



CLEARWATER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER - March 2021

Carol Halvorson, Editor,

clwtax@frontiernet.net ,

phone 320-493-4997

PRAISE GOD!

Spring is on the way!

We are able to start church services in person again!

OUR CHURCH WEBSITE:

www.clearwaterumcmn.org

– Please remember to log in and check it out.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

Ellie Koester – March 3

Nita Searcy – March 9

Renate Searcy – March 17

Rick Mitchell – March 23

Remembering Verona
Robinson – March 30

FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER –

Please send any announcements, articles, projects, thoughts, recipes, etc. to Carol. Thanks

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

IN-PERSON WORSHIP:

We will be going back to in person worship on March 14 at 9:30 AM. We will be following all of the Clearwater UMC Covid policies detailed below.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY:

Beginning on Mondays at 10:30 AM starting March 15th.

HELP NEEDED:

Please, if you can, meet at the church on Wednesday, March 10 at 10:00 to help with the cleaning. Please call Margaret at 320-558-6646 to let her know if you can help.

CLEARWATER UMC COVID POLICY approved by the board:

As a congregation who loves our neighbors, who longs for health and wholeness for all, and who cares for our community, we are putting this policy in place to keep us as safe as possible. This policy is for church goers and other building users.

- If you are sick, please do not come to the church building for any reason.
- Masks must be worn in the building at all times. They must cover both the nose and mouth.
- We will be recording the names and contact information of each person who comes to the church building for group activities.

- If you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for CoVid, please do not come to the church building for any reason, including worship and Bible study.
- If you test positive for CoVid, and have been at church in the last 14 days, please let Margaret know (or Kitty for non church groups).
- If we have someone test positive who has been in the church building, we will not worship in person that following Sunday. We encourage everyone who has been in church at the same time as the person who has tested positive to quarantine themselves, and to get a CoVid test.
- If you choose to attend a 'super spreader' event, (any event with a large crowd - over 50 people), please choose not to come to church for at least fourteen days after the event.
- If a worship service is cancelled, Pastor Alison will email out a written

or videoed sermon to all who are interested. Email alisonhendley@yahoo.com to be put on the list.

NOTES AND

SUBMISSIONS:

In life, sometimes thorns are removed and sometimes not. No matter what, through God's love, we can endure the thorns and still rejoice in God's amazing grace. –Nita Wells

Recipes:

CHEDDAR
CHEESEBURGER
MEATLOAF
-from BudgetBytes.com

Ingredients

MEATLOAF

- 1/4 cup plain breadcrumbs
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 3/4 tsp salt
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 cup minced onion
- 4 oz. sharp cheddar
- 1 lb. ground beef

GLAZE

- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 1 Tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tsp yellow mustard
- 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F. In a small bowl stir together the breadcrumbs, smoked paprika, garlic powder, and salt. In a separate small bowl, lightly whisk the egg.
2. Finely mince the onion. Roughly chop the cheddar cheese so that it is in pieces about the same size as a small bean.
3. Add the ground beef, seasoned breadcrumbs, whisked egg, minced onion, and chopped cheddar to a bowl. Use your hands to mix the ingredients together until incorporated.
4. Place the meat mixture in a casserole dish or on a rimmed baking sheet and shape into a rectangle, approximately 7" long, 4" wide, and 1.5" thick.
5. To make the glaze, stir together the ketchup, brown sugar, mustard, and Worcestershire sauce. Spread the glaze over the unbaked meatloaf.
6. Bake the meatloaf in the preheated oven for 50-55 minutes, or until the internal temperature reaches 160°F. Remove the meatloaf from the oven, let it sit for 5-10 minutes, then slice into eight pieces and serve

.....From Pastor Alison Hendley.....

Again and Again

I have a new dog in my life.... Hawthorn is a two year old lab mix, but small for a lab coming in at just 20lbs. And he is a really sweet little guy. But he is a LOT more puppy than I'm used to! He is only my second dog, and Gibbs was 5 years old when I got him, ready to settle into mid-life with long walks and then cozying up for a long nap. But Hawthorn goes for a long walk, comes home and plays, then wants to go out again, again and again! He follows me around everywhere and has separation anxiety if I am out of his sight, and my house now looks like a toddler lives in it, toys scattered around the floor, pieces of torn paper shredded everywhere, books chewed on. But the thing about him that reminds me of God is the way he always has an eye on me. If he is sleeping and I move, instantly he looks at me to see what's happening, if we are out walking and he is running circles in the field, one eye is always paying attention to where I am, if I go into the kitchen he lays down just out of the way enough to not get into trouble or tripped over. Again and again, he is there, watching, waiting for me to pay attention to him, waiting for a scrap of food or a good belly rub!

Psalm 139 tells us about this ever watchful God, the One who is always close by, with these words:

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning

and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

even there your hand shall lead me,

and your right hand shall hold me fast.

And to some, this can feel disconcerting.... A God who spies on our every move, with us no where we go. Yet it is deeply comforting to me. No matter what I am doing, good or bad, this loving God is right there, no matter what I am facing or how hard things are, God is right there. And in times of ease and joy, God is right there then too. And God always looks on us with Love, pure and unending Love. Again and again God sees us in our full humanness..... messy and chaotic, broken and seeking wholeness. Again and again, God is there to comfort and guide us, to be with us in it all and offer us a way forward to a life that is just a little more whole, just a little more healed, just a little more loving, step by tiny step, again and again.

This Lent, I invite us all to stop and recognize God in our midst.... not as a source of discomfort or as if we are being caught doing something 'wrong', but as One who loves us deeply and never wants to be far from us, One who longs for us to recognize this presence and rejoice in it, One who is even ready to catch a holy belly rub when we see that great Love!