



The KEY

... TO OPEN WIDER
THE DOOR OF THE
CHURCH

A Newsletter of Newport United Methodist Church

February, 2018

Pastor's Page

it was named after someone called *Saint Valentine*, I decided to learn what I could about another dimension to this holiday.

As with many saints, it turns out we don't know a lot about this man from the early years of the church but there is proof he really existed.

Because he lived in the third century, when the Christian church was seen as a threat to Rome, many of the stories about him are about persecution.

In one story he told a judge about Jesus and the man then wanted to test his faith. The judge brought forth his blind daughter, whom Valentine was able to cure. Because of that the judge destroyed all the Roman idols around his house, converted his household, and freed all the Christians he had imprisoned. By February many of us in the north are a little weary of winter so a holiday halfway through the month has potential to brighten our spirits. Of course, it probably does the most to brighten the spirits of florists, restaurateurs, and possibly jewelers, but it is still a holiday many celebrate.

Since I knew one.

Other stories explain that he got into trouble for trying to convert people, for marrying Christian couples and even specifically for marrying couples so the men wouldn't have to fight in the Roman army (in the first 3 centuries after Jesus, Christians were pacifists). In yet another version, he is jailed for refusing to sacrifice to the Roman gods. While in jail, he heals the jailers blind daughter. (makes you think there must really have been a blind daughter somewhere in his story)

Valentine was killed/martyred for his faith sometime between 269 and 280. It was probably much later, in the Middle Ages, that he became associated with romantic activities.

What do we, in a very different time and place, learn from St. Valentine?

(See the next page!)

2

We can be grateful once again for the freedom we have to worship, to proclaim Jesus. Even so, we make choices every day that either affirm God as most important or not. So maybe we can think of his difficult choices and be emboldened to make the right one ourselves when it's difficult – because being a Christian every day is difficult, if in a different way than in Roman times.

On a lighter note, learning a little about him is a great conversation starter. I learned from the website that St. Valentine is the Patron Saint of affianced couples, bee keepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travelers, and young people. He is represented in pictures with birds and roses and, as we know, his feast day is celebrated on February 14.

So have a little honey, tell someone about Jesus, and enjoy February 14 in a new way this year.

Linda



FLOCK WATCHER asks that you keep these people in your prayers:

The family of Mike's father Edwin who passed away January 28th; **John and Phyllis'** friend **Dean** who had brain tumor surgery last month; two of **Doug's** brothers need our prayers: **Gary** for continued recovery from cancer surgery, and **Ted** for diagnosis and treatment of cancer; for **Ethel's** sister-in-law **Eileen** who is dealing with aggressive cancer;

people and families dealing with mental illness; victims of the school shooting in Kentucky; victims of the hotel attack in Kabul; everyone who faces **financial crisis** for various reasons.

We share our joys too: **Ethel's** husband **Dave** had successful surgery and will be in recovery for the next week; **Park High School Theatre's** one-act play is advancing to state!

If you have lifted someone up for prayer, please update us in the church office as their conditions change, as a concern or joy!

The **LEADERSHIP TEAM** meets on Monday, February 5th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. **This meeting serves as a church conference so all members are invited to attend.**

Martha Circle meets in the Fireside Room on Monday, February 5th at 9:30 a.m.

The **Red Rockers** will hold their luncheon on **Thursday, February 15 at NOON** at the North Pole Restaurant in Newport Center. If you are attending please contact Ruth Pommerening at 459 1970.

...Angel Closet has moved to Thursdays! The last regular opening was on *January 4* but you can call the church office with individual needs in the meantime. We will do our best to take care of families needing school supplies. Consult the list of supplies furnished by the school and grade your child will be attending. Church office phone: 459 2747.

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December, 2017 Financial Report

FUND BALANCES REPORT

The December 31, 2017 checkbook balance was **\$14,394.19.**

MONTHLY BUDGET ENVELOPE GIVING

December envelope and loose plate giving was **\$11,462.90.**

TOTAL INCOME FOR REPORT PERIOD

December income from all sources was **\$25,233.77**

TOTAL EXPENSES FOR REPORT PERIOD

December expenses were **\$10,825.11**

SUMMARY

Income in relation to expenses for December, 2017 was \$14,408.66.

The waste and recycling enclosure is ready for use. The cost of the waste/recycling enclosure will be totally covered by the Waste Wise grant which has been approved.

Please mention any projects you feel need doing or any concerns you have about repairs to Mike in written form. He will pass them on to the appropriate person.

Everyone is encouraged to maintain good stewardship.

Any suggestions for improving this financial report will be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

John Brenneman

Be the Tool (and Leanne!) will travel to Katy, Texas on April 7-15.

Hurricane Harvey was a Category 4 storm dropping close to 52 inches of rain in August 2017. More than 150,000 homes were impacted. 80% of these homes lacked flood insurance. The damage estimate is \$180 BILLION.

Here are ways you can help:



1. *Donate into the Be the Tool jar;*
2. *Golden Chili Cup and Silent Auction is February 17th at Faith UMC in West St. Paul from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Donate items for the auction, come enjoy chili and vote for the best;*
3. *Pancake breakfast is on March 25th after worship service;*
4. *Continue to pray and support Leanne's Be the Tool team.*

**Faith UMC is in West St. Paul at 1530 Oakdale Ave. between Wentworth and Thompson, west of Highway 52.*



Lent begins on February 14. Join us for an Ash Wednesday service here at Newport UMC at 7:00 p.m.

Volunteers needed!

Part of my job description as secretary is to respond to security system calls at any time. I do need to go out of town occasionally, and it would be good for someone to be available to cover this duty when I'm not around. You can volunteer on a 'when asked' basis or over a certain time period. Any commitment you can offer would be greatly appreciated-talk to me about it!

Mike Nelson

FEBRUARY 2018



Birthdays

4 - Marian Roth

18 - Nan Niesen

Bobbie Woodward

20 - Sharon Hanson

25 - Grace Heiderscheid

Nancy Martinsen

26 - Bette Dilla

27 - Austin Heiderscheid



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Room Use Designations C – Classroom FH – Fellowship Hall FR – Fireside Room N – Nursery S – Sanctuary		1	2	3
				4-7pm Head Start Family Night and Angel Closet		1:30 pm United Church of God
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>5th Sunday in Epiphany</i> 9:30 am Worship Service	9:30am Martha Circle 6:30 pm Leadership Team		6:30 pm Voice Choir S 7:30 pm Handbell Choir FH			1:30 pm United Church of God
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<i>6th Sunday in Epiphany</i> 9:30 am Worship Service	6:00-8:00 pm KNITTING GROUP @ CG Library		ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 pm Service	Noon RED ROCKERS EVENT North Pole <small>Restaurant in Newport</small>		1:30 pm United Church of God
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> 9:30 am Worship Service	2:00 pm Key articles due		6:30 pm Voice Choir S 7:30 pm Handbell Choir FH			1:30 pm United Church of God
25	26	27	28	NEWPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1596 ELEVENTH AVENUE (AT GLEN ROAD) NEWPORT, MINNESOTA 55055-1649 JESUS CHRIST, HEAD; THE CONGREGATION, MINISTERS; REV. LINDA GESLING, PASTOR		
<i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> 9:30 am Worship Service	6:00-8:00 pm KNITTING GROUP @ Newport UMC		6:30 pm Voice Choir S 7:30 pm Handbell Choir FH			

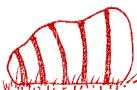
Celebrating 70 years of The Advance: God's love at work in visionary ideas

Imagine No Malaria is one of the health initiatives that is supported by The Advance. It is also the kind of visionary, world-changing thinking that The Advance has supported for 70 years: Malaria has been eradicated in the United States since the 1950s; why shouldn't it be eradicated in the rest of the world as well?

An Imagine No Malaria mobile clinic program funded by The Advance (Advance #3021190) goes from village to village in Mozambique to provide not only malaria testing and education, but also other medical services, such as general screening, HIV testing, eye consultation, weighing and vaccination of children, and family planning.

Imagine No Malaria is just one of more than 600 mission projects supported through The Advance. The areas of impact for Advance projects extend to the whole of the human experience:

1. Food & Agriculture
2. Evangelism and Church Growth
3. Disaster Response & Recovery
4. Education
5. Health
6. Economic Empowerment
7. Social Justice
8. Water & Sanitation
9. Women & Children
10. Mission Personnel
11. Migration



Since 1948, The Advance has been connecting the generosity of United Methodists with the needs of people throughout the world. Thanks for being a part of God's love at work.

-a Retreat in the City-

Founded 1861 — Celebrating 156 Years of Ministry

Newport United Methodist Church
1596 Eleventh Avenue (at Glen Road)
Newport, MN 55055-1649

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The Key is a monthly publication of Newport United Methodist Church, 1596 Eleventh Avenue, Newport, Minnesota. News items to run the following month are due in the Church Office by the 3rd Monday of the current month.



*A warm welcome
awaits you . . .*

EACH SUNDAY:

Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School is available during worship. Adult Study follows at 10:45.

WEDNESDAYS:

Voice Choir at 6:30 p.m. - Handbell Choir At 7:30 p.m.



Voice and Handbell Choirs
Adult Bible Study
United Methodist Women
Martha Circle
Fellowship Dinner Groups
Pastoral Care
Pastor: Rev. Linda J. Gesling
Cell Phone: 651-226-2738
Church Telephone: (651) 459-2747
Fax: (651) 769-1216
Church e-mail: newportumc@gmail.com
Web address: www.newportumc.org

MISSION STATEMENT

Newport United Methodist Church is people of God dedicated to following the teaching of Jesus because we want to set an example so that we and others can grow in our faith.