



The Parish Print

February, 2020

Phone: 815-468-3722

A publication of The Manteno United Methodist Church

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Website: Mantenoumc.org



Fortitude Homeless Outreach

Our church continues to support the needs of the

Homeless with contributions and volunteers who work at the sidewalk distribution each Thursday. Terry Daly and Gale Dodge will be volunteering Jan. 30. There is a great need for shaving cream and deodorant. They hope to take some items at that time but there are future dates booked also. If you find it possible to donate, there is a box for items under the mantel in the Narthex. Other needs include men and women's underwear. No XL for men. There is an abundance of that size.



United Methodist Women will be starting our new year on Tuesday February 4. We are looking forward to a great year of mission work. We invite all ladies to join us at 7 pm on February 4th in the fellowship hall.



Fun for Seniors

MUM'S

Mum's will be meeting in the fellowship hall on Wednesday, February 19th at noon for a potluck. The hosts are Everett and Lois Johnson and Gussie Mansfield. They will be making meat loaf. Please bring a dish to share.

Please sign the clipboard in church if you are planning to come.

Manteno United Methodist Church
and U are U Preschool

2nd ANNUAL EASTER

PANCAKE DINNER begins at 6:30 pm

FLASHLIGHT EGG HUNT AT 8:00 pm
Please bring your own basket and flashlight!



Friday, April 3rd at 6:30pm

PHOTOS WITH EASTER BUNNY
255 W 2nd St.

Family Event -- Egg Hunt for 4th grade and under
CANDY FILLED EGGS CRAFTS
FREE EVENT
Please RSVP at mantenoumc.org.

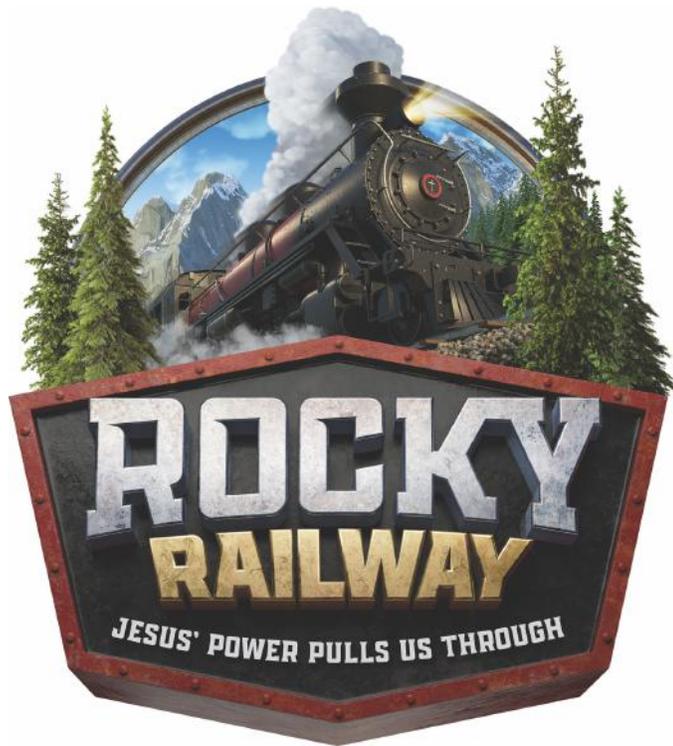
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WELCOME NEW VISITORS!

Thank you if you are a first-time visitor to our church. Please register on our website and we will make a \$5 donation to the charity of your choice.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

VBS 2020

June 14th - 18th

Rocky Railway

Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through



Worship Committee

2 Corinthians
4:15 (NIV)

“All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.”

Thank you to all who participated in the Feedback Survey. Once the Worship Team has reviewed the results, I will present them to the Ad Council in February. After discussions we will let the congregation know our recommendation.

We have celebrated the birth of Jesus and the New Year and now the church is in Ordinary time. This is a time to focus on preparing to help others grow in their discipleship. Ordinary time will end the day before Ash Wednesday, which is the start of the Lenten season. Below is a list of important Lenten dates:

*Ash Wednesday - February 26, 2020

*Palm Sunday - April 5, 2020

*Holy Devotions Week - April 6, 2020 – April 10, 2020 (6:30 AM)

*Maundy Thursday - April 9, 2020

*Interfaith Cross Walk - April 10, 2020

*Easter Services - April 12, 2020

I would also like to invite you to attend the Cluster Lenten services which start on Ash Wednesday, February 26 through Good Friday, April 10. Each Sunday one of the Methodist Churches in our Cluster will host a Lenten service. This information can be found in our Sunday morning bulletins.

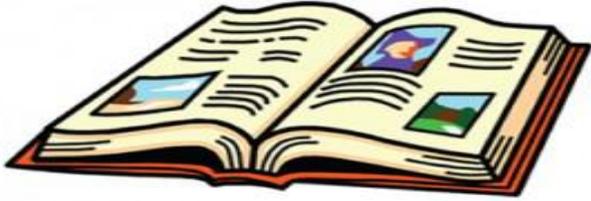
God Bless,

Jeanine Lauridsen

Worship Team Leader

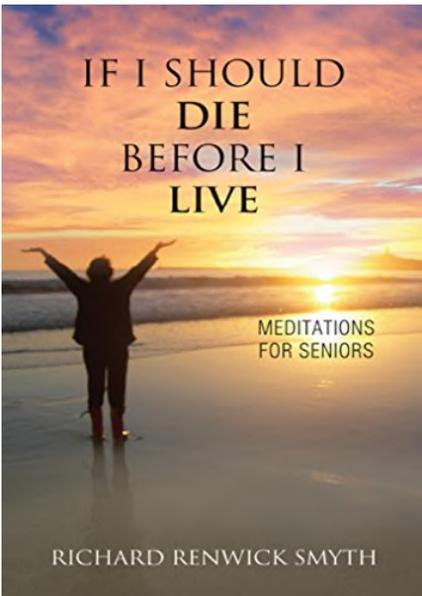
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Book Reviews



Spiritual Growth -- *If I Should Die Before I Live: Meditations for Seniors* by Richard Renwick Smyth.

"What if I should die before I feel life is full?" This question is deeply personal and hauntingly spiritual, a challenge to revisit



beliefs and the dynamics of faith, love and hope. This book, especially for seniors, offers meditations that focus on spiritual vitality and energize faith, reach beyond a biological birth-death

time frame, touch on continuity beyond earth-time, motivate people to act in love, foster perspective and wholesome relationships and offer healing.

U are U enrollment for 2020-2021

February 3 for church members and current students, February 10 open to the public. Registration can be done online. Check the U are U Facebook page or contact the school.



NEWS FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

Starting this month, the finance team will be reporting income and expenses for each month. This month will include the December report and the Year End report. If you have any questions, please contact the Finance Chairperson, Park Hollenbeck, or the Church Treasurer, Sue Ross.

December's report

\$ 30,772.58	Income from monthly Sunday offering to be used for the General Fund budget
\$ 18,477.56	General Fund expenses
\$ 5,145.00	Income from monthly Sunday offering to be used for mortgage payment
\$ 3,743.72	Mortgage payment

Year End Report

\$223,084.89	Income from monthly Sunday offering to be used for the General Fund budget
\$215,771.23	General Fun expenses
\$ 33,792.00	Income from monthly Sunday offering to be used for mortgage payment
\$ 44,924.64	Mortgage payment
Mortgage balance as of December 31, 2019:	\$578,211.21

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FROM THE PASTOR



1 Corinthians 1:17: “For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.”

God has a sense of humor! I often think so, when something happens that stops me from thinking too highly of myself! And so it happened today. I opened my mouth to answer the phone early this morning—and nothing came out—not even a squeak! A preacher with no words to speak—is it my worst nightmare, or your brightest hope?

Just yesterday I preached with full voice—and my chosen Scripture was Paul’s own confession that he was not sent to preach with wisdom or eloquence. No matter how much he wanted to spread the Gospel, it was more important not to empty the cross of its power.

So today I will speak less, or not at all, and listen more. I will remember that God can work in mysterious ways when I let my own importance get out of the way.

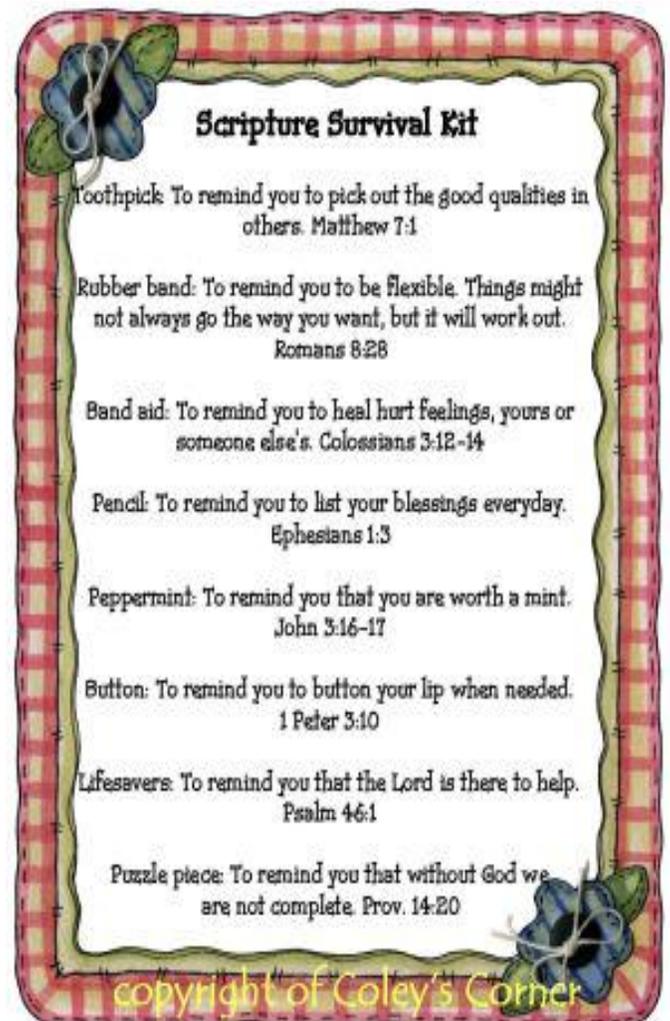
What did Christ send you to do? If not to baptize or preach, then what? Whatever it is we are each called to do, the purpose is not to look good, to appear righteous, or to be noticed for our service to God. The purpose is to point the way to the cross of Christ, which is where the real power is!

Paul goes on to say: “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is

the power of God.” (1 Cor. 1:18) I feel so honored when, on a rare occasion, someone says, “Your sermon today was powerful.” Perhaps I should be even more honored when there is no power in my words, but when any moment in worship or service points to the cross. That’s more powerful than any words!

Prayer: God, when we feel powerless, remind us that your cross is where the real power is. Thank you, God, for Jesus, whose life and death on the cross are still transforming our lives today!

Amen.





Moments With Miles

Well, the weather sure has been quiet in Manteno, Illinois, my hometown, out there amidst the non-snow-covered corn and bean fields. I am happy to report my winter forecast last November has been proven almost completely wrong. The only thing I got correct was no snow on Christmas. Don't mistake me, no one is happier at my prognosticating failure than myself. But let me remind you, winter is far from over. I've rechecked both the *Farmers' Almanac* and the *Old Farmers's Almanac* for the coming month of February. They are almost in direct opposition with each other. Trust me, whichever one proves correct, that's the only book I will be buying in the future. That being said, I believe February will bring a combination of mild and harsh. I believe those of us with snow blowers will get plenty of use out of them, especially around mid-month. March will be bringing warmer temperatures early and late, but more snow will arrive again mid-month.

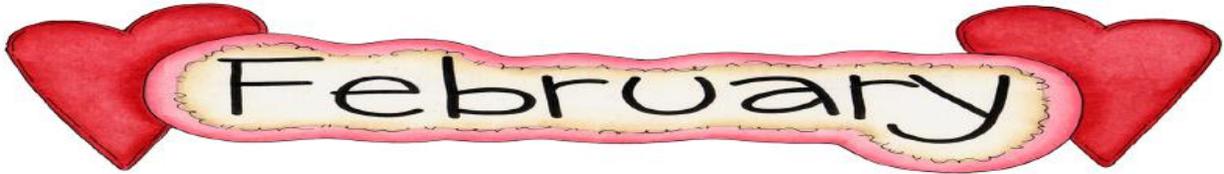
Now, it has been noted to me that I seem to focus a lot on the weather and, the other subject near and dear to my heart, farmers. And I am sure there are times when the readers of my little epistles in the Parish Print wonder why, and where is the spiritual content? Well folks, first let me say I'm not trying to put myself out there as any kind of biblical scholar or spiritual

leader; I am simply not worthy of such a position. All I'm trying to do is offer, for what it's worth, my particular view of things here in the heartland of Manteno, Illinois as well as try to offer some light content to our Parish Print other than simply coming events, the calendar, and notes of thank you. I leave the spiritual guidance in the more than capable hands of our dear Pastor Joy. I do try to find the occasional biblical reference to whatever it is I'm ruminating on each month, but that's because I'm well aware of the publication for which I'm writing. This month will be the 54th *Moments With Miles* I've written since taking over the editorship of the Parish Print in February of 2015. Believe me when I say, if there is anyone out there who would like to write their own column for The Parish Print, please feel free to email me any and everything. My email address is: fish54@comcast.net. I would love to see our Parish Print expand to other contributors.

That being said and in keeping with my obsession with the weather and farmers, allow me to offer the following Bible verse: Isaiah 55:10 - "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater..." You see, even the Bible talks a lot about the weather and farmers.

And that, my kind hearts and gentle readers, is *Moments With Miles* in Manteno, Illinois, where you can see from horizon to horizon, and all of our hills are called overpasses.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Groundhog Day	3 Mommy and Me – 9-10am Monday Night Bible – 7pm	4 Loving Stitches – 1pm UMW – 7pm	5 Discussion Group – 5-6:30pm Men’s Bible Study – 6pm Choir – 6:30pm No Bells Outreach – 7pm	6 Ladies Bible Study – 9am Praise Band – 6:30pm	7	8
9	10 Monday Night Bible – 7pm	11 AD Council – 7pm	12 Discussion Group – 5-6:30pm Men’s Bible Study – 6pm Choir – 6:30pm No Bells	13 Ladies Bible Study – 9am Praise Band – 6:30pm Mission Team – 7pm	14 Valentine’s Day	15
16	17 President’s Day Monday Night Bible – 7pm	18 Loving Stitches – 1pm Trustees – 5:30pm Finance – 7pm	19 MUMS - Noon Discussion Group – 5-6:30pm Men’s Bible Study – 6pm Choir – 6:30pm Bells- 7:30pm	20 Ladies Bible Study – 9am Praise Band – 6:30pm	21	22
23	24 Mommy and Me – 9-10am Monday Night Bible – 7pm	25	26 Ash Wednesday Lent Begins Discussion Group – 5-6:30pm Men’s Bible Study – 6pm Choir – 6:30pm Bells- 7:30pm	27 Ladies Bible Study – 9am Praise Band – 6:30pm	28	29