



From Pastor Mary Beth

On February 14 – Ash Wednesday – we enter into our Lenten season. I love the season of Lent (I know; I know – I say that about every season of the church year!), but I really do love Lent. I love how it invites us to reflect honestly about where we are with God, with ourselves and with the rest of the world. I love that during Lent, we get to ask the real questions, the tough questions: questions about sin and righteousness, forgiveness and reconciliation, suffering and redemption, life and death.

We begin Lent with an Ash Wednesday service of worship (6:00PM at the church). Ash Wednesday is a day of repentance and confession – and always includes the imposition of ashes, a penitential tradition that harkens back to the Hebrew Bible. The ashes remind us that we are made from dust, and to that dust, we shall return.

But this is not such bad news. If we come from dust, and are going back to the dust, that means that nothing, ultimately, is in our hands. God created us from the ground, and, with God, we're going back to the ground. We trust that God will hold us there; that, even in the grave, God will not forsake us.

Ash Wednesday reminds us that we can trust God – we can trust God with our work and worship, our discernment and dreams, our hopes and hang-ups, *all* of it. Nothing is up to us, ultimately. And if that is true, then we might start to worry a little less about details and deadlines, our future and our fears. What if Ash Wednesday – and Lent, for that matter – in all its seriousness and solemnity, *also* teaches us, simply, about living for today, just today, and not worrying about tomorrow?

From ashes we came. To ashes we will return. And through it all, we belong to God.

Thanks be to God!



Ash Wednesday Service, February 14

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, a holy time to remember that in life and in death, we belong to God. We will hold an **Ash Wednesday service** here at the church on **February 14 at 6:00PM**. Ashes to ashes; dust to dust. All are welcome.

Reflective Lenten Services on Wednesday Evenings

The pastor is offering short (half hour) prayerful worship services on Wednesday evenings during the season of Lent, beginning on February 21 and going through March 21. These will be simple services that will include prayer, scripture reading and music, from 6:00 to 6:30PM in the sanctuary. All are welcome!

Lenten Lunch Schedule, 11:30PM

- Feb. 21 at St. Malachy's; Pastor Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy speaking
28 at E. Free; Pastor Carla Werre speaking
- March 7 at the Madrid Home; Damian Peasley speaking
14 at the Community Room; Father Paul Nguyen speaking
21 at St. Paul's UCC; Pastor Marcus Badgley speaking

GOOD FRIDAY WALK

March 30 starting at St. Malachy's, ending at the funeral home; soup lunch follows at St. John's.

February Calendar

February 4th

9:00 am Sunday school

10:30 am Worship with communion

11:30 am-2:30 pm Completing the Circle meeting with lunch

February 7th

5:00 pm Confirmation class

6:00 pm-6:30 pm Pastor's forum

7:00 pm Choir rehearsal

February 11

9:00 am Sunday school

10:30 am worship

11:30 am Fellowship, Board meeting

1-3pm Youth sledding/skiing @ Seven Oaks

6:00 pm Valentine's Dinner

February 14th

5:00 pm Confirmation class

6:00 pm-6:30 pm Ash Wednesday service

7:00 pm Choir rehearsal

February 18th

9:00 am Sunday school

10:30 am worship

11:30 am Fellowship, Meetings: LL&W, Christian Ed.

February 19th

7:00 pm Finance committee meetings

February 21st

5:00 pm Confirmation class

6:00 pm-6:30 pm Reflective Lenten service

7:00 pm Choir rehearsal

February 25th

9:00 am Sunday school

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am fellowship Diaconate meeting

February 28th

5:00 pm Confirmation class

6:00 pm-6:30 pm Lenten service and potluck

7:00 pm Choir rehearsal

MARCH CALENDAR

March 4th

9:00 am Sunday school

10:30 am Worship with communion

11:30 am-Fellowship, Worship committee meeting

March 7th

5:00 pm Confirmation class

6:00 pm-6:30 pm Reflective Lenten service

7:00 pm Choir rehearsal

March 11th

9:00 am Sunday school

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am-Fellowship, Board meeting

One Great Hour of Sharing offering

6:00 pm-8pm Youth open mic night

6:30 pm Men's group meeting

March 14th

5:00 pm Confirmation class

6:00 pm-6:30 pm Reflective Lenten service

7:00 pm Choir rehearsal

March 18th

9:00 am Sunday school

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am-Fellowship, meetings: LL&W, Christian Ed.

March 21st

5:00 pm Confirmation class

6:00 pm-6:30 pm Reflective Lenten service

7:00 pm Choir rehearsal

March 25th

9:00 am Sunday school

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am-Fellowship

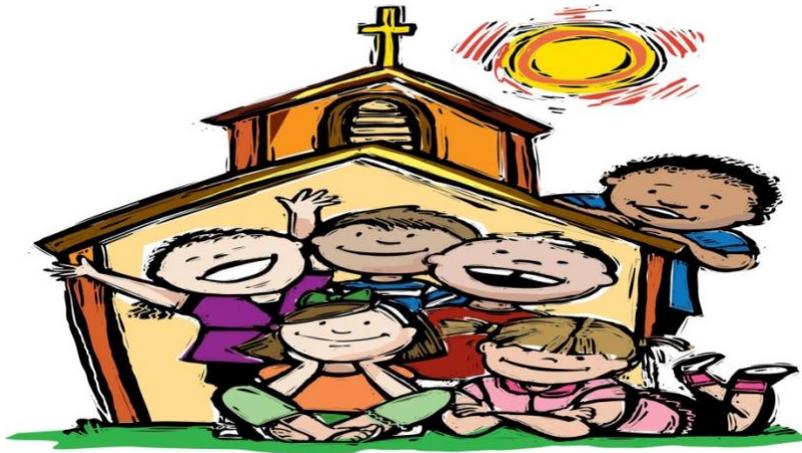
March 29th

Maundy Thursday

March 30th

Good Friday

Passion walk



St. Paul's UCC

Youth Calendar 2018

2nd Sunday of Month (except Easter)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Feb 11 th	Sledding/Skiing	Seven Oaks	1-3pm
Mar 11 th	Open Mic Night	Church Basement (all ages)	6-8pm
Apr 1 st	Easter Breakfast	Church Basement	8-9.30am
May 13 th	Spring Fling	Church Parking Lot (all ages)	12-3pm

Children and Youth Helping to Lead Worship

The pastor is so thrilled to have our children and youth help her lead worship on a monthly basis! They are excellent worship leaders, and have helped us engage in deep and meaningful worship together.

In the fall, we invited the children to lead on the second Sunday of the month; in the spring, pay attention to these dates where our children and youth will be leading, as it is not necessarily every second Sunday:

- *February 11
- *March 25 (Palm Sunday)
- *April 8
- *May 6 (Graduation/youth Sunday)

Thanks be to God for our children and youth, and their leadership!



Completing the Circle: All-Church Meeting on Sunday, February 4!

On February 4, we engaged in our first “Completing the Circle” retreat. We were led in a visioning/ planning/ evaluating conversation by our moderator, vice-moderator, past moderator and pastor.

Our traditional January Planning/Visioning meeting is being held on February 4th in 2018. Past, present and future moderators John Roosa, Julie Mathes and Lisa Winnie, along with Pastor Mary Beth will kick off the year and introduce a new concept of evaluation of review of the ministries in the congregation. They will gather small groups to share descriptive feedback about what church members have experienced in certain areas of congregational life. They will determine what the feedback means and report findings back to the board and appropriate committees, working groups or staff, as well to keep the congregation informed of what has been learned from the feedback reflection sessions. The payoff of the “Completing the Circle” process is a stronger congregational mission and ministry. Relationships between members are strengthened and leadership can lead more effectively by knowing how to ask for and receive high quality feedback. Everyone’s input will be very important for the success of “Completing the Circle” throughout the year!

Completing the Circle Book Check-Out

If you’d like to check out a copy of *Completing the Circle* (the book we used for our February 4 all-church retreat, and beyond), 3 copies are located in the back of the church, along with a sign-out sheet. Simply sign out the copy you are borrowing (#1, #2 or #3), and return it within about two weeks.



Why bake treats for Easter?!
Join us for our annual Spring Bake Sale

Where: Madrid Home, Peterson Lobby

When: Sunday, March 25th

What Time: 1:00-3:00 PM

**Donated baked goods will be accepted & greatly appreciated
anytime on
Saturday and before 11am on Sunday!**

**There will be cookies, coffee and punch served in the dining
room from 2-3:00 pm.**

Easter Schedule for Greater Love Ministries

Food Basket Sign-up Dates:

Monday, February 26 thru Friday, March 16

9:00 to 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. each Wednesday

Food Basket Distribution: Wednesday, March 21st

9:00 to 10:30 a.m. and 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Food recipients must be registered with Greater Love Ministries. Some financial information is required. Call 795-3913 or come to our location at 613 West North Street (Highway 210 at the east end of the Madrid Home parking lot).

Greater Love Ministries is the food pantry and clothing closet for the Madrid Community. If your family is in need of food assistance, we may be able to help you. Eligibility of food assistance is determined by the total income of the household. Households located within a four mile radius of Madrid and/or connected with the 795 calling area may qualify for food assistance. All residents within these boundaries may shop in the clothing rooms (no financial guidelines). Call 795-3913 for more details.

GLM will be closed March 30th – Good Friday.

HAVING A HARD TIME PAYING YOUR WINTER HEATING BILL?

WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP!

LIHEAP is an energy assistance program that provides an annual one time payment to assist low income families with their winter energy costs.

To see if you might qualify, call or stop by:
Boone County Resource Center
606 Greene St., Boone, IA 50036

515-432-5052

boone@impactcap.org



Army of Angels

At the Visioning Retreat in January 2017 one of the visions was a Gift Board. It was changed to Gift Exchange inviting people to give us their Gifts and also Needs. Then it was changed to Gifts/Needs Exchange and now we are giving it a new name – Army of Angels. It has been working well, and we want to continue in this way of helping each other – now as the Army of Angels!

Army of Angels is working the same way as before asking for your gifts and needs so that we can help anyone with the needs that might arise. If you have a need that is not listed, let us know and we will see if we can find help for you.

Prayer – offer prayers day and night

Household – misc. household help and tasks

Food - provide a meal or multiple meals, baking/cooking

Miscellaneous - capable of a lot of things – if you need any help I can probably do it, lesson leather stamping or art work

Moving - help with moving

Rides - to doctor appt, grocery store or shopping, drive you somewhere up to 4 hours round trip (time investment)

Yard Work – mow, rake leaves, plant flowers, trim bushes, pull weeds

We would like more people to sign up to do things as the using of the same people might get them burned out.

The help with moving and mowing lawns is a "small job," not doing it every week type of thing.

Please give some thought to gifts you can provide and needs you have and get this information to.

Ann Reiter annelisabethr@msn.com (515) 979-1608 or
Carolyn Douglas (515)-795-3485 douglascc@yahoo.com

The gift of **PRAYER** has been added to the list of gifts. **Prayer is something that we can all do – any time-anywhere – for anyone and is something we all need.** We would like to form a Prayer Tree using the branches of email, phone calls and texts as a way of getting this need/gift known. We will be working with the Deacons to see that this very important part of our ministering to our congregation and everyone anywhere, not just members of our congregation—everyone is being met.

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” Romans 12:12

Even a friendly smile is a gift anyone can give to anyone, anywhere.



Access the churches
website
([http://www.stpaulsucc
church.com/](http://www.stpaulsuccchurch.com/)) on your
cellphone with this QR
Code (you'll need a QR
code App.)



St. Paul's Contact Info:

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Church Phone: 795-2112

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