

**CLEARWATER UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
NEWSLETTER
March 2023**

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WORSHIP SERVICE:

Sundays at 9:30 AM
Come and join us in worship—our attendance is down—we would love to have your presence. Plan to stay for coffee after church in the fellowship hall.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY:

Mondays at 10:30 AM
(Weather Permitting)
MONTHLY: United Methodist Women in Faith – MWIF
March 7, 2023 –(1st Tuesday of every month at 2:00 PM).

MONTHLY – POTLUCK AND MOVIE NIGHT:

First Saturday of each month-(March 4) at 5:00 PM. Bring a dish to share and after dinner will be a movie. We'll have popcorn also. Invite your friends and family.

PRAYERS OF JOY:

Keep Carol Halvorson and her daughter in our prayers as they continue traveling.

OUR CHURCH WEBSITE:

www.clearwaterumcmn.org
Please remember to log in and check it out.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Our projected budget for 2023 shows \$600 more per month of expenses than our projected income. Our utilities and insurance have increased and our giving is down. Please pray about this problem. The hot water heater has been replaced. The UMWIF donated \$500.00 toward that EXpense. We do need more giving dollars to cover our expenses.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

3---Ellie Koester
9---Nita Searcy
17---Renata Searcy
23---Rick Mitchell
If we are missing your birthday, please call, text or e-mail Kitty and we will add it.

LENTEN SERVICES:

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE was changed to Sun. Feb. 26. The following Lenten Services will be Soup and Sandwich at 5:00 PM, Service at 5:30PM on Wednesdays during Lent Mar. 1 thru Mar 29.

PALM Sunday is April 2;
Good Friday service is April 7 at noon
Easter Sunday is April 9.

LENTEN ODE by Ann Weems

Lent is a time to take time to let the power of our faith story take hold of us, a time to let the events get up and walk around in us. A time to intensify our living unto Christ, a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts, a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and listen to his Word. A time to touch his robe and feel the healing surge through us, a time to ponder and a time to wonder...Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God! Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think, for thoughts come unbidden. Perhaps we're afraid to face our future knowing our past. Give us courage, O God, to hear your Word and to read our living into it. Give us the trust to know we're forgiven and give us the faith to take up our lives and walk.

Submitted by Helen Cress

Alison will be gone the first 3 Sundays in March. Rev. Clif Butler will preach those days.

PASTOR ALISON HENDLEY

I recently went to one of the “meet the new bishop” gatherings online. Bishop Lanette Plambeck, who was appointed to Minnesota and the Dakotas at the beginning of the year, seems energetic, funny, faithful and understanding of the complexity of the mix of the needs in our conferences. In her sermon she shared that she gets up each day before dawn for a time of prayer and study.. And that her favorite thing about this time is to listen to the birds begin to wake up and sing even before the light begins to touch the sky. This reminds her of faith...that, because we know what is coming, the promise we have been given, the story of the resurrection, we can sing before it is light. We can travel through the night. We can trust in the hope we find in the deep recesses of our lives.

As we journey through the season of Lent this year, where are you being called to sing? Where are you being invited to see hope in the midst of the darkness, in the long days of winter that still shroud our part of the world, in the grief and fear that surround us?

We have had some beautiful days in between the harder, snow and ice laden blizzard days recently, and every day when the sun is shining and the coat can come off. I have been sure to be outside a little longer than usual to make up for the less inviting days. I have danced in the sunlight and Hawthorn has run wild, prancing through the woods and meadows with his tail up and a smile on his face.

Even though these days bring joy. I know winter is not done with us yet. And, like the birds that wake before the light. I can sing of the hope of spring, for I know it will come. I can sing of the hope of peace for I know it is somehow and in some way possible. I can sing of the joy of a resurrected Christ, even as we walk to the cross, for the story does not end with death. Not for Christ and not for us.

So where are you being called to sing? Where are you being called to offer a song of

grace to another to allow them to remember hope? Who knows the song of your heart and can sing it back to you when you've forgotten the words? How are you allowing Christ's journey to the cross to be a song of hope for you this year?

<https://www.alisonhendleyhealing.com/>

“My soul is striving to remember who I am, to make who I am compatible with who I was born to be, to bring who I am into synch with who I will be.”

Steven Foster

RECIPES HAPPY BREAKFAST COOKIES

3 eggs
1-3/4 cup packed light brown sugar
¼ cup granulated sugar
½ tsp salt
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 cups creamy peanut butter
1/2cup butter, softened
1 (10-ounce) package chocolate chips or chunks
¼ cup dried cranberries or as much as desired)
1 granny smith apple, peeled and chopped
(*OPTIONAL*)
2 teaspoons baking soda
4 ½ cups rolled oats

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

In mixing bowl, cream eggs and sugars together. Add salt, vanilla, peanut butter and butter.

Mix to blend well.

Add chocolate chips, cranberries, (apple), baking soda and oats.

Stir until everything is combined.

With a tablespoon or #40 scoop, scoop up cookie batter and drop onto cookie sheets, 2 inches apart.

Bake for 10-12 minutes. Let stand about 3 minutes before transferring to wire racks to cool.

Submitted by Helen Cress