

MARCH 2021

THE SPOTLIGHT

Loving God...reaching and serving our neighbors in Christ.

Office Hours:

*Tuesday-Friday
10am-3pm*

Contact Us:

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419-447-6748*

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Greetings Beloved,

We now find ourselves in the season of Lent, the forty days beginning on Ash Wednesday (not counting Sundays) when we prepare and ready ourselves for the death of Jesus Christ and the celebration of His Resurrection. Lent is a time of self reflection and repentance.

It's a time of turning from sinfulness to holiness. It's a time of deepening our faith and strengthening our relationship with the Lord of our lives. Some may consider this to be a somber time. Not me! Lent is one of my favorite seasons of the Christian year because It's a time when I intentionally embark upon a journey to be more like Jesus.

Some of you may know that one of my favorite contemporary theologians in Henri Nouwen (1932-1996) – priest, professor, and prolific writer. I'm blessed to have a copy of *Returning to God: A Lenten Journey with Henri Nouwen*, edited by Steve Mueller from the works of Nouwen in 2014, All Saints Press. Below is an excerpt I found especially meaningful and hope you will as well.

Blessings,

Pastor Marilyn

Loving is Hard Work

"Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: 'Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly." (Matthew 26:75)

Jesus came to open my ears to another voice that calls us always to return to the one who has created us in love and wants to re-create us in mercy. Peter heard that voice and trusted it. As he let that voice touch his heart, tears came—tears of sorrow and tears of joy, tears of remorse and tears of peace, tears of repentance and tears of gratitude. It is not easy to let the voice of God's mercy speak to us because it is a voice asking for an always open relationship, one in which sins are acknowledged, forgiveness received and love renewed. It does not offer us a solution, but a friendship. It does not take away our problems, but promises not to avoid them. It does not tell us where it all will end, but assures us that we will never be alone. A true relationship is hard work because loving is hard work, with many tears and many smiles. *God, help me listen to your invitation to return to you. Today I will...*

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Jonathan Knaur is the featured speaker for the 10 am, March 14th meeting of the United Methodist Women's Group. Jonathan raised funds for the Athena charity by participating in the "Rim to Rim to Rim" event in August, 2019. This event is a 2 day hike through the Grand Canyon and back! From his training to his adventures on the trail to information about the charity, Jonathan will take you on journey. All are welcome. Please let an UMW member know that you are coming; or call the church office (419-447-6748), so there's enough chairs in the downstairs meeting room for all!

UPDATE TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP

We are all missing being gathered on Sunday morning for worship and would like to return to church.

However, resuming in-person worship must be done safely. Our policy is to not have the church open for worship when Seneca County is coded Red, which means we are at a Level 3 Public Emergency (very high exposure and spread of the Covid 19 virus).

At the last Administrative Council meeting held on January 26th, the decision was made to continue the policy. It was agreed that once Seneca County goes Orange, the Council will meet immediately to evaluate the current conditions. What we want to avoid is opening for one or two weeks, and then having to immediately close again. Although the numbers appear to be declining, the County remain red.

Please know our Administrative Council is committed to making sure we are able to safely to return to in-person worship as soon as possible.





LAST NOTE FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

Every month for many years there was an article in the "Spotlight" from the choir loft concerning varied subjects and information.

Gradually situations changed and this last "Note" is coming from the organ bench. Although I'll be available to substitute and for other events, the time has come to retire from playing on a regular basis.

It has been a difficult decision and one of the most consequential choices of my life. I shall never tire of playing and thanking God for what has been a blessing for my entire life. The planning and continual regular commitment is the principle reason for choosing to terminate what has become more of a challenge.

Thank you so very much to all who have sent cards and offered words of encouragement and understanding in various ways. Thank you to all who have expressed appreciation through the years both to me and to the choir. The dedication of the folks in the choir has been incredible throughout many years. Also, the congregation has always been generous with gifts to purchase choral music and other occasional necessities.

How do you adequately say Thank You except to simply say "Thank You"?

Sometimes words cannot fully express thoughts and memories! Until later.....

Sing-cerely,
Nancy

MARCH MISSIONS

Our March missions will be collecting peanut butter that will be sent to Haiti. Please tape a quarter to the top of each jar to help with shipping.



LENTEN STUDY

Study Jesus' last words using the book Seven Words: Listening to Jesus from the Cross by Rev. Susan Robb. Will take place on Thursdays at 6:30pm

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Lenten Study 6:30pm	5	6
7 Call-In Worship 9:20am (339) 207-6119	8	9	10	11 Lenten Study 6:30pm	12	13
14 Call-In Worship 9:20am (339) 207-6119	15	16	17	18 Lenten Study 6:30pm	19	20
21 Call-In Worship 9:20am (339) 207-6119	22	23	24	25 Lenten Study 6:30pm	26	27
28 <i>Palm Sunday</i> Call-In Worship 9:20am (339) 207-6119	29	30	31			



HEADSHOTS

AGAINST



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SATURDAY, MARCH 6TH FROM 9AM-5PM

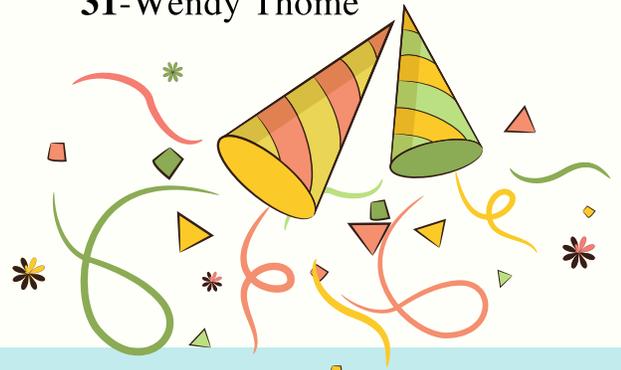
Headshots Against Human Trafficking will take place on Saturday, March 6th from 9am to 5pm at the offices of Sisters in Shelter!

Get a new and professional headshot taken by Laura's Lenses (our administrative assistant here at Faith UMC), support a wonderful non-profit Sisters in Shelter as they fight against human trafficking and domestic violence. There will also be Bailiwicks coffee and baked goods from Miss Cindy's Cookies.

Email contact@lauraslenses.com to sign up!

March Birthdays

- 1- Allen Dryfuse,
Daniel Wayne Eborg,
Christina Gooding,
Brian Roby
- 4- Jennifer Lee Harkins,
Kimberly Skeel
- 5- John Cochran, Jr.,
William Faber
- 7- Paige Feasel
- 9- Charles P. Dundore,
Robert Lyman
- 11- Aurora Albert
- 12- Charles Dryfuse
- 16- Keely Hoover,
Scott Seigley
- 17- Betty Snyder
- 20- Terri Davis
- 22- Kay Dewitt
- 24- Ann Hade
- 26- Jeannine Curns
- 27- Emma Moon
- 29- Jim Schreiner
- 31- Wendy Thome



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 7- Anthony & Alyssa Buccione
- 18- Earl & Sherry Ash
- 20- Dean & Cheryl Strausbaugh

- 22- Edward & Brenda Brickner
- 23- Mike & Christine Albert
- 29- Kanae & Toshi Kuretani