



The Parish Print

March, 2020

Phone: 815-468-3722

A publication of The Manteno United Methodist Church

Email: mantenoumcoffice@yahoo.com

Website: Mantenoumc.org



United Methodist Women

The Manteno United Methodist Women are starting the year with a flurry of activity. On

Friday, February 21st they will be meeting at 9am to work on a quilt to be donated to Cunningham Children's Home.

The regular monthly meeting will take place at 7pm on Tuesday, March 3rd - all ladies are invited and welcome to join!

Finally, a Chili Dump will be held on Sunday, March 8th to raise funds for UMW mission projects. That's the same day as the spring forward time change, so get your hour back by letting the UMW ladies cook for you while you support a good cause! Watch for details in the church bulletin.

Denise M Caparula



Thank you to all who filled out our survey! The

Administrative Council and Worship Team have taken all suggestions into consideration, and we are still in discussion about future worship times. The Education Team has requested not to change Sunday School times mid-year, so any changes will not take place until the end of summer. We will have one service at 9:30, as usual during the summer.

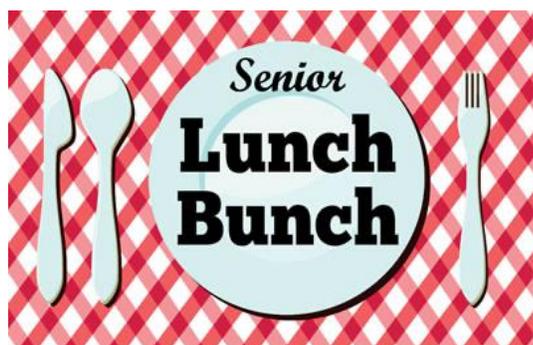
We are now in the season of Lent, and I would like to share this scripture with you:

Joel 2:12-14 12 "Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." 13 Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. 14 Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing-grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God.

As the Worship Team Leader, I want to encourage you to attend one or more of the Cluster Lenten services. These services remind us of Jesus' forty days in the desert, his ministry and his death. This is also the season of spiritual preparation for us to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ-to consider his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial and resurrection.

God Bless!

Jeanine Lauridsen, Worship Team Leader



MUMS

Mum's will be meeting in the fellowship hall on Wednesday, March 19th at noon for a pot luck. We will be having corned beef and cabbage. Please bring a dish to share and sign the clipboard in church if you are planning to come.

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Some Thank You's from Indian Oaks

I want to say thank you for the wonderful cupcakes you have given me and i hope god bless your sweet heart.

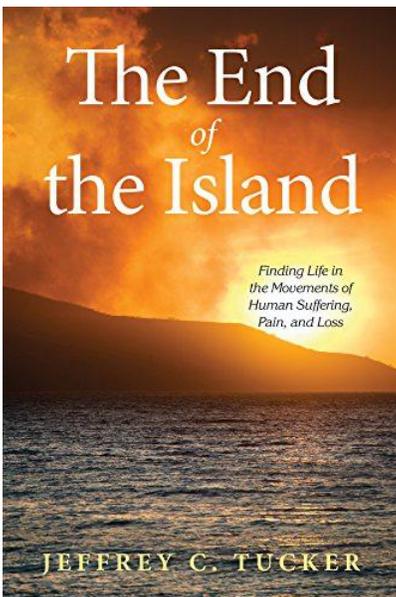
Thank you guys so much for my cupcakes and my card best birthday ever.

Thank you very much for all you did for my Birthday I really enjoyed it

Thank you for bringing cup-cakes for my.

BOOK REVIEW

Nurturing for Community - *The End of the Island: Finding Life in the Movements of*



Human Suffering, Pain and Loss by Jeffrey C. Tucker.

An old man on an island seeks answers to his pain and loss. This journey takes unexpected turns as he learns new ways to walk and to live in the midst of his pain. Fresh, creative and provocative, this highly readable and accessible book offers thought-provoking and transforming ideas for people of every walk of life and faith.



Please join us as we prepare for Easter by attending the following Lenten Services:

Wednesday Feb. 26 Ash Wednesday at Asbury UMC 7 pm Rev. Alberto Ramirez preaching.

Sunday Mar. 1 at Grant Park UMC 6:30 pm Rev. Amos Dillman preaching.

Sunday Mar. 8 at St. Mark UMC 6:30 pm Rev. Joy Schlesselman preaching.

Sunday Mar. 15 at Grace Community UMC 6:30 pm Rev. Valerie Mezger Wengstrom preaching

Sunday Mar. 22 at Trinity UMC 6:30 pm Rev. Jim Barnett preaching

Sunday Mar. 29 at Caldwell Chapel AME 6:30 pm. Rev. Dalene Kubler preaching.

Sunday Ap. 5 Palm Sunday at Manteno 6:30 pm. Rev. Lori Holmes preaching.

Thursday, Ap 9 Grace UMC Meal 6:00 pm meal.

Maundy Thursday Wesley UMC Living Last Supper 7 pm.

Friday, Ap 10 Good Friday at Aroma Park UMC 7pm Rev. Scott Henley preaching.

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NEWS FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

January's Finance Report:

\$ 14,098.68 Income from Sunday offering to be used for the General Fund budget

\$ 16,843.75 General Fund expenses
- 2,744.07 Shortage

\$ 2,990.50 Income from Sunday offering to be used for mortgage payment

\$ 3,743.72 Mortgage payment
- 753.22 Shortage

Mortgage balance as of Jan 31 is:

\$571,877.36

If you have any questions, please contact the Finance Chairperson, Park Hollenbeck, or the Church Treasurer, Sue Ross.



Filled Plastic Easter Eggs Donations Needed

Please fill plastic Easter eggs with peanut/tree nut-free candy, stickers, small toys, coins, etc. Please return to church by Sunday, March 29th. Any questions...ask Jenny Stawick. Thanks in advance for your generosity!

Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt & Pancake Dinner

Friday, April 3rd at 6:30 PM. Register now at mantenoumc.org



Register now at mantenoumc.org to attend or volunteer at VBS!

June 14th - 18th 6:00-8:00 PM.

Preschool - 5th grade invited!

Mommy and Me Meets in the fellowship hall from 9:00 - 10:00 AM:

Monday, Feb 24th, Monday, March 2nd,
Monday, March 16th



ADULT DAY MISSION TRIP

Sign up on the clipboard to join us on Thursday, April 16th to serve at Feed My Starving Children.

We will leave the church at 10:30 AM, work in Aurora from 12:00 - 2:00 PM and return to Manteno around 3:30 PM.



The Mission team would like to thank the congregation for their generous donations throughout the year. Whether it

was socks, scarves, hats and gloves, donations to the Food Pantry or our most recent cash donation for earthquake relief in Puerto Rico, we are filled with a grateful heart.

Mission work never ceases. Our Lenten offering this year will be split between the Baby Fold (located in Normal, IL) and local missions. Please pray about the blessings we have and in turn, those who are not as fortunate. If you have envelopes, there is one labeled for Lenten Offering March 4, 2020. There will be extra envelopes in the Sanctuary if you are in need of one. Lenten offerings will be collected all through the season of Lent.



Pastor's Page

How many mountains have you climbed? I think what I have done would more likely be called hiking mountains rather than climbing, but it's been so rewarding! Mountain views are amazing! I've also gotten a few blisters, and I've had some moments when I seriously considered giving up. Sitting down can be so tempting when I'm about two thirds of the way up and it still seems so far. And just about the time you think you're almost there, you turn a corner and it seems the top is still so far away!

Moses and Jesus both climbed mountains. We read about what happened on the mountaintop, in Exodus 24 and in Matthew 17. Moses enters the clouds at the top and spends 40 days listening to God. Jesus experiences the dazzling presence of Moses and Elijah at the Mount of Transfiguration, and he clearly hears the voice of God, affirming God's pleasure and love for His Son, Jesus.

Both Moses and Jesus encountered God. They both left with a mission that involved hundreds and thousands of other people. They both travelled a long way to get to that point. And they both faced plenty of opposition before they got to the mountaintop.

You climb (or hike) a mountain one step at a time. You usually don't know exactly when you will get there, and you can

get tired and discouraged. But keeping on, putting one step in front of another, finally pays off when you see the views... and maybe even encounter the presence of God!

Of course, you know that life is like that too. Or maybe you are climbing a mountain in life right now that feels really steep. Maybe you can't see the end and maybe you are tempted to give up. But God does make God's presence known along the way.

And God has a purpose for you that probably involves other people who will sometimes lead you and sometimes follow.

When we enter the 40-day season of Lent, it's a great opportunity to see ourselves climbing a mountain that does have an ending: The Resurrection! Instead of seeing it as a time of depriving ourselves, the way some people see Lent, how about using it to focus on one step at a time?

There is some uncertainty in our futures, as individuals, as a church, as a nation, and in our world. If we focus on the uncertainty, we might miss the beautiful views along the way. And we might forget that God has a mountaintop in our future too. I challenge us to see the beauty of God's grace and presence along the way, and to trust that God will be there at the end of our climb.

Bless you! Rev. Joy



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Moments with Miles

Well, it's been a quiet month in Manteno, Illinois, my hometown, out there amidst the barely frozen corn and bean fields. What about this weather? I'll tell you the truth, I really have no idea

what's going on. I predicted a fairly harsh winter and even reiterated that in last month's Parish Print. With the exception of about a week of pretty cold temps and some snow, so far this season I've been proven completely wrong. Yay! I think I need to get out of the business of prognosticating the weather; Hmm...perhaps that's what I should give up for Lent. Even the Farmer's Almanac hasn't been a lot of help. So, for the rest of this winter and the coming spring – I have no earthly idea. There I said it.

Spring is definitely coming. There are only about 2 and half weeks to go before we go back to Daylight Saving Time and the first day of Spring is only a bit over four weeks away. I'd like to say I'll be glad to see the end of winter, even though this winter hasn't been bad. We've been lucky and I hope our luck holds.

This February 25th is Mardi Gras which is French for Fat Tuesday. The day is also called Shrovetide or Shrove Tuesday. "Shrove" is the past tense of the word "shrive" which means to confess. Tuesday, February 25 is the final celebration before the next day, Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent. Shrove Tuesday is also known in some places as Pancake Day because it is the day you are supposed to use up all the rich food in your house before

Lent begins. One of the rich foods associated with Mardi Gras is the King Cake. A bread like cake, originating in France, that is decorated with the colors of Mardi Gras: Purple for Justice, Green for Faith, and Gold for power. The cake is a symbol for the Three Kings, or Magi that brought gifts to the Christ Child on Epiphany. Traditionally a tiny porcelain baby is baked into the cake to represent the infant Christ. Whoever gets the slice with the Baby is said to have good luck for the coming year and is required to provide next year's King Cake.

It has long been a tradition to give something up for Lent. Something that is a personal sacrifice to represent and honor the sacrifice that Jesus made for all of us on the cross. A lot of people give up things like chocolate, coffee, sugar, Facebook, meat on Fridays, and many other things. This year I'd like to suggest some other things that should be considered as an appropriate Lenten sacrifice. How about giving up being so divided and opinionated about politics? This year for Lent, don't argue, don't talk about it, just get along with everyone. Or how about giving up some road rage. Let that person cut in front of you, resist the temptation to speed up a bit when someone tries to pass, try not to touch the horn, be kinder on the roads. You know, I'll bet if you thought about it, there are a lot of things like these two examples that just might make a great Lenten sacrifice. And who knows, maybe if you try giving some of those things up for Lent, you just might discover that even after Lent is over, you might not need them at all.

Till next month, my friends...

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Lenten Service @ Grant Park- 6:30pm	2 Mommy & Me - 9-10am Monday Night Bible - 7pm	3 Loving Stiches - 1pm UMW - 7pm	4 No Choirs Bingo - 2:30pm Men's Bible Study - 6pm	5 Ladies Bible Study - 9am Praise Band - 6:30pm	6	7
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins UMW Chili Dump Lenten Service @ St.Marks- 6:30pm	9 Monday Night Bible - 7pm	10 AD Council - 7pm	11 No Choirs Men's Bible Study - 6pm	12 Ladies Bible Study - 9am Praise Band - 6:30pm	13	14
15 Lenten Service @ Grace- 6:30pm	16 Mommy & Me - 9-10am Worship Team - 6pm Monday Night Bible - 7pm	17 St. Patrick's Day Loving Stiches - 1pm	18 MUMS - Noon Choir - 6:30pm Bells- 7:30pm Men's Bible Study - 6pm	19 Ladies Bible Study - 9am Praise Band - 6:30pm	20 1 st Day of Spring	21
22 Lenten Service @ Trinity- 6:30pm	23 Monday Night Bible - 7pm	24 Parish Print articles due	25 Choir - 6:30pm Bells- 7:30pm Men's Bible Study - 6pm	26 Ladies Bible Study - 9am Praise Band - 6:30pm	27	28
29 Lenten Service @ Caldwell AME- 6:30pm	30 Monday Night Bible - 7pm	31				