

# The Beacon

February 2018

## UMW NEWS

The February meeting will be held February 13 at 9:30am. Coffee will be served by Charlotte Booth. The program to be announced.

Morning Circle will meet at the home of Carolyn Stevens on February 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. Please car pool. Evening Circle will meet on February 19 at 7pm at the church with Alana Parm giving the program and Cathy Ekstrand bringing refreshments.

God's grace -  
Carol Kemper

## *Couples Night*

What fun we had at the Couple's Night in January. The dinner was Mexican – PD made homemade enchilada's and Steve made guacamole that were delicious!! We watch a movie and had popcorn in the sanctuary (sorry, Doreen!)

This month it's the Hayes' turn and boy you don't want to miss this! The food will be Italian and the entertainment will be.....well you will have to come and see, February 17 at 6:30 in the fellowship hall.

There is a sign-up sheet for items to bring. Hope to see you there!

## *Welcome our new members!!*

During the month of February, please welcome our new members.

Destiny Deal  
Jessie Ebert  
Ashley Pumphrey  
Josh Pumphrey  
Terri German

We are excited you have joined our congregation and look forward to getting to know you!!

## *Ash Wednesday Service Feb, 14th 6:30 p.m.*

Come help prepare for the season of Lent that leads us to Good Friday and the Resurrection in Easter Sunday. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer.

Ash Wednesday Service will include Holy Communion and offering of ashes from the pastor to administer onto your forehead, or hand - if you choose - All are welcome.



Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

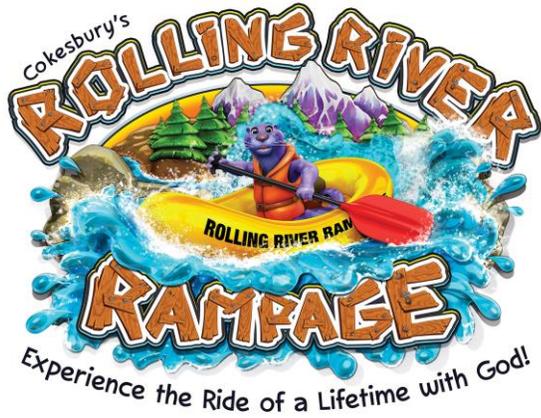
I must ask, doesn't it feel like just yesterday that we celebrated Jesus' birth? Hasn't it felt like just a few weeks since we took down our Christmas trees and sent off our thank-you notes? People used to tell me all the time to enjoy my kids while they're young, because they grow up so fast. But, in the church's liturgical calendar, no kid grows up faster than Jesus. In the weeks since Christmas Day, Jesus has aged thirty-three years! That is FAST!!!

If you stop and think about it, you'll find there are some interesting differences between the timing of Christmas and Lent every year. Christmas Day is predictable. It is always on December 25. It is easy to order our lives and activities around it. It's never in November, never creeps into January. School semesters can schedule a break around it; retail establishments base their revenue projections on it. There is something constant and comforting about this fixed holiday. However, Lent and Ash Wednesday move around.

Ash Wednesday occurs forty-six days before Easter Sunday, which is celebrated— are you ready for this— on the first Sunday after the first full moon that occurs on or following the spring equinox on March 21. This means that Ash Wednesday can occur as early as the first week in February or as late as the second week in March. That's a variation of nearly thirty-five days! What that means is that Lent often sneaks up on us. It catches us off guard. It can disrupt our planning. Sometimes the school spring breaks are during Holy Week, and sometimes they're not. Sometimes the stores have time between their Valentine's Day hearts and their chocolate Easter eggs, and sometimes they don't. It's a lot like life, when you think about it. We can know with certainty when we were born; we cannot say the same for when we will die. Likewise, Christmas is comforting in its constancy, but Lent is elusive and unpredictable. We are about to start Lent - 40 days of preparation for Easter. To help us do that, I encourage you to look through this Newsletter and consider the opportunities we have planned to "get us ready" for the Resurrection.

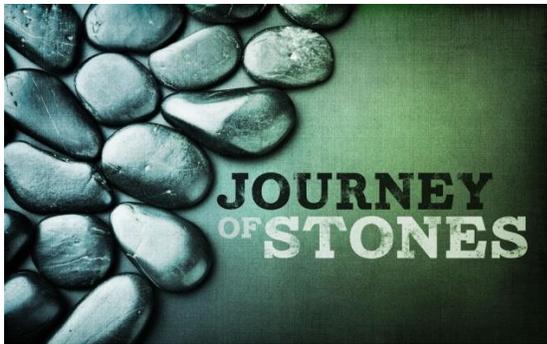
- Ash Wednesday service is Wednesday, February. 14th @ 6:30 pm.
- Lent Bible Study: Embracing the Uncertain - A Lenten Study for Unsteady Times. Wednesdays during Lent: 11:30 am. and 5:45 pm. (Soup and Study)
- Sermon Series each Sunday in Lent: "A journey of Stones"

Blessings in Christ: PD



We are getting ready to get our feet wet with the kids at Vacation Bible School! Saturday, July 21 for pre-K and July 22 – 26 for K – 6.

We have our area leaders now, we are looking for volunteers to help in all areas – crew leader, snacks, crafts, music, storytelling and recreation. Online registration for both volunteers and “rafters” is available on the website, [www.elmwoodumc.com](http://www.elmwoodumc.com). It’s not too early to register!!



### ***Sermon Series for Lent 2018***

Drawing on the rich imagery of rocks and stones in Scripture, these powerful messages center around the compelling metaphor of stones (and our willingness to throw them) as representative of our sins. As worshipers enter the sanctuary they are invited to pick up stones as a concrete symbol of each sermon's theme and then as the message concludes the stones are placed at the foot of the cross.



How in the world are we in February already? So far 2018 is flying by! Our youth group “J-Squad” keeps growing every meeting, and we are so blessed to have such a great group of kids! Youth group is for kids 6th-12th grade, and we meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays. If you have any kids who are interested, please let me know. We would love to have more kids join us in the fun!

J-Squad is hosting a breakfast fundraiser on March 3rd, same day as the Elmwood Outdoor Show. The kids will be raising money to go towards a mission/camping trip. We have sign-up sheets for donations if you are interested. Your support would be much appreciated!

Summer will be here before we know it, and we will be needing help with children’s church. If you are interested, please let us know. I will put a sign-up sheet out for that as well. Like always, if you have any youth related questions please let me know.

God Bless!  
Kelly Hoffman



A group of 9 youth will embark in a journey of discovery and faith formation starting February, 5th. Each Monday Youth will journey through the Bible, our rich history of Methodism and discover God’s purpose for them.

As their mentor and pastor I am asking for prayers for them, me and my assistants as we together learn from the Holy Spirit. Larry Cox and Kelly Hoffman will be helping to bring faith formation and application to the learning environment also.

Our focus verse to guide us along the way is **1 Corinthians 10:31** which states, **“whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”**

Classes start Monday, February. 5th and meet each Monday until Monday, May. 27th 6:00-7:30pm.



## Soup & Lent

# February Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3 Lois Hill
- 6 Sherry Powers
- 6 Jim & Mary Dawson Anniversary
- 7 Samantha Seipel
- 8 Audrey Rushing
- 9 Tom Tracy
- 10 Brad Crisco
- 11 Doug Whitney
- 12 Marge Camp
- 12 Colt Holloway
- 13 Jeannie Blane
- 13 Diana Ladd
- 14 Meade Montgomery
- 16 Pat Keefer
- 16 Eugene & Veva Windish Anniversary
- 17 Nicole Johnston
- 19 Bob Rushing
- 20 Lori Johnson
- 20 Joe Webel
- 21 Darren McMillan
- 22 Jason Centers
- 22 Helen Laurson
- 23 Susan Sartin
- 23 Katie Parm
- 24 Samantha Centers
- 24 Kent & Georgia Stevens Anniversary

Wednesday's in Lent  
(Feb 14, 21, 28, Mar 7, 14, 21, 28)  
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 5:45 pm to 6:45 p.m.

Join us for this 1 hour time of soup and study.

Our Study -*Embracing the Uncertain*  
by Magrey deVega.

Just turning on the news lets us know we are living in uncertain times. Economic instabilities, an eruption of violence, and natural catastrophes can alter the lives and landscapes of entire communities. Our individual lives are often just as unsteady: relationships can break, plans can falter, and confidence can fail.

Uncertainty can definitely be uncomfortable. Many of us prefer stability and a predictable future to an unknown fate. We are wired to want to control our destiny.

The reality is that in our fast-changing, unpredictable world there are few guarantees in life. It is those who are willing to embrace uncertainty and make the risky decision to follow Jesus despite the many "unknowns" who will reap the greatest rewards.

*Embracing the Uncertain* invites readers this Lent to engage and wrestle with life's uncertainties, not ignore them.

Questions? Call or text Pastor Dave 309-221-4879.



SAMS will hold its 4<sup>th</sup> annual "Noodles for Poodles" Chicken Noodle Dinner on Saturday, February 10, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Elmwood United Methodist Church. The menu includes chicken and noodles, mac and cheese, potatoes and gravy, green beans, rolls and butter, and iced tea, lemonade, water and coffee to drink. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 4 to 10, and Free for children 3 and under. There will also be a bake sale and silent auction. Carryout available. Please join us and help support your local non-profit no-kill animal shelter. We would love to see you!

## SERVING ON GOD'S TEAM

### 9 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

February 4, 2018

GREETERS: Mary Drone/Sherry Powers  
USHERS: Bob Paige/Rusty Koll  
LITURGIST: Doreen Smith  
ACOLYTES: Katy German/Destiny Foster  
VIDEO: Aaron Miller  
MUSICIANS: Closer To Free  
NURSERY: Candy Hall/Lisa Doubet  
COFFEE BAR: Webster Family

February 11, 2018

GREETERS: Nancy Perryman/Lois Hill  
USHERS: Brad Crisco/Doug Whitney  
LITURGIST: Dean Cantu  
ACOLYTES: Lee Kosowski/ Baron Case  
VIDEO: Chuck Stevens  
MUSICIANS: New Day Worship Team  
NURSERY: Jill Crisco/Cathy Ekstrand  
COFFEE BAR: Cathy Ekstrand

February 18, 2018

GREETERS: Curt/Doreen Smith  
USHERS: Kurt Webster/Roland Ekstrand  
LITURGIST: Cathy Ekstrand  
ACOLYTES: Addi Powers/Megan Johnson  
VIDEO: Jason Hahn  
MUSICIANS: Tom & Tom  
NURSERY: Bill/Michelle Seipel  
COFFEE BAR: Need Volunteer

February 25, 2018

GREETERS: Chuck/Carolyn Stevens  
USHERS: Janet Vallas/Denise Hayes  
LITURGIST: Curt Smith  
ACOLYTES: Ty McFarland/Ian Smith  
VIDEO: Kent Stevens  
MUSICIANS: Strong Tower  
NURSERY: Karla/Sara Kane  
COFFEE BAR: Yada Yada Bible Study

## SERVING ON GOD'S TEAM

### 10:30 A.M. Worship Service

February 4, 2018

GREETERS: Charlotte Haley/Diane Malott  
USHERS: Chris Stevens/Mary Howard  
LITURGIST: Nancy Davis  
ACOLYTES: Katy German/Destiny Foster  
ORGANIST: Bobbi Staples  
NURSERY: Angie Ladd/Alix Steele  
COUNTERS: Diana Ladd/Ruth Arnold

February 11, 2018

GREETERS: Mary Nell Simpson/Celene Duley  
USHERS: Nancy Davis/Charlotte Haley  
LITURGIST: Chris Stevens  
ACOLYTES: Lee Kosowski/ Baron Case  
PIANIST: Kris Petermeyer  
NURSERY: Nancy Davis/Michala Schauble  
COUNTERS: Alana Parm/Celene Duley

February 18, 2018

GREETERS: Meade/Betty Montgomery  
USHERS: Tom Morse/Chris Stevens  
LITURGIST: Celene Duley  
ACOLYTES: Addi Powers/Megan Johnson  
ORGANIST: Bobbi Staples  
NURSERY: Laurie Leadley/Emily Schauble  
COUNTERS: Kane

February 25, 2018

GREETERS: Chris Stevens/Laurie Leadley  
USHERS: Chuck/Connie Johnston  
LITURGIST: Mary Howard  
ACOLYTES: Ty McFarland/Ian Smith  
PIANIST: Charlotte Booth  
NURSERY: Celene Duley/Alana Parm

