

The KEY ... TO OPEN WIDER THE DOOR OF THE CHURCH

A Newsletter of Newport United Methodist Church

March, 2020



**We celebrated February birthdays, including Nancy's and Sharon's.
Thanks to Wayne for providing this photo!**

Ecumenical Lent: *All are Welcome*

Using the book: *Divine Friendship, Reflections for Lent:*

The secret to true satisfaction is friendship with God (back cover)

Tuesdays from February 25 to April 21, 12:00 to 1:30

+light soup lunch followed by book study

Please RSVP! And call if you need a ride!

Talk to Leanne for details or to order the book.

Pastor Steve Writes:

Last Tuesday was so powerful and beautiful and got my mind and heart ready for Ash Wednesday and Lent (40 days before Easter, not including Sundays). I wish everyone here in our church could experience it. What was it that I experienced and why was it so powerful?

There were just a few simple yet powerful ingredients:

A small group of people coming together

Time for prayer and checking in

Bibles

A book that talks about our friendship with God

Some Questions help us to go a little deeper

Discussion from the group

These are simple ingredients, yet when they are combined, they are a gift from God. They help us hear God's own voice, and give us new visions and insights. Our commitment is renewed and we accomplish our daily activities with a newfound passion and perspective...

You can see why I'm excited about our study on Tuesday. I hope you'll join us in person or in prayer and your own Lenten discipline.

Blessed to be, Pastor Steve

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

For **Doug's mother Elaine** who is now in hospice in a nursing home; for **cousins Judy** who is hospitalized, and **Barb**; for **John and Phyllis's son Tim** who is back in the hospital for follow-up care; for **people around the world (Iran, Italy, South Korea) threatened by coronavirus**; the **victims of the mass shooting in Milwaukee**; the **families of two local teens** that were killed; the **families affected by flooding in Mississippi** and elsewhere; all those who have been forced to leave their homelands in search of the abundance we take for granted; wisdom for our elected officials; for churches in need of reformation and transformation; the children and teachers in our Head Start Program.

Karen S is now in memory care at **Elk Ridge Special Care Center** in Maplewood.

Joys: **Leanne and Doug's niece Mackenzie** delivered her daughter Loretta Ann a bit early but the baby is doing well! **Donna E's** surgery and follow-up were successful! **Judy's husband Joe** is recovering well from surgery! **Christi's friend Tracy's** cancer is responding to treatment; **Gale and Marilyn's son-in-law Mike** is out of the hospital and doing fairly well though still on the transplant list. Thank God for good outcomes! And we are grateful for **our visitors**, including the **Woods family** members who came to help celebrate **Eldon and Dorothy's 69th anniversary!**

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

Martha Circle meets on Monday, March 2 at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room.

Leadership Team meets on Tuesday, March 10th at 9:00 am in the Fireside Room.

DID YOU KNOW that *the Key* is available as an email? It's the most likely way for you to get your newsletter on time. You get color graphics of higher quality, and when it's time to dispose of it, there's no paper involved (unless you've printed it yourself). Send an email to newportumc@gmail.com from the address at which you want to receive it, with the subject: e-subscribe, and your name. Oh, and it saves the church money too...

January, 2020 Financial Report

The income and expense report as of January 31, 2020 is as follows:

FUND BALANCES REPORT

The January 31, 2019 checkbook balance was **\$1,413.18**.

MONTHLY BUDGET ENVELOPE GIVING

January envelope and loose plate giving was **\$3,675.90**.

TOTAL INCOME FOR REPORT PERIOD

January income from all sources was **\$15,535.90**.

TOTAL EXPENSES FOR REPORT PERIOD

January expenses were **\$22,614.07**.

SUMMARY

Income in relation to expenses for January 2020 was -\$9,078.17. Disregarding the \$9,357.19 balance to be paid to Great Plains Window & Door, that figure would be +279.02. Many members have stepped up their giving this year which has helped our situation. **2020 pledges total just over \$50,000.**

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

WANTED: your articles to run in next month's edition of The Key! We ask that articles be submitted by the 3rd Monday of the month (March 16 for April's Key).

MARCH 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> 9:30 am Worship Service-	2 MARTHA CIRCLE 9:30 am, FR	3	4	5	6	7 United Church of God 1:30 pm
8 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> 9:30 am Worship	9 6:00-8:00 pm KNITTING GROUP Cottage Grove Library	10 LEADERSHIP TEAM meeting, 9:30 am,FR	11	12	13	14 United Church of God 1:30 pm
15 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> 9:30 am Worship Service	16	17	18	19 Red Rockers NOON at North Pole, Newport Center	20	21 United Church of God 1:30 pm
22 <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i> 9:30 am Worship Service	23 6:00-8:00 pm KNITTING GROUP Cottage Grove Library	24	25	26	27	28 United Church of God 1:30 pm
29	30	31	NEWPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Jesus Christ, Head; The Congregation, Ministers	Rev. Steve Pannkuk, Pastor 1596 11 th Ave Newport, MN 55055-1649	(651) 459 2747	

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Sherry Elg
- 8 – Ruth Pommerening
- 15 – Julia Wynne
- 27 – Barb Larson
- 31 – Johanna Cotton



**Family was on hand to help celebrate Eldon and Dorothy's 69th anniversary.
Congratulations!**

A Note of Thanks:

Pastor Steve, Mike Nelson, Newport United Methodist, and Mission Newport,
We cannot thank you enough for your kind donation. The funds will
help support our most at-risk students.

*Rich Romano, Principal
Newport Elementary School*

Founded 1861 — *Celebrating 159 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
United Methodist Women
Fellowship Dinner Groups

Adult Bible Study
Martha Circle

Pastor: Rev. Steve Pannkuk
Cell Phone: (952) 999-6252
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:

Handbell Choir at 5:00 p.m. - Voice Choir At 6:30 p.m.

MISSION STATEMENT *Newport United Methodist Church is a 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.*