



THE TORCH

ROUND LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DEDICATED 1894
CELEBRATING OUR 119TH YEAR
MARCH 2013

Pastoral Ponderings

It happens every year about this time. We all realize just how fed up we are with the cold, wind, snow, and ice that have been our companions through the winter. We long for warm, sunny days that will allow us to go outside without being bundled up. We celebrate any day that shows any spring-like characteristics. Yet, we know deep within our hearts that spring will unfold gently, coming slowly at first as it prepares for its burst of glory when we know there will be no returning to the dreariness of winter.

A friend told me on the last warm and sunny day of our January vacation: "I am afraid to go inside. I'm afraid of the cold and dark returning." I have echoed her thoughts several times the past couple of weeks. Since early February I've looked for signs of spring – are the willows changing color yet; are the buds on the trees and shrubs beginning to fill in preparation for bursting forth in flower and leaf? I gave thanks for the songs I heard the birds singing. I have celebrated that I see the tips of the spring bulbs poking through the ground even as I worry that they are too early.

I often think of how our spiritual journeys are like our anticipation of spring, particularly as we journey through Lent. We wonder am I growing more and more into the person God created me to be; is the congregation I affiliate with hearing and responding to God's leading? Why does it seem that I am returning over and over again to the same places and questions? We think, we believe, that God is working within us but... we wonder just when we will see and experience the results, just as we wonder when we will really experience spring.

As we journey through the remainder of Lent this year may we know that God is journeying with us, working within and through us, even if we do not yet perceive or know how God is working. Lent is the season of the Christian year that prepares us to celebrate God's burst of spring glory when we can joyously respond to the Easter proclamation "Christ is risen" with a resounding "He is risen indeed." Then, we will know that we will not be returning to the same depths of spiritual winter which we have just experienced.

With Christ's Peace and Joy,
Rev. Jane



Sunday, March 24

Palm Sunday

Worship at 9:30am

Thursday, March 28

Holy Thursday:

*Remembering the Last
Supper*

Service at 7:00pm

Friday, March 29

Good Friday: *Remembering
Jesus' Passion*

Service at 7:00pm

Sunday, March 31

*Celebration of the
Resurrection*

Sunrise Service in

Simpson Avenue Park

(weather permitting) at
6:35am

Shared breakfast to follow at
the church.

Festive Easter

Celebration Service at

9:30am

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. Lent has traditionally been understood as a season of testing. As the 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 3, 2013

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

Sunday, March 10, 2013

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Sunday, March 17, 2013

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

Sunday, March 24, 2013 PALM SUNDAY

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 19:28-40

Sunday, March 31, 2013

Celebration of the Resurrection

Sacrament of the Holy Communion

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Luke 24:1-12



Easter Flowers

Orders for Easter Flowers will be taken on Sunday March 3 and 10. Available flowers are Mums, Tulips, Azaleas and Lilies. All flowers are \$10 per pot. Please see Gail Dean to order.

Coming in April

Your help is needed in planning the worship service for April 14th which will feature a hymn sing. On the **first three** Sundays in March (March 3, 10, and 17) there will be "ballots" for those in worship to submit with their **five** favorite hymns. (Yes, it may be difficult to list only five.) All of the "ballots" submitted will be tabulated and the top eight to ten hymns of this congregation will be sung during the worship service on April 14th. Additionally, stories about these hymns will be shared.

Trustees

Trustees are planning a spring cleanup for Saturday March 23rd at 9am. We will be focusing on the inside in preparation for Easter. Anyone interested in helping is encouraged to join us.

Administrative Council

The church council exists to create and supervise the strategic plan for our church making disciples of Jesus Christ. Leadership is the visionary "big picture" work that assesses our congregation at the present moment, where God is calling it to be in the future, and what resources is needed for the future. Management is the "detailed work" to get things done for an effective congregation.

Reports are given from all the ministry committees and much discussion and questions are answered.

We welcome the members of the congregation to join us at our next meeting, March 19th. We will be discussing as reflections questions...Do you want to be part of something bigger? What makes you comfortable with yourself and God? Is it prayer, worship, the people in the congregation? Do you have questions?

UMW

February was a wonderful treat for those of us who delivered Valentine Bags to our Shut-Ins. Twenty ladies and gentlemen were overwhelmed to receive bags of goodies. They and we enjoyed chatting with them. Thanks to all of you who contributed to this mission.

Carol Fairbanks will lead our March 18th meeting with an inspirational devotion, Carol Millington will be planning the program and Joyce Meurs will be planning a delicious dessert.

We're looking forward to a busy spring with our ladies dinner in April and a garage sale in May.

UMW's purpose

The organized unit of **United Methodist Women** shall be a community of women whose **purpose** is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

All ladies are invited to our meetings. Please consider joining us for some fellowship and devotions.

Special Dates in March

Birthdays

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

Anniversary

3 Joyce and Dave Meurs



