



The KEY

... TO OPEN WIDER
THE DOOR OF THE
CHURCH

A Newsletter of Newport United Methodist Church

April, 2018

Pastor's Page

Who are your heroes? Is it a sports figure or a political leader, an artist or an actor? Maybe the heroes you like best are found in novels or comic books.

It seems like an easy question but I have discovered that we have different ideas about what a hero is. I have heard the word used to refer to whole groups of people regardless of their individual actions – reminding me of participation awards. To clarify I did a quick dictionary check and found this definition: *a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities*. That seemed more what I expected – that a hero is set apart by an unusually high standard of achievement. The trouble is that many people who show courage, who achieve some really great things or who demonstrate superior qualities also have weaknesses, make bad judgments, or let us down in ways we couldn't anticipate. Having heroes is a risky business.

During Holy Week I always stick my disks of *Jesus Christ Superstar* in the car CD player, let them play over and over as I drive, and use the music to keep me focused on the reason for the week. Jesus was a man who needed and displayed courage, who achieved an amazing amount despite being in a “backwater”, and who was never less than noble in character. Why do I never think of him when I hear the word hero?

I am sure that one reason is that we have so elevated Jesus as savior and Christ that we have forgotten he came as man to live among us and teach us. He is the very human hero who will never let us down.

So who are your heroes? Ask your friends. Heroes are important for inspiration, a reminder of what can be achieved and how life can be lived. The flaws of our heroes – and some have pretty significant flaws – are also what makes them human.

So I think about heroes, listen to stories about heroes, and then remember that in the end I can turn to Jesus, who will never let me down.

Linda

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

Leanne and the rest of the **Be the Tool** crew who return to Katy, Texas this month; **Coworkers of Jill** who have been on a mission trip to the Philippines; the **friends and family of Sherry's best friend Jan** who passed away this past month; **Catherine and Jim's friend Greg** whose cancer has returned. Two of **Doug's** brothers need our prayers: **Gary** for continued recovery from cancer surgery, and **Ted** for diagnosis and treatment of cancer; **people and families dealing with mental illness; victims of the school shootings in Kentucky, Texas, Maryland, and Florida; everyone** who faces **financial crisis** for various reasons.

We share our joys too: **Ruth's granddaughter Carrie** had her twins and everything is fine! **Tracy and Craig** celebrate 27 years of marriage! **Ethel's husband Dave** was able to join us at the pancake breakfast! **Chris' sister Sharon** will not need surgery or a cast on her leg which was broken in a fall!

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

Thank you Thank you Thank you



Palm Sunday's Pancake Breakfast, and ongoing contributions to the Be the Tool jar, brought a total of \$663 for the Houston area recovery mission trip. Many people were involved in setup, serving, and cleanup; these folks deserve our warmest thanks. And with the Dakota Peoples' conference the previous day, followed by Tenebrae on Maundy Thursday, many of you responded 'Yes to all'. We are blessed to have you among us.

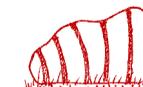
UMC Love Offering

...for missions will be taken on each Sunday through May to be presented to the Conference by May 31.

65% will go to Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery trips;

20% to Park Avenue (Minneapolis) UMC's Freedom Schools;

and 15% to NUMAS Haus, a shelter in New Ulm for homeless single mothers and their children.



The **LEADERSHIP TEAM** meets on Monday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

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

The Red Rockers will hold their luncheon on **Thursday, April 19 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.

%%%%%%%%%

February, 2018 Financial Report

FUND BALANCES REPORT

The February 28, 2018 checkbook balance was **\$12,060.27**.

MONTHLY BUDGET ENVELOPE GIVING

February envelope and loose plate giving was **\$3,730.00**.

TOTAL INCOME FOR REPORT PERIOD

February income from all sources was **\$7,462.00**.

TOTAL EXPENSES FOR REPORT PERIOD

February expenses were **\$10,487.37**.

SUMMARY

Income in relation to expenses for February, 2018 was -\$3,025.37.

The next big expense is likely to be a new Clavinova.

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

POTATO LATKES

Ingredients:

Yield: approx. 12 portions, each of 02 latkes

- 10 lbs. [20 to 25 large] russet potatoes
- 2 large onions, chopped very fine (minced) plus the juice
- 2 cloves of garlic, husked and mashed
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 cups matzo meal [or, 1 cup all-purpose flour & 1 cup of corn meal]
- 1 Tbsp. kosher or sea salt
- Pepper to taste
- Starch from the potatoes, replaced after draining

Procedure:

- (1) Shred the potatoes, using the coarse side of a box grater, then rock over the mass of shreds with a French knife to produce a medium-coarse shredding.
- (2) Place the shredded potatoes into a dish-towel-lined China cap, colander, or strainer set into a pot or bowl.
- (3) Express as much water as possible using a cone-shaped pestle, or a large ladle or the hands.
- (4) Fold the cloth around the pressed potatoes and wring out the rest of the water.
- (5) Place the shredded potatoes into a mixing bowl.
- (6) Pour the water out of the first pot or bowl carefully, so as to save the starch that has settled.
- (7) Scrape the potato starch out of the bowl onto the drained potatoes.
- (8) Add the onions, garlic, eggs, matzo meal, and the condiments.
- (9) Mix thoroughly.

Cooking:

- (1) Cook the latkes on a grill if possible, as it provides a constant temperature and makes turning them easy; otherwise, use a cast-iron pan or two of them, to maintain the heat, with about a quarter-inch of oil. Have the oil hot.
- (2) Use a one-half cup measure or ladle to drop the batter into the oil, using a spatula to flatten each latke.
- (3) Cook until the latkes are brown with the edges crisp, about five minutes, then turn and cook another five minutes. They should look like pancakes, not hash browns.
- (4) Place the cooked latkes on paper towels to absorb excess oil. They may be kept as long as 20 minutes in a 200-degree oven.
- (5) Serve two to an order / plate / portion, with a dollop of cold sour cream and a tablespoonful of apple sauce directly on the latkes or alongside them.

— from the ring binder of Ken’s at Copley, Inc., 549 Boylston Street, Boston (1950-1975), the largest Jewish delicatessen in New England. *Thanks once again to our friend Paul Gaboriault! (from his collection)*

FINIS

APRIL 2018



Birthdays

12—Bob Bay

14—Vance Heidenreich

17—Alice Oehrlein

20—Doug Niesen

22—Robbie Clouse

23—Howard Buttery

24—Diane Scheid

27—Dave Christensen



April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p>1</p> <p><i>EASTER SUNDAY</i> 7:00 am Sunrise Service</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30 pm Leadership Team</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1:30 pm United Church of God</p>	
<p>8</p> <p><i>2nd Sunday in Eastertide</i> 9:30 am Worship Service</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:30am Martha Circle 6:00-8:00 pm KNITTING GROUP @ CG Library</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 pm Voice Choir S 7:30 pm Handbell Choir FH</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>1:30 pm United Church of God</p>	
<p>15</p> <p><i>3rd Sunday in Eastertide</i> 9:30 am Worship Service</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30 pm Voice Choir S 7:30 pm Handbell Choir FH</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Noon RED ROCKERS EVENT North Pole</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>1:30 pm United Church of God</p>	
<p>22</p> <p><i>4th Sunday in Eastertide</i> 9:30 am Worship Service</p>	<p>23</p> <p>2:00 pm <i>Key</i> articles due 6:00-8:00 pm KNITTING GROUP @ Newport UMC</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:30 pm Voice Choir S 7:30 pm Handbell Choir FH</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>1:30 pm United Church of God</p>	
<p>29</p> <p><i>5th Sunday in Eastertide</i> 9:30 am Worship Service</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>Room Use Designations C – Classroom FH – Fellowship Hall FR – Fireside Room N – Nursery S – Sanctuary</p>	<p>NEWPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1596 ELEVENTH AVENUE (AT GLEN ROAD) NEWPORT, MINNESOTA 55055-1649 JESUS CHRIST, HEAD; THE CONGREGATION, MINISTERS; REV. LINDA GESLING, PASTOR</p>				

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*

Remembering a little pitcher with big ears...

As we sat around a table at church on Maundy Thursday, we shared thoughts and memories about the sacrament of Communion. I recalled that on the first Sunday I was considered big enough to attend worship in our church, I had overheard my parents discussing what would be happening in worship that morning. What I thought they said was that there would be a *comedian* in church. Wow, fun! Who was visiting: perhaps Dick Van Dyke? Bob Newhart? Allan Sherman? (I'm dating myself here.)

How lucky I was that this event would happen on my first Sunday upstairs for worship! Of course the whole thing was what we now call creative hearing. Instead of some rousing jokes, the adults were served some pretty bland-looking refreshments over the declaration that these were the body and blood of Jesus! Not exactly something in which I would hope someday to participate.

Time would bring understanding of this ritual. I would leave the fold of the church and return after an extended adolescence. Communion is now for me an important symbol of unconditional love to the point of sacrifice. The open table is one of the things I value most about Methodism. My fond hope is that this openness comes to spread across Christendom. *Mike*

...and ...clearing the table...

It seems as if we have been preparing forever for the change in how we throw things away here at Newport UMC. It will be a year in May. On Friday, May 4th there will be a training session for members and staff of Newport, United Church of God, and ACCAP Head Start, at 10:00 a.m. The new receptacles will be presented along with a complete list of what goes where. And, of course, since there needs to be things to practice throwing away, we'll make it a party, with refreshments! *Mike*

-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 . . .*



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

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.

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.