

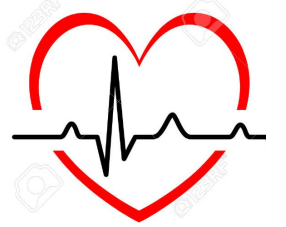
REFLECTING THE PULSE OF THE PARISH

THE PARISH PULSE

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2018

350 27th Avenue SW Cedar Rapids, Iowa 319-364-3188



March Birthdays

16 Mike Reedich
17 Adeline Volesky
18 Marlene Sirowy
25 Gail Jacobson
27 Pastor Diane
28 Corinne Sterns
29 Jim Buttleman



United Methodist Women News

March 1
General Meeting @ 10 am
Program: Pledge - Jo Myers
Hostess: Glenda Hyde
March 8 9:30 am
Jessie Circle
Reader and Hostess: Pat Pealer



International Ring the Bell Day
March 8 @ 11:00 am ~ Coffee
11:30 am ~ Bell Ringing
All women of Asbury are invited.
Bring a friend.

United Methodist Women

Our Purpose

The organized unit of the United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God, and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Why become a Member?

UMW is a national membership organization with nearly eight hundred thousand members whose purpose is to foster spiritual growth, develop leaders and advocate for justice! Members raise approximately \$20 million a year for programs and projects related to women, children and youth in the United States and in more than 100 countries around the world.

A note from Finance:

Here's hoping that everyone is enjoying our Iowa winter. Asbury had been fortunate the last couple of years with snow removal. When the next snow removal bill comes this month we most like will exceed the amount budgeted. Thank-you to those that have given extra and marked the giving for snow removal.

Apportionments: The main way we support the ministries of the church is through our apportioned funds, a method of giving that proportionally allocates the church wide budget to conferences and local churches.

Together, through our connected congregations, we accomplish what no single church, district or annual conference ever could hope to do alone. In this way, each individual, each family, each congregation gives a fair share for the church's work. We combine our prayers, presence, gifts and service to make a significant difference in the lives of God's people.

The seven funds that a apportionments are distributed among are World Service, Ministerial Education, Episcopal, Black College, Interdenominational Cooperation, Africa University, and General Administration.

The UMC Iowa Conference has set the 2018 apportionment for Asbury at \$21,565. Currently Asbury will pay to The Conference only those monies that the donor has directed to be for apportionments.

Song of Solomon 2:11-12 (NKJV)

For lo, the winter is past,
The rain is over *and* gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
The time of singing has come,
And the voice of the turtledove
Is heard in our land.

According to the calendar, Spring IS coming. The grass will start to get green, the crocuses will soon bloom and there will be increasing number of hours of daylight. Aren't we all ready for that? Growing up, Spring also meant Spring Housecleaning. I don't hear that many people do that anymore.

The season of Lent could be considered as a Spring Housecleaning of our souls, though. It is a time of 40 days from Ash Wednesday to the day before Easter, not counting Sundays. That's because every Sunday is supposed to be a time of celebrating Jesus's resurrection from the dead.

The season of Lent isn't mentioned anywhere in the Bible. The 40 days comes from two references in the gospels to the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness before He started His 3 years of ministry. During that time, Jesus fasted and had a confrontation with Satan.

In centuries past, one of the most important ceremonies at Easter is the baptism of initiates on Easter Eve. The 40 days of Lent was originally a time of instruction in the Christian faith for those who wanted to join the church.

In more modern times, the season of Lent is seen as a time of fasting, self-denial and attentiveness to one's spiritual growth. In our own 'spring housecleaning', we might consider taking an inventory of our lives and clean out those things which get in the way of our relationship to Jesus and our service to Him.

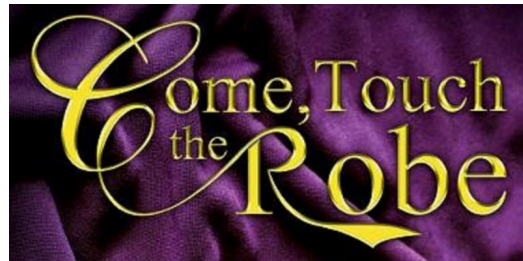
Serving Jesus with you,

Pastor Diane

The 2018 Easter Cantata - March 25

Come, prepare your heart to meet Jesus in an intimate way.

From year to year, we tell the stories of Jesus in a variety of ways. But until we truly encounter the Lord of healing, of glory and authority, of humility, and of victory, we remain unmoved and unchanged. It is that Christ - Christ as He showed Himself to be - who we encounter in *Come, Touch the Robe*.



Unique in concept, soaring in spirit, and with music, text, and narration by Pepper Choplin, *Come Touch the Robe* allows us to encounter the Christ of healing, glory, authority, humility, and victory. This work uses the simple garment that Jesus wore as a thematic device to recount the interaction of those who were with Him during His last days on Earth. To a suffering woman, His robe conveyed divine healing. On the mountaintop, the robe shone and filled the disciples eyes with His glory and authority. When Jesus laid His garment aside in the upper room, it displayed His humility as a servant. At the tomb, the grave clothes He left behind help us experience His resurrection and the victory over death.



This year the Worship Committee has decided to offer tulips instead of the traditional Easter Lily due to allergies.

Orders will be taken from March 4 to March 18th. The blooming bulbs may be purchased by completing the form provided. Checks may be made payable to Asbury UMC for \$13.

Sermon texts for March

- March 4 - John 5:1-9a
- March 11 - Luke 10:38-42
- March 18 - John 6:60-66
- March 25 - Cantata

2018 Lenten Luncheon Series:



Spiritual Disciplines

The community is invited to reflect during the Holy

Season of Lent. The services are held at 12:10 pm and will be followed by a light lunch. A freewill offering (\$5 suggested) will be used to cover the cost of the meal and for the ongoing work of the West Side Six Association along with Matthew 25.

The March schedule is as follows:

- March 7 @ Sharon UMC, Rev. Carol Sundberg
- March 14 @ St. Mark's UMC, Rev Diane Townsley
- March 21 @ Salem UMC, Rev. Kevin Moore
- March 28 @ Trinity-St. James UMC, Rev Clint Twedt-Ball

Rev. Diane Townsley
319-551-3648 Cell

International French
Ministry
Rev. Patrick Munyakazi
431-8319

Business Administrator
Sharon Busch
364-3188
Office hours:
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Choir Director
Alice Lindsey

Custodian
Nicole Day

Nursery Attendant
Laura Booth

Pray for your pastors/ leaders
and members of the church

Colossians 4:2-6 "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." (NIV)

For this month newsletters, I would like to encourage everyone to pray for your pastors and leaders at Asbury United Methodist church. In the above letter, the apostle Paul was a prisoner, but he was allowed to reach others Christians through letters and personal visits. He was encouraging a person to pray and to adopt a new behavior towards people. If I had to transform this scripture into a prayer, it would be like this

I, Pastor Patrick Munyakazi (you can replace with your name), will devote myself to prayer. I will be watchful and thankful. I will pray for the pastors/ leaders of my church, that God may open an opportunity that they preach and proclaim the mystery of Christ to people. I will pray that they may declare it clearly, as they should. I will be wise in the way I act toward outsiders and others Christians. I will make the most of every opportunity to present God to others. My conversations will always be full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that I may know how to answer everyone.

I am encouraging all of us to do this exercise regularly. Choose a scripture in the Bible and transform into a prayer. I can tell you for sure, the Bible would become an excellent book to read, and our prayer life would improve.

We are "Asbury family,"
Pastor Patrick Munyakazi

WE

WALK

BY FAITH

NOT BY

SIGHT

1 Corinthians