



The Parish Print

June, 2019

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A publication of The Manteno United Methodist Church

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The United Methodist Women held their spring banquet on May 7. It was a great night of food, fun,

and fellowship. The program was given by Simply Pat's Hats from Paxton, Il. She told how she made hats, and the ladies had the opportunity to try different ones on. She told that she made hats for people all over the country and had made 200 for the Kentucky Derby.



A special thanks to Mike Caparula, Gordon Hamann. Miles Turner, Mike Brewster, Jim Keigher and Jack Forrestal for being our servers for the evening. You all did a wonderful job!!



Our next UMW meeting will be June 4 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. We have invited the ladies from Wesley Methodist Church and Trinity Methodist Church to be our guests that evening. We will have a salad and dessert



bar. Lori Bultemeier from Babyfold will give our program. We invite all the ladies to join us for a night of fellowship. Please bring either a salad or a dessert.

We will not meet in July. Our next meeting will be August 6 at 7pm. We hope everyone has a blessed summer!



Summer Sunday Service

Beginning on Sunday, June 2, 2019 we will be going to our summer schedule of one worship service at 9:30 a.m. We will also be having a One Room Sunday School for children pre-school to 5th grade during the worship service. We will be going back to two services on Sunday, September 8th.



Summer Door Greeters Needed

This summer we will have an adult and child at each church entrance to open the door and welcome people as they enter the church. Please check the clipboard to sign up for a shift!

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Vacation Bible School!

June 9th - June 13th

6:00-8:00pm

<https://forms.gle/uWAWxgUntpLXEiBD9>

Vacation Bible School Volunteers Wanted!

We need you to volunteer for a fun-filled week of Vacation Bible School!

Sign up on the clipboard or here:

<https://forms.gle/ZChLWSEMrFdP6MBe8>



Graduation

We are proud of our students that are being promoted from Junior High and

graduating from High School.

Jr. High

Luke Blanchette
Rachael Bogacz
Zac Carroll
Natalile Meyer
Alec Robinson
Jacob Stawick

High School

Danielle Bogacz
Kyrstin Eastman
McKenna Skyberg
Kaycie Wenzel
Madysen Yeates



Community Service Sunday

On August 11th, we will meet at church at 9:30 for a brief church service and then we will leave to complete various projects throughout our community or stay at the church and work on projects to send to our military members. There will be a project for everyone!

Is there a project at your, a loved one, or a shut-in's home that is unable to be completed or have you seen something in our community that needs attention?

Please let us know of any projects that you are aware are in need by contacting Jenny Stawick at (815) 468-0057.



Save the Date

We will be going to Joliet for our Annual Slammers Baseball Game and fire works on Friday, July 19th. Please plan on joining us for a fun evening with members of our church family and feel free to invite a guest.

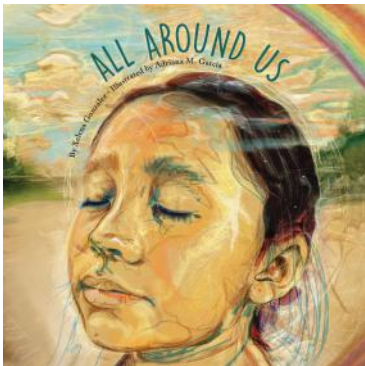


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Spiritual Growth: *All Around Us* by Xelena Gonzalez.

Her Grandpa says, "Circles are all around us." He points to the rainbow that rises high in the sky after a thundercloud has come. "Can you see? That's only half of the



circle. The rest of it is down below, in the earth." He and his granddaughter meditate on gardens and seeds, on circles seen and unseen, inside and

outside of us, on where our bodies come from and where they return. They share and create family traditions in this exploration of the cycles of life and nature.

With a grateful heart, I wish to thank all



those who have given of their musical talents this past year. Whether it was Choir, Bell Choir, Cantata or special music

for church events, know that God is smiling and says, "Well Done".

From a very blessed Choir Director,
Susan Turner



The Mission Team would like to thank those who contributed to

our Lenten offering this year. Our collection will benefit both UMCOR and ACOM (Agape Community Outreach Mission). This year our contributions were \$1,783 and will be divided equally between the two.

On May 18, the Mission Team put together 34 May Baskets for those at least 80 years young. A very special thank you to those who donated cookies, helped put them together, and delivered to those who could not be at church.

Please don't forget to support the local Food Pantry. The "Pennies for the Pantry" jar is located in the Narthex on Sundays or non-perishable items in the basket at the top of the stairs before you enter the Sanctuary.



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Moments With Miles

Well, it's been a soggy month in Manteno, Illinois, my hometown, out there amidst the waterlogged

corn and bean fields. Too much rain, that's all I can say. My heart goes out to our frustrated farmers. I did a little research and the numbers are not encouraging. As of this writing only 24% of area corn has been planted, last year at this time 89% was in the ground. It's worse for beans with a mere 9% planted as compared to 51% last year. With each passing day that our farmers can't get into the fields, yields are falling. We are already down about 20% and the number keeps falling as the rains keep coming. Please, please join me in praying for some dryer weather.

While we are still about a month away from the beginning of summer (June 21 is the equinox) it sure doesn't feel like it. What with all the rain and cooler temperatures, it still feels like very early spring out there. About the only thing that seems to like the wet, is my lawn and the dandelions. I'm almost up to mowing my grass, twice a week, when I can between rains, just to keep up.

The trees are in full leaf, our lawns are lush, flowers are blooming, and summer will be soon upon us. But lest you forget, our

last frost was only about a month ago so we still have a month of spring to go.

As it says in Luke 21:29-30 "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near." The green of spring we are now enjoying is proof that "the kingdom of God is near." Now if we could only get a week or two of dry weather to get the crops in.

Well, folks, your humble Parish Print Editor and Moments with Miles author will be taking a break the next couple of months. So until then, that's Moments With Miles from Manteno, Illinois, where you can see from horizon to horizon and all of our hills are called overpasses.

Take care, be well, stay dry, God bless the farmers, and God bless you!



Pastor's Page

The interaction between Jesus and a rich man begins with a question, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” (Mark 10:17-22)

Jesus answers his question with a question, “Why do you call me good?” And then this comment, “No one is good but God alone.”

As you read on, it seems like the rich man didn't really want an answer. He wanted an affirmation of his own goodness, which would assure him of his standing to inherit eternal life. When Jesus gave him the real answer to his question, listing the commandments of God, the man is happy to claim his faithfulness to all of them. But when Jesus tells him further that he should get rid of all his prized possessions, that is NOT what he was hoping to hear!

He also didn't want to hear that no one is good but God alone! I wonder too—why did Jesus say that? We do believe that he is the true embodiment of what it means to be good, united with God always.

Jesus was pointing away from himself when asked a question—maybe the one most important question that we all want to know: “How do I get eternal life?” But we too really just want Jesus to give us the assurance that we're already there. We have been living the answer. We're looking for someone to give us assurance that we are saying, doing and thinking the right thing!

Leave it to Jesus to make it hard! His answer isn't complex, but it is scary and maybe impossible... because it involves trusting God instead of putting our faith in our stuff!

Are you ever reminded of this story during our annual church garage sale? Some of us are getting rid of stuff, others are buying more... and, ok, I admit it, I bring things to donate to the sale and end up taking home some other

items! Think how many rooms we would need if we all followed Jesus' instruction to the rich man! We might make even more money for the church!

But Jesus wasn't trying to do fundraising here. He was offering the rich man the opportunity to do something beyond just following the rules. He was inviting him to empty his life of everything that might get in the way of him finding union with God—both now and for eternity!

This story is a good example of how Jesus dealt with people asking questions. Instead of giving a standard, predictable response, Jesus ends up inviting the man to take a giant step toward living out his faith. He offers him a way to let God transform his life. He invites him to something that would feel like a huge step off a cliff without knowing how far down the fall would be!

I've invited you to write down a question that you would like me to talk about during my sermons in June. If I thought I had to give you all the answers, I probably wouldn't even start. What I hope to do is to share with you some of the answers which are in the Bible, but more importantly to find ways to let our questions lead us to a deeper walk with Jesus. To take those steps which might seem scary, but which might actually lead us to being transformed.

I believe that God embraces us even when we are wrestling with life's most difficult questions. God does not expect us to read the Bible or study our faith and then just say “yes.” If God is welcoming our questions, how will our lives and our participation in the body of Christ, the church, bring us to a new understanding and a new place?

Proverbs says, “How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.” (16:16) Let's ask and ponder our questions on our journey toward that wisdom!

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 UMW Salad/Desert Bar – 6pm	5 Men’s Bible Study – 6pm	6 Ladies Bible Study – 9am Praise Band – 6:30pm	7	8
9	10	11	12 Men’s Bible Study – 6pm	13 Ladies Bible Study – 9am Praise Band – 6:30pm	14 Flag Day	15
16 Father’s Day	17	18	19 Men’s Bible Study – 6pm	20 Ladies Bible Study – 9am Praise Band – 6:30pm	21	22
23	24	25	26 Men’s Bible Study – 6pm	27 Ladies Bible Study – 9am Praise Band – 6:30pm	28	29
30						