

# GraceNotes

*The Newsletter of*

## **The United Methodist Church of Manton**

Church phone: (231) 824-3593

website: [www.mantonumc.com](http://www.mantonumc.com) ~ email: [umcmanton@charter.net](mailto:umcmanton@charter.net)

Worship with us Sundays at 10:30 am.

Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 9-Noon, Thursday 9-11 am.

**April/May 2019**

## **Pastor Jeff's Jottings**

Spring is here... well, almost!! Even though the calendar says spring, it is hard to believe until the snow is all gone and we start having consistently warm weather. Some say a robin is the first sign of spring. For pastors, it means we are in the Lenten season.

Lent is a time where we prepare ourselves to celebrate the upcoming resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a time where we reflect on our own lives and renew our covenant relationship with Christ. It is a time to look deeply at the last few days of Jesus' life here on earth. We share in the suffering and struggles that He faced and look at how parallel that can be to our own lives. During this Lenten season I am preaching on a series of questions that we often ask ourselves when we struggle in our own lives. By the time you read this we will already be two or three Sundays into Lent, but here are the questions the Lenten series will address:

Who Is Jesus? - Matthew 16:13-16

What Matters Most? - Mark 12:28-34

Am I Accepted? - John 8:1-11

Where Is God? - John 1:1-14

What Brings Fulfillment? - John 13:1-17

What About Suffering? - Matthew 27:27-31

Is There Hope? - Matthew 28:1-7

Please join us as I try and delve into these critical questions in our spiritual journey. We will be sharing Holy Communion together on April 7 and again on Easter Sunday.

Ah, yes, Easter Sunday. The day we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The day we realize we are free in Him. The day we realize our sins are forever forgiven because of His great sacrifice. Maybe instead of the final question, "Is There Hope," we should be ready to proclaim, **THERE IS HOPE** because in Him we will always have hope. There is forever that symbol of His great unconditional love for us. And there is always that invitation to accept the gift of grace that has been offered to each and every one of us!! It will be time to celebrate!! **Hallelujah!! He Is Risen!!**

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

## **Ladies Birthday Luncheon**

Ladies Birthday Luncheon will be April 18 at 12 noon at the Northside here in Manton.

## Kid's Crafts Club!

Subject to change this month.



## Variety Show

Have a talent you'd like to share? Sign up for our Variety Show to help pay for our updated electrical system. Contact Terri Swanson or Mary Kibbe. See us at church. Pass us a note of your talent and we will sign you up. The Variety Show is April 27. Save the date so you can attend.

## Tai Chi

Tai Chi is for all ages. Please join us on Monday's at 7 pm. The cost is \$2.00 per person. We will be having an Easter/spring break. *There is NO Tai Chi on April 15, 22 and 29.* This is reflected on our calendar. Tai Chi resumes the first Monday in May.

## Happy Anniversary to Me

In 1998 I lost my job at the bank due to downsizing. I had been there over 20 years. While at Donna's getting my hair cut, she informed me that there would be a job opening at the church for an office manager and that I should apply. I applied and went in for an interview in January of 1999.

I knew we were about to get a new pastor and that's when I found out we were getting Linda Carlson. I knew Linda. We went to school together. We were in the same grade and graduated together. I knew she married Ted, that she was once a teacher and became a United Methodist pastor. Even though I was hired I don't think it was because I knew Linda. I think it was because I knew the computer system and maybe because I was also involved in the church.

I started work in February 1999 the last week Pastor Rick Blunt was here. I worked alone in the office for a week or two before the new pastor arrived. During that time, I went through the filing cabinets and all the documents on the computer to become familiar with them. Back then the names of the documents were only about three or four letters long. Everything was saved under a nickname of sorts. So, I went through each and every one to see which ones I would be using. Thank goodness for computers today. It's quite ironic. As I updated my home computer system, the church updated their computer so I had no problem learning the any of the new programs.

In a nutshell I've been happily working here for 20 years. Happy anniversary to me!  
-Mary J Kibbe, Office Manager

## Think camping at one of our United Methodist Camps

Have you ever been to church camp? It's fun! It's exciting! There are lots of activities and a chance to meet new friends. Give the gift of a changed life by camping at one of our United Methodist camps. Check it out today at [www.umcamping.org](http://www.umcamping.org). Nancy Swainston is our local contact person. Scholarships are available.

# Church Council Minutes for February 26, 2019

**PRESENT:** Pastor Jeffrey A. Swainston, Bob Swanson, Terri Swanson, Cheryl Peterson, Dick Raymer, Dana Raymer, Liz Dykgraaf, Noelle Wallace, Jane Fleming, Charlene Anderson, and Ruth Ann Ward

**Lighting of the Candle:** Bob Swanson lit the candle and opened the meeting with prayer.

**Devotions:** Pastor Jeff discussed the proceedings of the General Conference which was called for the purpose of deciding how the church as a whole would move forward on the issue of gay marriage. The Traditional Plan was passed. The Traditional Plan calls for no gay marriage as well as no gay pastors. Pastor also stated that in watching the proceedings he was surprised and very disappointed by the way the members treated one another in that process.

January 24, 2019, meeting minutes were distributed, read by council members, voted on and approved.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**EDUCATION:** Liz Dykgraaf states that she is working on VBS as well as the church's yard sale.

**TRUSTEES:** Dick reported that he has obtained a quote of \$3000 for the replacement of an electrical panel as well as the replacement of some of the church's wiring. Both are needed to fix the church's ongoing lighting issues. Dick made a motion to accept the bid and proceed with the work, motion was seconded, voted on and approved.

**MEMORIAL:** Nothing new reported.

**ENDOWMENT:** Nothing new reported.

**STEWARDSHIP:** Nothing new reported.

**MISSION AND OUTREACH:** Charlene stated that she and Diane will be meeting to see how they will proceed as co-chairs of this committee. There was also discussion with regard to having the second offering plate next month to go to Sleep in Heavenly Peace. This is an organization which is sponsoring the building of bunk beds for children who are without beds.

**WORSHIP:** Terri stated that the Ash Wednesday church service will be held at 6:30 pm. She is also working on the variety show. Discussion followed with regard to a prior Dinner Theater fund that the church had some time ago. Motion was made to change the Dinner Theater fund to the Dinner Theater/Variety Show fund. Seconded, voted on and approved. Funds raised from the Variety Show will go into the Technology Fund.

**STAFF PARISH:** Dana will be moving forward with the employee reviews.

**FINANCE:** Noelle distributed the church's balance sheet. Discussion followed. Also discussed was the church's payments to the District and the Conference. Traditionally, this has been a total of 10%, \$61/month paid to the District and the balance to the Conference.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Pastor Jeff stated that he was disappointed with the Leadership Conference held at the Cadillac Church last month. Those who attended the conference agreed.

**PASTOR JEFF UPDATE:** Pastor Jeffrey A. Swainston updated us on his course of study. The Bishop will be holding a meeting on the General Conference. More discussion followed with regard to the General Conference. Pastor stated that many of our church members came to him to discuss the conference as well. Pastor hopes to have a townhall meeting on March 17, 2019.

Next meeting is March 26, 2019. Volunteer for devotions for next meeting: Jane Fleming

Closing prayer: Jeffrey A. Swainston. Meeting adjourned

Submitted by Ruth Ann Ward

## **The real meaning of the cross**

"At the cross we understand what God means when he talks of loving us, begin to take it in that there is nothing that he will not do, no sacrifice he will not make, no suffering that he will shirk, if only he can help us. 'He loved me,' said Paul, standing upon Calvary and gazing in a stunned way at the cross, 'I who was a persecutor, and a blasphemer, and injurious, and yet he loved me and he gave himself for me.' And with that [Paul's] heart broke, and the old life was gone."

—Scottish preacher Arthur John Gossip, in a 1926 sermon titled "What Happens at Calvary"

# Church Council Minutes for March 26, 2019

**PRESENT:** Pastor Jeffrey A. Swainston, Bob Swanson, Terri Swanson, Cheryl Peterson, Noelle Wallace, Jane Fleming, Lyle Matteson, and Ruth Ann Ward

After the lighting of the candle the meeting was opened with prayer.

Devotions: Jane Fleming

The February meeting minutes were distributed, read by council members, voted on and approved with one revision.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**EDUCATION:** Nothing new reported.

**TRUSTEES:** The electrical repairs will begin next week.

**MEMORIAL:** Nothing new reported.

**ENDOWMENT:** Nothing new reported.

**STEWARDSHIP:** Nothing new reported.

**MISSION AND OUTREACH:** A total of \$232 was raised for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed building project. They are also taking donations of twin sized sheets and bedding.

**WORSHIP:** Good Friday services will be held on April 19, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. The sunrise service on Easter Sunday will be at 8:00 a.m. Brunch, prepared by the men, will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Easter service will be held at 10:30 a.m.

The Variety Show will be held on April 27, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. Prior to the variety show there will be a taco bar held in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. Entry will be by donation.

**STAFF PARISH:** Nothing new reported.

**FINANCE:** Noelle distributed the church's balance sheet, discussion followed, and they were accepted as presented.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Pastor Jeff stated that the Easter Lilies for Easter Services have been ordered. He also brought up the idea of members sponsoring additional Easter Flowers to decorate the church. Said flowers could be taken home after the service. Members can sign up if they like. The flowers would cost \$15.

Pastor Jeff said that he knows someone who holds painting classes as fund raisers. All items are provided by her. The cost is \$35 per person with a minimum of six people. From that cost, 20 percent would go to the church. Money raised will go to benefit CCT.

Pastor is proceeding with a design for the previously discussed church t-shirts.

Bill Oram will represent the church at the Annual Conference in Traverse City.

**PASTOR JEFF UPDATE:** Pastor Jeff's current course of study is on the old testament and it is going well. His next class will begin in June.

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Next meeting is scheduled for: April 23, 2019

Volunteer for devotions for next meeting: Ruth Ann Ward

Closing prayer: Jeffrey A. Swainston

Meeting adjourned

Submitted by Ruth Ann Ward

# The United Methodist Church of Manton

102 N Michigan Avenue, PO Box B

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*Address Service Requested*



*Open hearts, open minds, open doors.*

## April/May 2019

There are no visitors in God's house, only family members we have not yet met.

If this is your first time worshipping with us, welcome home.

We are always glad to meet new members of God's family.

If you are looking for a church home, please join us as we follow Jesus.

Welcome! We love you and are so glad you are here.



**GOOD FRIDAY**



*The Lord is Risen!*

*If you have an address change or no longer want to receive this newsletter, please notify us.*