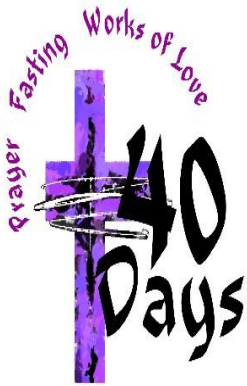




The MESSENGER

Lent 2018 Thy Will Be Done



Drawing from Christ's prayer in Gethsemane, "Thy will be done," our Sunday morning Lenten sermon series reflects on how we can seek God's will in all aspects in our lives. We'll use the biblical characters of Abraham, Moses, David, Mary, Paul, and Lydia as reference points in our own lives. This material comes from Creative Communications for the Parish.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 25

9:00 AM Worship and 10:15 One and All Worship
Instrumental Ensemble at 9:00 AM
Children will process with palms

Maunder Thursday, March 29

at Centennial Christian Church (1219 E. Grove, Blm.)
Dinner served at 6:00 PM
Worship with handwashing (optional) at 7:00 PM

Good Friday, March 30

at First Baptist Church (2502 E. College, Blm.)
First Christian, Wesley Methodist, First Baptist,
and Second Presbyterian Churches participating
Worship at 12:10 PM
Combined Choir
Lunch following

Easter Sunday, April 1

7:30 AM Sunrise Service
8:00 AM Breakfast throughout the morning
in the Centrum
Fifteen minutes before the 9:00 and 10:15 AM services
you are invited to place flowers (provided)
on an Easter cross.

March 25 and April 1 – Combined children/youth
Sunday School with crafts and games in Major Hall.
Youth group will not meet in the evening.

Save the Date!

- **Sunday, March 11** – Youth serving a meal at Home Sweet Home Mission 4:30-7:00 PM
- **Tuesday, March 20** – Appalachia Mission Trip first fundraiser at Gill Street Bar & Grill 4:00-9:00 PM. Please mention you are there for The Kings Carpenters, and the mission trip will get 20% of proceeds on food that night. Tell all your friends, and we hope to see you there.
- **Sunday, April 8** – Discernment Meeting 11:30 AM-1:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Lunch provided.
- **Sunday, April 15** – Youth Swim Party
- **Sunday, May 20** – Youth Cook-Out at Maxwell Park
- **Sunday, June 3-7** – Vacation Bible School with Centennial Christian Church and St. Luke Union Church at First Christian. Meal 5:30 PM. VBS 6:00-8:30 PM.
- **Sunday, June 24-29** – Appalachia Mission Trip. If you could not make the informational meeting, you can still join us. Cost is \$325 + gas and meals on the way down. We will be doing fundraising to help offset that cost for you. See Mike or Julie Robinson for details.
- **Sunday, July 22-28** – Youth Mission Trip to St. Louis



- *Pastors' Class* – A class for youth preparing for Easter baptism meets on Sundays at 11:30 AM. Please remember them in your prayers.
- *Gifts for Another Table* – Non-perishable food items brought to church during March will be given to Home Sweet Home Mission.
- *Bible Study* – You are welcome to come read through the short Letters of James, Peter, John, and Jude (currently James) on Wednesdays at noon in the Conference Room. Jim Warren leads the study.
- *Disciples Women's Ministries* – We began 2018 with our first meeting on February 1. Mary Helen Haskell led the first session of our study of "Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts." It was very interesting. We will move on to session 2 at our Thursday, March 1, 1:00 PM meeting. If you were not able to attend the first meeting, please feel free to join us for our next meeting. We finished our "Love Boxes," and they have been mailed. Thanks to all of you who contributed items and donated mailing funds. We packed and gave away 40 boxes this year. We mailed 23 boxes and distributed 17. The boxes cost \$7.20 each to mail. Jim Warren wrote a letter from the church which was included in each box. All women are invited and welcome to attend the DWM meetings!
- *Meals for Abundant Life* – The Robinsons have been approached by Abundant Life Church to see if our church would be interested in providing a meal once a month similar to what we did with Jesus House. They have some pantry items we can use for side dishes to be prepared off-site and then served after the Sunday service. We would be responsible for the meat and dessert. If interested, please contact Julie Robinson at 838-4335 or jerobinson21409@yahoo.com.
- *GFPD Tee It Up!* – The Global Foundation For Peroxisomal Disorders (GFPD) Tee It Up! 2018 Golf Outing, with morning and afternoon sessions, will be Friday, May 18, at the Weibring Golf Club. The reception/auction will be Saturday, May 19, at ISU Alumni Center. To register, donate, or volunteer see: www.teeitup4gfpd.com.

Witness of the Faithful

Attendance: 2/18: 149, 43 2/25: 134, 31
Offering: \$10,314.41

Prayer Concerns

OSF St. Joseph: Gayle Dixon **Treatment:** Sharon Warren
Awaiting Tests: Frank Lipscomb, Richard Malone
Aftercare: Betty Beer, Bob Corbett, Dave Eyman, John Lindenbaum, Peggy O'Neal
Hospice: Harold Goyen, Marilyn Thompson, Virginia Warren **Assisted Living:** Alma Samuels (Taylors' home)
Nursing Homes: Blm. Rehab – Marilyn Thompson
Heritage, Blm. – Merle Murray, Virginia Warren
Heritage, El Paso – Sonna West
Heritage, Nrm. – Harold Goyen
Liberty, Clinton – Corena Meyer
Martin Health – Myrna Cable, Dave Dungan, Marlyn Mahannah, Lois Murray, Barbara Thatcher
Military: Chris Kavanaugh (Marines, CA); Harley Scott (Phillis niece/Navy, VA)
Sympathy to: ... Myrna Cable, Tony (Carol) Cable, and Lou Ann Fillingham family on the February 12 death of John Cable
... family & friends of Robert Blomgren on her death February 14
... Dan (Amy) Naughton family on the February 15 death of his grandmother, Lucille Rowatt, of Streator
... Harold (Helen) Goyen family on the February 16 death of his sister, Rosalee Cirilli, of Canton
Birth: Aslan Eliseo Muñoz was born February 6 to David & Kelsey Muñoz. Grandparents are John & Peg Larson.

Thank You

... Posted on the Centrum bulletin board are notes received from Erma McDaniel and Bob & Gail Corbett
... The Applebee's pancake breakfast raised \$1,474.66 for the Block Party! Thank you to all who came.



Birthday Open Houses

Mary Lou Mercier

*will be celebrating her 90th birthday
Saturday, March 3, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM
at Carlock Public Library
(202 E. Washington St., Carlock)*

Myrtle "Mickey" Armstrong

*will be celebrating her 100th birthday
Saturday, March 10, 2:00-4:00 PM
at Luther Oaks
(601 Lutz Road, Bloomington)*

Both request no presents -- only your presence.

A long obedience in the same direction...

Scraps of Light



Continued fighting in Syria despite a declared “pause.” Over 100 girls kidnapped last month in northeastern Nigeria. Seventeen killed in the Parkland, FL, school shooting. These are the kind of stories we hear every day. Bad news. And more bad news.

Sometimes the bad news can be overwhelming, and we wonder whether anything good is happening.

One of the disciplines I’ve picked up for Lent has been participating in an e-course that focuses on personal spiritual growth and creative transformation. The second session highlighted the following poem by Deborah Cooper. Reading and re-reading this poem has given me hope in a world that often feels so overpoweringly dark.

Collecting Light

by Deborah Cooper

I see the way the chickadees
take turns at the feeder.
I watch a neighbor take
her husband's hand.

I see the way the sun will find
the only interruption
in dark clouds
to toss this amber light
across the pines.

I see a row of cars
stop on the road
until the orange cat
has safely crossed,
then take off slowly, should
she change her mind.

I watch the way my brother
lifts our mother from
the wheelchair
to the car,
the shawl he lays
across her lap.

I save up every scrap
of light,
because I know that it will take
each tiny consolation
every day
to mend the world.

Little scraps of light, sometimes easily overlooked, shine all around us, if we watch for them. In a neighbor taking her husband’s hand, cars stopped on a road, or a son’s gentle care of his mother, we can experience the light.

The world’s evils cast long, dark shadows that seem to block out any light. Nevertheless, the light remains, inextinguishable. Even when the way seems darkest, scraps of light shine all around us. And we, who so often live amongst the shadows, can become collectors of scraps of light to illumine our way.

Jay McDaniel, author of this meditation from my e-course, goes on to say:

Truth be told, we are light collectors the whole of our lives, beginning with childhood. Always we are making our way through life, as best we can, by taking heed of moments of beauty and kindness that inspire us, giving us energy for life. Some of us see the scraps as revealing a deeper light – a Light within the light – whom we name God.

In the midst of heavy darkness, the God-light shines, and the darkness cannot overcome the light (see John 1:5).

No matter how dark your world may appear, it is never so dark that light cannot break through. The scraps of light may be small, but they are nonetheless present. Be a collector of light and find your way through the shadows that surround you.

-- Jim Warren

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Return Service Requested



Serving Sunday, March 4

Mailed: February 28, 2018

Acolytes: George Davis, Vincent Pozo
Child Care: Trish Logan, Marcia Christensen
Deacons: 9:00 Stacey Erickson, Vicki Hall 10:15 Pat & Jenny Lawler
Jr. Deacons: Drew Logan, Tyler Chapman
Drivers: Rich Crusius, Frank Lipscomb
Elders: Beverly & Al Leight
Homebound Elders: Camille & Art Taylor
Fellowship Host: Teri Arvik
Fill Candles: Connie Rapp
Greeters: Ron & Nancy Gramley, Jim & Carolyn Hepperly
Information Center Host: Vicki Hall
Scripture: Don Mahannah **Time for Children:** Patty Thompson
Sound Tech: James Nussbaum **Video Tech:** Chip Jamerson
Worship & Wonder Greeter: Naomi Kosier
Pulpit: Jim Warren – Luke 2:22-35 *God's Will and Our Persistence*
Following God's will would be very difficult for Mary, but she was resolved to carry it out no matter what that meant for her.

Serving Sunday, March 11

Acolyte: Jeremiah Hall
Child Care: Trish Logan, Amy Nichols
Deacons: 9:00 Dan & Amy Naughton 10:15 Brian Metz, Ted Logan
Jr. Deacons: Bryce Reed, Austin Metz
Drivers: Darrell Arvik, Ryan Newton
Elders: Susan Cleaver, John Hensley
Homebound Elders: Beverly & Al Leight
Fellowship Host: Doug Reed
Fill Candles: Connie Rapp
Greeters: May Jackson, Rick Erickson, Shirley Wotherspoon
Information Center Host: Susan Hinrichsen
Scripture: Nate Damery **Time for Children:** Matt Chapman
Sound Tech: Dave Phillis **Video Tech:** James Nussbaum
Worship & Wonder Greeter: Ryan Newton
Pulpit: Jim Warren – I Corin. 1:18-25 *God's Will and God's Wisdom*
To those who believe, the message of Jesus Christ is power and wisdom.

Sunday Traditional Worship 9:00 AM
One and All Worship 10:15 AM
Sunday School for all ages 10:15 AM
Sunday Youth Group 5:00 PM

Senior Pastor

James Warren.....212-6873
jwarren@blmfcc.org

Minister Emeritus

John Trefzger

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hirvin@blmfcc.org.....1-864-921-4874
Lou Ann Fillingham, organ/piano
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Bill West, One and All Music Coordinator
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