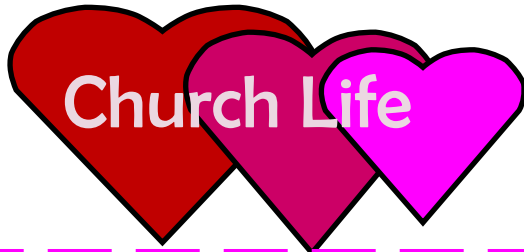


FEBRUARY

2018

Issue 2



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On February 14, we will worship on Ash Wednesday as we begin the Lenten Season and the 40 day journey to the cross and then the celebration of the Risen Christ on Easter Sunday.

Job 42:1-6 states, *"Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."*

Our 40 day journey begins on Ash Wednesday. It is a journey that is supposed to involve praying, perhaps some sort of fasting and involve some sort of sacrifice and preparation. The Lenten Season begins with ashes. Ashes symbolize our own grief, our own fears, and symbolize our penitence. Ashes symbolize our turning wholeheartedly towards the Lord!

Ancient Christians wore ashes upon their heads to show their sincerity as they mourned their sins and repented of them. During the Ash Wednesday Worship Service, we are invited to have ashes placed on our foreheads, to hear those ancient words "from dust you come, to dust you shall return" and mourn.

Do any of you feel like this just sounds dreary and sad? You would not be alone! Some people believe that they only want to celebrate what the Lord has done, not mourning for themselves. They feel they are more like a partying kind of person not an

Ash Wednesday kind of person. They only want to celebrate with Jesus during the good times. I guess I feel if we are so willing to be with Jesus during the good times and enjoy the goodness and celebrate the joy found in Christ, why are we not willing to be with Jesus during the bad times too? Why do we want to focus on the happy things Christ did and overlook the hard things Christ did? Why are we so happy to read Jesus' words about not worrying, about having joy, about receiving much and avoid the times he talks about depriving ourselves, giving everything of ourselves, and taking up our own cross to follow him?

As true friends and followers of Christ, we should watch, pray, and stand by Him on Maundy Thursday. We should not flee from Him at the cross on Good Friday and we should stand by him now as he begins his 40 day journey into the wilderness. We should take Jesus by the hand and walk with him to the cross.

If we do, we will find that the joy of Easter morning all the more sweet because we will better understand the sacrifices Jesus made for us during Lent. That is why we use ashes. I hope and pray you will all join me on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter morning.

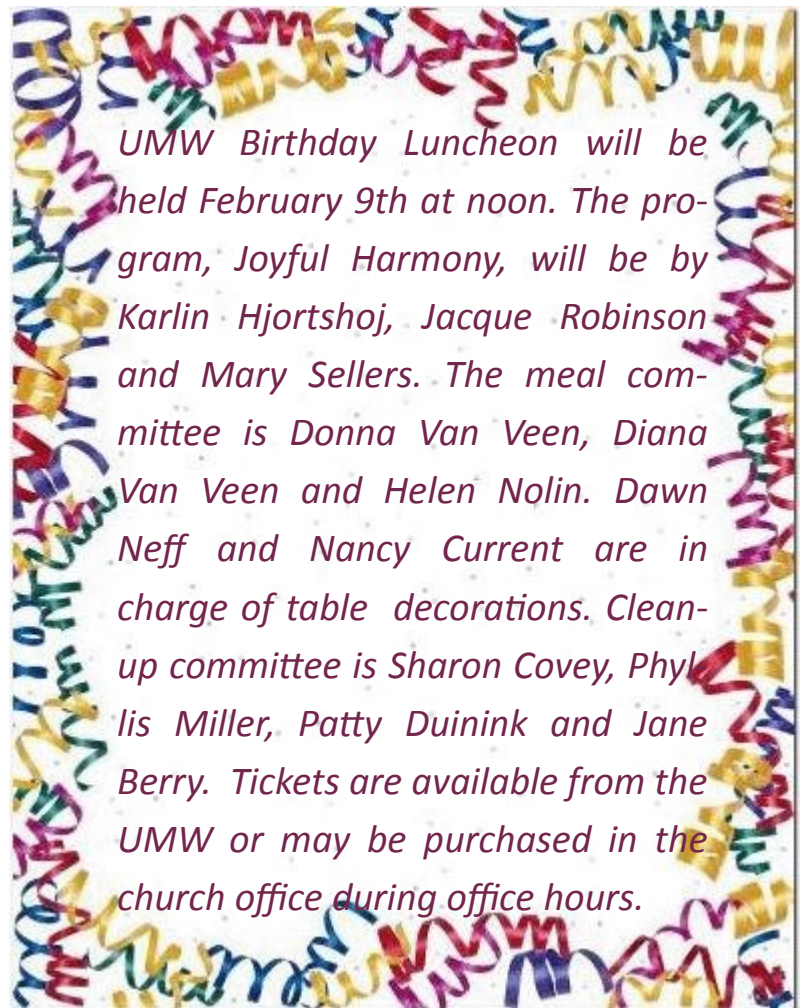
God bless! Pastor Kim



Thank you, Thank You One And All!

On behalf of the PCM Food Pantry, I would like to say thanks for all the great donations our church provided during 2017. There were cash, food, personal and paper products that totaled around \$1620.00! Wow! Each and every donation, whether large or small is so appreciated. We could not do it without your help. We look forward to your continued support in 2018. If you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Patty Duinink



UMW Birthday Luncheon will be held February 9th at noon. The program, Joyful Harmony, will be by Karlin Hjortshoj, Jacque Robinson and Mary Sellers. The meal committee is Donna Van Veen, Diana Van Veen and Helen Nolin. Dawn Neff and Nancy Current are in charge of table decorations. Clean-up committee is Sharon Covey, Phyllis Miller, Patty Duinink and Jane Berry. Tickets are available from the UMW or may be purchased in the church office during office hours.

Alice Wood Turns 88 March 11!

Help her celebrate with a card shower!

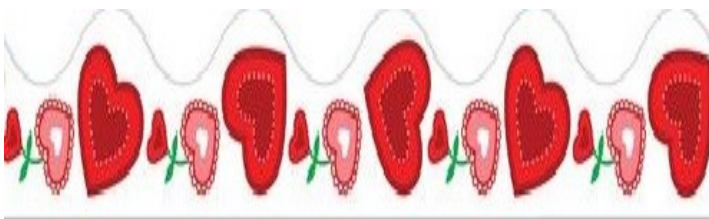
Card can be sent to :

Alice Wood
711 Willetts Dr
Knoxville, IA 50138

HAPPY **birthday**



The Dysart Family will be performing at the Monroe United Methodist on Sunday February 25. There will be one service at 10:15 with a Pot Luck to follow. Bring a friend, bring a dish and enjoy a great Sunday morning of inspirational music, fellowship and lunch!



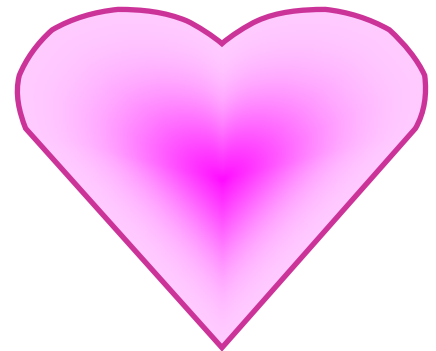


Ash Wednesday — Lent Begins

Ash Wednesday Service will be held
Wednesday evening, February 14 at 7:00.



February Community Meal:
Chipped Beef and Gravy with
side, drink and dessert! This is a
FREE community meal for
EVERYONE! Join us Wednesday
February 21 beginning at 5:30!



Scripture Readings

Week of February 4th

Old Testament Isaiah 40:21-31

New Testament 1 Corinthians 8:16-23

Gospel Mark 1:29-39

Week of February 18

Old Testament Genesis 9:8-17

New Testament 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel Mark 1:9-15

Week of February 11

Old Testament 2 Kings 2:1-12

New Testament 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Gospel Mark 9:2-9

Week of February 25

Old Testament Genesis 17 :1-7, 15-16

New Testament Romans 4:13-25

Gospel Mark 8:31-38

Monroe United Methodist Church Financial Statement Analysis General Bank Account Expenses

Financial Report from January Ad Council meeting

Category	Jan-Dec 2017	Jan-Dec 2016	Variance	%	Comments
Contributions	97,550.80	101,245.41	(3,694.61)	-3.65%	Giving has decreased; however, since 2013 contributions are down 15%. Giving has continued to decrease each year.
Salaries	62,911.77	65,484.50	(2,572.73)	-3.93%	No increase in salaries in 2017. No admin assistant salary during February and lower salary for current admin assistant.
EE Benefits	25,885.37	25,073.47	811.90	3.24%	Employee benefits (travel, health insurance, pension & professional expense). Employee benefits increased \$82/mo in 2017. 2017 pension and health contributions were paid in full to the conference as of 12/31/17.
Bldg Op Costs	8,218.23	8,205.70	12.53	0.15%	Parsonage air conditioner repair in 2017 \$575.
Utilities	7,601.85	6,126.23	1,475.62	24.09%	Electric expense increased in 2017 by \$920 due to additional air conditioning unit. Water expense increased in 2017 by \$512 compared to last year. The new water meter was installed in 2017. The Trustees are monitoring water usage.
Apportionments	-	-	-	#DIV/0!	Do not have extra cash flow to pay towards apportionments.
Ice Cream Social	2,638.00	2,565.00	73.00	2.85%	
Old Settlers	1,277.00	1,250.87	26.13	2.09%	
Turkey Supper	2,807.00	3,086.01	(279.01)	-9.04%	
Community Table	92.00	130.10			This is the amount of \$ available to pay for any Community Table expenses.
Ending Cash Balance	4,779.57	7,744.86	(2,965.29)	-38.29%	

2017 Apportionments remaining to pay:
\$20,142.00

Birthdays and Anniversaries

4	Alexis Fagg
7	Kayla Schakel Colton Kingery
9	Joshua Phifer Dawn Neff
11	Ralph McGregor Marvin Steenhoek Ralph & Shirley McGregor
12	Scott Van Veen
14	Carol Diekema Wayne & Donna Worth
16	June LeGrand
19	Bryce Romick Barbi Fagg
22	Leslie Duinink
25	Doug Gildersleeve
27	Carter Strovers Jim & Sally Morris
28	Shawn Palm Joshua Fagg



February Ushers:

February 4 & 11	Paul & June Hjortshoj
February 18 & 25	Dave & Diana Van Veen Don & Shirley Baker

February Liturgist:

February 4	Jubilee Donna Stravers Worship Kelly Phillips
February 11	Jubilee Patty Eilander Worship Kurt Konek
February 18	Jubilee Marvin Steenhoek Worship Deb Coulter
February 25	Jubilee Melba Brummett Worship Jan Phifer

Communion

February 4	Donna Stravers & Sue Gildersleeve
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Hospitality

February 25	Shirley McGregor
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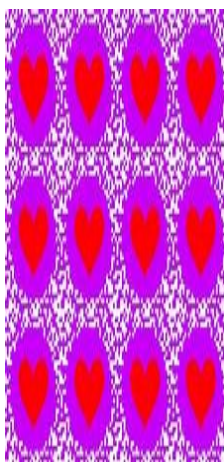


Monday February 12 Stewardship/Discipleship committee 6:30

Tuesday February 13 Worship Committee 6:30

Saturday February 17 SPRC Leadership Meeting Noon to 2:00 with Lunch at Noon.

Thanks to everyone who helps our church, enabling us to have a wonderful worship experience. If you are unable to make a scheduled function please find a replacement or contact the office.



Please notify the church office or Pastor Kim if a family member is taken to the hospital, has passed away or for any other prayer concerns. Pastor Kim's email is hawkeyejoy53@yahoo.com and his cell number is (402) 679-2655

FEBRUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 3:30 Cub Scouts 6:30 4H	5	6 9:00 Bible Study	7 9:00 MOMs 6:30 Chimes	8	9 Noon UMW Birthday Luncheon	10 Cub Scouts Winter Day Camp–Prairie City
11 3:30 Cub Scouts	12 6:30 Stewartship/ Discipleship Committee	13 9:00 Bible Study	14 6:30 Chimes 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	15 6:30 Worship Committee	16	17 Noon-2:00 SPRC Leadership Meeting
18	19	20 9:00 Bible Study	21 9:00 MOMs 5:30 Community Table 6:30 Chimes	22	23	24
25 10:15 One Service w/ Dysart Family 3:30 Cub Scouts	26	27 9:00 Bible Study	28 6:30 Chimes			

Service Times

Jubilee Service 8:15 a.m.

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Worship Service 10:15

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

8:30-12:30

Church Phone

(641) 259-2822

**Monroe United
Methodist Church**

Pastor Kim Crummer

Cell (402) 679-2653



**Monroe United
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