

Faith United Church of Christ

February 2019

www.faithslinger.org



Did you hear the terrible news?

This Valentine's Day, there will be no conversation hearts to share with others! No candies to employ to express our feelings to those we hold most dear.

What happened? According to Kaitlyn Tiffany of *Vox*, "We will not be telling each other "I Love You" or "Fax Me" or "LOL" with Sweethearts conversation hearts this year. There will simply be none for sale anywhere in 2019.

"As is so often the case these days, we can blame this crisis on corporate drama we had no hand in: Necco, the candy company that has been making the little pastel sugar-and-grout Valentines since the mid-19th century, was purchased by a new parent company at the end of last year and simply did not have enough time to set up the manufacturing process for its yearly 8 billion hearts."

Thank goodness those little hearts will be back in 2020.

In the meantime, the celebration of love will take place, just like it always has. There's much love to celebrate this month, and every month. Loving is hard wired into our hearts, minds and souls by God. We can't help but love others. God's created us to love. And signs of this love are everywhere.

You can see God's love is alive and well in Candice Payne, of Chicago. Payne, and a group of around eight business-owner friends, helped move more than 100 people from their homeless camp near Roosevelt Road and Des Plaines Avenue, into the Amber Inn Motel. Payne and her husband couldn't bear to see the homeless suffer through last week's cold snap, reported Madeline Buckley and Rosemary Sobol.

"This is just regular people trying to help," said Payne. "We wanted to get as much of them out of there as possible," said Payne, who works in real estate.

The Paynes and some friends "drove by the homeless camp Tuesday night and took those they could persuade to leave to the Amber Inn at 39th Street and Michigan Avenue, renting 20 rooms at about \$70 a piece. Payne had called dozens of hotels, and the Amber Inn was the only place that would take them.

"On Wednesday afternoon, with temperatures well below zero, a propane tank exploded at the camp. That led fire officials to confiscate dozens of propane tanks, leaving the campers who hadn't accepted the initial offer of a hotel room without any source of heat.

"Payne and her crew returned to the camp and took another group of people, now facing a night of near-record-low temperatures, to the motel.

"Payne posted about the effort on her Instagram account, and friends jumped in to help. They quickly paid for more rooms and also donated food, clothes and diapers. Many came to the hotel to help get the people settled.

"By Thursday night, they had enough money for 60 rooms for four nights, enough for about 120 people. A receptionist at the motel said the group has nearly filled the entire inn."

Jesus' parable of The Good Samaritan came to mind as I read the story of the Paynes, their friends and the homeless folks they helped. God's love is alive and well.

But wait, there are more signs of love. My sister-in-law, Julie, as you know, is fighting colon & liver cancer. Every other week, she receives chemo treatments at a cancer center not far from home. Late last year, she asked me to take her to treatment as my brother was out of town.

Walking into that center was like walking into pure love. There you found some of the kindest, compassionate, caring nurses and doctors you ever could meet on this side of heaven. When the staff listened to her, they hung on every word. They joked with her. They laughed with her. They checked on her and cared for her with such attention to detail—seeming to know what she needed before she even asked.

But the love that was shared didn't exclusively flow from nurse to patient. Julie cares deeply about those nurses. She remembers important moments in their lives. She asks about and then listens to two nurses (who are sisters) whose mother just passed away. And Julie bakes for them. Every time. Without fail. There are always two desserts she whips up for all the staff in the center.

The baking, the caring, the sharing of the joys and challenges of life comes from a call—a call to love others as much as self—just like Jesus asked. God's love is alive and well.

And God's love is alive and well when: your child stands up for another child who's often bullied; a neighbor shovels out another neighbor after the latest snow storm; a congregation "adopts" the kids in a school classroom in a low income neighborhood—sharing time with them, encouraging, applauding them; a child introduces a classmate to Jesus and tells, in her own words, the story of salvation. That's when God's love is alive and well.

May we all fan the flames of love as we live. May we applaud and join in when others initiate action. May we never tire of doing God's good work in this world every month, and without prompting. May we give God thanks that he's blessed us to be a blessing and cherish the honor of sharing his love with others.

In Christ, Pastor Sharon



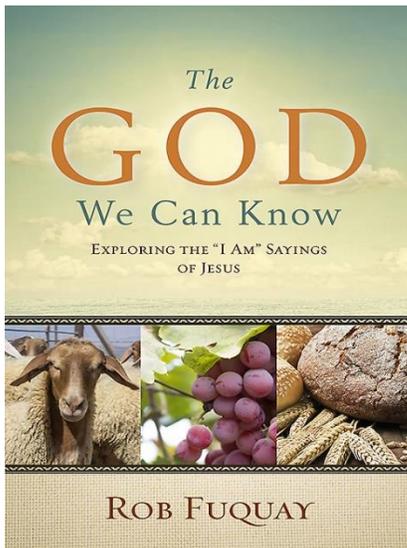
**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE CONGREGATION'S
ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10
Immediately following the 10 am worship service**

Our Lenten Journey

March 6 is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of Lent for 2019.

On Sunday mornings, our worship services will focus on *Cross Purposes*. Each service will help us remember and recognize God's purposes as we stand at the foot of the cross. As we worship, we'll begin to see that God's promises can only be fulfilled, and our sins can only be erased when we stand at the cross of Jesus.

On Wednesday evenings, please join us for supper at 6 pm, beginning Ash Wednesday.



The God We Can Know will help us, on Wednesday evening worship, find and form an answer to the most essential question in the Christian faith, “Who do you say I am?”

We’ll take a closer look at Jesus’ “I Am” statements—“I am the bread of life; the light of the world; the Good Shepherd, and the like. We’ll consider how these “I Am” statements reveal more about his identity and purpose, and connect us to the God of Moses, who spoke the first “I am.”

The DVD, filmed on location in the Holy Land, will allow us to travel with Rob Fuquay and actually see the places where Jesus stood while disclosing his true identity, and in what context he spoke each “I Am.”

The informal worship in Fellowship Hall, begins March 13 and runs through April 10.

Lenten Disciplines

The season of Lent is often a time when people purposefully engage in a special spiritual discipline. For some, it’s attending worship both Sundays and mid-week. Others expand their devotional life. Still others choose to give up something during the season—meat, sweets, alcohol are popular Lenten denial pledges.

In addition to your own Lenten disciplines, Faith offers the following discipline choices:

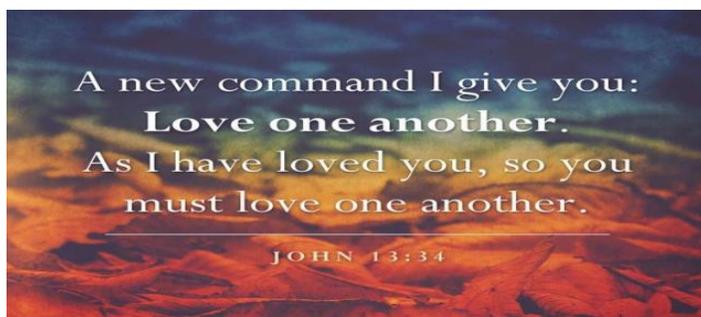
Lenten Denial offering folders are available for pick up at the church at the end of February. A contribution of \$1 for each of the 40 days of Lent is suggested.

Donations from your bounty! The last few years, many of you participated in this offering that asked you to consider giving up something from your closet. Each day of Lent, you’re asked to take something from your closet, kitchen, home or workshop that you no longer need or use, and put it in a trash bag.

At the end of Lent, you can take your bags of clothing and home goods to a thrift shop. St. Vincent DePaul is a great choice as the proceeds from these stores helps provide emergency housing for individuals who are homeless. They partner, in part, with Family Promise. The building materials, light fixtures, tools, furniture and the like may be donated to Habitat for Humanity’s ReStore. There are pick up services available for large items like furniture. Details about donating to the ReStore are available at <http://hfhrestore.org/>

If you prefer, you may bring your donations to church from April 28 to May 12, and we’ll make sure those donations make their way to the appropriate ministry.

To make things more convenient for you, garbage bags, tied with a ribbon, will be available for pick-up in the church narthex beginning the end of this month.



Sharing God’s Love With the Community

The annual “Pay It Forward” love offering will again be a part of our Lenten discipline. Faith family members are invited to touch folks with the love of Christ in your neighborhood, the community and area, by sharing that love in joyfully unexpected ways. This invitation is extended to everyone at Faith by the Mission Team.

Here’s what the Team prays you’ll do if you accept this

invitation!

Pick up your love offering money from the Mission Team stationed in the narthex during Lent. With the money you'll receive, you're asked to use it to extend Christ's love and kindness to others in your neighborhood or community in some way.

What might you do to share Christ's love? There are tons of ways! We hope you'll pray to God about it, and let God's Spirit capture your imagination and your giving.

We're hoping that whatever you feel called to do with the love offering money you receive, it will be something beyond the traditional ways the congregation makes financial gifts to support ministries like Albrecht Free Clinic or Interfaith Caregivers. Please feel free to use the money you receive, there are no expectations about adding to the money you're given. If you wish to add to the amount of the money, you may, but you're not expected to do so. You sure can join up with others to accomplish the gift you believe God's calling you to make.

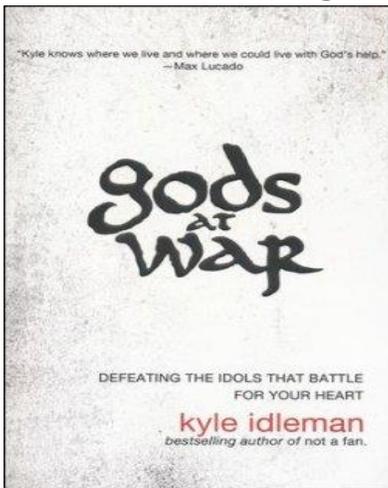
The hope also is that you'll make your love offering sometime before Mission Sunday, May 5. That Sunday, the Mission Team has some great things planned for the morning, and will wrap things up with lunch. At that lunch, we'll spend time sharing stories about the way you shared God's love with the offering money.

Wondering why the Mission Team is initiating this ministry? It's as simple as saying, "Because it pleases God." Christ himself told us that we're called to love him and love our neighbor. Touching others' lives is one way we can reveal who he is to the world.

If you have any questions about this love offering event, please be in touch with one of the Mission Team members: Bryan Herther, Cathy Schmidt, Judy Nehm or Pastor Sharon

Still Time To Join in the Winter Bible Study

There may be no wooden or golden idols in your home, such as the ancient Israelites struggled with, but chances are, there are significant idols in your heart. These idols can look like normal, everyday concerns about security, financial stability, desire for attention or affection, but can easily become the ugly reality of anxiety, greed, and seeking approval of other human beings, rather than God.



In *Gods at War*, Kyle Idleman addresses the issue of idolatry in the lives of believers by asking insightful questions that will help you determine which false gods are striving to sit on the throne of your heart. By sharing true and powerful testimonies of those who have struggled with the idols of money, sex, success, food and romance, Idleman clears away the cultural baggage of the 21st century to expose these gods for what they are--rivals to our unhindered devotion to Christ. Discover the freedom that awaits you when you allow the true God to reside unchallenged in your heart and life.

As is our practice, you are not required to pay for class materials. However, if you wish to reimburse the church for the class materials, \$20 will cover the cost of the books and \$2 will help defray the shipping expenses. Reimbursement will be gratefully received by the church.

Classes will meet from 6-8 pm on the following Tuesdays: Tuesday, February 5; Tuesday, February 12; Tuesday, February 26. Class will meet from 6:30-8 on Wednesday, February 20. Supper will be served at each gathering.

Yummy Pearl's Pizzas on Sale

Stock up on yummy Pearl's Pizzas while they last.



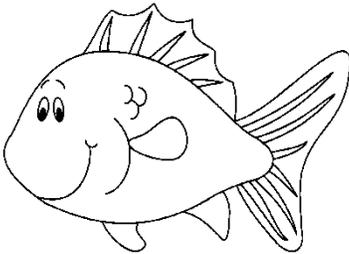
Four varieties of pizzas are on sale: Cheese; Sausage; Pepperoni, and Supreme. Any pizza is only \$6.

Pizzas are in the freezer upstairs in the elevator room so you can pick up as many as you'd like. We use the honor system when it comes to paying for the pizzas. Just leave the cash or check in the box inside the freezer. Proceeds from the sale will support the congregation's mission.

FISH FRY FRIDAY TO HELP SUPPORT SOME FANTASTIC MINISTRIES!

Help make a difference in the lives of Washington County residents by enjoying a heaping helping of delicious fried fish. Please save two dates: Friday, March 8 and Friday, April 12. Both fish fries will be held from 4-7:30 pm at The Columbian, 3245 Lighthouse Lane, West Bend.

Once again, charities that lend a helping hand to individuals across the county will benefit from this event that we sponsor. Albrecht Free Clinic; Casa Guadalupe; Elevate; Family Promise; Habitat for Humanity of Washington & Dodge County; Interfaith Caregivers of Washington County. The church also benefits from designated, undesignated and "at the door" ticket sales. Those coming to enjoy the meal, prepared by Catering by Bryan, may designate the charity which should receive the proceeds from their ticket.



Tickets will be on sale in February and may be purchased, beginning in February, through: any of the benefiting charities; The Columbian; Faith United Church of Christ, and Nehm's Floral and Greenhouse, Slinger or by calling 262-334-9849 or 262-644-7901. Children's tickets are available for purchase at the door.

YOUR HELPING HANDS ARE NEEDED FOR HELPING HANDS FISH FRY

Can you lend a hand with the Helping Hands Fish Fry? We like to run a couple of shifts of workers. First shift runs from 3:30-6 pm and the second shift runs from 6-8:30 pm.

Help will be needed: bussing tables; serving desserts, serving hot food; greeting people; taking tickets; selling tickets, and baking desserts prior to the fish fry. There's a sign-up sheet posted on the narthex bulletin board, or just let Pastor Sharon know: when you'd like to work; what work you'd like to do, and if you'd like to work one or both of the fish fries. Thanks!

Silent Auction items or baskets are also desired. Proceeds from the sale of these baskets donated by church members will go to the church. If you have a complete basket to donate, please bring it to the Columbian by 3:30 pm on the day of the fish fry, or make arrangements to drop them off with a Mission Team member before the day of the fish fry. If you have individual auction items, please get them to a mission team member on or before March 3 or April 7. Thank you!

"Fruits of the Spirit" is KFC Focus

As friends of Jesus, we're all called to be a little "fruity!"

You can always tell someone who loves Jesus by the way they live life every day. Just like a fruit tree bears fruit, so a someone who loves Jesus, bears fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. The memory verse is Galatians 5:22-23. The main Bible point we hope the kids will remember is, "God's Spirit, living in us, shows in the way we live."

The Fruit of the Spirit unit begins February 10, after we finish learning about Jesus' Baptism.

The KFC kids will be singing in worship on Sunday, February 17. We hope you'll like the song we'll sing.



Families of All Ages! Kids, Moms, Dads, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles! Join us for a great morning of tubing on Saturday, February 23 at Sunburst. We'll meet at 9:45 am at the tubing area of the park. We'll look to begin tubing at 10, and will tube for 2 hours. Cost is \$10 per person. If you can, please let Pastor Sharon or Mike Sachse know if you'll be coming. If you are coming, please bring along your release form, which can be found at: <https://www.skisunburst.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Snow-Tubing-Daily-Ticket-Release-2018-2019.pdf>

Bits and Pieces for Our Life Together. . .

Have an article for the newsletter? That's GREAT! Please send it to Pastor Sharon at stier@outlook.com on or before the 20th of each month for publication in the next newsletter.

Giving has never been easier with online donations! Simply visit <https://easytithe.com/faithslinger> to set up a free account to begin offering your gifts to the church securely using your checking account or credit card. See Alan Lehman if you have any questions.

In Our Prayers: Prayers are asked for healing for Jed Dolnick, Darlene Endres, Edna Schall, Dianne Wiedmeyer, Greg Ruchi, Bruce Miller, Beth Miller, Judy Schowalter, Elizabeth Melius, Dick Mayer, Jean Happel, Ami Cooper (Dick & Marilyn Mayer's granddaughter), Amy Meyer, Don Jackson, Annette Egan, Kathy Baumgart, (friend of Nancy Mark Cardinal), Julie Stier, (Pastor Sharon's sister-in-law), Abby Fisher member of Bethel UCC, Eden) and Ivan Schall. Prayers for Christ's presence and God's protection for Marine Lance Corporal Josh Zehner who is currently deployed. Please remember the homebound members of the congregation including: Edie Pickhard and Don & Sandy Jackson.



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A Sunday Reminder: Life can get pretty busy for folks. To help remind folks of Sunday morning worship responsibilities, reminder texts and/or emails will go out to those who are scheduled to lend a hand in the

coming week. If your schedule has changed and you can't serve as assigned, please find a substitute who will take care of the duties! Thanks!

We give thanks to God for. . . .

- All the folks who helped take down the Advent and Christmas decorations! You're amazing workers!
- Jenni Gordon, Christa Wendorf and Beth Miller for leading KFC workshops
- DiAnn Schowalter, Nancy Schilling-Genz, Karen Nehm, Christa Wendorf, Alan Lehman, Joyce Herther, Cathy Schmidt, Dan Neuburg, Marilyn Nadelhoffer, Beth Miller, Merrilee Lehman, Wendy Schauer, Bev Melius for their work on the 2018 annual report.
- Barb Meyer, Linda Hautala, Marilyn Nadelhoffer and Karen Reinders for providing coffee fellowship snacks.
- Bryan Herther for providing so many of the decorations for the Advent/Christmas, and Epiphany seasons

Time to Tidy Things Up!

We need to do some cleaning. . . of the church directory!

Beginning in February, and Lent arrives, March 6, we'll have folks in the narthex, armed with the contact information we currently have on file. Would you please be so kind as to check that information, and make any corrections and additions to the information.

With the information you provide, we'll compile a new church directory that we'll distribute to all.

Thanks for the help!

Worship Leadership Responsibilities

Altar Guild: Marilyn Nadelhoffer & Jodi Nadelhoffer

Communion Servers February 3: Rob Schowalter, Alan Lehman, Jim Melius, Linda Hautala

Date	Reader	Acolyte	Ushers	Bell Ringer
2/3	Karen Reinders	Landon Wendorf	JJ & Barb Markiewicz, Sue Nehm	Alan Lehman
2/10	Jenni Gordon	Ashley Nadelhoffer	Dan Neuburg, Bill Nehm	Tom Nadelhoffer
2/17	Marilyn Nadelhoffer	Aaron Nadelhoffer	Carl & Marilyn Schmidt	Dan Neuburg
2/24	Sherry Burg	Landon Wendorf	Barb Meyer & Reuben Schowalter	Dick Mayer

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:45 am KFC; 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 10 am Worship w/ Communion; 11 am Coffee Fellowship; 11:15 am KFC Leadership Team	4 3:30 pm Confirmation	5 6 pm Bible Study	6 8 pm Choir Rehearsal	7	8	9
10 8:45 am KFC; 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 10 am Worship; 11 am Annual Meeting with Consistory meeting to follow	11	12 6 pm Bible Study	13 8 pm Choir Rehearsal	14	15	16
17 8:45 am KFC; 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 10 am Worship with KFC Kids singing; 11 am Coffee Fellowship	18	19	20 6:30 pm Bible Study 8 pm Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23 9:45 am -Noon Family Fellowship— Tubing at Sunburst
24 8:45 am KFC; 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 10 am Worship with KFC Kids singing; 11 am Coffee Fellowship	25	26 6 pm Bible Study	27 8 pm Choir Rehearsal	28	Please Mark Your Calendar: March 6-Ash Wednesday; March 8-Helping Hands Fish Fry; March 13, 20, 27- Mid-week Lenten services	