inclusive Class 9:00am Fellowship/SS 10:00am Music, Meditation & Fellowship-Coin Collection 10:15am Announcements Begin	<b>23</b> 9:00am Staff Mtg 6:00pm Scouts	<b>24</b> 9:00am Faithful & Inclusive Class 1:00pm Crafting for a Cause 6:00pm Scouts	<b>25</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study 7-7:00pm Prayer in Chapel <b>NO WNA</b> 6:30 Faithful & Inclusive Class	<b>26</b> 6:00pm Scouts	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00am Faithful & Inclusive Class 9:00am Fellowship/SS 10:00am Music, Meditation & Fellowship 10:15am Announcements Begin <b>Easter Flower Orders Due</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00am Staff Mtg 6:00pm Scouts	<b>31</b> 9:00am Faithful & Inclusive Class 1:00pm Crafting for a Cause 6:00pm Scouts				

**Oregon United Methodist Church**

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**Facebook: Oregon United Methodist**

Return service requested

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to "Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." (Matt 28:18-20, Matt 22:36-40)

This mission is achieved through vital congregations that equip and empower people to be Disciples of Jesus Christ in their homes and communities around the world.