



The Beacon

March 2017

UMW NEWS

Our next meeting is March 14 at 9:30am. Coffee will be served by LaVonne Haney and the program will be given by Mary Ann Hanlin. We will do more planning for the Mother-Daughter Banquet to be held on May 5th at 6pm.

The District Mini-Mission will be held on March 13 at Pekin First Methodist Church. If you are planning to attend, please let me know, as reservations are due by March 6th.

Morning Circle meets on March 21st at 9:30am with Chairman Carolyn Stevens.

The Evening Circle will be holding an informational meeting on March 20 at 6:30pm in the church library. Open to all ages 18 and older and guests are welcome. Refreshments will be served. Any questions, contact Celene Duley or Alana Parm

We hope to see you!

God Bless

- Carol Kemper



COUPLES FELLOWSHIP

Couples fellowship enjoyed great food and interesting conversations at Gil's in February! Please join us for movie night at the home of Tom and Angie Tracy on Saturday, March 25 at 6pm for devotions, pizza, popcorn & a movie. Hope to see you there!!

Peace,

Debbie Nelson-Watkins

Mother-Daughter Banquet

Mark your calendars for the Mother-Daughter Banquet on Friday, May 5 at 6pm at Elmwood United Methodist Church.

Any questions, call Debbie Nelson-Watkins (618) 772-4363



Upcoming Sermon Series

March 5

This is a Real Mess

Exodus 16 13:-21 & Acts 2:1-12 (NIV)

Theme: Cleaning off the grime from God's masterpieces

March 12

Who Left This Mess?

Psalms 139:13-16 (NIV) Jer 1:4-10 (CEV)

Theme: Moving beyond blame and claiming God's grace

March 19

Bless This Mess

Romans 5:1-5 (Message)

Theme: Finding transformation in chaos

March 26

No Messing Around

Ephesians 2:1-10

Theme: Living a new, uncomfortable life in Christ

April 2

Address This Mess

Mark 10:17-27 (CEV)

Theme: Growing closer to Christ through discipline

April 9

The Message in the Mess

Matthew 22:34-40 (Message)

Theme: Loving God and neighbor



Local Mission Project Volunteer Workday

It's that time of year again...helping get the camp ready! **We've set the date for April 8th.** Meet at the church and leave by 8:00 am to begin working at 8:30. There are many projects that need to be done, from cleaning cabins, raking, cutting brush, re-setting dock posts, painting trail edges, sealing picnic tables and much more. Many skill levels are needed. Any supplies needed, will be provided. Bring your own work gloves. If you would like to help with wood working repairs, cordless tools would be appreciated.

Another opportunity – Help make/serve lunch – There will be three groups working that day with approximately 50 people. We already have a couple of pots of chili donated, so we are looking for hot dogs/buns, fruit, cookies, etc.

Signup sheets will be available for all opportunities.

Camp Big Sky was created to offer outdoor activities to any person of any age with any disability and their families, friends and caregivers. Many of the activities include fishing, boating, nature study, overnight camping, archery, hay rack rides, lawn games and much more. For many this is a once in a lifetime experience and creates a lot of firsts for many...first time they caught a fish, or took a boat ride, or fly a kite. Check out the Camp Big Sky website at www.CampBigSky.org and like us on Facebook. If you would like more information, please contact Karla Kane at 309-231-3084. Thank you for your support!



TIMES OF TRANSITION CAN BE GOOD FOR THE GOSPEL'S EXPANSION

Recently Caterpillar Corporation announced the relocation of its corporate headquarters, and the executive staff that go along with it, to the Chicago area. Many of us were saddened for various reasons. People are concerned about the economic welfare of our region. People are concerned about their personal and family economic situation. People like me will miss some of our friends who will be transferring and relocating their lives and their families away from us. Gary McIntosh of Church Growth Network says that times of change can be windows of opportunity for which to watch. I believe that our congregation is strategically placed and uniquely equipped to be a community of hope and stability for many people who are struggling or afraid at this time in their life. Not just afraid of economic change but struggling with the loss of loved ones, changes in theirs or a loved one's health, pressures of new family configurations and larger changes in the social fabric of our U.S. society.

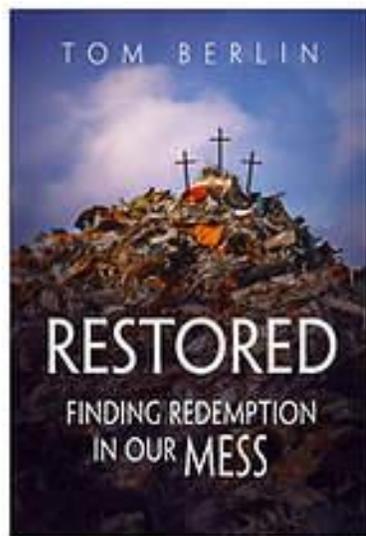
I pray that we will, yes go into our prayer closets, but that we will come out energized and on fire for God. I'm excited by the ministries that are on the drawing boards, and those that have actually launched in the recent past. I think about the Jesus people Senior Ministry continuing to expand and firm up its outreach to seniors, not only in our congregation, but in a larger community. My hope is exponentially expounded as I worked with leaders in this congregation to continue the development of our Mental Health Awareness and Education Team Ministry program. I think about the upcoming Vacation Bible School that has already been planned, which already has its curriculum on hand and the energy that is building among its leaders. I think about the coming fall activities that have been planned and that are in process of not only reinvigorating our congregation, but also touching countless others in our community so that they can know that they do not walk alone through their stresses and their struggles. I truly believe that God is moving through this place and that God will touch people so that many can feel hope and inspiration. I also know that it is not **me** but the Holy Spirit moving in multiple ways through each and every one of **you**. God's Vision does not rest, begin or continue because of one person but because of many. Remember together we are strong.



THANK YOU!

Thank you very much to the church for letting us use the fellowship hall to hold our Chicken Noodle Dinner fundraiser for SAMS (Stray Animal Midway Shelter) on February 25th. Thank you also to Mark Kemper for helping mash all those "real" potatoes and to everyone who attended the dinner and supported our mission to save the lives of animals in Central Illinois. We really appreciate your generosity and support.

Kris Petermeyer



You are invited to join a Lent study beginning in March!

We will be doing “Restored: Finding Redemption In Our Mess” by Tom Berlin.

There are three studies available for you to join. One is sure to fit into your busy schedule!

Tuesdays at 6:30pm
Wednesdays at 10:00am
Thursdays at 6:30pm

We hope to see you!

Jesus People Senior Ministries

Volunteers are enjoying visiting with and supporting seniors in their homes. We are experiencing great interactions and reviews from our early services offered at facilities in the community. We are still seeking additional volunteers to lead services at Farmington Country Manor and Elmwood Country Comfort facilities. Please contact Connie Dalton or Pastor Brad.

Mental Health Awareness and Support Ministry team

Energy is rising as the team dreams, discusses and plans events for later this summer and early next fall. We are exploring what it would be for our congregation to become an organized and recognized **Compassionate Congregation** by the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church. Our kickoff event will be an educational and informational sharing in collaboration with “The Back to School Celebration” in August. We are still open to volunteers who wish to join us in this vital ministry of “shining lights of hope” in dark spaces of despair and depression.

If you desire to support this ministry in anyway, please contact Pastor Brad or Laura Davis.

Habitat for Humanity Home Build

Our congregation continues to be a vital partner with others in a New Home Build in Elmwood. We are preparing for the next phase, which will be the demolition of the existing structures on the properties. We were happy to be a part of raising funds to purchase the property and a few funds to move forward with this demolition. A community group is planning various fundraising events across different churches this summer so that we might have funds to dispose of the structures located on the properties. After that, a concrete foundation would be poured and covered up until the remaining funds are raised to build the eventual new home for a deserving and welcomed new family to our community. Please be on the lookout for upcoming events to support this worthwhile cause.

Children & Youth Ministries

Let's Go Camping

Looking for a unique and beautiful way to connect with people your own age looking to have a blast, build lasting friendships, and dig deeper in your faith?

"As an individual who grew up in United Methodist Camping Ministry, I am forever grateful for the life-changing experiences, lifelong friendships, and unforgettable memories ." (Ray Gilmer)

East Bay Camp is located in Central Illinois on beautiful Lake Bloomington just 12 miles north of Bloomington-Normal at Hudson, IL, just a few minutes from Interstate 39.



East Bay offers a wide range of camps for families, children, and youth. A few examples include weekend camps My Spearhead And Me (family camp), Grandparents And Me (family camp). Week-long camps for children and youth include horseback camps for 3rd grade through 12th grade, girls-only camps for 6th through 12th graders, Campelodeans 1 (1st-2nd grade) and Campelodeans 2 (3rd -5th grade) which are geared towards first time campers, and sooo many more! There camps for all ages and interests, all with a focus on growing in our relationship with each other and Jesus Christ.

"With over 160 acres of woods, trails, and lake front, East Bay allows for delightful encounters with wildlife such as deer, wild turkeys, herons, turtles, and countless other creatures which make their home in its woods and lake. A variety of hardwoods and evergreens greet you as you walk through the property" (East Bay Camp Website)

We hope we will prayerfully consider stepping out and experiencing God in new and amazing ways! Join us for camp!!!

Scholarships

It is our intent to assist families with scholarships on an "as needed" basis. We don't want cost to deter anyone from experiencing Jesus through camping. We are asking for your support of this endeavor and will be sharing with you the ways you can contribute financially in the weeks to come!

For more information, contact the Children and Youth Ministry Team.

Peace and Love,

- Ray, Kelly, and Emily

MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Lavonne Haney
- 2 Anna Webel
- 3 Ruth Arnold
- 4 Denise Dalton
- 5 Elizabeth Paige
- 5 Laurel Leadley
- 6 Veva Windish
- 7 Carrie Koll
- 10 John Callister
- 10 Wayne Fleisher
- 10 Winifred Horney
- 14 Patrick Tracy
- 17 Russell Clark
- 19 Lawrence & Karla Kane
Anniversary
- 26 Dennis & Cheryl
Whitehurst Anniversary
- 26 Jonathan Gibbs
- 26 Allison Stevens
- 27 Wayne Callister
- 27 Al Dorich
- 27 Wendy Ewalt
- 27 Hannah Parm
- 29 Elizabeth Blane
- 29 Logan Whitney
- 30 Larry & Heidi Ennis
Anniversary
- 31 Debie Himegarner

**SERVING ON GOD'S TEAM
9 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**

March 5, 2017
 Greeters: Mary Drone/Lois Hill
 Ushers: Curtis Smith/Denise Hayes
 Liturgist: Tom Hayes
 Acolytes: Clara Asplund/Matthew Glenn
 Nursery: Bill/Michelle Seipel
 Coffee Bar: Koll Family
 S. S. Aides: Jill Crisco/Laurie Leadley/
 Kelli Miller

March 12, 2017
 Greeters: Eric/Lisa Davis
 Ushers: Roland/Jared Ekstrand
 Liturgist: Emily Webel
 Acolytes: Cassidy/Baron Case
 Nursery: Karla/Sara Kane
 Coffee Bar: Need Volunteer
 S. S. Aides: Alicia Provence/Sheri Kosowski/
 Mary Drone

March 19, 2017
 Greeters: Veva Windish
 Laurie Leadley
 Ushers: Rusty Koll/Denise Hayes
 Liturgist: Joe Webel
 Acolytes: Josie/Amelia Webel
 Nursery: Laurie Leadley/Lexi Claerhout
 Coffee Bar: Case Family
 S. S. Aides: Candy Hall/Angie Ladd/
 Doreen Smith

March 26, 2017
 Greeters: Chuck/Carolyn Stevens
 Ushers: Kent/Georgia Stevens
 Liturgist: Chris Ewalt
 Acolytes: Ian Smith/Emily Anderson
 Nursery: Jill Crisco/Lisa Doubet
 Coffee Bar: Need Volunteer
 S. S. Aides: Kelli Miller/Julie Asplund
 Laurie Leadley

**SERVING ON GOD'S TEAM
10:30 A.M. Worship Service**

March 5, 2017
 Greeters: Charlotte Booth/Chris Stevens
 Ushers: Tom Morse/Nancy Davis
 Liturgist: Ray Gilmer
 Acolytes: Clara Asplund/Matthew Glenn
 Nursery: Katie/Emily Schauble
 Counters: Alana Parm/Celene Duley

March 12, 2017
 Greeters: Meade/Betty Montgomery
 Ushers: Charlotte Haley/Bob Paige
 Liturgist: Celene Duley
 Acolytes: Cassidy/Baron Case
 Nursery: Laurie Leadley/Angie Ladd
 Counters: Kanes

March 19, 2017
 Greeters: Ruth Arnold/Diana Ladd
 Ushers: Chris Stevens/Sherry Powers
 Liturgist: Steve Davis
 Acolytes: Josie/Amelia Webel
 Nursery: Nancy Davis/Katie Parm
 Counters: Ruth Arnold/Diana Ladd

March 26, 2017
 Greeters: Nancy Wilson/Laurie Leadley
 Ushers: Erik/Laura Davis
 Liturgist: Mary Howard
 Acolytes: Ian Smith/Emily Anderson
 Nursery: Alana Parm/Celene Duley
 Counters: Alana Parm/Celene Duley

