

MARCH



/ APRIL



2023

From Pastor Rob

Greetings Church Family!

What is Lent?

Lent is a season of preparation for Easter that lasts for 40 days, not counting Sundays, that spans from Ash Wednesday until Easter each year. As you might imagine the number of days being set at 40 is not a coincidence at all. The 40 days of Lent is set up as a reminder of the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness in preparation for His time in ministry to the world. Yes, that is the same wilderness time when Satan arrived on the scene to tempt Jesus on three different occasions.

How do You Observe Lent?

One of the beauties of Lent is that there is not a rule book to follow. The point of Lent is to prepare your heart for Easter where we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Jesus spent those days in the wilderness fasting, that is denying himself the comfort of food. With that in mind, many Christians choose to observe Lent by fasting from something, like a specific food or drink, or from habits like social media or television watching. During Lent, the idea is that we die to ourselves by giving up those things we desire. In addition, instead of fasting from something, other disciples take the opportunity of Lent to add or increase a spiritual discipline such as prayer, bible reading, or others. Remember there isn't a formula to be successful in how you observe Lent.

Why Observe Lent?

Jesus, spent those 40 days, denying himself through fasting, in order to prepare for his journey through death, resurrection, and subsequent ministry. Lent allows us to remember and prepare as well in recognizing our own journey from sin and death into life and love with Jesus. A pastor, when talking about the critical occurrences in our life, once said this. "It isn't that we forget them, it is that we fail to remember them". Think about the major historical events that have occurred during your lifetime. Chances are you remember exactly where you were when you got the news, so you haven't forgotten it at all, but you have failed to remember it... well until I reminded you. Such is the case with Lent. It is a great way to avoid failing to remember not only what Jesus went through in the wilderness, but also to remember the outcome that we celebrate on Easter Sunday. May your Lenten season prepare you well for the celebration of our Risen Lord, and may you share the time of remembrance with others God puts in your daily life.

MUSICAL NOTES



Hello!

As we enter the season of Lent, I invite you to join the choir in singing *The Hallelujah Chorus*. We will be practicing together during the first half of the choir practice. We will start practicing for Easter Sunday starting on March 8. If you would like a rehearsal CD, please come see me! Choir practice takes place every Wednesday from 7-8pm.

Feel free to contact me at:

NJUMC.ChoirDirector@gmail.com

Blessings,
Emma Connors

H.E.R.B.I.E Clinic

**For anyone without health insurance
2nd Saturdays, March 11, April 8 & May 13
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. More dates will be
published in subsequent newsletters.**

The college students who have been helping will be leaving to go home at the end of the semester. Volunteers are needed to greet and escort patients through the building and the check in process. **Please call Dr. Sherry O'Donnell's office at (269) 408-1777.**



INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

- From Pastor Rob/Musical Notes 1
- H.E.R.B.I.E. Clinic/Evy's Closet/ Back Pack
- Food Program/Cross-Cultural Ministries 2
- Sunday School News.....3
- Mark Your Calendar/VEP's Single Women' Group/ Easter Flowers Order Form3 & 4
- Special Sundays.....5
- Committee Reports.....6
- United Women in Faith.....7
- Prayer List8
- Birthdays9

Back Pack Food Program

This program is no longer active. Thank you to your many years of service provided to area school children. We are discussing ways in which the funds can be used for children, possibly our VBS.

Cross-Cultural Ministries Donna, TX

Nancy and Jennifer Watts and group distributed Valentine's Day goodies and books to their community! Our donations help them serve those in need.



UWF no longer collects can tabs, but the Ronald McDonald House in South Bend does! Please collect your can tabs and put them on the platform inside the circle drive door. We will see that they get to RMH in South Bend. Thanks!

Evy's Closet

Evy's Closet is open for shopping hours from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursdays. The amount of donations we have received has been phenomenal.

Because we have so many items, we do not limit the shoppers to 2 items, they get 3 bags to fill each time they shop up to four times per month. Thank you so much for all the donations.

We would like to collect toiletry items to fill the toiletry bags. The size of items that hotels offer, small toothpaste, Kleenex, toothbrushes, makeup samples, and Chapstick are all great donations for the bags and are very appreciated by our shoppers. Donations can be left in the box in the Narthex.

Thank you all for your generosity!



Rev. Elton Orpurt plans to continue the Adult Sunday School class. The class meets at 9:00 a.m. in the Gather Inn.

Youth vacation Bible School!! We are happy to announce that Kelsey Medlin and Emma Connors will be directing the 2023 VBS program! We are in the beginning planning stages for this program. If you would like to serve during VBS please let us know! Please pray for God's blessing over this year's VBS.

Feel free to reach out to Kelsey or Emma at our new Youth and Children's email: NJUMC.Youth@gmail.com

VEP's was started by Rev. Mark Graham, (pastor here in the 1980's) years ago, as an interdenominational fellowship group for single women of any age, circumstance or church in our community. Since none of us are the original members we think the initials stand for **Very Exceptional People**. We meet for lunch one Sunday a month, March to November, at an area restaurant. (Whoever is the hostess picks the restaurant). March 12th is their next event. If you are interested in joining us, please call Pam Montgomery at 683-2192. The dates for our 2023 meetings are as follows: March 12, April 9, May 7, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8 and November 12.



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead before you go to bed Saturday night March 11th so you won't miss church!! Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 12th this year.



Michigan Area United Methodist Camping program registration is open! You can register online at umcamping.org/events, call 989-534-6587 or use the form available in the church office.



Hospitality Committee Fun and Fellowship!! BBQ dinner Sunday, March 19th after church in and Easter Brunch, Sunday April 9th after church, both in Fellowship Hall.

March 19th: Barbeque Luncheon features Pastor Rob's famous pulled pork barbeque. Please bring a dish to pass – potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, macaroni & cheese, etc... Dessert of strawberry shortcake will be provided. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex or call the church office and make your reservation.

April 9th: We will be enjoying eggs, ham, cinnamon rolls, fruit, coffee and fruit juice. There will be a sign-up sheet for these in the Narthex or call the church office.

Daily Devotions



A limited quantity of **Upper Room** and **Our Daily Bread** devotionals are available at the church on the usher's table in the Narthex. Please pick up your copy before they run out!



It's time to think about Easter flowers to decorate the church for Easter morning! At the time of this printing the pricing was not available. The pricing will be emailed and included in the bulletin when it is available. You may choose to designate flowers in honor of or in memory of loved ones, and the list will be included in the Easter bulletin. We are offering 6" potted lilies or tulips. Please leave orders and payment in the offering plate or church office **no later than Thursday, March 16th**. You may take the flowers home with you after the Easter Sunday Service on April 9th.

_____ Potted Lilies, with bow

_____ Potted Tulips, with bow

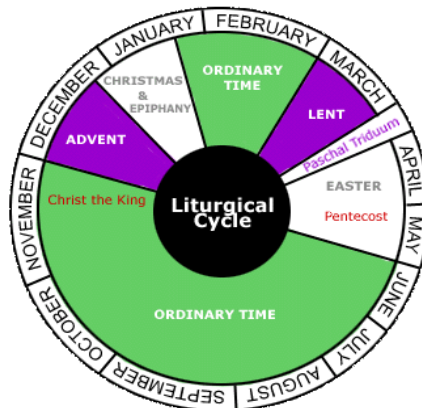
Name: _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____ Total \$ _____

Special Sundays

March 5	Communion Second Sunday in Lent
March 12	Third Sunday in Lent Daylight Saving Time Starts
March 19	Fourth Sunday in Lent/UMCOR Sunday
March 26	Fifth Sunday in Lent
April 2	Communion Palm Sunday
April 7	Good Friday Service 6:00 p.m.
April 9	Easter Sunday
April 16	Second Sunday of Easter
April 23	Third Sunday of Easter/Native American Ministries Sunday
April 30	Fourth Sunday of Easter



LITURGISTS:

Mar 5	Sue Phillips (Communion)
Mar 12	John Engel
Mar 19	Tim Rogers
Mar 26	Dee Rough
Apr 2	Sue Phillips (Communion) – Palm Sunday
Apr 9	Kelsey Medlin - Easter Sunday
Apr 16	John Engel
Apr 23	Sandy Hodgman
Apr 30	Sharon Stephayn

Committee Reports

+++++++MISSIONS /WORSHIP+++++++

March Mission – The Table Meal Ministry

The Table serves a meal at Spero House on Second Street in Niles each Thursday beginning at 4:00 p.m. and shares the Love of God and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Your donations will help them provide a meal to so many people in Niles who are food insecure.

April Mission – Church World Service Blankets and Tools

CWS has one goal: building a world where there is enough for all. Our vision is a world where everyone has food, voice and a safe place to call home. We've been working to make this a reality for more than 75 years, and we know it's possible. We've welcomed thousands of refugees and other new neighbors into our communities, helped countless families put food on the table and lifted the voices of people who have been left out. Your contributions purchase blankets to provide warmth and shelter; contributions also provide tools to help people grow their own food.

*Note: Coins for UMCOR are a separate gift collected every Sunday.

+++++++TRUSTEES+++++++

As most of you know by now, we have a contract with Moersch Hospitality for the sale of the Grace Church. They own and operate several restaurant businesses in Berrien County including Tabor Hill and Round Barn Winery. Our original closing date was in February but had to be moved to "on or before April 17" because of issues such as zoning, licenses, and surveys. There has been considerable media coverage on TV and in the newspapers including an article in the South Bend Tribune "Business Section" on Feb. 19th.

We have recently hired Custom Computer Co. to replace the camera and 3 monitors in our security system at the driveway door. This was completed using some our Memorial Funds. This new equipment allows a better and clearer view of who is entering the church.

The Koorsen alarm system was upgraded to be more compatible with 5G electronics and the connection to the monitoring center.

At our next meeting, we will be reviewing a quote for plaster repair in the Sanctuary. We will also review a quote from Custom Computer for improvements in the Wi-Fi system to help our electronic systems run better.

Thanks again to Randy for keeping the sidewalks clear of ice and snow and to Larry for all the repairs. And to Amy, Thanks for all you do to keep the Church clean and usable.

We have equipment from the Grace Church shed which we do not need. We do not know if they run or when they were last used. 2 lawn mowers and 1 snow blower can be yours for a very low price. If interested, see Dick McCreedy.

~Trustees

+++++++FINANCE+++++++

Thank you for your faithful giving. 2022 Statements of Giving were available to be picked up or mailed in January. If you did not receive yours, please contact the church office at 269-683-7250.

To meet our budgeted expenses in 2023 we need \$3,221 per week in offering contributions.

+++++++CONGREGATIONAL CARE+++++++

Nancy Nimitz is the new Chair of this committee. The list of members with special circumstances and needs has been updated and is posted on the bulletin board by the mailboxes. And if you know of anyone else who should be added, please let us know. Also, please let Pastor Rob know when he is needed to contact someone who is in need of prayer. The Committee is sending cards to those on the list, so make sure to update it or let Nancy Nimitz know. A basket has been placed in the Narthex to collect any unwanted cards you have at home. Any occasion card will do. Also, if you would like to donate money to purchase stamps, that would be very helpful.

~ Nancy Nimitz

+++++++HOSPITALITY+++++++

What a great time we had enjoying the delicious lasagna, salad, breadsticks and dessert last month. We plan on continuing our fellowship opportunities with a BBQ dinner on March 19th and Easter Brunch on April 9th. Both meals will be served after church those Sunday mornings. There will be more information and signup sheets for each of these events as we get closer to those dates.

~ Amy Wade, Hospitality Committee Chair

+++++++



United
Women
in Faith

UWF Corner

Greetings from your "Women in Faith"

Our first circle meeting isn't scheduled until April, however March is full of other "happenings" like: Sunday, March 12th – daylight savings starts; Monday, March 20th – first day of Spring; Thursday, March 23rd – Executive Board meets at Noon in B-1; Saturday, March 25th – Southwest District Spring Fling at Hopkins United Methodist Church.

Mary-Martha Circle will meet for fellowship and lunch on Wednesday, April 5th. Traditionally, this has been a mystery lunch so it's a surprise and we carpool from church at 11:30 a.m. Details will be revealed closer to April 5th. Guests are welcome to this first meeting of 2023 and at all our meetings! Stay tuned.

Not much else to report on so I'm sharing a devotion taken from the [2023 Daily Guidepost](#) (which has just been renamed [Walking in Grace](#)). This was written by Patricia Lorenz and the Bible verse is Job 12: 12-13: "And as you say, older men like me are wise. They understand. But true wisdom and power are God's. He alone knows what we should do; he understands." (TLB)

"The electric stove in my condo was put in when the building was built in 1969, so this year marks my stove's fifty-fourth birthday. Numerous friends and family members have encouraged me to get a new one. But why? The oven and every burner still work fine; one burner is even designed to heat up extremely fast and is still does. A few years ago, I won honorable mention in my county for having the second-oldest still-working hot water heater. It was forty-eight years old at the time. That year, I did give in to the pressure from my loved ones and replaced it – only to notice that the new one was only guaranteed to last eight years. Why fix things that aren't broken just because they're old, I ask. Faith is old. Prayer is old. Love is old. Kindness is old. I'm old! I had a great-uncle who lived to be 104, so I'm patterning myself after Uncle Collie and hope to live at least another twenty-five years. My point is that it all still works. I'm not going to stop swimming, biking, hiking, dancing, laughing, and flirting just because I'm old. The thing I love most that's old is faith. Generations after generations after generations have relied on faith to get them through the tough times. And believe me, once you hit your mid-to-late seventies, like me, you have seen your share of tough times. But why worry? We have our faith. We have love. We have kindness. We have Jesus and each other. I think that's all we need.....
Lord, You taught us the basics of life. Everything we need is rooted in You and Your message".

Jeannine Severeid,
UMW President

Prayers for our Church Family

Please review the Prayer List, and notify the church office of any updates!

Cancer Patients

Pam (Ross) Todd
 Sharon Dircks
 Gail Peterson
 Marion Eldred
 Earl Corak
 Claire Wiggins (*Richard Ham's sister*)
 Elton Orpurt
 Luke Fannon (*Brenda, John & Ron's nephew-in-law*)

Ray Boon (*Carol Wilfert's b-i-l*)
 Chris Hay (*Niece to Jane Heflin*)
 Nancy Comfort
 Becky (*Kathy Scott's friend*)
 Rose Aravena
 Jack Scott
 Linda (*friend of Snodgrass'*)
 Glenn Litchfield
 Dwayne White (*Pastor Rob's nephew*)

Health Concerns

Kenny and Vicki Earl
 Nancy Rheinholt
 Patrick Apple
 Debbie Pingel
 Kathy & Rob Di Addezio
 Bonnie & Don Nie
 Dixie Pingel
 Moonyean Quick
 Nancy Boose
 Chuck & Faith Ernst
 Sean (*Starla Miller's nephew*)
 Janet & husband John (*friends of Pastor Rob and Kathe*)
 Charles Hall
 Nancy Watts
 Elaine & Bill Carter
 Jennifer Watts
 Carol Noid
 Anslie Rink-Scott (*Ernst's granddaughter*)
 Norma Mark
 Bonnie Garwood's father (*Ernst's daughter-in-law*)
 Marsha (*friend of Pam Montgomery*)
 Jennifer Bobelenyi, son Timothy and her Dad
 Tamra Binkley (*Laura Garner's friend*)
 Pat (*Jane's friend*)

Sarah Merrill (*Vicki Earl's daughter*)
 Imogene Orpurt
 Judy Mark
 Jason Pingel
 Dennis Comfort
 Barb Magrane
 Bob Burton
 Mary Varner
 David Litchfield
 Lindsey Wahl
 Jason & Bonnie Garwood
 Jaime Aravena (*Rose's husband*)
 Katrina (*Faith Ernst's daughter*)
 Mindy Corak
 Melva Kohler (*Mike's Mom*)
 Carole Fowler
 Bonnie (*From Morris Chapel*)
 Doug Nie
 Christine
 Kane
 Starla Miller
 Wayne Stiles (*Watts' friend*)
 Jill Ross

Prayers for Our Shut-ins: Evelyn Andrews, Mona Bays, Bob Burton, Jane Heflin, Norma Mark, Dick Noble, Lynn Schweinzger, Mary Varner and Megan Vite.

Happy Birthday



Happy Birthday to the following who celebrate **MARCH** and **APRIL** birthdays

Brenda Engel	March 1
Sharon Williams	March 8
Cheryl Atwater	March 11
Lois Mallory	March 13
Bill Carter	March 13
Moony Quick	March 17
Jeannine Severeid	March 17
Ted Sidmore	March 23
Vicki Earl	March 24
Mike Kohler	March 24
Greg Rough	March 27
Kayla Kadwell	March 28
Starla Miller	March 29
Jane Heflin	March 31
Judy Corak	April 5
Jack Gundlock	April 6
Mason Mitchell	April 11
Kathy Scott	April 18
Martha Bredow	April 19
Evelyn Andrews	April 19
Dick McCreedy	April 19
Nancy Watts	April 19
Doris Anders	April 25
Cindy Jackson	April 28
John Engel	April 29

If your special day is not listed or the date is wrong, please call the church office and let us know.

New Journey United Methodist Church
302 Cedar Street
Niles, Michigan 49120

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:30 a.m.

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Phone: 269-683-7250

Pastor Rob Snodgrass: rsnodgrass72@gmail.com

Brenda Engel, Financial Secretary: newjourneyumc2561@gmail.com

New Journey UMC is a downtown church with a Vision to Breathe In & Breathe Out:

Breathe In – To nurture the spiritual development of persons of all ages through worship, education, and fellowship; and to live the Core Values of Prayer, Faith, Love and Compassion.

Breathe Out – To be in ministry for all persons in our community.