



A NOTE FROM PASTOR JULIE

What are you giving up for Lent this year? Maybe chocolate? May an activity that distracts you from your relationship with God? Why give up something for Lent at all?

Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday, is a time for us as individuals to intentionally examine and reflect upon what is distracting us from a deeper relationship with God. This year the season of Lent begins on March 5 and ends on April 20. Whether we add something positive to our lives or give something up for Lent, we have the opportunity to experience God in new and fresh ways.

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 focuses on three spiritual disciplines that help us to deepen our relationship with God. These are giving to the poor, prayer, and fasting. When we participate in these spiritual disciplines, we are not to do them just to look good to others, but to do them with our hearts focused on God. In this passage, Jesus also says that we are to build up our treasures in heaven. In other words, we are to focus on those things that last beyond this world, which are those things that are important to God.

Giving to the poor is not just about giving money, but is also about what Jesus talks about in Matthew 25 when we do for the least of these, it is as if we are doing for Jesus. If we are intentional, we can better see Jesus in the eyes of those we serve. Through prayer we deepen our relationship with God as we bring our concerns, joys, praises, and thanksgiving to God. Fasting is giving something up such as a meal, a particular food that we love so much, or a specific activity. As we feel the pangs of hunger or find ourselves missing that favorite food or activity, we can use those opportunities to focus on God and to recognize our deep need for God. All that we have comes from God including our salvation. We cannot overcome our sins on our own; we need God's grace to save us.

What will you add or subtract from your life this Lenten season in order to deepen your relationship with God?

God bless you,

Pastor Julie



Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 9.
Don't forget to turn your clocks ***ahead*** 1 hour!

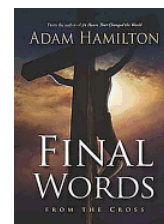
Lent and Holy Week Services

Mark your calendars with the following dates and locations for our Easter services and Bible studies.

Ash Wednesday Service - March 5, 7 p.m. at Litchfield UMC

Lent Study – 7 p.m. each evening we will focus on Adam Hamilton's book, *Final Words from the Cross*.

Week 1	Wednesday, March 12, at Quincy UMC
Week 2	Wednesday, March 19, at Litchfield UMC
Week 3	Wednesday, March 26, at Quincy UMC
Week 4	Wednesday, April 2, at Litchfield UMC
Week 5	Wednesday, April 9, at Quincy UMC
Week 6	Wednesday, April 16, at Litchfield UMC



Palm Sunday – April 13, 11 a.m. at Litchfield UMC

Maundy Thursday Service – April 17, 7 p.m. at Litchfield UMC

Community Good Friday Service - April 18, 7 p.m. at Litchfield Congregational Church, Pastor Julie will be giving the message.

Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 19, 2 p.m. at Litchfield UMC

Sunrise Service and Breakfast – April 20, 7 a.m. Service with Breakfast to follow.

Easter Celebration - Sunday, April 20, 11 a.m. at Litchfield UMC



* - refer to -

When reading, there are times a symbol is at the end of a word or phrase. We've seen them before and have been taught to refer to a key or bottom of the page for a description of the meaning. In this reference we discover a definition for a clearer and better understanding of a word being used in the sentence and content. Sometimes these words are so disruptive in our thinking that a further definition is necessary to realize the writers intent.



Are there words for you that cause interruption in knowing a true meaning? The month of March has a few words worth time and attention. The word Lent (not lint—a fuzzy in the bottom of a pocket) or Lenten can take up several pages to describe origin and meaning. We will leave that one for another time to explore, but we know it marks a religious season leading to Easter.

So in my reading I find the word Easter was actually tied to pagan worship centuries ago. 'Recent' centuries have reshaped that word and meaning into a Christian recognition of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our Easter word comes from Eostre/Ostara—Norse Anglo-Saxon origin, referring to the goddess of spring. Through my continued search of origin and meaning, I found that definition to tie into Christ-renewal of life. This was a pagan festival, celebrated in the spring! As the early Christians continued to spread Christ's new message to non-believers, they redefined Eostre to recognize Jesus Christ as new life.

This gradual deceptive word association seems to have changed to a discernment of the sort. Now here's a word that can leave one with that (?) question mark symbol over your thinking cap.

More searching of discern.

- to understand something not immediately obvious
- distinguish; to be able to tell the difference between two or more things
- to recognize

It's that ah-hah moment in word association/recognition *

"They searched the Scriptures day after day to check up on Paul and Silas to see if they were really teaching the truth." Acts 17:11b

* - there's that symbol that wants you to look into these meanings of words for a better understanding.

"Seek his will in all you do and he will direct your paths." Proverbs 3:6

(Continued of next page)

* - refer to - (continued)

The United Methodist Hymnal (1989 copyright) has 30 pages set aside in words and music referring to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We often call it Easter. One minister I know only refers to the Sunday following Good Friday as Resurrection Sunday, leaving that Easter word to an ancient pagan festival. So, how do we decide and know this Easter season?

A line from Hymn 304—*"When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong"*. With just a slight letter change we get—When in trouble move to Easter to our God who rights the wrong. A new meaning for an old line.

Still another word from one of those 30 pages leading to his Resurrection—tarry. Hymn 314, a definition of tarry from Webster's Collegiate Dictionary—linger in expectation.

This season of Lent is leading us to Resurrection Sunday—Easter. *

"May the Lord bring you into an ever deeper understanding of the love of God..."

2 Thessalonians 3:5

* = keep searching

Ron Giacobassi

OUTREACH NEWS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

- ♦ **Fifth Sunday Special Offering:** March 30, will go towards Summer Camp! Keep this in mind as you plan for the special time of giving so our young people may experience a week at Christian camp.
- ♦ **Imagine No Malaria:** A United Methodist Church effort to raise \$75 million to eliminate death and suffering from malaria in Africa by 2015. The desired outcome for the Michigan area is \$1.5 million. Of that, about \$500,000 has already been raised, with each Conference having raised about half that amount. It takes \$10 to save a person from Malaria in Africa. A decision was made for our church to use proceeds from Sweet Corn Days for this cause.
- ♦ **Chili Supper and Pie Auction:** Plans are being made to have a Chili Supper and Pie Auction in October 2014. Proceeds from this event will go towards the Christmas Basket project that we offer to those of our community in need.





Our meeting for March will be held on the 26th.

Hostesses will be Doris Blonde and Clara Dawson.

Our District President, Donna Smith, will be with us to see our facility
as we are hosting Mission U in August.

Pantry Item: Shampoo

All ladies are welcome to our meetings.

Hope to see you.

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

*Plan to stay after our worship service every Sunday
and join in for some good food and fellowship.*

March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
Doug & Sharon Thompson	Marcia Ferry Lois Miller	Doris Blonde Eleanor Wildt	Betty Peiffer Janice Teller	Laura Cierpilowski Sheila Gary

LITURGY SCHEDULE

March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
Sheila Gary	Tim Chilson	Tom Beckner	Zach Hiser	Doug Thompson

YOUTH CAMPS – LOOKING FORWARD TO SUMMER 2014



Even though we still are shoveling snow, it's not a bit too early to begin thinking about the summer camps that are available for our youth. Pamela Stewart, camp registrar for the West Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church, sent information to our church recently.

Here is some important information about camps this summer:

A camp booklet for the West Michigan Conference camps and the Detroit Annual Conference camps is available. Campers from 2012 and 2013 will receive one at their home, and our church office will have additional copies early in March.

Online registration is already open! Go to www.umcamping.org.

Enrollment this year is based on the school grade the camper will enter in the fall of 2014. In the past, the grade completed was used.

Lake Louise registrations, scholarships, and rebates are to be submitted directly to Lake Louise Christian Community. Links on the above website will redirect you to the Lake Louise website for registration.

Our church name is a required field on the registration form.

Conference Scholarships and First-time Camper Rebates are available, and our Litchfield United Methodist Church provides scholarships for campers, as well.

If you have any questions about summer camp opportunities, please contact Pastor Julie or Carolyn Nafziger in the church office. They will help you with answers or connect you with Pamela Stewart.



Wednesday, March 12, Noon-5:45 p.m.

Blood Drive.

What's not to love about the chance

To help save lives?

Give blood.

EASTER FLOWERS

As in the past, we will have potted flowers for Easter Sunday. Details are being coordinated and will be published in the April newsletter. Potted plants in honor or memory of loved ones will be approximately \$12 each.



PRAYERS NEEDED

Prayers for those in nursing homes and assisted living: Elnora Beckner, Geri Bennett, Willie Hinkle, Edith Southworth, Wes Sutton, Lorene Ladd, and Clif & Fran Wells.

Debbie Kurtz

Patty Johnson

Becky Cooper

Jason Hill

Pat Smith

Kaitlyn Snyend

Debbie Noakes

Marcia Ferry

Leah Snodgrass

Heather Pitts

Edye Macey

Randy Jones

Melissa Stuller, Pray for good test results.

Prayers for those away at college
Prayers for those in our military
Prayers for the youth of our community



LAY SERVANT MINISTRY TRAINING

The Albion District will offer spring Lay Servant Ministry training, March 28 & 29, at Wesley Woods Camp. Basic Lay Servant Class along with three advanced classes will be offered. The weekend session will begin on Friday, March 28, at 5:00 pm and will conclude on Saturday at 7:00 pm. Pick up a complete brochure on the class offerings and cost information in the narthex or call the church office at 542-3366, and we will drop one in the mail to you. Registration is open until March 20. Class size and accommodations are limited, so it is recommended you register early. If you have questions please contact the District Office at 517-629-8150 or email office@albiondistrict.org.



SPECIAL THANKS



Dear Friends at Litchfield,

Thank you so much for the wonderful potluck dinner that concluded our time with you. We had such a good time at Litchfield for 8 weeks and do look forward to returning sometime for worship if my schedule ever settles down.

Blessings & love, Pastor Jim & Shari

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the Valentine's Day card and the Subway gift card. I love seeing everyone's name on the inside. The subway card will be nice for a change from cafeteria food. I am enjoying my second semester at MSU. I hope you are all staying warm!

Thanks again. Love, Leah Giacobassi

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the cards you sent to Mother (Margaret Kathleen Ludlow) while she lived at Emerald Forest. Thank you for all the kind words and prayers, and cards you sent us. They were very much appreciated.

We know that Mother is in Heaven with God and all her loved ones who passed on before her.

Janice & Ken Hamilton, Charles & Carol Ludlow, Mary Miller and Families

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

LUMC Sends Prayer Shawls & Quilt to the 2014 Assembly of UMW

The Litchfield United Methodist Women, with the help of the Knit and Craft Group, sent three prayer shawls and two baby quilts to the 19th quadrennial Assembly of United Methodist Women. Pastor Julie blessed the prayer shawls and baby blankets on Sunday, February 23 and Monday, February 24, and off they went to Louisville, Kentucky via New York City! The prayer shawls and baby blankets will then be sent to United Methodist related ministries around the world as a symbol of God's ever-faithful presence in the lives of the individuals who receive them.



The Assembly of the United Methodist Women is a worldwide event held every four years. This year's UMW General Assembly will be April 25-27, in Louisville. United Methodist Women from around the globe will meet to "share sisterhood and remind one another how faith, hope, and love in action will help one another reach new heights of spiritual growth; develop leadership skills; cultivate new ways to strengthen the mission outreach of UMW," and much more!

For more information on the United Methodist Women's Assembly go to

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org.



March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Please check the weekly bulletins for changes, updates & locations.		L—Litchfield Q—Quincy				1
2 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q —S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship	3 3 pm L Knit and Craft	4 7 pm L Outreach	5 9:30 am Q Bible Study 7 pm L Ash Wednesday Service	6 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	7 5 pm L Girl Scout Lock-In	8 10 am Girl Scout Lock-in ends.
9 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q —S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship	10 3 pm L Knit and Craft	11 7 pm L Nurture	12 9:30 am Q Bible Study Noon— L Blood Drive 7 pm LQ Lent Study @ Quincy	13 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	14	15
16 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q —S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship	17 3 pm L Knit and Craft	18 7 pm Q Trustees 7:30 pm Q Ad. Council	19 7 pm LQ Lent Study @ Litchfield	20 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer 6 pm L Finance Team 7 pm L Ad. Council	21	22 1 pm L Girl Scouts
23 9 am Q Worship 10:30 am Q —S.S. 9:45 L Adult S.S. 11 am L Worship 7 pm HARCC Sing at Somerset Center UMC	24 3 pm L Knit and Craft	25	26 7 pm LQ Lent Study @ Quincy	27 1:30 pm Q Quilters 3:30 pm Q Prayer	28	If your birthday or anniversary is missing or in error, please call the church office with your information.

March Birthdays

2-Barb Miller 5-David Sykes 11-Clif Wells 12-SueAnn Kaleida
 12-Mike Ireland 13-David Houchen 14-Ron Crater 22-Jessica Sykes

Anniversaries

16-Ray & Mary Wendorf 25-Tom & Marge Beckner 26-Mick & Lorie Dickinson



LITCHFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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517-542-3366

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Website & Calendar: umclitchfield.org

Find us on Facebook: facebook.com/litchfieldumc

Pastor Julie Elmore

E-Mail: jyelmor@gmail.com

Cell Number: (517) 607-6977 (text and call friendly)

Home Number: 517-542-3775

Office Hours

M-W-TH 9:00-3:00

Food Pantry Hours

M and TH 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

MARCH NEWSLETTER



SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 A.M.

WORSHIP 11.00 A.M.