



THE CHIMES

FEBRUARY 2018

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**Our Mission is to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ and to
Serve God by Sharing Compassion Hope and Love**

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THE CHIMES

February 2018

From Rev. Stephanie Lee



SCRIPTURES FOR THE SEASON OF LENT

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2,12-17
Psalm 51:1-17
II Corinthians 5:20(b)- 6:10
Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

2nd Sunday in Lent

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

3rd Sunday in Lent

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

4th Sunday in Lent

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

5th Sunday in Lent

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

The Season of Lent

By Dennis Bratcher

Originating in the fourth century of the church, the season of **Lent** spans 40 weekdays beginning on Ash Wednesday and climaxing during Holy Week with Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), Good Friday, and concluding Saturday before Easter. Originally, Lent was the time of preparation for those who were to be baptized, a time of concentrated study and prayer before their baptism at the Easter Vigil, the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord early on Easter Sunday. But since these new members were to be received into a living community of Faith, the entire community was called to preparation. Also, this was the time when those who had been separated from the Church would prepare to rejoin the community.

Today, Lent is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. Since Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, and are referred to as the Sundays **in** Lent. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission and calling. Christians today use this period of time for introspection, self-examination, and repentance. This season of the year is equal only to the Season of Advent in importance in the Christian year, and is part of the second major grouping of Christian festivals and sacred time that includes Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost.

Lent has traditionally been marked by penitential prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Some churches today still observe a rigid schedule of fasting on certain days during Lent, especially the giving up of meat, alcohol, sweets, and other types of food. Other traditions do not place as great an emphasis on fasting, but focus on charitable deeds, especially helping those in physical need with food and clothing, or simply the giving of money to charities. Most Christian churches that observe Lent at all focus on it as a time of prayer, especially penance, repenting for failures and sin as a way to focus on the need for God's grace. It is really a preparation to celebrate God's marvelous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live, and hope for, as Christians.

Colors and Symbols of Lent

The color used in the sanctuary for most of Lent is purple, red violet, or dark violet. These colors symbolize both the pain and suffering leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus as well as the suffering of humanity and the world under sin. But purple is also the color of royalty, and so anticipates through the suffering and death of Jesus the coming resurrection and hope of newness that will be celebrated in the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Some churches use grey for Ash Wednesday or for the entire season of Lent, or for special days of fasting and prayer. Gray is the color of ashes, and therefore a biblical symbol of mourning and repentance. The decorations for the sanctuary during Lent should reflect this mood of penitence and reflection. Some churches avoid the use of any flowers in the sanctuary during Lent, using various dried arrangements. This can be especially effective if a flowering cross is used for Easter. Other churches use arrangements of rocks or symbols associated with the Gospel readings for the six Sundays in Lent.

Some church traditions change the sanctuary colors to red for Maundy Thursday, a symbol of the disciples and through them the community of the church. Since Holy Communion is often observed on Maundy Thursday in the context of Passover, the emphasis is on the gathered community in the presence of Jesus the Christ.

Traditionally, the sanctuary colors of Good Friday and Holy Saturday are black, the only days of the Church Year that black is used. It symbolizes the darkness brought into the world by sin. It also symbolizes death, not only the death of Jesus but the death of the whole world under the burden of sin. In this sense, it also represents the hopelessness and the endings that come as human beings try to make their own way in the world without God. Black is always replaced by white before sunrise of Easter Sunday.

Lent IS A TIME TO
GROW
CLOSER TO JESUS

**Portions of the following letter are adapted from resources of Discipleship Ministries, U.M. General Board of Discipleship.*

Dear Friends,

Wow, can you believe we are already most of the way through the Season after Epiphany? Where did the Christmas Season go? It seemed to fly by as soon as it was time to enjoy it! (Although I have a special way of combating that seasonal rush-through. I leave my Christmas tree up until some time in February so that I can continue to enjoy the room warming lights and that wonderful aroma of pine! But then, I'm just kinda weird, I guess!)

The historic purpose of this Season after Epiphany is to help us as disciples of Christ get ready, meaning to prepare our hearts and ourselves, for the work of accompanying others on their journey to baptism or to restoration in the life of the church, which we are called to do during the upcoming Season of Lent.

Traditionally, there are two primary ways the lectionary Scripture readings for this Season after Epiphany prepare us for this task. One is by treating this as a season of "Evangelism", in which we invite newcomers to "come and see." This was our focus last year.

This year you may have noticed that we are following the other trajectory, which focuses more on the kinds of internal work we (the church) need to do to get ready. So each week our messages have been reminding us that:

- 1) **it is God speaking to us and among us,**
- 2) **that we need to listen to God's voice,**
- 3) **that we need to be ready to move when and where the Spirit says move, and**
- 4) **we need to answer God's call in the varieties of contexts we (and those we will be helping prepare throughout Lent) will experience it.**

We do this by staying focused on **a) our internal work**, and **b) on God's call — the work of discipling**, not just fellowship or friendship. Certainly we need to be able to hear clearly so that we can help those we will accompany during Lent hear God's call to go deeper, following Jesus where he leads.

But we also need to be able to hear God's call for us, Christ United Methodist Church! – our purpose, the future God wants us to fulfill as we sit on this corner of this neighborhood in Alliance! What is our purpose here in this year of 2018? What is our ministry and who are we supposed to be ministering to? What is the vision God has called us to for the short term, and then for the long term ahead? Do we know? God is surely trying to speak to us, individually and collectively in this new year, of God's plans for this congregation! Are we able to hear and understand? Are we ready to follow where God leads, even if it is into formerly uncharted territory for us? Are we willing to Rise Up (like the shepherds and like the magi and like the first disciples of Jesus) and Follow, regardless of where God is bidding us go?

All right then, let us Rise Up! For the Light is come! And the glory of the Lord is right now being revealed!

As we conclude this Season after the Epiphany let the light of God, made clearer to us through this season, prepare us to share that light with those preparing to know it for the first time during Lent, and be fully immersed into it at Easter!

Below is a prayer of confession written by the Rev. Bruce Prewer, which we prayed one Sunday during this season after Epiphany. I thought I would include it here to assist us in our efforts toward renewal.

Love, and Peace
Pastor Stephanie

A PRAYER OF CONFESSION

By The Rev. Bruce Prewer

The coming of Christ was not, and is not, widely welcomed. Wherever there is epiphany there will also be darkness: the darkness of old superstitions and dogmas, which refuse to fade away easily; the darkness of pride in the half truths that have masqueraded as wisdom; the darkness of entrenched evil that hates the light and tries to dispose of it; the darkness of apathy that cannot be bothered to open the shutters.

Let us make our confession.

Most holy and most loving God, we admit to you and to each other, that we are creatures who either through foolishness or willfulness often choose darkness instead of light.

Here and now we surrender to you our fears and proud opinions, our short-sighted folly and our pompous wisdom, our deep seated sins and our apathy towards change and renewal.

*Please forgive the darkness and pain we have inflicted on others, and restore the light-starved hopes and ideals within our own souls. Trusting your grace, we earnestly pray: **“Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.”** Through Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.*



To Members of Christ United Methodist Church: I would like to thank you for the beautiful poinsettias and the gift bag full of thoughtful items. It brightens my day! I appreciated your thoughtfulness in remembering me. Sincerely yours, N. Jane Patterson.

To my Church Family, Thank you so much for remember us this holiday season; it was a real blessing and very much needed! Merry Chrismtas to all . . . Amy & Joe George.

Thank you to all who have helped with getting the Chimes out and covering the church office during my vacation this past year. These include Craig Post, Patti Hirst, Haven Ackley, Denise Aeling and Julie Greiner. Also to Julie, Patti and Pat Helsel for proofing the bulletin. Thank you again. Dolores





STAFF APPRECIATION:

The Staff Parish Relations Committee invites you to celebrate those who serve our church. On February 25, we will recognize the staff both during the church service and with a luncheon after church. We at Christ UMC have been blessed by the leadership of our staff: Lynn Goldrick, Julie Greiner, Mike Greiner, Jamie Greiner, Kim Handy, Chrissy Shields, Lew Shields, Carolyn Wallace, Dolores Lawrence, JoAnn Patterson, Chris Martin, and Stephanie Lee. These staff members of our church have stepped out in faith and answered God's call to be leaders among us. It is only fitting that we should show our appreciation and share God's love with our staff to thank them for their ministries in our church. Please plan to join us for the luncheon following the service and take advantage of the opportunity for all of us to celebrate these staff members whom we love!

CHIMES FEBRUARY 2018 CHRISTIAN ED CORNER

This year's Annual Conference Quadrennial theme is based on the Gospel of John 15:1-17 and the theme is about 'Bearing Fruit That Lasts'. Verse 16 tells us that we have been chosen to bear fruit and the United Methodist Church has a mission statement that tells us to 'make disciples'. Our Christian Education Committee has discussed concerns about exactly what it means to evangelize, how to reach others for Christ and how to actually make disciples. How was it that we became Christians? How did we make it this far on our Christian journey?

I grew up in the African Methodist Episcopal Church at my mother's direction. During my spiritual growth and development, I do not recall receiving any particular lessons on how to evangelize. As a child I did learn what I call the 'basics': the Lord's Prayer, The 10 Commandments, Holy Communion and Baptism, etc. Come to think of it, I did not realize that there was much need to 'evangelize' because almost all of my family, friends and associates were already in the church and considered Christians.

Some people do not believe me when I tell them that I was a naturally shy little girl. I would cross to the other side of the street in order to avoid having to speak to my sister's friends. So how did it happen that I am now teaching and preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ? God only knows. Some of us have the natural 'gift of gab' and are able to talk to anybody about anything. But many of us, because of a natural shyness or feeling uncomfortable, may have a difficult time sharing the Gospel with others.

An evangelist is a person authorized to proclaim the Gospel of Christ. The early disciples were called evangelists because they shared the good news with others. All Christians today can freely bring the good news to others through teaching them and praying not only for them but with them. Over the next few months we will study personal evangelism and learn more tips on the 'how-to' so that we can improve upon what we already know and continue to bear more fruit and make more disciples.

Please pray for us.

Peace,
Dr. J



February Unit Meeting: February 6 at 7:00 pm in the Dussell Room:

Program: Installation of Officers and "Mini" Book Reviews

Hostess/Greeter: 2018 Officers

March Unit Meeting is on March 6 at 7:00pm in Dussell Room:

Program: Walk to Emmaus by Chris and Cindi Martin

Hostess/Greeter: M & M Circle

Executive Board Meeting will be at 7:00pm on Monday Feb. 25th.

***UNITED METHODIST WOMEN welcomes VISITORS to any Unit or Circle meeting!!
Just talk to any United Methodist Women to find out more or ask Dolores in the office.***

CIRCLE MEETINGS:

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| February 19, 12:30PM | Dorcas Circle: | Lakeview Terrace, Copeland Oaks |
| February 19, 7:00 PM | M&M Circle | |
| February 20, 7:00PM | May Smyth Circle: | |
| February 20, 7:30PM | Susie Buckel Circle : | At the Church |

THANK YOU TO COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND STAFF OF CUMC

THANK YOU to UMW Prayer Buddies,

During 2017 our UMW members have been praying for all members of committees, commissions and staff at Christ Church. It's been our pleasure to support you and your service to CUMC in this way. We want to say THANK YOU again for your dedication and commitment. Please know that while this project has ended, our appreciation for you continues. You are a blessing to Christ Church.

– We are United Methodist Women, Faith, Hope and Love in Action

2018 Prayer Buddies: Details will follow in the bulletin on the program for this year.

UMW Commits Financial Gifts

Part of the purpose that guides United Methodist Women challenges us to "expand the concepts of mission." This year we were able to respond to that in a variety of ways through funds from our general budget and the Martha Goldrick Memorial.

First, UMW assisted local agencies by contributing \$2425 to improve the quality of life here in Alliance. Donations were made to the Domestic Violence Shelter, Pregnancy Center, Feed My Sheep Ministry, YWCA Mitten Tree Project, Salvation Army, Community Pantry, Men's Challenge and Church Women United.

We were also able to respond to the needs in Sierra Leone that Susan Haddox brought to the attention of the congregation. It was rewarding to support a global need with a local connection.

Another opportunity presented itself as the congregation committed to participating in the Apostle Build for Habitat for Humanity. UMW was able to kick-off the fundraising with a gift of \$500.

We continue to find ways to make a difference.



In February the UMW will be selling Chili Soup and in March they will be selling Potato Soup. Details will follow. Thank you to everyone who has supported this project.



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED: Friday, February 2, 2016, 1:00PM at New Zion Baptist, 1135 East Jersey. **PROGRAM:** *Melinda Carmical, Beeck Creek Botanical Gardens..* **Membership dues of \$3.00** for Church Women United may be purchased from Jean Webster. Board meets at 11:30 am.

UMW PROJECT FOR THE DOMESTIC VIOLEN SHELTER

Throughout the month of February paper products will be collected. Items needed include paper towels, napkins, toilet paper and Kleenex. Items may be turned in by February 25th. Please place items in the box in the lounge. Thank you for your support.



COMMUNITY DINNER

On January 30, 2018, the church hosted the Community Dinner. The meal was very much appreciated by those in attendance. We would like to thank all those who came to help prepare and serve the meal, and to all who donated desserts. This ongoing mission of our church would not be possible without the support of all of you.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

Our committee will meet on February 7th to assist with the Lenten Mailing. We welcome Carolyn Miller to our committee. The Lenten Worship materials, which are gifts from Congregational Care, will be available to you by Ash Wednesday. Once again, Congregational Care will deliver a gift to our visitation members and our shut-ins prior to Easter. Thank you all members of the church who help deliver these gifts.



Threads of Love is the name of our prayer shawl ministry. Shawls and other items are prayed over as they are hand knit or crocheted. The shawls are given to persons for a variety of reasons such as illness, personal loss, new babies or just to say we are thinking of them. If you would like a prayer shawl to deliver to someone you know, please let us know. If you have a gift of knitting or crocheting or would like to learn how to develop these gifts, please speak with Linda Montgomery or Dolores Lawrence for more information. Then **join us on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Dussel Room at the church.** There is real joy in creating gifts of love together.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR FEBRUARY

USHERS – TEAM #1

Dick Diser, Captain

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Dan Feess | Josh Shields |
| Winston Stroup | Boyd Webster |
| Chris Martin | Greg Ruff |

LITURGISTS

| | |
|----|---------------|
| 4 | Jamie Greiner |
| 11 | Pat Helsel |
| 18 | Bill Sol |
| 25 | Josh Shields |



SANCTUARY GREETERS

| | |
|----|-----------------|
| 4 | Ellen Sol |
| 11 | Bill Sol |
| 18 | Jenni-Jo Kinser |
| 25 | Bill Sol |

WELCOME CENTER GREETERS

| | |
|----|--------------------------------|
| 4 | Saundra Castellucci/Dick Diser |
| 11 | Bobbie Wright/Susan Burden |
| 18 | Connie & Larry Pyers |
| 25 | Kathy and Gene Stroia |

NORTH & WEST DOORS GREETERS

| | |
|----|------------------------|
| 4 | CUM Youth Group |
| 11 | Karen and Mark Locke |
| 18 | Nancy and Bill Prueter |
| 25 | Treva and Chuck Cline |

FEBRUARY TELLERS

| | |
|----|------------------------------|
| 4 | Jan Essick and Nancy Prueter |
| 11 | Bill Prueter and Dick Diser |
| 18 | Jim Greiner and Larry Pyers |
| 25 | Pat Helsel and Marilyn Ruff |

FEBRUARY VISITATION MEMBERS

| | |
|----|--|
| 4 | LaVerne Edwards, 3080 Ridgehill Av, Alliance |
| 11 | June Luca, 2531 Pleasant Pl, Alliance |
| 18 | Norma Wasson, 1785 Freshley #1003, Alliance |
| 25 | Rose Wright, 141 W. Carol St, Alliance |

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|------------------|
| 2 | Marie Bibbee | 14 | Michael Shields |
| 5 | Christopher Handy | 15 | Darlene Howell |
| 7 | Marilyn Ruff | 20 | Jim Williams |
| 7 | Joyce Tolerton | 21 | Ellen Sol |
| 9 | C. Hubbard Ford | 21 | Dolores Lawrence |
| 12 | William Rogers | | |
| 14 | John Sarchione | | |

CHIMES DEADLINE

The deadline for the March issue of *The Chimes* is Thursday, February 15th. Articles may be placed in the Secretary's slot outside the church office or emailed to church@cumcalliance.org.



2017 Peanut Brittle

This was the 51st year of making peanut brittle (69,375 cans-to-date).
The Friendship II Sunday School class and the UMYF continued the peanut brittle making tradition this year.

Thanks to the twenty-nine different cooks and the many, many sellers and buyers, both members of the groups and friends of the project.

Production Report

| | <u>Friendship II</u> | Youth | <u>Crusaders</u> | Builders | <u>Total</u> |
|-----------|----------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1967-1981 | | | | 9,466 | 9,466 |
| 1978-1990 | 14,637 | | 10,413 | | 25,050 |
| 1979-1990 | | 2,332 | | | 2,332 |
| 1991-2000 | 7,443 | 972 | 7,999 | | 16,414 |
| 2001-2007 | | | 3,400 | | 3,400 |
| 2001-2010 | 6,783 | 1,100 | | | 7,883 |
| 2011 | 636 | 101 | | | 737 |
| 2012 | 589 | 107 | | | 696 |
| 2013 | 585 | 110 | | | 695 |
| 2014 | 547 | 103 | | | 650 |
| 2015 | 562 | 108 | | | 670 |
| 2016 | 560 | 109 | | | 669 |
| 2017 | 596 | 117 | | | 713 |
| Total | <u>32,938</u> | <u>5,159</u> | <u>21,812</u> | <u>9,466</u> | <u>69,375</u> |

Please start saving metal one pound coffee cans now,
and bring them to the church for next year.

From the Administrative Council

Last year we were asked to submit Congregational Goals to the District at the Charge Conference. These were initiated by the SPRC committee and approved by the Administrative Council.

Last year's Goals were:

1. Practice a "Year of Prayer"
2. Grow memberships beyond confirmands
3. Build on the relaxed service

We want to thank Susan Haddox for her devotion in providing guidance for prayer through the enlightening additions to the bulletins. Hopefully, the lessons learned will continue to be a part of everyone's daily lives.

We want to also thank Rev. Stephanie for her efforts regarding the style and ministry of the relaxed worship service.

Unfortunately, number 2 was not achieved.

While not forgetting or discontinuing last year's goals, Administrative Council enacted goals for 2018 that address issues which directly impact us this year.

This year's goals are:

1. Increase attendance of current members.
2. Intentional Faith Development for current members.
3. Working with Rev. Bohley on self-examination.

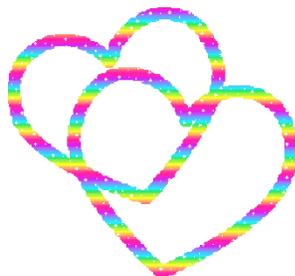
Susan Haddox again has offered her leadership regarding Intentional Faith Development but she is seeking volunteers to help in achieving this goal. Please volunteer. Don't wait to be asked.

We challenge all the committees to come up with ideas for increased attendance. Rev. Bohley asked us to consider what we are willing to change and what we are not.

Rev. Bohley wants to meet or talk with anyone regarding the future of this church. One major understanding is that he wants us to look forward. He suggested prayer to determine what God wants us to do. He is here to help get the church ready for pastoral change.

Rev. Bohley can be contacted by phone, 740-501-0024 or email, keith.bohley15@gmail.com

Blessings,
The Administrative Council



February 2018

***Sunday** Worship & Program Opportunities

- 9:00 A.M. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:15 A.M. Worship Service
- 10:45 A.M. Wesley Choirs
- 5:00 P.M. Youth Choirs
- 6:00 P.M. UMYF Snack Supper
- 6:30 P.M. **United Methodist Youth Fellowship**

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|-----------|---|-----------|
|  | | | | 1 | 2 CWU 11:30a Board Mtg 1:00 General Mtg. | 3 |
| 4 5th Sunday after Epiphany *See Sunday Schedule | 5 7p Scout Mtg | 6 12p Prayer Chapel 5:30p Comm Dinner 7p Unit Mtg UMW | 7 1:30 Cong. Care 4:00p Staff Mtg 5:30p Halleluia Bells 6:30p Chancel Bells 7:30p Chancel Choir | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Last Sunday after Epiphany *See Sunday Schedule 5p CRC Visitations | 12 6:30p Christian Ed 7p Scout Mtg | 13 12p Prayer Chapel 5:30p Comm Dinner 6:30 Threads of Love 6:30p SPRC | 14 Ash Wednesday 4:00p Music Staff Mtg 5:30p Halleluia Bells 6:00p Chancel Bells 7p Ash Wed. Service 8:00p Chancel Vocal | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 1st Sunday in Lent *See Sunday Schedule | 19 12:30 Dorcas 7p M&M Circle 7p Scout Mtg | 20 12p Prayer Chapel 5:30p Comm Dinner 7p May Smyth 7p Susie Buckel Circles | 21 4:00p Music Staff Mtg 5:30p Halleluia Bells 6:00p Chancel Bells 6:30p Chancel Choir | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 2nd Sunday in Lent 11:30 Staff Apprec. Luncheon *See Sunday Schedule 5p CRC Visitations | 26 7p Scout Mtg 7p UMW Exec. Board Mtg | 27 12p Prayer Chapel 5:30p Comm Dinner 6:30p Trustees | 28 4:00p Music Staff Mtg 5:30p Halleluia Bells 6:00p Chancel Bells 6:30p Chancel Choir | |  | |