



**MARCH/APRIL
2018**

**Banks
Community
United Methodist
Church**

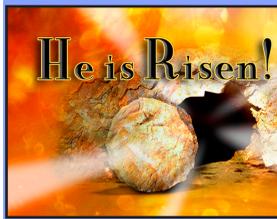
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Spring is upon us! As I write today, the temperature is 25° F. Cars and houses are covered with frost. When it comes to weather, we take what we get. What's to be done? To fret about the weather is foolish.

In other matters, I tend to be impatient. When something in my life, or in the lives of those I care for needs to be fixed, I want it all to be put right immediately. If not sooner. When it comes to the journey of a Jesus-follower, God calls most often for patient endurance through many turns and bends in the road. As we enter the Season of *Lent* (meaning Spring), it is good to see the process of healing, strengthening of faith and maturity in the Lord as a very long journey. We tend to think of salvation as a one-time event. So also, we anticipate that the prayer for healing will be answered right

away.

Scripture teaches that the life of faith is not an instant fix, but a slow journey, like that of Abraham, Jacob or Joseph (in Pharaoh's court). God invites us to walk with Him into the healing and wholeness we desire. We are hesitant to bring before the Lord the parts of ourselves we are ashamed of – or afraid of. God takes us in our entirety – body, mind and spirit. God loves us in this way as well – our whole self. In a psalm attributed to Moses we find:

*For a thousand years in Your sight
Are like yesterday when it passes by,
Or as a watch in the night.*

(Psalm 90:4 NASB)

As we enter the Season of Lent, my hope for us is that we will take time, be patient and prayerfully depend completely upon the Lord. We have no reason to fear going before God with the broken parts

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

March

- 03/01 Leslee Sipp
- 03/09 Andy Haboush
- 03/28 Kathy Douglas
- 03/28 Gail Haboush



April

- 04/02 Fred Van Dyke
- 04/03 Claire McGinnis
- 04/10 Nancy Danielson
- 04/11 Mary Mock
- 04/14 Jack Boswell
- 04/23 Linda Wygle
- 04/26 Dave Bernel



CALENDAR FOR MARCH/APRIL:

- 03/04** ~ Firefighter Pancake Breakfast at the Fire Station. 9-1.
- 03/11** ~ Daylight Savings Starts
- 03/11** ~ Celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Potluck. Bring your favorite potato casseroles, salads and desserts. Right after church.
- 03/25** ~ Palm Sunday
- 03/27** ~ Spring Cleaning" of the church.
- 03/29** ~ 7 PM: Holy Thursday Service with Holy Communion at the CUMC fellowship hall, 1095 South Beech, Cornelius. Two kinds of soup will be served. We are asking for breads, cheeses and desserts/fruit to be brought potluck style by those who attend.
- 03/30** ~ Good Friday
- 04/01** ~ Easter Sunday - Worship Service at BCUMC at 11:00 AM

SUNDAYS:

- 10:00 AM:** Choir Practice

MONDAYS:

- 7:00 PM:** Adult Bible Study - at Leola Stigleman's home.

WEDNESDAYS:

- 9:30 AM:** OGC a "retired guys fellowship" meets at the Trailhead Café.

- 10:00 AM:** Women's Bible Study at Dianne Harrang's home.



FOOD OF THE MONTH

The Food of the Month program has added greatly to our supply of items that go into our Christmas food boxes and we thank you. We hope you enjoy bringing in the listed foods each month to help build up our supply. For this year the items and months of collection are as follows:

- March – canned fruit
- April – jello
- May – pork and beans
- June – tuna
- July – refried beans
- August – diced tomatoes
- September – hearty soups
- October – stove top stuffing – chicken
- November/December – chicken broth



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of ourselves. Our Creator knows us better than we do. Jesus knows our struggles. Now is the time to courageously bring them before God's throne. As we do, we will experience more and more the wonder of His never-ending mercy and super-abundant grace.

Yours in Christ,
Margot



EMERGENCY KITS

The Women's Fellowship is collecting emergency kits that include things like tooth brushes, tooth paste, hand soap, washcloths, etc. for the Chaplains in Forest Grove to give to people experiencing a catastrophic event, such as fire, that destroys their home.

To date we have 53 completed gallon size bags with: toothpaste, toothbrush, hand soap, lotion, comb, Kleenex packets and washcloths.

Speak with Sally or Leola if you'd like to donate items to this wonderful cause.

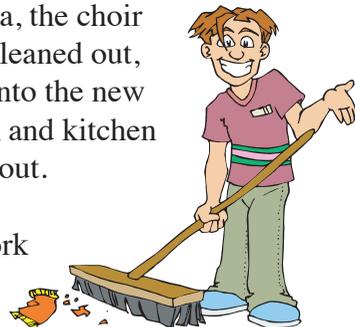


"SPRING CLEANING"



The Trustees will be having a day for removing the grit and grime that has built up over the last couple of years in our church buildings. Tuesday, March 27, starting at 9:30, (or whenever you arrive), we will knock down cobwebs from

the Sanctuary chandeliers, wipe off the construction dust from the walls, doors and furniture in the Family Room and Fellowship Hall. The ladies can clean and sort their backroom storage area, the choir room closets can be cleaned out, items can be moved into the new kitchen storage areas, and kitchen drawers need wiping out.



If you choose to work outside you may do so. Windows need cleaning and if the weather permits, we could do some exterior painting.

These are just a few of the things that can be done; we're sure we can find more that needs doing if we need to.

As you can see, there is a lot to do and everyone of any age is welcome to assist, the more the merrier. Lunch will be served. Save the date of March 27 and come have some fun while working alongside others. If you can't work on this date, another day may work better for you; let a Trustee know.

Your Trustees,
Andy, Arne, Ellen, Gail

Many thanks to all of you who helped make our 50th Anniversary so special. It was just perfect.

 Love, Ed and Leslee

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Shoebox Update

As we continue walking our way through 2018 we can feel proud and blessed at what was accomplished back in November, 2017, all in the name of Jesus Christ and with His help. Your contribution of shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child helped make up the total of 26,062 boxes received throughout the Portland and NW Oregon region, adding to the worldwide total of 11,012,840 shoeboxes given to bless children around the world and give them the opportunity to hear the Gospel message through The Greatest Journey Bible course. With the snowball effect, we know the impact of our shoeboxes is more than 11

million. Parents, grandparents, aunts & uncles, cousins, friends, neighbors can also be the recipient of the love and hope of one simple shoebox.



Although collection week has come and gone our job is not done. It is time to pray for these boxes as many are still in the process of being handed out, and pray for the children who will receive those boxes. The destination for boxes from the Northwest may be Peru, Philippines, Indonesia, or Malawi. Now it is time to prepare for this year's collection. Last year the Banks Drop-off Location received 877 shoeboxes, almost 100 fewer boxes than the previous year. Our goal for this year is 1200! Your participation of providing love through the gift of a shoebox is greatly appreciated and we hope to receive your shoeboxes filled with fun gifts, love and

hope this coming November.

Andy & Gail,
Your Drop-off Location coordinators



LENT

We are now in the season of Lent, a season of preparation when we observe a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, self-denial and spiritual discipline. Whether you decide to increase your Bible reading and prayer time, or fast from certain types of “luxuries”, these 6 weeks from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday are a time for self-examination and reflection.

As in years past we have received your Lenten/Self-denial offerings and given them to a variety of missions, here and abroad. This year your offerings will be given to *Lucky to Serve*, an organization based in North Plains that provides all the Christmas gifts that accompany our Christmas food boxes. Brenda Bottema started *Lucky to Serve* in memory of her husband, “Lucky”, after his unexpected death. He was a very giving man always ready to serve those in need.

If you wish to give a self-denial offering, you may put it in one of the Christmas-wrapped boxes provided, or in any container or envelope of your choice. We will collect these offerings on Easter Sunday, April 1st. Many will be blessed by your generosity.

Quilt of Holes

As I faced my Maker at the last judgment, I knelt before the Lord along with all the other souls.

Before each of us laid our lives like the squares of a quilt in many piles; an angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that is our life.

But as my angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares was. They were filled with giant holes. Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in every day life.. I saw hardships that I endured, which were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich color and the bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened.

My angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air.

Finally the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light, the scrutiny of truth. The others rose; each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been. My angel looked upon me, and nodded for me to rise.

My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life, and laughter.. But there had also been trials of illness, and wealth, and false accusations that took from me my world, as I knew it. I had to stop & start over many times. I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only somehow mustering the strength to pick up and begin again.

I spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully, each time offering it up to the Father in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me.

And now, I had to face the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it was.

I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light.

An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with wide eyes.

Then, I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded the many holes, creating an image, the face of Christ. Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes He said, 'Every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My life, My hardships, and My struggles.

Each point of light in your life is when you

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stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you.'

May all our quilts be threadbare and worn, allowing Christ to shine through!

God determines who walks into your life it's up to you to decide who you let walk away, who you let stay, and who you refuse to let go.

When there is nothing left but God, that is when you find out that God is all you need.



I LOVE YOU MORE

By Heather Spears Kallus

A little girl ran to her mom, exclaiming, "Mom, I love you!"

She hugged her tight with all her might and said, "I REALLY do!"

The mom knelt down and held her child. She sang, "I love you MORE!"

"Impossible!" the girl replied, "Love YOU a billion four!"

"I love you more than all my toys, my games, and even candy!

I love you more than my stuffed bears - more than my favorite, Sandy.

I love you to the stars and moon and planets in the sky.

I love you so, each day and night," she yawned with a sigh.

The mom picked up her precious angel - sat her on her lap.

She rocked her in the rocking chair, so they could take a nap.

With each rock, back and forth, she smelled her child's sweet hair.

She held her close, heard her breathe, and felt the loving care.

As the child drifted off, she whispered, "Mom, I love you."

The mom responded with a kiss, "Sweetheart, I love you, too."

The mom then prayed, "Thank you for this child You gave to me.

Do I deserve a love like ours? It's so deep you see.

How blessed I feel to have such a special gift as this.

You've given me so much, Lord. I love to reminisce."

The Lord assured, "Dear daughter - my children, I adore.

Actually, if you want to know...

I'm the One who loves you MORE."



Monday, February 12, 2018

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the entire Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church, I greet you as we enter the Lenten Season – a season of reflection and preparation for the celebration of Jesus’ triumphant resurrection on Easter.

The pattern of our Lenten journey was set by Jesus during his 40 days of solitude, fasting, prayer and testing in the Judean desert. This was an essential period of preparation for Jesus’ public ministry.

But, the goal of our Lenten journey was revealed by Jesus when he first foretold his disciples of his death and resurrection. Mark’s Gospel has Jesus saying: “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.” (Mark 8:34-35)

What does it mean to lose one’s life for the sake of the gospel? It means to live the same purposeful life Jesus lived. It means to deny our preferences for the sake of Jesus’ kingdom purposes. It means to set aside our self-interest so that others may have a more abundant life. It means we are saved in order to participate in the salvation of others. It means our hearts

will break for the very situations that break the heart of God.

Our beloved United Methodist Church is in a season of Lent. We are in an intense season of prayer, discernment and exploring what it means to lose one’s life for the sake of the gospel. The Commission on a Way Forward and the Council of Bishops have entered a critical time of reflection, prayer and fasting as we seek to listen deeply and expectantly to the Holy Spirit. We are confident God’s Spirit will guide the Commission and the Council in discerning where God is leading our church and how, through Christ’s grace, we will continue to do ministry and make disciples throughout the world.

We invite all United Methodists to join us in this Lenten reflection by focusing on the mission that Jesus Christ gave us at the end of his earthly ministry after he triumphantly overcame sin, hatred and death to give birth to a church grounded in the new covenant of love. Please join us in these Lenten disciplines of surrendering our lives to the way of the cross.

- Take at least 30 minutes every day in Lent to pray, offering God your requests, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving. Pray for the members of the Commission on a Way Forward. Pray for your bishops. Pray for the church and pray for the whole world. 1 John 5:14-15 reminds that we should have bold confidence that “if we ask anything according to God’s will, God hears us. And if we know that God hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of God.”

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- Take time to fast, whether it is from food or from some activity. Take the example of Jesus who withdrew to the desert to fast from food and pray for 40 days before starting his public ministry. Our fasting brings us closer to God and enhances our prayers. In whatever we decide to do, we must remember as Romans 14:17 tells us: “For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

- Take time to reflect on your spiritual gifts and resources that God has blessed you with and share them with others. Donate your time or money saved by fasting to your local church for missions and ministries that benefit your local community directly. Offer your service for acts of compassion and advocacy. Take the example of the first Christians who “were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.” (Acts 2:44-45)

During this Lenten season, let us continue to live out our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Together, let us lose our lives for the sake of the Gospel. By doing so, we will honor the Lord’s Prayer that the kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven and thereby glorify God.

Bishop Bruce R. Ough, President
Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church

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PASTOR MARGOT’S OFFICE HOURS

Banks Community UMC

Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. - noon
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Thursday - 10:00 a.m. - noon
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Cornelius UMC

Monday - 10:00 a.m. - noon
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday - 10:00 a.m. - noon
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

(At all hours, and any day Sunday through Thursday, please use her cell phone number.) She is also available for urgent or emergency matters at all times via cell.

BANKS TELLER

All submissions to the *Banks Teller* are **DUE BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH** preceding the month you wish it to run. The *Banks Teller* is published every two months.