



Platteville United Methodist Church



February 2023



Matthew 4:1-2 New International Version- *“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.”*

Dear Friends,

February brings us into the season of Lent, which lasts for forty days, not including Sundays. It begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, and ends on Holy Saturday. The forty days represent Jesus's time wandering in the wilderness. During that time, he was tempted by Satan, but mostly, it was a time to prepare him for ministry.

In church life, Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming Easter. Many people focus on what they may give up during Lent, for example, fasting. We forget that during the fast we should have a period of self-examination. The fast should bring a person closer to God. Historically, Lent was a time for new converts to fast and prepare for their baptism, but over the years it became a time of penance for all Christians. Presently, we are encouraged to grow in our relationship with God, devote time to studies, and volunteer, or donate our time to others. In other words, the focus seems to be on discipleship.

I remember fasting when I was younger, but it wasn't until I was an adult that I learned that Sundays were not included in the forty days. Sundays during Lent are considered “mini-Easters.” For most people, the fast continues even through Sundays, but the knowledge and celebration of the resurrection should be in our hearts throughout the year. May this year's Lenten experience allow you to experience and share the love of Christ with a world that is very much in need of it.

Blessings,

Pastor Tammy Clausen



Learn God ~ Love God ~ Share God ~ Serve God

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♥♥ *Happy Anniversary* ♥♥

02/09 Donnie & Janet Millard
02/14 Randy & Connie Stephens
02/20 Darrell & Pauline Henry
02/25 Duwayne & Nancy Stuelke



Happy Birthday!



02/01 Floyd Cushman	02/09 Harlan Stephens
02/01 Sharon Glass	02/10 John Simmons
02/02 Stehl Nelson	02/11 Janice Digman
02/02 Harrison Pothour	02/12 Beverly Holler
02/02 Jamie Weigel	02/13 Gary Craugh
02/02 Suzanne Weigel	02/18 Mark Harle
02/06 Dorothea Bradley	02/18 Tammy Rupp
02/07 Connie Cushman	02/19 Jason Pothour
02/08 Carol Sue Butts	02/25 Pam Craugh
02/09 Allison Brehm	02/25 Nancy Dieter
02/09 Sam Krueger	02/25 George Krueger
02/09 Gail Nunn	02/25 Mackenzie Timlin
	02/26 Kandice Stephens



A Stewardship Message from The Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

Scott tells a story about when a story about when his church group visited Russia and he met a ten-year-old Russian orphan named Sasha who, for some reason, latched on to him. Sasha took Scott by the arm and led him through the orphanage, showing off his room and the place he ate meals. All the while Sasha's eyes were filled with joy and laughter. In spite of the fact that Scott spoke little Russian, and Sasha spoke no English, they connected. As the church group prepared to depart, Sasha sat beside Scott, pulled a silver ring from his finger, and held it out for Scott to take. His eyes filled with tears and Scott spoke the only Russian word I knew — "Nyet, nyet." (No, no.) This child, who had nothing in the world to call his own except this ring, desperately wanted to give this ring to him. When asked why Sasha wanted to give his only possession away, Sasha responded through an interpreter, "Because I am so thankful Scott came." For Sasha, abundant joy, extreme poverty, and a heart filled with gratitude overflowed in a wealth of generosity. For many of us who have so much, we want more. We are not thankful for what we have and always look for the "something more." And truth be told, it's never enough. What would happen if, by God's grace, our desire to gain more and have more could be transformed by gratitude into a heartfelt desire to give more? What would happen if in a spirit of gratitude, we spent as much time figuring out ways to give as we spend figuring out how to earn, have, and keep? Can you recall a time when you were truly thankful despite negative circumstances? Can you recall a time when someone who could least afford it gave you a generous gift? What was it like? How did you respond?

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation



Lasagna Dinner

Pick up tickets for the lasagna dinner at the church office for \$10! We will be serving meat lasagna (with a gluten free option available), garlic bread, salad, and dessert. The money raised at the dinner will go towards the youth mission trip. It will take place on Saturday, February 11th, 2023 from 5-7pm. Order tickets/RSVP for carry outs by February 10th by calling 608-348--9508.

Thank you for all the gifts, both financial or other, that you so kindly gave to our church staff during Christmas. Your generosity during the holiday season was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Tammy, Lori, Christina, Tracy, & Randy

Thank You

YOUTH MISSION TRIP

SUN, JUNE 18TH - SAT, JUNE 24TH TO CINCINNATI, OH.

SAVE THE DATE



Family Promise

We just completed a week of Family Promise. The families have asked me multiple times to say thank you to the people who made the wonderful meals. What you do is truly appreciated by the families.

The **good news** is that Westview Methodist Church is our new support church. This means we will have another training coming up for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer from our church and the support church. I do hope everyone will step up to the plate and work with our new volunteers to make them feel comfortable, especially those new volunteers who don't know our facility.

Please read the Friday updates and Sunday bulletins carefully for the new volunteer training date coming up. This would be a good opportunity for the previously trained volunteers to get refreshed since we haven't had families in the church much since COVID. We are more comfortable when we feel confident with what we are doing and when we know the expectations from Family Promise. If I can answer any questions that may make it easier to make a decision to participate in this mission please call me.

Susan Schlager
608-348-9575.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

This month's general meeting will be February 6th at 1:30pm in the Wesley Room, the program is to be announced. **Church Woman United** World Day of Prayer will be in March. Please watch the announcements for a date and location!



SCRIPPS CARD PURCHASES

It's getting close to Valentine's Day! Scripps cards make great gifts for significant others and we have many to choose from for purchase.

Sunday School News!

Each year our Sunday School Children support a mission project with their offering money and fund-raising. For the past 5 years they helped to sponsor "Operation Backpack", a project of the Platteville School District to supply food to children in need. There are families in our area that have a difficult time putting food on the table every day. These children get healthy breakfasts, lunches, and snacks at school, but the school counselors are concerned about those kids over the weekend. This program sends healthy snacks home with these children on Friday afternoons, to help supplement the families' meals.

Since the pandemic, our ability to raise funds has been sporadic. Now that Sunday School is back on a normal, in-person schedule, and our church is fully open again, we would like to bring back our **First Sunday Coffee Hour**. Our Sunday School students and teachers will sponsor Coffee Hour after church service on the first Sunday of each month. We ask all our members to support this children's mission by donating to the Coffee Hour on those Sundays. First Coffee Hour will be on February 5th!

We are teaching our kids to be the hands and feet of Jesus, by helping their brothers and sisters in Christ. Please help them in this mission.

Save the date!

The next Alive Worship Service is February 22nd at 7pm! Come and enjoy a fellowship meal after every worship. Alive Worship services will be the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 7pm. The dates below are subject to change.

2023:

February 22nd **(Ash Wednesday Worship at 7pm)**

March 8th

April 12th

April 26th

May 10th

May 24th



Pledge to support the team!



Wisconsin's coolest winter event is back! Join us for the 2023 Polar Plunge and support Special Olympics Wisconsin as we usher in the next 50 years and continue to create a future that only knows inclusion. Funds raised from the Polar Plunge help serve nearly 9,000 incredible Special Olympics Wisconsin athletes. Sign-up sheets and permission slips for those eighteen-years-old and under are available outside the sanctuary doors, right when you walk in the church. If you are interested in donating or registering online, please contact the church office for the link churchoffice@plattevilleumc.org.

Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, February 22nd

1. **12pm**
2. **7pm** during Alive Worship



Wisconsin Conference Virtual Seminar

Join us for a *"How to Reach & Welcome New People"* seminar on February 4th from 9am-3pm. The seminar is free and online. We will be hosting it at PUMC. Reach out to the church office with any questions.



Volunteers distributed 290 shares at the January distribution. Lancaster High School and Platteville Middle School helped us, which we appreciated! Our next distribution is February 2nd. Send Deb Putnam an email if you plan to help - putnamd@uwplatt.edu

FAITHLINK CLASSES

We invite everyone to our current class from the Great Courses, "Understanding the New Testament". You don't have to prepare outside of class! We begin the class at **9:45 AM** in the Adult Classroom.



Memorial Garden and Labyrinth

Lori Bahr, VP-Trust Officer of Mound City Bank presented a grant from the Ann & Leo Stoll Jr. Charitable Trust to Platteville United Methodist Church to be used towards the Labyrinth and Memorial Garden Project.

Finance Update

Our budget for 2022 ended on a positive note. While we were slightly over our budgeted amount, this was due to paying two bills that are paid quarterly and will take care of expenses in that category for January and February. While we budgeted \$100,000 from our general endowment, we only had to bring \$77,000 into the budget. We were slightly over our budgeted amounts in certain line items, but came in under budget for both salaries and general expenses. We were \$5000 below our pledged amount in revenues, but had nearly \$46,000 in unpledged revenues. The number of donations was down slightly over last year, but the average donation was slightly higher than last year. A ministry budget report is available in the Narthex, if you would like to review this information in more detail.

With this said, we still have substantial work to do for the 2023 budget. Our stewardship drive has not successfully obtained the amount of pledges we were hoping for during the upcoming year. We are \$50,000 lower in pledges than last year, which is very problematic. If you have not completed your pledge card, please do so now. Also, we have lost several contributing members of our congregation during the past year, so that will also lower the amount of contributions. Our goal for the past two years has been to lower the amount of money we are using from our general endowment to pay for budget expenses. While we have been successful in lowering this amount, we still need to be able to lower it by another \$25,000-30,000 in the upcoming year.

As with everyone, our investments took a major hit in 2022. We are hoping for a better 2023 for investment earnings. We will continue to work on ways to raise money for the church through grants and other fund-raising mechanisms, but the largest portion of our funding does need to come from contributing members. Please consider increasing your financial giving to the church, if possible, either through an increase in your weekly giving or a one time contribution during the year. If you would like to talk with someone about a financial plan for giving to the church, please contact the church office and we can have a financial person contact you to let you know your options.

As we enter 2023, we are entering the last year of our capital campaign. We are on track to meet the pledges for this campaign and want to thank all of you for your generosity in contributing to the campaign. We have completed the majority of the campaign projects. The two main categories remaining are new computers for the staff and the new membership campaign for the church. If you have pledged money for the campaign, please continue to pay this money so we can finish the projects and continue to pay back to the loan.

We look forward to moving forward in 2023 through a variety of outreach activities and ministry plans. We can only successfully do this through our members and your contributions in time, talent, resources, and commitment. All the best to each of you for a wonderful 2023!

Stewardship

It's that time of year! Pledge cards for the new year have been sent out in the mail and they are available in the office as well.



Platteville United
Methodist Church

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contact the church
office to take your
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♥ happy ♥
Valentine's
♥ day ♥

