

Parish of the Hills



MARCH/APRIL, 2018

PARISH VISITOR

Parish of the Hills

Called to Make Disciples Of All!



Parish of the Hills United Methodist Churches

Office Address: 400 Doty Street
Mineral Point, WI 53565
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Parish Web Site: parishofthehills.org
WI Annual Conf. www.wisconsinumc.org

Office Hours: M, T, Th, F
9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Bethel UM Church: Located on the Corner of
State Hwy. 39 & W
8:00 a.m.—Worship;
Sept-Dec 8:00 a.m. - Sunday School

Linden UM Church: In the Village on Hwy. 39
Sept-May 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School
10:45 a.m. — Worship

First UM Church: 400 Doty Street, MP
Sept-May 8:15 a.m. – Sunday School
9:15 a.m. — Worship
Handicapped Accessible

Gerhardt P. Miller, D. Min.
Parsonage Phone: (608) 987-0494
Cell: (920) 604-3304

Marcia Ajer, Administrative Assistant

Dear Members and Friends of Parish of the Hills:

Lenten Season, (or Lent) is upon us. It is that time of the Church calendar that is associated with spiritual preparation and facing challenges.

I suppose that preparation and challenges tend not to be so much fun. Preparation and challenge, however, can do us good. Preparation and challenge can strengthen us.

In Christian tradition, this period of the year—the weeks leading up to Easter Sunday—are especially for personal reflection concerning the values we embrace and the priorities we live. Sincere reflection can be challenging. We are busy. We have routines. Perhaps we would rather not examine those areas in living where we fall short of ideal attitudes and behaviors. Well, that is why this Christian season of Lent exists in our tradition. It is perfectly human of us not to be perfect. None of the Apostles were perfect and neither are any of us.

It is perfectly human of us not to be perfect. How wonderful, though, when we try to more closely follow in the footsteps of Jesus. It is perfectly human of us to make mistakes in how we invest our time, in how we spend our money, and in how we pursue fulfillment. It is so easy for any of us to have habits in thought and action that do not enhance our own lives and the lives of those around us. Now is as good a time as any to earnestly consider ways to be truly happy and fulfilled.

Lenten Season is a fine time for us to consider how we can make a positive difference in a world in dire need of healing and love. It is a fine time for each single person to consider how he or she can participate with God in creating a better world. One thought, one prayer, one word, and one act, at a time. May God bless us as we seek the highest fulfillment.

Gerhardt

Enjoy
The
News



Mineral Point News
By: Ross Pollock



I hope that you are all getting through the winter well – that the flu missed you and the snow has not depressed you (too much). But hang in there. Spring is coming! Spring is just around the corner. Let us all thank God for the change of seasons and the new life about to appear. And just like the new life to bud after a long winter, let us thank God for the new life we have been promised when the Lord calls us home to him.

As I write this, the country and the world are reeling from news of the Florida school shooting – the most recent in a string of shameful attacks on our society by Americans. We should be asking ourselves, “what is going on here? Why don’t we do something to correct it?” We have taken God out of our schools, stopped training our kids in Christian morals and principals and to take responsibility for their own actions and accept the consequences that come from those actions. I own a number of guns. As far as I can see, no one is trying to take away my guns or yours. In my opinion we should immediately reinstate the ban on private ownership of automatic weapons like the AR-15. They are weapons whose only purpose is killing people. If you want to shoot automatic weapons, join the Army! By the same token, the mentally ill should not have access to weapons either. We should all have love in our hearts - for all mankind.

Our “new” antique, square, grand piano in the sanctuary has been tuned and is working beautifully. You may notice that the top cover is missing. This is because the sound comes out so much better. Take a closer look at it some time, it is an unusual design. But PLEASE do not touch it! The old “downstairs” piano is still available “to a good home” (you will, however, have to take it home yourself).

Diane Palzkill and her staff are doing a wonderful job with our Sunday School. The kids learn Bible stories and Christian values while having a really good time. The school remains small, but is growing. There is plenty of room for new students - your children, grandchildren, neighbor’s kids, visitors (or whatever) are all welcome. Sunday School kids meet Sunday morning from 8:15 until 9:15 a.m. It is so nice to see our Church School going again.

Congratulations to Mineral Point HS Junior Michaela Acherman for winning a place on the Driftless Honors Choir. Michaela also achieved a place on the MPHS 2nd Quarter Honor Roll with High Honors. Congratulations to Senior Hans Miller for attaining a place on the MPHS 2nd Quarter Honor Roll, also with High Honors. After competition in the Regional Leadership Conference of the Future Business Leaders of America, Hans also qualified in the Insurance and Risk Management section to go on to the FBLA state competition in La Crosse April 9 & 10.

District Superintendent, Rev. Scott Carlson, held a SPRC training session for churches in the southwest here January 20. It was a wonderful, informative session. EVERY SPRC member should attend next year.

Janet Pollock attended Basic Lay Servant training in Westby in February. This is a really good course that YOU should consider taking. It helps you develop your own Spiritual Gifts and lead you towards service that, in turn, leads you closer to God. Taking it does not commit you to lead worship (or anything else). It is given several times a year in different churches around the District. If you can get a couple of friends to go with you, so much the better. You will be able to car pool and have a good time on the trip while learning a lot that can be of benefit to you. If you want to take any of the advanced courses, you must take the basic course first. The date, time and location for these courses is posted on the bulletin board on the way into the sanctuary (as well in the office) as the information becomes available.

You may have noticed the lack of heat in the sanctuary a number of Sundays this season. We were afraid that would require us to replace the whole system at a cost of about \$80,000. Fortunately, a thorough engineering examination shows that we can repair the system – remove asbestos, repair the boilers and controls and install a chemical water treatment system to keep it going – for around \$10,000. This would be an approximately ten year fix. Work needs to begin in the spring. We will send you all a detailed letter soon

We seriously need money at this point. Our regular operating expenses are well over \$1,000 a week, but there are many weeks when the total income is much less than that figure – especially after Christmas. The Administrative Council was unable to meet in January, first due to sickness preventing a quorum and then bad weather on the rescheduled date. Our meeting in February was rescheduled to mid-month because of snow but the Council was finally able to meet February 15. Unfortunately, this caused our first fund raiser of the year – a Shrove Tuesday Chili Supper – got off to a very late start. There were various factors (including a spaghetti supper at the school) that contributed to that poor showing, but the end result is that despite the hard work put in by the committee, we didn't make very much money on the dinner.

We will have a pasty sale March 10th. You must order your pasties in advance as we will only make as many as are ordered in advance. We need YOUR help with this effort! Mostly men peel potatoes Friday morning. No experience needed! We will make pasties Saturday morning. Come help and enjoy great fellowship while helping our church. If you can't help, please order some pasties.

We are planning a pancake breakfast for Palm Sunday morning, March 25 from 8:00-12:00. We will need help with that too. Put it on your calendar!

Wednesday Lenten services going forward (all at 7:00 p.m.) will include February 28th at Linden, March 7 at Bethel, March 14 HERE at First, and March 21 at Linden (with a soup & sandwich supper from 4:30-7:00).

Holy Thursday service will be HERE at First at 7:00 on March 29th. Good Friday service is on March 30th at 7:00 at Linden. Easter services will include a sunrise service at Linden at 7:00 a.m. followed by services at Bethel and Mineral Point at the normal times.

Mineral Point Trustees will meet Thursday March 8 at 6:30 p.m. The Administrative Council's meeting will follow at 7:00 p.m. The Ad Council will meet again Thursday April 12 at 6:30 p.m.

The Cub Scouts will hold their annual "Scouting for Food" drive on March 10th

The Mineral Point Historical Society will hold their 3rd Lyceum here from 1:00 to 4:00 on Sunday March 18. Paula Dail will present a program on "Women Activists in Wisconsin."

Our Sarah Circle will meet at the Pointer Thursday, March 1st and April 5th at noon.

The Mineral Point Youth Group will hold their annual garage sale here on Saturday, April 7th.

Kami and Chase Grady's son Grady Ivey will be baptized here on Sunday, April 15.

The Inter-church Emergency Food Pantry needs periodic help to date, weigh, sort and shelve (mostly) canned good donations. This is an on-going task, but the biggest push is to process the food brought in by the Cub Scouts in March, the USPO in May and the Cowboy Church in July. Just two hours of your time every once-in-a-while would do it. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church or call the office if you have any questions. It's fun!

We would like to welcome Diane Palzkill (at large) and Dave Vandewater (Trustees Chair) to the Administrative Council. Officers remain as before. Many thanks to Karla Vogel and Carol Paynter for their service. We also welcome Don Elmer and Bob Snyder to the Trustees. Dave Vandewater moved up to chairman and Karla Vogel to secretary. The Trustees lost Larry Mitchell to death last year. He has been very much missed.

I hope that you are all enjoying this column. Please let me know if you have anything you would like to see in the next Parish Visitor (May-June). The deadline is April 16th (the schedule is also published in every Parish Visitor). You can reach me at (608) 574-8353 (leave a message on my voice mail if I don't answer) or bigj4916@gmail.com.

May God bless you and keep you. May the Holy Spirit fill your heart. May you move closer to the goal of walking in the footsteps of Our Lord, Jesus, the Christ.

Linden News

By: Dixie Edge & Pam Reddell



The Linden Sunday School recently purchased a new TV & DVD player. On Sunday, 2/11 we had a movie and popcorn morning. The movie was about "The Miracles of Jesus". It was a perfect start for the first week of Lent. We may sneak in the Easter movie before Palm Sunday as well.

The United Methodist Women are looking forward to attending the World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 2nd, starting at 1:30 at the Livingston UMC Church. Registration begins at 1:00 p.m. Please RSVP by February 26th at 943-6606.

The United Methodist Women will resume on Tuesday, March 13th. Our group meets (March-December) the second Tuesday of each month, beginning at 7:00 p.m. We welcome ladies of the church to join us at our meetings. We will be planning our calendar of events for the upcoming year and look forward to getting together again after our winter break.

Lenten services began on Ash Wednesday, February 14th at Bethel, starting at 7:00 pm.

The February 21st service will be in Mineral Point and the February 28^h in Linden. The services will continue to rotate, the last Wednesday night service will be on March 21st at Linden. On March 29th Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm service will be at 1st. On March 30th there will be a Good Friday service in Linden at 7:00 pm and on the 1st of April our Sunrise Service will again be at 7:00 am on Easter morning. There will not be a 10:45 service on Easter and no Sunday School on Easter.

The Sunday School Children will be singing on Palm Sunday, March 25th. It is always a joy to see them parade in waving their palms and singing. They will not have Sunday School on Easter morning Sunday April 1st (and that is no April fool's joke!)

The annual Linden Soup Supper will be held on Wednesday, March 21st starting at 4:30 pm. Come out for soup, sandwich and a dessert before attending the Lenten Service scheduled in Linden that evening beginning at 7:00 p.m. Hope to see you there.

Daylight savings time starts the weekend of March 11th so there will be more sunlight to enjoy!



Bethel News

By: Cindy Reynolds-Doyle



FAITH isn't anything you can see, it isn't anything you can touch. But you can feel it in your heart. FAITH is trusting in a power greater than yourself and knowing that whatever

happens, this power will carry you through anything. The Spirit given ability to daily see God's will, coupled with the confidence to do it, is the gift of FAITH. It is living one day at a time even when life seems out of control. To live fully in FAITH is to live each day as best you can for who you are in that moment and to trust the rest to God.

WINTER WORSHIP

We thank all those who travel the wintery roads to early Sunday morning worship services at Bethel. We will do our best to notify you in case of cancellation. Tune into radio station WDMP 99.3 Dodgeville.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

We had a very good attendance for our Soup/Sandwich Supper and worship service on Wednesday, February 14th. Our three Parish of the Hills congregations along with Waldwick were represented in our count of forty-five people attending. It also happened to be Valentine's Day and the theme was tastefully woven throughout the church. The menu for the supper included a variety of tasty soups, sandwiches, fruit salads, cheese and veggie trays, and a wonderful selection of dessert bars. The worship service following the supper was led by Cindy Reynolds-Doyle, Greg James and Jennifer Baker. Jennifer Reynolds played piano for the service. Pastor Miller was unable to attend due to his travels to Baltimore, Maryland for the funeral of his Aunt Ruth. Gathering with so many as we began the season of Lent was truly a good feeling. Together we share in God's love.

PALM SUNDAY

We invite you to join us on Sunday, March 25th for our Palm Sunday worship service at 8:00 a.m. This is followed by our Palm Sunday Potluck Breakfast in the church dining room. Beverages, plates, cups and utensils will be provided. Come and be part of this special morning at Bethel when together we share the anticipation of spring and feast on good food and fine fellowship.

EASTER SUNDAY

Our Easter morning service will be held on Sunday, April 1st at 8:00 a.m. Everyone is

welcome to attend our Easter worship service. This is a day to share in celebration and renewal of our Christian faith.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERVICES

When we gather together our Christian bond strengthens and we are filled with the love of family. Hopefully you will get the chance to attend several or all of the Wednesday Lenten services rotating among our three churches. Each church congregation will warmly welcome you as part of their church family for the evening. You meet really good people and make new friends. Don't miss out on this important season of our Christian faith.

CARE AND SHARE MISSION

Help us collect clothing items for children age four years through fifth grade such as winter hats, mittens, gloves, scarves along with socks, underwear, coats and any other clothing items new or in very good condition. The Mineral Point Elementary School appreciates these most useful donations. Please place your items in the storage containers located in the church entryway. Thanks Much!

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED PREPARE THE CHURCH AND PROVIDE THE FOOD FOR OUR ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE ON FEBRUARY 14TH!

MARCH ANNIVERSARY: Shane & Lisa Sudmeier

APRIL BIRTHDAYS: Bryce Terrill (2nd), Cindy Reynolds-Doyle (4th), Kathy James (11th), Nancy Reynolds (17th), Jack Oellerich (17th), Justin Doyle (25th), and Julee Reynolds (28th).

**THE MORE CHRIST'S LOVE GROWS IN US,
THE MORE HIS LOVE FLOWS FROM US.**



The ABC's of love: A – Accepts, B – Behaves, C – Comforts, D – Defends, E – Empowers, F – Forgives, G – Grows, H – Helps, I – Invests, J – Joins, K – Kneels, L – Listens, M – Mentors, N – Notices, O – Overlooks, P – Provides, Q – Quiets, R – Rejoices, S – Supports, T – Tries, U – Understands, V – Volunteers, W – Welcomes, X – eXpects, Y – Yields, Z – adds Zest to life!



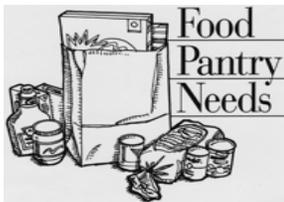
When we give from the heart, we receive unexpected blessings—especially the joy of making a difference in someone's life.

March 04	Apportionments
March 11	UMCOR Sunday
March 18	Improvement Fund
March 25	Improvement Fund (Palm Sunday)
April 01	Apportionments (Easter Sunday)
April 08	Iowa County Bloomfield Manor
April 15	Improvement Fund
April 22	Atrium of MP Resident's Fund
April 29	Native America Ministries Sunday



Below please find the Parish Visitor Rotating Church Collation Schedule for 2018. Our goal is to mail our newsletter out by the last week of every other month:

	Article	Church
Parish Visitor:	Deadline:	Collates:
Jan/Feb-First	Dec. 11	Dec. 21
Mar/Apr-Linden	Feb. 12	Feb. 22
May/June-Bethel	Apr. 16	Apr. 26
Jul/Aug-First	Jun 18	Jun. 28
Sept/Oct-Linden	Aug. 20	Aug. 30
Nov/Dec-Bethel	Oct. 15	Oct. 25
Jan/Feb-First	Dec 10	Dec 20



FROM THE INTER-CHURCH FOOD PANTRY OF MINERAL POINT

Breakfast cereal, pancake mix/syrup, oatmeal, jelly, peanut butter, jello, puddings, cooking oil, tuna, spaghetti sauce, instant potatoes, canned fruits, canned meats, canned milk, cake mixes, instant soups, Ramon noodles, mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard, canned sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, sugar, crackers, laundry detergent, 4-pack toilet tissue, shampoo, deodorants, lotions, bar soaps, shaving items, toothpaste, facial tissue, paper towels, hand wipes, toilet paper, storage bags

Hope you enjoyed Valentine's Day on Ash Wednesday this year!



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MARCH 11TH!

LOVE

Ten Ways to Love: LISTEN without interrupting, SPEAK without accusing, GIVE without sparing, PRAY without ceasing, ANSWER without arguing, SHARE without pretending, ENJOY without complaint, TRUST without wavering, FORGIVE without punishing, PROMISE without forgetting.

ALSO for Lent

"I HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me."

Meditate: Lent is a time to focus on Jesus' death and resurrection, but don't forget about yourself. Read the Bible, pray and reflect on yourself to inspire a Christ-like attitude.

Volunteer: Help others in the same manner Christ did. It could be anything from walking a neighbor's dog to picking up a friend's kids from school, or working in the food pantry. The important thing is to go out and serve to God's glory.

Feast: Prepare a Seder meal* and celebrate the Passover as Jesus and his disciples did at the Last Supper. It's a good way to relieve Jesus' final hours before his crucifixion.

*for information about how to prepare a Seder meal go to <http://www.criovoice.org/seder.html>

Lenten Schedule 2018

February 13th: Shrove Tuesday with a Chili Supper from 5:00-7:00 pm at First UMC.

February 14th: Ash Wednesday Evening Worship Service at Bethel UMC with Soup and Sandwich Supper 5:30-6:45 pm. Worship service at 7:00 pm.

February 21st: Wednesday Lenten Service: First UMC 7:00 pm.

February 28th: Wednesday Lenten Service: Linden 7:00 pm.

March 7th: Wednesday Lenten Service: Bethel 7:00 pm.

March 14th: Wednesday Lenten Service: First 7:00 pm.

March 21st: Wednesday Lenten Service at Linden 7:00 pm. Linden Soup Supper starts at 4:30 p.m.

March 25th: Palm Sunday Worship: Bethel at 8am with potluck breakfast; First at 9:15am with Choir, also a pancake breakfast from 8:00-12:00; Linden at 10:45am and Sunday School Children sing.

March 29th: Maundy Thursday 7:00 Service at First

March 30th: Good Friday Evening Service at Linden: 7:00 pm.

April 1st: Easter Services Youth Sunrise Service at Linden 7:00 am; Bethel Easter Worship 8:00 am; First Easter Worship at 9:15 am with choir.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

FRIDAY, MARCH 2nd

LIVINGSTON UMC

1:30 p.m.

The United Methodist Women are looking forward to hosting World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 2nd, starting at 1:30 p.m. at the Livingston United Methodist Church. Registration begins at 1:00 p.m. RSVP by February 26th by calling 943-6606.



Ash Wednesday was February 14th from 5:30 - 6:45 with Soup and Sandwich Supper at Bethel, and a 7:00 Service. 45 attended on a foggy night!

A Lenten Wednesday, March 21st 4:30 - 7:00 Annual Men's Soup and Sandwich Supper will be held at Linden, with a 7:00 Service

EVERYONE WELCOME!



EASTER

Refocus for Lent



Lent

Give up complaining – focus on gratitude.
Give up harsh judgments – think kind thoughts.
Give up worry – trust God to provide.
Give up discouragement – be full of hope.
Give up bitterness – turn to forgiveness.
Give up hatred – return good for evil.
Give up anger – be more patient.
Give up pettiness – become mature.
Give up jealousy – pray for trust.
Give up gossiping – control your tongue.
Give up sin – turn to virtue.
Give up giving up – persevere.

-Author unknown



LINDEN and First UMC: Thank you for your gift received on 12/18/17 of \$66.39 and \$330 to the General Board of Global Ministries through the Advance, the designated mission giving channel of the United Methodist Church. 100 percent of your contribution will support the missionary community in honor of Disaster Response, United States Advance #901670. Giving through The Advance enables United Methodists to partner with one another in mission and ministry around the world. Thank you for joining with us in God's mission... Grace and Peace, Roland Fernandes, General Treasurer, General Board of Global Ministries dated 1/22/18.

First UMC: Thank you for the \$60 donation from members. Your support means so much to us and will be matched by our anonymous donor! God bless you all and Happy New Year. Tom Schroeder, Development Director, Hodan Community Services, Inc. 12/31/17

LINDEN: You have made it possible to take action against malaria, a priority shared by the United Methodist Church with other global health partners. We cannot say enough, thank you for your financial support and for your determination to concur this treatable disease of poverty, particularly in Africa... Thank you for your generous contribution of \$200 in 2017. Peace and Blessings, Reverend Gary Henderson, Executive Director, Imagine No Malaria 1/31/18



ROSES

Did you always wonder what the color of a rose meant? Well according to Heloise here are what the colors mean:

- Orange: passion and enthusiasm
- White: purity or sympathy
- Pink: fondness or gratitude
- Lavender: love at first sight and grace
- Yellow: cheerfulness and friendship
- Red: romance and love



March 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
Women's History Month				1 12:00 Sarah Circle meets at the Pointer Café John Wesley Died (1791)	2 1:30 World Day of Prayer Program at Livingston Registration at 1:00 pm	3 Advanced Lay Servant Course-Lea Worship 9-2:30 Oshk Wesley UMC
4 Communion all 3 churches 8:00,9:15,10:45 8:15 S/S at 1st 9:30 S/S at Linden	5	6 <u>Volunteers needed</u> Hidden Valley Feed My Starving Children Program MobilePack 182,000 meals for God's children day	7 Lenten Service & confirmation class 7:00 at Bethel	8 6:30 Trustees 7:00 Ad Council meet at 1st	9	10 SW District Church Finance Trng 10-12 UMC (Dodgeville
11 8:00 Bethel Svc. 8:15 S/S class 1st 8:30 FUMC Choir practice 9:15 FUMC Svc. with choir 9:30 S/S Linden 10:45 Linden Svc <u>Daylight Savings Time Begins</u> (spring ahead)	12 2-6 WICK 9-1 Volunteers needed for Food Pantry in Fellowship Hall	13 9:15 Upland Hills Svc. with Pastor Church Audits due in Parish office 7:00 UMW start meeting again at Linden UMC	14 Lenten Service & confirmation class 7:00 at 1 st	15		17 St. Patrick's Day Advanced Lay Servant Course, Leading Worship 9-2:30 Westb UMC, Westb WI Part I
18 8:00 Bethel Svc. 8:15 S/S class 1st 9:15 FUMC Svc. 9:30 S/S Linden 10:45 Linden Svc 1:00-4:00 Lyceum #3 at 1 st "Women Activists in Wisconsin" 6:00-7:00 Pack Mtg. at 1st	19	20 <u>First Day of Spring</u> 5:30-7:30 Girl Scouts at 1 st 6-7:30 Dodgeville, Grace Lutheran Church, Food, Faith & Farming Network	21 Lenten Service & confirmation class 7:00 at Linden 4:30 Soup Supper starts At Linden	22	23	24 Advanced Lay Servant Course, Leading Worship 9-2:30 Oshkosh, Wesley UMC Part II, & Westby UMC Westby, WI Part II
25 Palm Sunday 8:00 Bethel Svc. & potluck breakfast 8:15 s/s at 1st 8:30 FUMC Choir practice 9:15 FUMC Svc. with choir. 1 st pancake breakfast 8-12. 9:30 S/S Linden 10:45 Linden Svc & S/S sings	26	27 	28	29 Holy Thursday 7:00 Service at 1 st (Charles Wesley died (1788))	30 Good Friday (office closed) 7:00 Service at Linden Passover begins	31  It's SPRING

April 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1 Easter Sunday 7:00 Linden Sunrise Service (no 10:45, no Sunday School) 8:00 Bethel Svc. 8:30 1st Choir practice 9:15 1st Svc. with choir	2 7-8 Cub Scout organizational meeting at 1st	3 5:30-7:30 Girl Scouts meet at 1st	4	5 12:00 Sarah Circle meets at the Pointer Café City Wide Garage Sales	6 City Wide Garage Sales 	7 City Wide Garage Sales  (Youth Group at 1st)
8 Communion all 3 churches 8:00,9:15,10:45 8:15 S/S class at 1st 8:30 1st Choir practice 9:30 S/S at Linden	9	10 10:30 Atrium Service 7:00 UMW meet at Linden UMC	11 5:30-7:30 Cub Scouts meet at 1st	12	13	14
15 8:00 Bethel Svc. 8:15 S/S class 1st 9:15 FUMC Svc. w/Baptism of Grady Ivey 9:30 S/S Linden 10:45 Linden Svc 6-7 Pack Mtg 1st	16  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Parish Visitor	17 5:30-7:30 Girl Scouts meet at 1st U.S. Federal Income Tax due	18	19	20	21
22 8:00 Bethel Svc. 8:15 S/S class 1st 8:30 1st Choir practice 9:15 1st Svc. with choir 9:30 S/S Linden 10:45 Linden Svc	23	24	25	26 10:30 Bloomfield (Remembrance) service 9:30 Bethel collates Parish Visitor	27 National Arbor Day 	28
29 8:00 Bethel Svc. 8:15 S/S class 1st 9:15 FUMC Svc. 9:30 S/S Linden 10:45 Linden Svc., S/S Class sings	30			 April		 APRIL

When Do We Say Enough? **February 15, 2018**

He shall judge between many peoples,
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore;

Micah 4:3

As Christians, we may differ in our understanding of God's will, but there are some very clear messages from our scripture. War, violence, killing, injuring others, vigilantism, and revenge are aspects of our brokenness and separation from God. We are called to be peacemakers, loving mercy, showing compassion, standing for justice, and doing all in our power to spread God's love. Few people debate these things.

Yet, on February 14 – Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day – seventeen students died at the hands of a troubled gunman. It deeply saddened me to see one of the earliest responses to this tragedy was not condolences or sympathy, but a strident defense of the right to own guns in the United States. The core of the defense was that the latest tragedy wasn't about guns, but about the breakdown of our civil society and discipline for our children. Such equivocating breaks my heart.

Children were shot and killed. The scope and reach of this tragedy was definitely connected to guns. We must, as a society, as a culture, and as a Church stop living in denial. Gun violence is out of control in this country. Among developed nations, the United States resides among those at the bottom of the list for gun-related violence. We must take firm action for responsible gun laws. Guns are not tools for peace; they are destroying more and more lives with each passing day.

I am not debating military actions and law enforcement. These are stark and sad evidence of our fallen world. Where there should be peace, we see war. Where there should be justice, we find corrupted law. Where there should be mercy, we see judgment. And so sadly, where we should see young lives flourishing with the possibilities of a hopeful and productive future, we see students down before they get a chance to truly live.

Don't argue and debate guns. Pray with me. Pray for the victims and their families. Pray for the shooter and his family. Pray for the communities, the police, the teachers, the leadership of a world turned upside down. And take action. If you are as saddened and enraged as I am, write to your governor, your senators, your representatives, and your local officials. Invite them to join us in the Wesleyan injunction to first, do NO harm; second, do all the GOOD we can; and last, to strive in every way to ground your life in the love and will of God.

Attached here are some resources to help your leaders and congregations provide support during this trying time: [for all leaders](#); [for leaders of children](#); and [for leaders of youth](#).

Grace and Peace,

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung