



Steeple Chimes

March 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

Jesus knows a great deal about paths. He was born in the small village of Bethlehem, only a narrow road—not much more than a path—from the nearby city of Jerusalem. Jesus followed the path that his parents led to work and family, synagogue, and temple. He set his sights on the path to Jerusalem and the Palm Sunday highway knowing, that mere days later, it would lead up the path of Calvary.

When John baptized Jesus, Christ took a path that led to the wilderness. Although it was likely not an actual forty-day journey as the Hebrew euphemism suggested, Jesus spent an enduring time in solitude in the wilderness. It was not a punishment, but a path of his choosing. Jesus showed us the way to go.

Spiritual discipline is not about punishment, but about taking a journey along a path that leads to grace. Spiritual discipline, whatever the nature of that discipline, is a path of one's own choosing that reveals God's own design. It is an opportunity to open our hearts and minds to the presence and grace of Christ and to the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual discipline is a path to nourishment and redemption of our soul. In whatever form, and there are many, such discipline can be a powerful means of

God's grace for those who seek it. Prayer, fasting, giving, serving, worship, biblical study, spiritual reading, journaling, the Lord's Supper, confession, and spiritual writing are all disciplines of God's grace. They are paths that lead us onward in our journey with the opportunity of growing closer to the presence of the living Christ.

In his time in the wilderness and at other times of personal retreat, Jesus taught the value of looking inside so that we can better understand and face the world outside. When we follow the path of Christ, it is the path that leads to God's grace. It is to discover God at work in life—in all our lives—and to share that good news and the joy that such truth brings. We can discover God at work in the ordinary and routine activities of life, for God's grace is found in both the mundane and magnificent.

Sometimes we neglect to make the time to listen to the presence of God. We have gotten into patterns and routines that perpetuate bad habits. When we do not discipline ourselves to listen, it is easy to be distracted by the many competing voices that lead us away from the Holy. We may think that we are listening, but experience tells us otherwise. This happens often in our interpersonal relationships. When you and I feel disconnected from God, it is a disconnect on a transcendent scale that influences every level of our ordinary life.

Continued to page 2



Announcements

Church Council *Highlights*

Marvin Manring, Lay Leader

Council convened for a brief meeting at 11:45 a.m.

February 21, 2021.

Attendance: Chairman Marvin Manring; Pastor Jim Coffey; Rex & Susan Holt; Ted Woodrell; Mitch Ross; Sue Webb; Doyle Fry; Rick Spiker; Linda Hall.

Marvin opened the meeting. The January 17, 2021 minutes were approved. (Rex/Sue)

Finance: Sue reported a checking balance 1/31/21 of \$66,102.22. Ted motioned moving \$30,000 to the HIFI account to collect some interest. Approved. (Ted/Rex)

Security: Rick is interested in developing a security program at the church. Approved to proceed. (Mitch/Rex)

Trustees: Rex reported the need to replace the FLC door. With use of the Endowment Funds available for 2021. Approved. (Doyle/Mitch).

The nominating team will place additional trustees on the board.

Pastor Parish: Mitch reported the District Superintendent has someone for the committee to interview on March 5. PPR will meet 2/28/2021.

Mitch also reported the Missouri Conference will divide from nine (9) into five (5) districts that will save the conference \$859,000. District apportionments will be eliminated. This information is in the MO Methodist Magazine (per Jim).

Pastor: Bill and Sharon Linnartz will do the parsonage inspection and make recommendations for repair or replacement. Holy Thursday service is April 1, at 6:30 p.m. Need to appoint persons to audit the church financial records. Marvin will make contacts of qualified persons to form a committee.

UMW: Sue reported the bereavement food committee had disbanded. The Elder funeral dinner

will be served by the Reach Out Circle with help from Stockton Lakers retired teachers.

Other Business: Crystal Kimmi will graduate from Central Methodist College this spring with a degree in musical education.

Marvin is also checking into the USDA produce program that was sponsored last year.

Jim closed the meeting with prayer.

Linda Hall, Recording Secretary

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

Pastor's Paragraph

Continued from page 1

You and I need a place to be still and to know that God is. I do not need to know all about God, but I do sense the reality of God's presence and the love of God's grace. My problems take on new perspective and my challenges seem less powerful and ominous. This is my spiritual discipline. It is not punishment. Yes, I may set the morning alarm a bit earlier to make the time, but when I take the time, I rarely regret it.

Such time is a place along a path that is the journey of the Christian life. I like to get off culture's highway and stay on that path as much as I can. There is greater quiet and serenity there. Don't get me wrong. Practicing spiritual discipline is hard. Be prepared for starts and stops and frustration with yourself for inconsistency, but it is worth the effort.

Luke's Gospel says it. Jesus had just come back from the wilderness— from his spiritual discipline that fed his soul. Luke says that Jesus "filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone." Jesus knew; it is a path, not a punishment.

Lent can be our spiritual path that leads us to the grace of God.

Blessings!

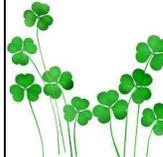
Pastor Jim



Stockton United Methodist Church

March Calendar of Special Events

Current as February 28, 2021. For updates, visit www.stocktonumc.org/calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	9-10 a.m. Yoga Rm 100 9-10 a.m. Exercise FLC 9:30a.m. CP Rm. 100		9 a.m. Yoga FLC 10:30 a.m. HFHT/Parlor 6-10p. Rm. 100	7 a.m-5 p.m. WIC-Rm. 100 9-10 a.m. Exercise FLC	Pastor's Personal Day Office Closed	6-10p Rm. 100 
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:45a.m. SS 10:45a.m WC/S	9-10 a.m. Yoga Rm 100 9-10 a.m. Exercise FLC	1 p.m. UMW Meeting Parlor	9 a.m. Yoga FLC 10:30 a.m. HFHT/Parlor 6-10p. Rm. 100 	7 a.m-5 p.m. WIC-Rm. 100 9-10 a.m. Exercise FLC	Pastor's Personal Day Office Closed	6-10p Rm. 100 
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<i>Daylight Saving</i> 9:45a.m. SS 10:45a.m WC/S 	SC Deadline 9-10 a.m. Yoga Rm 100 9-10 a.m. Exercise FLC 9:30a.m. CP Rm. 100		<i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 9a Yoga/100 9a-2p. TT/100 10a-5p AT/FLC 10:30a LSHF 6-10p. Rm. 100	7 a.m-5 p.m. WIC-Rm. 100 9-10 a.m. Exercise FLC	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 Rm 100 9-10 a.m. Exercise 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 9-10 a.m. Exercise FLC	Pastor's Personal Day Office Closed	6-10p Rm. 100 
28	29	30	31			
9:45a.m. SS 10:45a.m WC/S 	9-10 a.m. Yoga Rm 100 9-10 a.m. Exercise FLC		9 a.m. Yoga FLC 10:30 a.m. HFHT/Parlor 6-10p. Rm. 100			
		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 HFHT -Hope for Hard Times UMW -United Methodist Women				



Stockton United Methodist Church

4

March Calendar of Events

Current as of February 28, 2021. For updates visit www.stocktonumc.org/calendar

Special Events

- ★ **March 2** (Tuesday) Noon **Easter Lilies-Memorial Order** /Sign-up sheet in Welcome Area or call the office at (417)276-4717.
- ★ **March 3** (Wednesday) 10:30 a.m. **Hope For Hard Times Study**/Parlor
- ★ **March 9** (Tuesday) 1 p.m. **United Methodist Women** /Parlor
- ★ **March 14** (Sunday) **Daylight—Saving Time Begins** /Spring forward one hour.
- ★ **March 28** (Sunday) 10:45 a.m. **Palm Sunday**/Sanctuary
- ★ **United Methodist Men** Will not meet until further notice.

Mark Your Calendar Beyond January . . .

- ★ **April 1** (Thursday) 6 p.m. **Holy Thursday Service**/Sanctuary
- ★ **April 4** (Sunday) 10:45 a.m. **Easter**/Sanctuary
- ★ **May 5-8** (Wednesday-Saturday) time TBA **Spring Rummage Sale**/Family Life Center
- ★ **May 31** (Monday) 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **Office Closed**/Memorial Day

★ 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)



Easter Lilies *Honor Loved Ones*

To purchase a lily for the sanctuary (\$7 per plant prepaid), look for the sign-up form in the welcome area or call the church office (276-4717). Sign-up needs to be done by Tuesday March 2 by noon. Lilies can be taken home after April 4 Easter Sunday worship.

SAMA Food Pantry

March Needs: Soup (tomato, cream of mushroom, chicken noodle), 1 lb. bags of dry pinto beans, saltine crackers, and toilet paper



FOOD PANTRY



SUMC Cancellation Policy

Sunday service. In the event of inclement weather on a Sunday morning, the chairman of the church council, the chairman of the trustees and the pastor 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 SUMC Facebook and recorded on the SUMC telephone message, 276-4717.

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



The Mail

Church Family and Friends,

Thank you so much to those who helped me get through a very rough time in my life. Thank you for the calls, cards, and prayers.

I miss Roger but know he is not suffering anymore.

Christians Love,

Bonnie Behrens

Servants

Liturgist: Sherlene Netsch

Sunday Morning Greeters: Darlene Barker/Linda Hall



People Connecting with Jesus Christ

STOCKTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 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