



March 12, 2024

E-Pistle

Union Congregational United Church of Christ, St. Louis Park MN

Pastoral Musings

Dear Church,

I don't know about you, but I confess that I am confused about the weather. Farmers are already tapping their sugar bushes to harvest maple syrup. Robins have already returned from their winter homes. My cats have started to shed their winter coats. And it is only the second week of March. For our liturgical year, Lent started early which means that Easter will be early. Maybe all this earliness (is that a word?) is teaching us to notice and be aware of what is happening around us. May this noticing and awareness prepare us for the new life that Easter promises us this year.

With Lenten Blessings,

Pastor Liz

When does Pastor Liz work? How do we contact Pastor Liz? How do we meet with Pastor Liz? Pastor Liz's workdays are Sundays 9 am to 4 pm with office hours from 11 am to 4 pm; Monday mornings, Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday afternoons, and Thursday afternoons. To call Pastor Liz, call the church and leave a message by pushing "2". I check voice mails frequently. You may also call or text me on my cell phone which is listed in the member directory. If you would like to make an appointment with me, please call or text me.

To contact Union Congregational United Church of Christ please send e-mails to info@unionslp.com

Mid-week Lenten Dinner and Worship Service

On Thursday evenings during Lent, Union will join nearby UCC churches for dinner and worship. **Dinners begin at 5:30 pm. The worship services begin at 6:30 pm.** Here are the hosts:

March 14 Lynnhurst UCC, 4501 Colfax Ave S in Minneapolis

March 21 Edina Morningside Linden Hills UCC, 4201 Morningside Rd, Edina

Come Join Us for Worship and Discussion on the Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday March 17th, during worship we will have a presentation from Union's newly formed Faith in Action group. The speaker on Sunday will be Marilyn Carnell. (see article below for more information)

Following the service, Pastor Liz will give a presentation about the present state at Union. Members will be asked to respond to the information that is presented.

News and Events

Elizabeth O'Sullivan served as a sabbatical supply pastor for Union the summer of 2022. Her Ecclesiastical Council, has been officially scheduled for 2 PM on March 23, a Saturday. It is at 1st UCC in Northfield and also on Zoom. A reception follows. my ordination paper and zoom link will be available in the Commentary.

St Patrick's Day Concert. The members of the Hopkins Woodwinds Band invite you to come to their Irish themed concert on Sunday, March 17 at 3:00 pm at the Eisenhower Community Center. Need a ride? See oboist Cindy Budd.

Journey to Jerusalem has reached a total of 2420 miles

Journey to Jerusalem

During Lent, we will join the members of Lynnhurst Congregational UCC as we journey to Jerusalem. Together we will travel the 6,226 miles from Minneapolis to Jerusalem as we engage in physical movement. For every 15 minutes of physical movement we will complete one mile of the journey. All this movement will help support our spiritual health, create personal connections, and increase our physical health.

What constitutes 15 minutes of physical activity? Walking, golfing (note to the snowbirds!), water aerobics, yoga, pilates, dancing, light housework, shoveling (don't forget to sign up to shovel on Sundays), swimming, rehabilitation therapy, singing (note to choir members!), playing a musical instrument, and doing anything else that gets you from a sedentary position to moving counts for our journey to Jerusalem.

How to participate: Starting on February 14 (Ash Wednesday), start keeping track of your physical movement completed in 15 minute increments. On Sundays during Lent, calculate your total movement, remembering that 15 minutes of activity equals one mile. Email your totals (in miles or minutes of activity) to pastor@unionslp.com or complete the tracking sheets on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Put your completed tracking sheets in the offering plates.

Questions? See Pastor Liz.

Faith in Action Group

Faith in Action Group members are Marilyn Carnell, Betty Wentworth and Suzie White. This group will be providing speakers for the "Last Sunday" services. Please note that for March it will be this Sunday March 17th. The speaker this Sunday will be Marilyn Carnell.

Marilyn is a native of the Ozarks in Missouri but has lived in Minnesota most of her adult life and is currently the Vice Moderator at Union. She was reared in the Methodist Church but found Union a good fit for her spiritual life when she returned to Minnesota in 2011. A retired food scientist, she has filled in her retirement years as a community organizer, mayor, grant writer, and volunteer at Union. Like Union, she had faced good times and bad times but remains optimistic. She is currently writing a Civil War novel based on the battles in Southwest Missouri and some experiences of her ancestors in that war. Marilyn would like to apply her "faith in action" by continuing her service at Union and sharing her experience. Her hobbies are reading, writing, sewing, visible mending, upcycling and other crafts



**Thank you for supporting
Union Congregational UCC through
Gertens online fundraising!**

Our group will earn 30% on plants and 15% on Gertens Plant Cards.

To place your order, go to
gertensfundraising.com
and enter Store ID **566**.

(You do not need to enter a seller number.)

***All orders must be completed by 10pm on Monday, April 1st.**

**Orders can be picked up on May 18 between noon and 2 pm
or by appointment**

The UCC's One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) This special mission offering involves all of us in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When disaster strikes or people are displaced by violence or poverty, our gifts are part of the response and recovery provided by our wider church ministries. Our contributions to OGHS put us in the right place at the right time for the relief and recovery of the most vulnerable, meeting needs and addressing underlying causes that create those needs. Please look for the designated envelopes in the pews!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**Thank you to the congregation for your generous donations.
March 5--132 pounds of food and personal products to STEP.**

Loose Coin offering for March and April is Move Forward

Their mission is to provide free, confidential, and immediate crisis and short term counseling services for youth and parents in the western suburbs. Program priority is to help families stay together and keep youth in school. Some transitional living sites and a drop-in center are also offered.

STEP is the St Louis Park community food and social service agency. They directly provide food and clothing to residents in need, as well as advocacy, referrals, and build a collaborative relationship. Their vision is to be the trusted resource for connecting community members with resources to fulfill their basic needs.

MCC Refugee Services (Minnesota Council of Churches' Refugee Services).

Refugee Service Update

Refugee Services is experiencing a high demand for:

Feminine products, new pillows, laundry detergent, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bars of soap, disposable razors, all-purpose cleaner, dish soap

Please put one or two of these items on your shopping list and put them in the blue Refugee box at the back of the sanctuary.

Thanks so much for your contributions and working to supply these needed items.

Contact Janet Midtbo (phone or text:612-414-5671, jdmidtbo@gmail.com) if you have questions.

Flower Pick-up and Delivery

Deadline for signing up for Sunday flowers is the Sunday before your request date. The cost is \$35.00 and you will need to pick them up at Arts & Flowers (6011 Excelsior Blvd, St. Louis Park) between 10 a.m. and their closing at 4 p.m. and then deliver them to church Saturday anytime or early Sunday morning. The sign-up sheet and request cards for flowers is at the back of the sanctuary.



March Birthdays

Reid M.	3/9
David K.	3/10
Paul H.	3/18
Heather W.	3/23

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

Those in need of support and healing:

Barb J.
Carol L recovering from broken hip
Ben H. recuperating at home with chronic health issues
Carl recovering from a stroke
Michael's friend Jay
Michael
Owen Betty's friend
The Clarno family and friends
The White family and friends

Those *homebound or under care:

*Betty Jean
Ray

If you are in need of prayer, please email info@unionslp.com with your request to be added to the list.



Epistle

Just a reminder regarding announcements for the Epistle. Please email requests to info@unionslp.com by the end of the day on Monday. Thank you.



*Grounded in God's love, with a spirit of wonder and inclusion,
we work as a community towards a just world.*
Union Congregational United Church of Christ
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