

# The Messenger



## Pastor's Pondering

Is it possible to walk a second mile before walking the first? Perhaps you feel that the answer is so obvious that the question appears ludicrous. And yet, I find that a lot of folks attempt to participate in a “second mile” before traveling the first. For example I grew up hearing about second-mile-giving. The first mile is one’s tithe; and after he/she has returned his/her tithe to God . . . then he/she is able to truly participate in “second mile” giving.

Worship is another “first mile” practice; while small groups, church school classes, etc. are “second mile” ventures. I’ve always held worship as vital, but in recent days (as I’ve been studying and preparing for our Revelation Sermon Series beginning in May) worship has risen drastically in importance. Check out some of the following quotes dealing with worship: from Bishop Tuell in The Organization Of The United Methodist Church “. . . worship which does not eventuate in service to the world is sterile, and service to the world which is not rooted in worship has no lasting foundation” (p. 45). In Reversed Thunder, Eugene Peterson shares, “Failure to worship consigns us to a life of spasms and jerks, at the mercy of every advertisement, every seduction, every siren. . . . People who do not worship are swept into a vast restlessness, epidemic in the world, with no steady direction and no sustaining purposes” (p. 60). “Worship does not divide the spiritual from the natural, it coordinates them” (p. 62). “The Revelation began with a vision of the Christ whom we worship and was followed up with a vision of God’s people at worship; it will conclude with the newly created heaven and earth fashioned into a place of worship, a sanctuary, and filled with worship.” & “Worship is the essential and central act of the Christian”(p. 140).

Worship is paramount for those seeking to live as Christians. But worship is only one tool, and it is not designed to accomplish all that God intends within our lives. God provides other tools (second mile practices if you will) to meet other needs we have—like fellowship and getting to know one another.

So throughout Lent, in addition to worship, I want to encourage you to participate in one of the following ‘small group’ opportunities. Over the 6 weeks of Lent, we will be offering an opportunity based upon John Ortberg’s book, If You Want To Walk On Water, You’ve Got To Get Out Of The Boat. You need not read the book to get the benefit of this opportunity! Come watch the video segment and participate in the group discussion which follows. This opportunity will be offered at multiple times:

**For those attending the 10:30 service join Jim Rentfrow at 9 a.m. each Sunday;**

**For those attending the 9 a.m. service join Rikki Ray at 10:30 each Sunday;**

And if you prefer to be a part of a group at a time other than Sunday morning, then come on **Wednesday evenings**—eat at 5:30 and participate from **6-7 p.m.!!**

Our Lenten journey begins with Ash Wednesday and I will be available (like last year) for a ‘come & go’ time of the Imposition of Ashes beginning at 6 a.m. and going to 5 p.m. Then start walking your first mile (*worship*) and a second (*small group*). I truly believe you will be blessed by all these opportunities as we journey together towards Easter!

--Pastor Renner

# United Methodist Women

February was a very busy month for the United Methodist Women. We served several funeral dinners. We send our condolence to Joyce Paschall for the loss of her mother, Aliese. Aliese was a very special person while being involved in the United Methodist Women. She was one of the first organizers of our Easter Egg Project. The eggs she made were always perfectly shaped. We have just been informed that another one of our faithful UMW members, Rosemary Wood, has passed away. She also was an excellent Easter Egg maker as well as making divinity candy for our bake sales. Both of these ladies will be greatly missed.

March will also be a busy month. On Tuesday March 1<sup>st</sup> we will be hosting the Iroquois District Executive Meeting, and on Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> we will be helping Dove with their Binga program.

The Sullivan UMW is the host church for the Iroquois River District Spring Meeting on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. There will be approximately 80 women in attendance. Their meeting is entitled MISSION IN ACTION. There is an attached sheet with details about this meeting. Our local meetings for March are below.

## GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>. 1:P.M.

FELLOWSHIP HALL

LESSON AND MEMORIAL SERVICE - JOYCE SHELLABARGER

HOSTESS: Joyce Shellabarger

## MARY CIRCLE

Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup>

Hosting a Lenten Open House Coffee  
Fellowship Hall 3:30 pm to 5:30 PM.

## MARTHA CIRCLE

Monday March 21<sup>st</sup>. 7:00 pm

Hostess Lois Shuman  
co-Hostess: Cynda Bonnett  
Devotions: Susan Connor

Call to Prayer & Self Denial -Janet Freadhoff

EASTER EGGS ORDER BLANKS WILL BE AVAILABLE MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>.

Needed: Rose makers starting March 21' Call Phylis Maxedon 728-7456 or 728-7774



## DID YOU SAY "FAT TUESDAY"???

Mary and Martha Circles invite you to a  
"Fat Tuesday" Open House  
on Tuesday, March 8, from  
3:30 - 5:30 in Fellowship Hall.



Fat Tuesday, also called Shrove Tuesday, marks the last day of Mardi Gras (it's the day before Ash Wednesday). We're celebrating by having refreshments and casual fellowship so plan to stop by for a few minutes or stay the entire time.

All are welcome - **do bring the kids** - but we want to especially ask all women of the church. We'll provide a booklet with daily Lenten devotionals and info about the Circles and the UMW. (No joining is necessary; it's more a meet and greet.) We also hope that you'll find this a perfect way to prepare for the Lenten season.



# MISSION IN ACTION

**Iroquois River District**

**UMW Spring Meeting**

**Saturday, March 19, 2011**

**9:00 A.M.**

**Sullivan FUMC**

The Hands on Project will be making and filling school bags that will be sent to the Midwest Distribution Center and then distributed where needed. The Sullivan Unit has been asked to bring protractors (6") (metric). All units will also be asked, if able, to sew school bags to fill.

Instructions on making school bags are available in the back of the church sanctuary and in the fellowship hall. These need to be completed in time for our Spring meeting March 19<sup>th</sup>.

We have also been asked to bring the following Love Gifts for:

**Cunningham Children's Home** - any brand of toothpaste; Wal-Mart, McDonald's or Subway gift cards; and Box tops for Education.

**Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House** - Baby bottles, socks for children and youth (all colors and sizes), Lip balm, baby lotion.

Boxes will be at the back of the Sanctuary around the 1<sup>st</sup> of March.

Since the Sullivan Unit is the host unit for this meeting we are supplying breakfast snacks in the morning as well as the noon Luncheon.

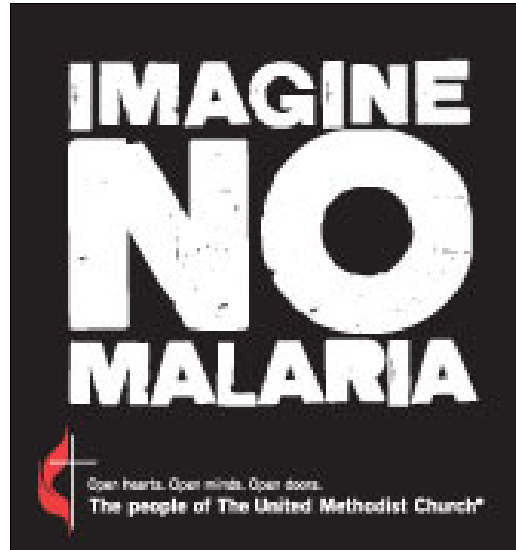
If you can help us in any capacity please call Linda Grose 728-4697; Hyllis Rhoades 728-7774; Joyce Shellabarger 217-797-6442. We need workers as well as breakfast snacks (breads, donuts, muffins, coffee cakes and fruit).

We would like to extend and open invitation to attend our Spring District meeting. The District has planned some interesting speakers. The first speaker will be Dylan Boot from the Wesley Foundation at the University of Illinois. The second speaker in the morning will be from the Savoy United Methodist Church Rev. Jim McClary. After lunch at 1 o'clock the Sullivan Honduras Mission Trip members will present a program highlighting both of their trips. If you would like to attend our meeting and eat lunch with us we are asking a \$10.00 registration fee. Come join us Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.

United Methodist Women

# *Lenten Opportunities*

**Lenten Offering folders:** Lenten Offering Folders will be available to all. This year our Lenten offering will go to “Imagine No Malaria”. This is an initiative of the people of The United Methodist Church to raise funds to eliminate malaria deaths in Africa by 2015.



- ...every 45 seconds, a child in Africa dies of malaria.
- ...malaria claims more than 1 million lives each year.
- ...infants, children and pregnant women are at greatest risk.
- ...90 percent of malaria deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa.

It only takes \$10 to save a life from Malaria! Can you imagine no malaria! Please join us in this effort by taking a Lenten Offering Folder. There will be 25 cent folders available to the children which holds \$10. Enough to save a life! For the youth and adults we have bill folders. There is a slot for each day in Lent that holds a bill. The youth are challenged to save FOUR LIVES! Adults are challenged to save as many lives as possible!



**Ash Wednesday** 6 a.m.- 5 p.m.: a ‘come & go’ time of the Imposition of Ashes

**During Lent:** Small Group Video Study: Based on the book *If You Want To Walk On Water, You’ve Got To Get Out Of The Boat* by John Ortberg.

This opportunity will be offered at multiple times:

**Sundays, March 13, 20, 23, April 3, 10, & 17 :** 9 a.m. led by Jim Rentfrow

10:30 a. m. led by Rikki Ray

**Wednesdays, March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6 & 13 :** eat at 5:30 p.m. and participate from **6-7 p.m.**



THANK YOU! Thanks to everyone who helped me celebrate my 90th birthday on January 28th with gifts, calls, cards, Emails, letters, flowers, surprises and a lovely lunch. I had a wonderful day with all my friends. Blessing to all. I would also like to thank the UMW ladies for bringing such wonderful meals on February 7 & 12!  
Sincerely,  
Doris Haneline

Dear First United Methodist Church,

It's during a time like this we learn how much our friends really mean to us. We so appreciate your sympathy and kindness.

The family of Marvene Leach



## *Library Update*



The following books have been donated or purchased for our library this past month:



Where's Your Jesus Now? (Examining How Fear Erodes Our Faith) by Karen Spears Zacharias



Heaven Is For Real: A Little Boy's Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back by Todd Burpo



Remember, there are books and bookmarks on, and beside the table that are free for anyone to take. I will donate the books to a charitable organization if they are not picked up in the next month.



I want to remind you that anyone is welcome to participate in The Reading Program. The books for this program are on the west wall, marked with yellow, blue, green, and red dots. The yellow sheets to record your reading on are on the east wall shelf below the check-out box. If you have any questions, just let me know.



**Keep on reading and using our library!**



Lois Shuman





The Yellow Bucket for March will go to Church Camp Scholarships.

In February, \$200 was given to support Habitat for Humanity. Of that, \$79.78 was collected in the Yellow bucket offering.

*“Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth” (Psalm 124:8)*

*May the Lord’s comfort and blessings be with the family and friends who mourn the death of Dennis Carnes, Rosemary Wood & Aliese Paschall.*



*The deadline for the April Newsletter is Tuesday, March 15.*



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