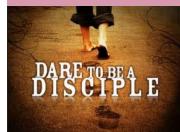
February 2018

From Pastor Melanie



I am really excited about a new sermon series I will be preaching beginning February 11th entitled, "A Disciple Is..." This series will explore six different aspects of being a follower of Christ. My hope is that it will be a practical series, giving you ideas on how to move forward with your own journey of discipleship. In other words, to help you go deeper in your relationship with God.

This series is part of our new emphasis on discipleship here at FUMC. A team of church members has begun meeting to look at ways to encourage and support each church member/participant in their relationship with Christ, as well as looking at ways to help people new to the faith on THEIR journeys.

Would you please pray for the ministry and mission of our church? Especially, pray that we might listen to the Holy Spirit's nudges and inspiration.

I believe with our hearts open we can, as individuals, draw closer to Christ.

I believe with our hearts open we can, as a congregation, be faithful witnesses of God's love to many in our community. This is exciting!

Pastor Melanie

Greetings!

We come to experience Christ's Love and work together to live it out.

All are Welcome at FUMC Sunday Schedule

9:00 am -Nursery opens9:30 am -Adult Sunday School & Living Church10:30 am -Sunday Worship11:30 am-Fellowship

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Office Info/UMW

Women's News February

Altar Flowers- Anita & Carol General Meeting: February 15 @ 1:00 pm Hostess: Evening Program: Mem. Spiritual Growth Executive Meeting – February 15 @ 12:15 pm Morning Cluster: Delores St. Pierre Evening Cluster: February 13 @ 7:00 pm Beth Whisler's Home HUGE THANKS to everyone that has helped keep the church clean during the month of January! Randy & Marcy Johnson Carol Ruud Marsha Wentz Phil & Connie Bentz Cindy Kocher Youth And so many more!!

> THE BEST WAY TO FIND YOURSELF IS TO LOSE YOURSELF IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS. GANDHI

Oodles of Noodles Day

We're Making Noodles on March 22nd!!

Volunteers are needed for Set Up, Drying, Bagging & Clean-Up!!

Please see Sign Up Sheet on the Bulletin board for times.

It'll be OODLES of FUN!!



Thank You & Housecleaning

I want to thank all of you for the kindness, compassion, words of wisdom, sharing of your personal experiences with suicide and for all the prayers. FUMC has become such a sanctuary of healing for me and all of you have been incredibly kind. I am blessed to have such an amazing group of people helping me walk this journey. Hugs and Love ~ Lisa

Cleaning and Organizing the Music Room/Old Scout Room and the Supply Room is on my "TO DO" List for February. If you have things laying around that you would like to keep please pick them up. In case you haven't noticed I have a slight case of OCD and I like to clean and organize! ~ Lisa

Sermon & Scriptures for February

February 4: Sermon: "Waiting for God" Scripture: Isaiah 40:21-31. Communion Sunday, and two baptisms!
February 11: Sermon Series, "A Disciple Is..." Week 1: "Living a Life of Worship." Key Scripture: Romans 12:1
February 18: Sermon Series, "A Disciple Is..." Week 2: "Living a Life of Hospitality." Key Scripture: John 1:43-51, 13:34-35
February 25: Sermon Series, "A Disciple Is..." Week 3: "Living a Life with a Heart Opening to Jesus." Key Scripture: Galatians 2:20 Praise Band Sunday!
I am really excited about this series whose goal will be to help each of us on our journey to being a mature disciple of Jesus Christ.

ALSO COMING UP: Feb. 14th at 6:30 pm.: Ash Wednesday Service. This service will be a brief, simple way to begin the Lenten season.

Meetings

Feb. 2nd - 10:00 am Marketing Feb. 6th -7:00 pm Trustees Feb. 12th -7:00 pm Finance Feb. 19th - 5:30 pm ADCO Feb. 25th -11:30 am Missions

Secret Prayer Sisters

Saturday, February 24, the Secret Prayer Sisters are invited to find out who has been praying for them for this past year. We will also be drawing names for the coming year. Coffee and festivities begin at 9:00 am in the Parlor.

The program is more fun when more women participate. So, encourage a church friend to join this year. It is an opportunity to learn about other women, and a challenge to your own spirituality as well. Please FILL OUT a Pledge Form and BRING IT WITH YOU. The Pledge Forms are located in the foyer of the church. See you there. ~ Wendy Holt

Christian Education

<u>Adult Table Talk :</u> Living Our Beliefs, January lessons are Jan 17, "God Versus Idols," Jan. 24, "The God Whose Life We Share"; Jan 31, "Made in God's Image."

Searchers Sunday School Class: Study of Ezekiel starting Feb 4, 2018

Visions of living creatures, each with 4 faces, a human being, a lion, an ox, and an eagle. A valley full of dry bones that come together and connect, bone to bone. A new temple, each gate carefully measured by an angel.

These are some of the visions in the prophecies of Ezekiel. The Searchers class will be looking for lessons for today in these confusing visions. Join us at 9:30 Sunday mornings for new ideas and discussion .



Youth News

The Youth Group has had an amazing year so far. We ended 2017 with bang having 20 different youth attending Wednesday night Table Talk on any given night. It continues to be a blessing for us to lead, converse, support and participate with these youth. Thank you for entrusting us with your youth! Please know that even though you may not see these youth in church on Sunday morning (we're trying to work on that), they are learning about developing their faith and sharing it with their peers. We continue to work through lessons derived from the book "The Jesus Creed for Students". This has created some awe-some Youth Group conversations. As we finish up these lessons throughout the spring, we plan to continue to sprinkle in tidbits about developing their testimony of faith and learning how to use it to witness to their peers. We want to THANK the church for all of its continued support!

Speaking of support, if you haven't heard, the Youth Group is taking on a big, new adventure this year. Eleven youth and three adults will be taking a mission trip this June to Greeley, Colorado. We are working with Group Mission Trips, whom are a wonderful company which organize church group mission trips. Here is a little snippet of what our mission trip will be like.

Our trip will be a Work camp (Home Repair)

At Work camps, teenagers come together from many different Christian denominations for 6 days to serve individuals and communities while building relationships with local residents and their crew members. ~ Jason & Kathy

Spotlight on Youth

Name, Age, Grade in School, School Attending: Peyton Johnson, 13 years old, 7th Grade, Concordia Junior High School What activities are you involved in at School (if any): I have been involved in Cross Country, Basketball, Band, Choir How many years have you been coming to Youth Group: 1 Year List church activities you have participated in (i.e., Youth Group, Random Acts of Kindness, Camp, Haunted House, etc...): Youth Group, Random Acts of Kindness, Camp, Haunted House, Mission Team this Summer What is your favorite part of Youth Group: The games my dad comes up with. What is your favorite memory of a Youth Group activity: The group discussions and being in the Haunted House What does church mean to you: Coming to God's house and listening and learning about him.



Name, Age, Grade in School, School Attending:

Dylan Bray, 14, 9th Concordia High School What activities are you involved in at School (if any): Choir, FCCLA How many years have you been coming to Youth Group: 2 years List church activities you have participated in (i.e.. Youth Group, Random Acts of Kindness, Camp, Haunted House, etc...): Youth Group, Haunted House, Mission trip What is your favorite part of Youth Group: I have made friends and I like hanging with them. What is your favorite memory of a Youth Group activity: Haunted house last year.



Youth Mission Trip Update

Participants must be 14 years old or entering 9th grade in the fall of 2018

Mission price: \$464 (does not include transportation or a few meals)

Types of projects include:

- Porch and deck repair
- Wheelchair ramp construction
- Indoor and outdoor painting
- General home repairs

You can check out our Youth Group's Page at:



https://groupmissiontrips.com/pc/first-united-methodist-church-concordia/18CO01/overview

The Youth Group have plans for several fundraiser's in an effort to raise as much of the cost to go as possible. Some of these are a chance for members of the church to help out and some are for members of the community to help out. Here's what we have going for February and March!

Sunday - February 11th - Bake Sale and Dessert Auction!

Come to church that day looking to satisfy your sweet tooth or purchase some home baked goodies for your sweetheart for Valentines Day. The Youth will have fresh baked items for sale before church. Then come to the potluck after church service to eat some lunch and participant in a desert auction that is sure to be fun time! Plan on being in church this day!

Saturday - February 24th - Parent Night Out!

The Youth Group will provide "Babysitting" services for any parents in the community looking for an evening out or just to themselves. As the time gets closer for this one, more details will be available as to the specifics. However, we can tell you the Youth Group is planning a wide range of activities, snacks and movies for varying ages of kids to do at the church while their parents are out on the town.

Sunday - March 4th - All Church Luncheon!

Following church services that day come on down and enjoy a lunch provided by the Youth Group. The menu details are still being worked out, but the suggestions we've heard so far all sound very tasty. Honestly, any meal you don't have to cook yourself, is a good meal. Right!!!

Saturday & Sunday - March 10th & 11th - Concession Stand for Cloud Juniors Volleyball

Our Youth Group, together with the Lutheran Church Youth Group, have been asked to provide and administer the concession stands for both days and both locations for this volleyball tournament here in Concordia. Any leftovers from the church luncheon will be used, plus any baked items that the Youth Group can come up with will be sold. All proceeds from the two days will be split amongst the Youth Groups.

Thursday - March 15th - Noodle making

The UMW are asking for help making noodles which will be during Spring Break this year. The youth will get a chance to help with this process, which shall hopefully be a big help for the ladies and a chance for the youth to learn the process.

Spotlight on Crusaders Mystery Trip

Did you know that the Crusaders have been going on Mystery Trips for 20 years?

The journeys began in 1997 when Marsha Wentz's sense of adventure started her creative juices flowing. During those 20 years they have visited over 309 places.

Every year is something new and exciting and it's ALWAYS a SECRET!!!! Marsha wouldn't even tell her beloved hair stylist the destinations (believe me....she asked a lot)!! The trips provide new experiences, fellowship, excellent food and excitement. A huge thanks goes out to Marsha for her hours of planning, commitment to the Crusaders and knowing how to keep a secret.

Marketing Task Force

The next meeting of the Marketing Team is Friday, February 2nd at 10:00 am. Have you noticed any of the changes we discussed at our first meeting that are already in progress?



Lenten Boxes

Don't forget to pick up your Lenten box following the Ash Wednesday service on February 14th. Boxes will be available in a basket outside the sanctuary during Lent. Money collected in Lenten boxes will go to Missions Agency Support. For a list of missions agencies who receive support through this giving, go to <u>www.greatplainsumc.org/missionagencysupport</u>.

Little Free Pantry

Winter has arrived! Please do not leave items in the pantry that could freeze when the weather is predicted to be extremely cold. In particular, canned goods can freeze and spoil. Ideas for items to leave in the pantry include: crackers, rice meals, macaroni and cheese, hot chocolate, popcorn, and beef jerky. If you have extra items, please leave them in the food box in the entry of the church and they will be used as needed.

Commodities Distribution

Commodities on January 17th served 46 families (105 individuals). Huge thanks to our volunteers: Tom Thromson, Nonnie Steinert, Loren & Joyce Swenson, Peggi Barrett, Marvin Petersen, Sydney Conner, & Cindy Kocher. Also, thank you to all that donated boxes. The boxes made it so much easier for carry out.



Tom, Peggi & Sydney filling orders. It was a cold and icy morning.



Nonnie was schooling Loren . She's a born teacher.



Lisa V. filling orders. She's a huge blessing to this program.



Cloud County Resource Center Needs

Help is needed with the monthly food truck delivery on February 7^{h} from 8:00 - 11:00 am. Help is needed to unpack boxes, remove barcodes, and stock items. To volunteer, contact Tonya Merrill at 243-1065 or <u>ccrc@nckcn.com</u>.

Thanks for Giving and Volunteering

Thank you for your donations of 4 coats, 17 underwear, and 20 pairs of socks! These items have been delivered to the Concordia Elementary School.

Thank you for your donations of 50 gloves/mittens, 27 hats/earmuffs, and 2 scarves! These items have been delivered to the Cloud County Health Department and we know they have already started distributing them in our community!

Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be Red Cross Blood Drive in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, February 23rd.

Contact Amanda Waterman if you would like to help!

Change the World Sunday

Our 7th annual Change the World event is coming on Sunday, April 29th! If you have a project idea, please let any member of the Missions Team know! Team members include: Melanie Adams, Ellen Anderson, Kent Anderson, Tony Burnett, Pam Campbell, Julie Cory, Cindy Kocher, Bruce Nutter, Marvin Petersen, and Nancy Wentz.



Mission Buckets

In December, we collected \$62.49 for the Migration Crisis Special Offering.

If you would like to give to the Human Relations Day Special Offering collected on January 21st, please return your gift today!

We will pass the Missions Buckets for the Youth Missions Trip on February 19th.



February Volunteers

Worship Volunteers	Feb. 4	Feb. 11	Feb. 18	Feb. 25
Greeters - Upstairs	Nonnie Steinert	Hospitality	Angie McConkey	Joyce Swenson
Media	Tony Burnett	Tony Burnett	Tony Burnett	
Worship Leader	Maddie Johnson	Loren Swenson		
Liturgist	Jean Wilcox	Andrea Johnson	Ellen Anderson	Cindy Kocher
Children's Moment	Pastor Melanie	Kent Anderson	Tony Burnett	Puppets
Nursery Helpers				
Fellowship Hosts		All Church Potluck	Joyce Swenson	Angie McConkey
Fellowship Cookies (3 doz.)				
Fellowship Cookies (3 doz.)				
Fellowship Cheese/Crackers				

Area to Clean	Volunteers
Sanctuary	Phil & Connie Bentz
Chapel/Entry/Balcony	
Bathrooms	Marsha Wentz
Nursery	Jim & Ann Lanoue
Parlor & Kitchen	
Classrooms/Choir Room	
Fellowship Hall	
Halls/Stairs	
Youth Room	Youth
Kitchen	

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Med	Thu	Frei	Sat
				1	2 Marketing 10:00 am	ω
4 9:30 Sunday School/Living Church 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship	a	6 Trustees 7:00 pm	7 Table Talk 5:45 pm Choir 6:00 pm	œ	0	10
<pre>11 9:30 Sunday School/Living Church 10:30 Worship 11:30 Church Potluck/BakeSale</pre>	12 Finance 7:00 pm	13 Evening Cluster 7:00 pm	14 Ash Wednesday Services 6:30pm	15 UMW Exec. 12:15 General 1:00	16	17
18 9:30 Sunday School/Living Church 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship	19 ADCO 5:30 pm	20	21 Table Talk 5:45 pm Choir 6:00 pm	22	23 Blood Drive	24
25 9:30 Sunday School/Living Church 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellow- ship/Missions	26	27	28 Table Talk 5:45 pm Choir 6:00 pm			