



Steeple Chimes

February 2021

Monthly Publication by Stockton United Methodist Church, Stockton, MO.

Join us in Person, Online or in the Church Parking Lot!

*Like us on Facebook at "Stockton United Methodist Church" to join us Online.

*Parking Lot service on 88.5 FM every Sunday morning at 10:45 a.m.

*If you have any questions, please contact the office at (417)276-4717



Pastor's Paragraph

Have you ever wondered what people are talking about when they say they're giving something up for Lent? Do you need help understanding what Lent is and how it relates to Easter?

Lent is the 40 days (not including Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter. Lent is often described as a time of preparation and an opportunity to go deeper with God. This means that it's a time for personal reflection that prepares people's hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter. Lent begins this year on Wednesday, February 17.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. You will see people with a smudged, black cross on their foreheads or the back of their hands. Those are ashes from the Ash Wednesday service. The ashes symbolize our grief for the things we've done wrong and the resulting division of imperfect people from a perfect God. Our Ash Wednesday Service will be February 17, 6 p.m. Imposition of ashes will be done with cotton swabs rather than by physical touch.

Maunder Thursday is the day before Good Friday. It commemorates the night before Jesus died, when he shared the Passover meal with his closest friends and followers.

Good Friday is the day Christians remember Jesus' death. The "Good" reflects how Jesus' death was a sacrifice on our behalf so we can receive God's forgiveness for our wrongs, or sins.

Easter Sunday is the joyful celebration of Jesus rising from the dead to give us the opportunity of eternal life. While people still die, Jesus made the way for people to have a relationship with God in this life and to spend eternity with Him in heaven.

The three main things people focus on during Lent are prayer, fasting (abstaining from something to reduce distractions and focus more on God), and giving.

Prayer during Lent focuses on our need for God's forgiveness. It's also about repenting (turning away from our sins) and receiving God's mercy and love.

Fasting, or giving something up, is a very common practice during Lent. The idea is that giving up something that's a regular part of life, like eating dessert or scrolling through Facebook, can be a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice. That time can also be replaced with more time connecting with God.

This past year has been one in which all of us have been called upon to give up so much. Perhaps we're not inclined to give up anything this year. I always joke that I'm giving up Brussels sprouts for Lent. Of course, that's no sacrifice for me since I don't eat them anyway. Perhaps many of the things we give up during Lent fall into the category of the trivial.

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Announcements

Church Council *Highlights*

Marvin Manring, Lay Leader

Council convened for a brief meeting at 11:45 a.m. January 17, 2021.

Attendance: Chairman Marvin Manring; Pastor Jim Coffey; Sherlene Netsch; Ellen Morris; Sue Webb; Ted Woodrell; Dwain Hammons; Rex & Susan Holt; Mitch Ross; Linda Hall.

The meeting was opened by Marvin.

Jim gave opening prayer.

The December 20, minutes were approved. (Sue/Jim)

Finance: Susan gave printed reports showing 12/31/2020 fund balance of \$66,280.74. And a copy of the 2021 budget that is essentially the same as last year. Ted reported exceptional giving in 2020.

Endowment Fund: Dwain gave a printed year-end report showing a balance of \$55,601.52; the principal amount \$32,055.50. The Maintenance Fund is \$29,870.50 and \$2,331.52 is available for use in 2021. Trustee Rex Holt will take Stewart's place on the committee. Approved. (Ted/Jim)

Trustees: Rex reported some plumbing repairs.

Pastor Parish: Mitch reported the committee met with the district superintendent about our new minister appointment in June. Parsonage inspection, repairs, and updates will be made the last week of June.

Security: Church security was discussed.

Pastor: Concerns were discussed about personal contact during Ash Wednesday service. End-of-year reports are due. Facebook service has increased to about 100 a week. The daily devotionals "Java with Jim," have received donations from Facebook readers. Planning some small study groups this spring.

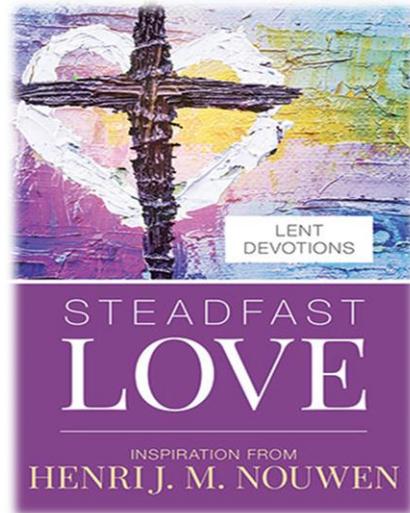
UMW: Sue would like to have a meeting in February.

Jim closed the meeting with prayer.

Linda Hall, Recording Secretary

Next council meeting will be held February 21, 2021, following morning services.

Steadfast Love *Personal Study*



A great personal study for the whole family. Limited number, so one per family unit. If you would like one, please contact the office at (417)276-4717 Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SAMA *Love Your Neighbor*

Again, this year, SAMA "Love Your Neighbor" is more than one Sunday. Greatest needs: tomato, chicken noodle, cream of mushroom, and vegetable soups. Place donations in the south hall collection bin. Don't want to shop, make a donation and we will purchase the soup for you.



SUMC Library Restoration and Expansion

Rita Higley, Librarian

The library and adjoining room (the Prayer Room) are in a flurry of activity (please excuse the mess). With an anonymous donation, we were able to purchase new bookshelves for the Prayer Room which will now also be known as the Media Center. It will house our collection of study guides for individual or group study, extra Bibles, DVDs, music CDs and sheet music or song books.

With the installation of the bookshelves on 12/7 and halting work on the pollinator garden on 12/12 I have begun the process of sorting the collection. I am using LibraryThing to catalog everything. The website is <https://www.librarything.com>. You will be able to see what we have by inserting the username of StocktonUMC and the password of T1ger5. Click on the tab "Your Books" and then you'll be able to search our collection by title, ISBN, or by author's name. You can also search by tab which is a short tag for the area of the library where it might be found and subject matter.

The library now has a basket for returned items and also one for donations. Please use them rather than returning items to the shelves or stacking them up on tables.

Special Request 1: We are searching for metal bookends. If you have any extras, we'll take them off your hands.

Special Request 2: I would like to grow the DVDs (movies) so that we can have a better collection of Christian-based, family movies. If you have any you'd like to donate, it would be appreciated.

Special Request 3: Please check your books at home to see if any should be returned to the church so that we can have an accurate count on study guides that could be available and also to bring books back to the library that are missing.

New books that have been added last year include the following:

- Archaeology of the Bible
- Who's Who in the Bible
- Remembering the Forgotten God
- Dark Agenda
- Pollinator Victory Garden (currently out for an unspecified period of time)
- When Others Shuddered (UMW 2000 book)
- Vital Voices (UMW 2000 book)
- Glory Happening (UMW 2000 book)
- In His steps
- Relentless

Thank you all that have offered your support and encouragement!

Korth Center Home Delivered Meals

Pamela Griffis, Administrative Assistant

The 2021 schedule for Korth Center Home Delivered Meals will look differently this year. Meals will only be delivered on Fridays and a whole week's worth of meals will be delivered. SUMC is scheduled to deliver meals on February 19, April 16, June 4, and August 6. Thank you to our volunteers who have signed up thus far for February, April, and June. August is still available.

Denim Recycling Project

Rita Higley, Go Green Team

Our denim recycling project kicked off on March 19, 2020, with the approval of the SAMA board. The results for the first year are as follows:

- 194.15 lbs. of denim were shipped for recycling into insulation.
- Unknown quantity (not eligible for our program) was delivered to the Bolivar Thrift store that participates in a different recycling project.
- 11 items were sold resulting in \$56.63 which was divided and gifted between the Food Pantry and the Go Green Team.

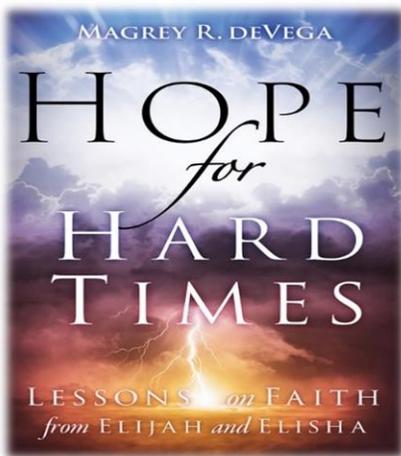
All denim items should be given to the Thrift Store to determine if they can be placed in the store for sale, as no collection is occurring at the church. So, keep recycling those denim items and we'll hope for a better 2021 gift!

SUMC Aluminum Recycling

Dean Higley, Aluminum Recycling

Just a reminder, the Recycling Center that we take our cans to no longer accepts pet food cans, vegetable cans, soup cans, or their lids. They also do not accept aluminum foil or plastic containers. Please deposit only beverage aluminum cans into our barrels. The pet food, vegetable, and soup cans, along with the aluminum foil and plastic containers can be taken to the Stockton City Recycling Center. Thank you for your help!

Hope for Hard Times



Study starts, Wednesday, February 24, at 10:30 a.m. in the parlor or join us by Zoom. Please sign up in the Welcome Area and books are \$9 each. Please contact the office with any questions.

“We’ve all been there. Rock bottom. The end of our rope. The last straw. During such times, it often seems like the only option is to throw in the towel.

In Hope for Hard Times, author Magrey deVega examines the lives of the great biblical prophets Elijah and Elisha and reveals a consistent message in their stories: Don’t give up, and don’t lose hope. Trust that God will help find a way. There is hope for you in hard times. Your story of hurt, heartache, and hopelessness has been heard, and God has a message for you. Read these stories, pray through them, and listen as you receive encouragement and guidance for whatever you are facing today. Open your eyes, and open your hands. God is with you, giving you everything you need.”

Pastor’s Paragraph

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What if this year we gave up something really important? What would it look like if we gave up racism? How would our world look if we resolved to give up hatred? What if we walked away from political divisiveness? Can you imagine how many new friends we could have if we cast aside intolerance. Just try to envision a world where every person seeks to be a peacemaker.

Giving money or doing something good for others is another way to respond to God’s grace, generosity, and love. For example, some people spend time volunteering or donate money they would normally use to buy something, like their morning coffee.

It’s important to note that doing these things can never make us earn or deserve Jesus’ sacrifice or a relationship with God. People are flawed and will never be good enough for a perfect God. Only Jesus has the power to rescue us from ourselves.

Jesus sacrificed himself on Good Friday to bear the punishment for all our wrongdoings and offer us forgiveness. He was raised from the dead, on Easter Sunday, to give us an opportunity to have a relationship with God for eternity.

Spending time during Lent praying, fasting and giving can make Jesus’ sacrifice on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter even more meaningful. (adapted from umc.org)

Blessings!

Pastor Jim



The Mailbox Belize

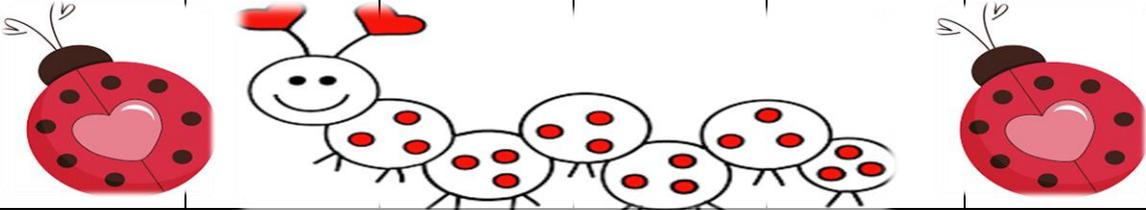
We have had several accomplishments the past three months. The bathhouse stall walls and tile, the ADA dorm foundation columns, and the nurse/office foundation columns are all completed.

What’s next? Finish the ADA dorm and nurse/office buildings. Bring teams in to help with both construction and events for the families with special needs. Contact us at info@campsekonsa.com for more information.

Stockton United Methodist Church

February Calendar of Special Events

Current as January 29, 2020. For updates, visit www.stocktonumc.org/calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<i>Love Your Neighbor</i> 9-10 a.m. Yoga FLC 9:30a.m. CP Rm. 100	<i>Groundhog Day</i> 1 p.m. UMW-Meeting Parlor	9 a.m. Yoga FLC 6-10p. Rm. 100	7 a.m-5 p.m. WIC-Rm. 100	Pastor's Personal Day Office Closed	6-10p Rm. 100
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<i>Super Bowl</i> 9:45a.m. SS 10:45a.m WC/S 	9-10 a.m. Yoga FLC		9 a.m. Yoga FLC 6-10p. Rm. 100	7 a.m-5 p.m. WIC-Rm. 100	Pastor's Personal Day Office Closed	6-10p Rm. 100
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<i>Valentine's Day</i> 9:45a.m. SS 10:45a.m WC/S <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i> 	<i>Presidents Day</i> 9-10 a.m. Yoga FLC 9:30a.m. CP Rm. 100 Noon SC Deadline 		9a Yoga/100 9a-2p. TT/100 10a-5p AT/FLC 10:30a LSHF 6p Ash Wed/S 6-10p. Rm. 100	7 a.m-5 p.m. WIC-Rm. 100	Meals On Wheels Del. Pastor's Personal Day Office Closed	6-10p Rm. 100
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:45a.m. SS 10:45a.m WC/S 11:45a.m. CCM/Rm 203	9-10 a.m. Yoga FLC		9 a.m. Yoga FLC 10:30 a.m. HFHT/Parlor 6-10p. Rm. 100	7 a.m-5 p.m. WIC-Rm. 100	Pastor's Personal Day Office Closed	6-10p Rm. 100
28						
9:45a.m. SS 10:45a.m WC/S						
	<p>KEY SS-Sunday School WC-Worship Celebration S-Sanctuary W-Welcome Area E-Education Wing CCM-Church Council Meeting FLC-Family Life Center LSHF-Lake Stockton Healthcare Facility CP-Comforter Project TT-Tomorrow's Treasures SC-Steeple Chimes AT-Agent Training HFHT-Hope for Hard Times UMW-United Methodist Women</p>					

Stockton United Methodist Church

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February Calendar of Events

Current as of January 29, 2020. For updates visit www.stocktonumc.org/calendar

Special Events

- ★ **February** (Every Sunday) 10:45 a.m. **SAMA Love Your Neighbor**/*South Hall Collection Bin*
Place soup in the south hall collection bin. One community, church, or nonprofit wins the traveling trophy for most soup per membership.
- ★ **February 2** (Tuesday) 1 p.m. **United Methodist Women** /Parlor. Important meeting.
- ★ **February 17** (Wednesday) 6 p.m. **Ash Wednesday Worship**/*Sanctuary*
- ★ **February 24** (Every Wednesday) 10:30 a.m. **Hope for Hard Times Bible Study**/*Parlor or Zoom*
Held every Wednesday until study is completed.
- ★ **United Methodist Men** Will not meet until further notice.

Mark Your Calendar Beyond January . . .

- ★ **March 28** (Sunday) 10:45 a.m. **Palm Sunday**/*Sanctuary*
- ★ **April 1** (Thursday) 6 p.m. **Holy Thursday Service**/*Sanctuary*
- ★ **April 4** (Sunday) 10:45 a.m. **Easter**/*Sanctuary*

★ If you need prayers or to add someone to our Prayer List please contact the office via phone, email, or mail.



Financial Report *Church Financial Information*

★ Full financial reports are in the church office and are available to any church member or constituent upon request (in person or by mail)

FINANCIAL



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday! Blessed Anniversary!

(Personal information not included in Steeple Chimes Web Version)



SAMA Food Pantry

February Needs: Canned tomato; chicken noodle; vegetable; cream of mushroom soups



Servants

Liturgist: Brenda Woodrell

Sunday Morning Greeters: Harold & Norma Beck



SUMC Cancellation Policy

Sunday mornings. In the event of inclement weather on a Sunday morning, the pastor, in consultation with the chairs of the board of trustees and church council, will assess the risks and decide as early as possible whether to cancel Sunday school and worship. A decision to cancel will be announced immediately on the [SUMC Web homepage](#) and recorded on the church answering machine (276-4717). Those who asked to be notified will receive telephone calls.

Small groups. Class/group leaders and event organizers will notify class members and registered event participants of cancellations as soon as possible.



People Connecting with Jesus Christ

STOCKTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

 **February 2021 Edition** 



Steeple Chimes

Stockton United Methodist Church

708 E. Hwy 32, Post Office Box 329, Stockton, MO 65785

Telephone (417) 276-4717

E-mail stocktonumc@windstream.net

www.stocktonumc.org

Worship 10:45 a.m.

Jim Coffer, Pastor

Jacky Vincent, *Organist*

Sunday School 9:45-10:30 a.m.

Rose Mary Owens, *Director of Music*

Mary Anne Manring, *Pianist*

Parking Lot 88.5 FM

Facebook Live 10:45 a.m.

Return Service Requested