



THE TORCH

ROUND LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DEDICATED 1894
CELEBRATING OUR 118TH YEAR
MARCH 2012

Pastoral Ponderings

Now when John heard in prison about the things Jesus was doing, he sent word by his disciples to Jesus, asking, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus responded, "Go, report to John what you hear and see. Those who were blind are able to see. Those who were crippled are walking. People with skin diseases are cleansed. Those who were deaf now hear. Those who were dead are raised up. The poor have good news proclaimed to them." (Matthew 11:2-5)

During our recent vacation, Dan and I witnessed several amazing scenes from nature. While still in California we stopped at a protected beach where elephant seals were supposed to be. When we first looked down at the beach all we thought we saw were rocks, then something moved. There was a single, male elephant seal. We then walked over and saw a whole beach filled with elephant seals. Yes, they still looked like rocks but now we knew what we were seeing. What an amazing sight.

A little later that day we stopped in a small grove of trees. We heard there would be lots of Monarch Butterflies here. The sign at the entrance to this area said there were over 23,000 Monarchs there that day. Yet, looking around we saw only an occasional one flitting about. We looked up into the trees; all we saw were what we thought were clumps of dead leaves still hanging on. Another visitor suggested we look through the telescopes that had been set up. When we did we saw all the Monarchs clustered together. Another amazing sight.

A few days later as we cruised along the coast of Mexico we were walking our daily laps around the deck. We looked out and saw what we thought were white garbage bags floating in the ocean and wondered who had discarded all these bags in the ocean. Then we stopped and chatted with some fellow passengers. They too were observing the ocean and what was floating in it. They offered their binoculars to us for a moment. It was then we saw that what we thought were white garbage bags were really sea turtles. A day later we saw even more sea turtles, some with a sea birds resting on top of their shells. Still another amazing sight.

How many times do we need help seeing something that is obvious or known to others? How often do others need our help in seeing what we are seeing? Even John (the Baptist) had questions about who Jesus was and needed help from Jesus to see and know that Jesus was indeed the Messiah.

There are many folks in our neighborhoods, work places and recreation places who would like to see Jesus. Like those who helped us see the amazing sights of nature, so we can be the ones to help others see Jesus.

As we take this year's journey to Jerusalem, may our lives be witnesses to God's great love for us through Jesus, the Christ.

With Christ's Peace – Rev. Jane

Scriptures in Worship

Throughout March we are in the Church's season of Lent. Lent is a 40 day period of preparation for the joyous festival of Easter. During Lent we journey to Jerusalem with Jesus, having heard him tell of what will happen when we arrive: He will undergo suffering, be rejected, killed and on the third day rise again. (Mark 8:31) Lent has traditionally been understood as a season of testing. As scriptures show us the challenges Jesus faced during this journey, we will also examine the challenges we face as we follow him, taking up our own crosses in his name.

Sunday, March 4, 2012

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

Sunday, March 11, 2012

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

Sunday, March 18, 2012

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

Sunday, March 25, 2012

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Holy Week Worship

Holy Week begins Sunday, April 1st with a remembrance of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem known as Palm Sunday. Our Sunday worship that day will be a celebration of this event.

We will remember Jesus' meal with the disciples, Holy Thursday, on April 5th with worship beginning at 7pm. We will remember Jesus' Passion, Good Friday, on April 6th, during worship beginning at 7pm.

Easter is Sunday, April 8th. There will be an outdoor Sunrise Service (weather permitting) beginning at 6:30am. Our Sunday worship will be a festive celebration of the Resurrection beginning at 9:30am.

Trustees

Trustees are already looking forward to starting new projects to help maintain the church and parsonage. On Saturday, March 31st we will have a church cleanup beginning at 9am. This will include the outside grounds and the sanctuary. Join us as we prepare our building for the Easter celebrations.

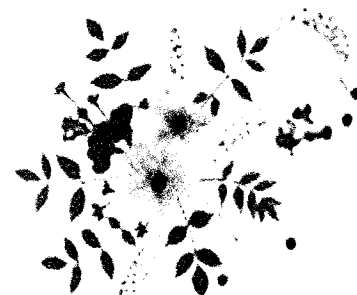
We have also received an insurance settlement from the water damage to the basement for the replacement of the floors and doors. It is our hope to have a committee formed to research and coordinate this project. Please let Doug Madigan know if anyone in the congregation has any interest in being a part of this committee.

Trustees, continued

Our monthly meetings continue to be held on the last Wednesday of the month at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

UMW

Valentine Bags were delivered to 24 Shut-Ins in February. Many members of our congregation shared a heartwarming visit with the people they delivered to. The Shut-Ins are always so delighted to receive the bag and the visit.



Our **Men's Dinner** will be March 24th at 5pm. We will have delicious Ziti and Meatballs for dinner. Our speaker will be Joe Peck, author and a relative of the Sievers family. Joe is a Cornell University graduate and humorous speaker who milks 100 Holsteins a day on his farm. He is an accomplished writer of humorous stories about farm life will share his observations after the dinner. He has graciously donated his services and we are so looking forward to hearing him. There will be an opportunity to purchase his books as well. Dinner will be a donation of \$5 and reservations are required. Please see or call Carol Millington for tickets 899-2418.

We are planning our Annual Ladies Dinner in April. Look for details in our April Torch!

Our UMW meeting will be March 19th at 7pm. Joyce Meurs will be sharing divine devotions, Rev. Jane Baker is planning an inspirational program, and Ruth will be serving some of her scrumptious goodies. Anyone interested in helping to plan our Fall Bazaar, please come at 6:30pm. Hope to see you there!

Fall Bazaar

Plans for the **Fall Bazaar** are well under way. The date will be **Saturday, Oct 20, 2012**, 9am to 3pm.

Plans so far include a luncheon (Jean Halme, chair), bake sale (Joyce Meurs, chair), holiday table and used books sale (Marilyn DeLorio, chair), and a Chinese auction (Kathy Washburn, chair).

More details about the day's activities and how you can get involved will be shared throughout the coming months. If at any time you have any questions, please contact any one of the chairpersons.

Finance

The finance committee would like to thank Mary Kopp for all her work and constant support the past few years as Treasurer. It was truly a pleasure having her on our team.

The following positions were filled at the January Finance committee meeting:

Treasurer: Dom DeLorio.....passed by a special meeting of the church council

Assistant Treasurer: Katie Madigan

Financial Manager: Kathy Washburn

Assistant Financial Manager: Joyce Meurs

Recording Secretary: Jean Halme

Financial Secretary: currently open. This position is to be the leader of the counters, which includes scheduling, training and relaying that information every month to the editor of *The Torch*. Please see anyone on the Finance committee if interested in any of the above available positions.

YTD: Jan 31, 2012:

INCOME: \$11,226

EXPENSES: \$8,490

NET: \$2,736

Please note that the Finance meetings will be on the SECOND Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on March 13, at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Special Music in March

March 4 Choir

11 Sing-a-long

18 One Achord

25 Tom and Tamara Russell

Special Dates in March

Birthdays

2	David Meurs
5	Kathy Washburn
12	Chad Sievers
14	Sue Mitchell
17	Matt Scoons
19	Amy Mrozek
25	Ken Madigan
27	Jean Halme
28	Mary Kopp
28	Shelda Roerig
30	Jerry Winters

Anniversaries

3	Joyce and David Meurs
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Ushers

March 4	Bob Kopp
11	Mike Cranston
18	Dan Baker
25	Dave Meurs

Readers

March 4	Duane Colson
11	Diane Marino
18	Katie Madigan
25	Tamara Russell

Counters

March 4	Walt Agnew/Linda Milkins
11	Terry Reynolds/Jean Halme
18	Bob Washburn/Jean Halme
25	Charlene Christopher/Shelda Roerig



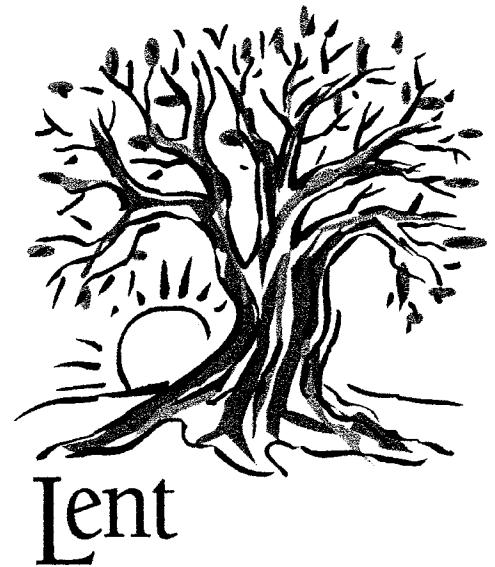
Bishop's Lent Letter 2012

Lent is like watching a replay in sports. We already know the outcome. We see it relived each year; from the days of sacrifice and doubt that begin on Ash Wednesday to the victory on Easter morn. As members of the Christian community, we know that victory will come.

Our loving and gracious God makes this Lenten replay available to allow us to pause and watch the play again so that we might better absorb its meaning. These days preceding Easter are marked by repentance and renewal. In the Gospel lesson we see where Jesus withdrew to the wilderness to fast and pray for 40 days before starting his public ministry.

I am inviting you to join me during our 40-day journey of Lent by doing three things:

- **REFLECT.** Pray daily on the conditions of the world in which we live. Pray for the members of this Annual Conference that we will strive to love, respect and work together. Pray that we will also make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by being God's love with our neighbors in all places.
- **SACRIFICE.** I invite you to join me in the John Wesley fast each week. I will fast Thursday through Friday lunch. You choose when you wish to do it. The Book of Joel reminds us that the Lord encourages us to: "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. ... Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love ..." (Joel 2:12-13) I, too, encourage you to grow in Grace through fasting.
- **COMMIT.** Commit to the ministry of Africa University by giving \$1 a day during Lent. The \$40 should be given to your church treasurer and sent on to the Conference marked "AU Lenten Offering." I cannot repeat often enough how this three-year campaign to endow scholarships for Africa University will change not only the lives of every student recipient but the lives of their families as well. We can help transform lives in our neighborhood, and around the world.



Even though we know the outcome, we need this replay. We need to understand that even in times of doubt and loss, there is someone beyond ourselves who can see the whole field and help us to call the plays of life and make them. Lent brings us the promise of the risen Christ – the Christ who has overcome all to lead us to victory. Join me during this season of Lent in praying for transformative perseverance, fasting to focus our minds, bodies and spirits, and giving from our abundance.






We are on the winning team. We've seen the replay. But every year we take it in anew, because the victory is always glorious to behold.

Grace and peace,
Bishop Marcus Matthews

February
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29

March 2012

April
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship 9:30am Prayer Study 11am	Stone Soup 1pm					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship 9:30am Prayer Study 11am	Stone Soup 1pm	Finance Committee meeting 7pm	Choir 7pm	Torch deadline		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship 9:30am Prayer Study 11am	UMW Meeting 7pm	Administrative Council meeting 7pm	Choir 7pm			 Men's Dinner 5pm
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Worship 9:30am Prayer Study 11am	Stone Soup 1pm		Choir 7pm Trustees meeting 7pm			Church Clean-Up day 9am

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Round Lake, New York

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The Torch is a monthly publication of the
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