



March has always been a transition month for me for several reasons. First, I turn a year older (hopefully a little wiser). Second, the winter cold oh so slowly begins to thaw. It will certainly be interesting to see how true that is here. My sister in Austin is enjoying the early bloom of Bluebonnets right now. I have to say, you hardy Iowans must have ice water running in your veins! For this southern boy, you've given me a right proper lesson in Iowa winters (and I thought Connecticut was cold)! Third, we move into a new season of the church. March 6 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, a season lasting until April 18 (Holy Thursday). It is a forty-day journey culminating at Calvary, followed by the good news of the empty tomb.

I like Lent. It keeps me focused on the center of my faith, the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is a period of longing for the Lord, of returning to the Lord, of emptying myself of worldly pleasures in order to experience the joy of salvation.

I encourage you to take advantage of this transitional time. For those of you tired of being cooped up in your home due to bad weather, perhaps it's your golden opportunity to get out and worship. Perhaps this is your opportunity to make some needed changes in your life. I'm sure there are one or two things you would like to modify, get rid of, or amend, with help from above. I know that's true for me. Perhaps all of us want to express love for others in ways we have not done so in a long time. I would submit that now's the time.

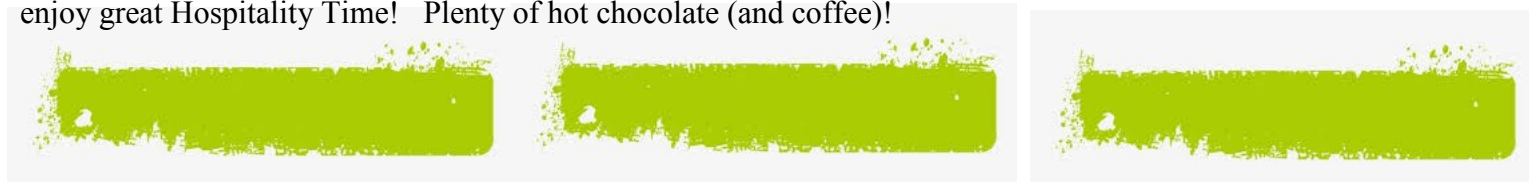
Walk with me and others through this Lenten period. The good news is that our Lord will walk with us and keep us on the righteous path. We will also experience an inner transition, embracing who we may yet become. In the words of the writer of Hebrews, "...let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely..."

May this be a good season of transition for you. May you find God's light shining on your path showing you the way to his presence and peace. And may we find it together.

Blessings!

Pastor Van

P.S. This Sunday, March 3, is "Hot Chocolate Sunday." Enough of this staying at home due to bad weather and getting cabin fever. I miss you guys! Weather permitting, let's warm up next to each other in worship Sunday and enjoy great Hospitality Time! Plenty of hot chocolate (and coffee)!



March UMW Schedule

March 1 - World Day of Prayer

March 8— Executive Meeting 1:00

General Meeting 1:30

March 23— 150th UMW Anniversary

The UMW will have their General Meeting

March 8 @ 1:30

The Program will be UMW 150th Anniversary
Program

Led by Janice Cook & Carol Ann Davis with
Jeanne Van Genderen



Youth Group will meet
Wednesday
the 6th and 20th at
6:30!



Sunday, March 10



Here are some ideas for the 175 Challenge. Do this by yourself or as a group. What is “175” you can do to bless someone else?

175 items for the PCM Food Pantry

175 items for the Jasper County ARL

175 baked goods for the ladies at
Clearview Recovery in Prairie City

175 Toothbrushes

175 Rolls of toilet paper

175 Lap robes for area nursing homes or hospice

175 Bird Houses

175 Cans of Soup

175 Raman Noodles

175 boxes of Hamburger Helper

Or any other idea you can come up with! This is on-going throughout the year. Your donations will be collected on the stage in Fellowship Hall and will remain there until there are “175”! So get busy and start collecting!



Birthdays & Anniversaries

6

Larry & Carol Diekema

8

Kelly Phillips

9

Marty & Joyce Lewis

Paul & June Hjortshoj

12

Sue Gildersleeve

Shirley McGregor

13

Austin Timmins

Brock Barnett

16

Dawn Hoeksema

17

Chad Birkenholtz

Mike & Dianna Nolin

18

Barbara States

24

Greg & Sue Gildersleeve

28

Paula Van Der Hart

29

Jill Brumbaugh

Andrew & Celia Romick

30

Opal Chamberlin

March Ushers and Greeters:

March 3 & 10 Nancy Current, Melissa Van Der Hart,
Don & Elaine Kuening

March 17 & 24 Alan Jennings, Deb Coulter,
Rod & Jeanne Van Genderen

March 31 Denny & Dawn Neff
Joyce Van Der Hart, Melissa Van Der Hart

March Liturgist:

March 3 Donna Stravers

March 10 Kurt Konek

March 17 Jan Phiifer

March 24 Patty Eilander

March 31 Marvin Steenhoek

March Communion Servers:

March 3 Dianna Nolin & Dawn Neff

March Hospitality:

March 24 Lori Schakel

Heart of the House -

Central District Fundraiser

In response to the Bishop's challenge, the Central District goal is to raise \$5,000 toward furnishing a kitchen for the Ubuntu Retreat Center at Africa University. To date, we are at \$2,889.66! Make checks payable to "IAUMC" and note "Project 402: Africa University Kitchen" on the memo line and send to the Iowa Methodist Conference Center, 2301 Rittenhouse St., Des Moines, IA 50321.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 UMW World Day of Prayer	2
3 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Time 9:30 Worship w/ Communion 175th Anniv. Mtg	4 AA 7:00	5 Bible Study 9:00	6 MOMs 9:00 Chimes 6:30 Youth Group 6:30 Ash Wednesday	7	8	9
10 Daylight Saving Time Begins 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Time 9:30 Worship 10:30 Post Conf. Presentation	11 AA 7:00	12 Bible Study 9:00	13 Chimes 6:30 Ad Council 7:00	14	15	16
17 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Time 9:30 Worship Worship Comm. After Worship	18 AA 7:00	19 Bible Study 9:00	20 MOMs 9:00 Community Table 5-7 Chimes 6:30 Youth Group 6:30 Spring Begins	21	22	23
24 8:45 Sunday School 9:00 Coffee Time 9:30 Worship	25 AA 7:00	26 Bible Study 9:00	27	28	29	30

Monroe United Methodist Church

Rev. Van Dickens, Pastor

(512) 574-7706

Sunday School 8:45-9:15

Coffee Time 9:00-9:30

Worship Service 9:30

"We are a friendly, Faithful, and loving family dedicated to sharing God with our neighbors."

MUMC Vision Statement



Monroe United Methodist Church

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Monroe, IA 50170



Church Phone/Fax

(641) 259-280

Office Hours Monday—Thursday

8:30-12:30

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