



Spring Flowers for Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday, it's a beautiful sight to see our sanctuary filled with flowers as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Easter lilies or tulips may be ordered, cost is \$12.00 for each plant. They may be given in memory or honor of a loved one or shared by your family as a gift to the church.

Place your order by filling out the form in an upcoming Sunday bulletin, placing it in an envelope with an enclosed check and putting in the collection plate (please write "Lilies" on envelope). Checks may be made out to FUMC. You may also order lilies by calling the church office at 377-4856. Proceeds will go to the Children's Library.

Easter Prayer Vigil

We invite you to come pray at the foot of the cross. For Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:30. Come to the foot of the cross, lay your burdens down at the very place Jesus swallowed all of our sins to set us free. We encourage you to come pray at the foot of the cross. Jesus said, "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20. Come with your family. Come with your small group. Come with your confirmation group. Come with your youth group. Come with your friends. Listen to Jesus' words and come experience prayer at the foot of the cross. The prayer vigil will be held from **Friday, noon April 2 to Saturday noon April 3** in the sanctuary, chapel and prayer room. Times available for sign up will be at the welcome center in the narthex on Sunday, March 21 and 28. You can also e-mail Vicki to request a time at vicki@fumcmarion.org. **COME AND PRAY!**

First United Methodist Church of Marion

12th Street & 8th Avenue

Sunday Worship –

7:45am

Early Worship – Chapel

8:30am

Spirited Traditional – Sanctuary

9:45am

Two Songs & A Sermon – Sanctuary
Church School for children and adults

11:00am

Blended Praise – Sanctuary



The Marion Methodist

Issue No. 6

March 19, 2010



PASTOR MIKE MORGAN

Intentional Improvement

The other day, I was talking with a few guys and the conversation was all about fertilizer. That's right, how quickly we forget the snow banks, put the shovels down and are ready to "weed and feed" our lawns. Typical of a group of guys there were many philosophies regarding how one should intentionally improve their yard. Each likely will take a few hints from others and then go their own way.

I offer this organic observation to remind you that we are part of an Intentional Improvement process as a church. While there are many philosophies regarding how a church can intentionally improve its life and ministry, the Church Council and Mission Control have discerned the organic Natural Church Development (NCD) method.

Beginning last April we have been being coached by the Rev. Scott Hibben, a staff person in the Iowa Conference paid for by our apportionments. The NCD plan begins with a survey of 30 church members that represent the "kind" of people we are. The results of our survey were as follows:

"The NCD scores look quite good. First's average is above many churches' high score. Using the 8 factors analyzed here's the run down:

- Passionate Spirituality 52
- Holistic Small Groups 53
- Inspiring Worship 58
- Need-Oriented Evangelism 62
- Gift-Based Ministry 65
- Effective Structures 67
- Loving Relationships 68
- Empowering Leadership 70

While it is true that overall things look great, great churches can make themselves more available to Christ's calling through them."

The philosophy of NCD is to raise the lowest factor (in our case Passionate Spirituality) and in doing so the other factors will rise as well. The old expression, "we are only as strong as our weakest link" is followed in NCD thinking by let's strengthen that link!

For several months Mission Control wrestled with how to raise this factor. It was not easy.

First, we had to understand Passionate Spirituality. NCD definition is:

Passionate spirituality goes beyond our personal devotional times to our encounters with God in moments of daily life, and the various ways we experience and engage with his presence. The outpouring of passionate spirituality is an integration of our inner life with God into every aspect of our outward lives as well, resulting in stories of changed lives and transformation.

Second, we had to resist our instincts to have an "all church emphasis" that would somehow magically lead us to this growth.

Throughout our meetings that included several "back to the drawing board"

moments, our Coach (Rev. Hibben) reminded us repeatedly that churches are organic and like those biblical references that express the interrelatedness of the parts of the body, so also we were admonished that church bodies grow slowly and according to an intentional plan.

Finally, in late summer Mission Control conceived a process intended to help us grow organically in our passionate spirituality. It is embarrassingly simple, like following the instructions on a fertilizer bag, then waiting for the growth.

In September each of our administrative committees began participation in a four month program designed to help them think through their own spiritual background and begin to express their faith story with each other. In Fall and Winter some of our small groups have been doing the same. Great stories of faith have been told and some are even pouring out beyond our groups – this is a key element in growing our passionate spirituality; telling as Jesus says, "the great things God has done for us."

I am excited about the process and now, as we are on the edge of our first "check up" I look forward to see how we have edged forward.

Growing in Christ with you,
Rev. Mike



Idea: Teaching for a New Age

March 21

Teaching Blessings and Woes

Luke 6:12-26

March 28

Teaching the New Math

Luke 6:27-36

Worship With Us this Easter Season

Palm Sunday, March 28

Children's Procession of Palms at 8:30 & 11:00am services. Meet in the Children's Library 10 minutes before the service begins.

Breakfast sponsored by Youth

8:30-11:00am
Plan to enjoy a delicious breakfast prepared and served by our youth as a fundraiser for students to attend Summer Games University or go on the Mission Trip to Cincinnati.

Lenten Moments in the Morning

Monday - Friday, 7:00 - 7:25am, Chapel
Lay speakers followed by light breakfast

Maundy Thursday Services with Communion

1:00pm Service in the Chapel led by UMW
7:00pm Service in the Sanctuary
(For the month of April, Communion will only be served on Maundy Thursday)

Prayer Vigil

Noon on Friday to Noon on Saturday

Good Friday Service

7:00pm in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday Services, April 4

7:00am Sunrise Service led by our youth
8:30, 9:45, 11:00am Traditional Easter Services in the Sanctuary
9:45am Sunday School

The Cross Walk LENTEN MOMENTS THEME FOR 2010



Lenten Moments

Monday – Friday, March 29th – April 2nd

7:00 AM – 7:25 AM - Chapel

Breakfast served at 7:30 AM - Fellowship Hall

Devotion Topics

Monday: Jesus and the Man Who Was Paralyzed
Mark 2:1-12

With the help of his friends, he came through the roof into the presence of Jesus

Tuesday: Jesus and Zacchaeus; Luke 19:1-10
The despised tax collector

Wednesday: Jesus and the Syrophenian Women; Mark 7:24-30

Her model of faith and love led to Jesus' act of healing her daughter

Thursday: Jesus and Caiaphas; Matthew 26:58-68
The scheming high priest

Friday: Youth Devotion

Powerhouse

get connected

Where are you getting connected?

We fellowship through games and activities
We grow as we dig into God's Word
We connect with one another
and with God!!

Wednesdays

Elementary kids:
6:15 – 7:30pm Room 303/305
Preschool kids:
6:30 – 7:30pm Room 206

What's up for March??

March 24

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

6:00 Dinner in room 304
6:30 Games in room 303/305
Need more time as a Family??
Join your family at FUMC for
March Family Night...

Wednesday, March 24

6:00pm – soup & sandwich meal
6:30pm – bring your favorite game to
share and play!

Questions?? Contact Val at
val@fumcmarion.org or 373-8623

FAMILIES GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST!

March 31

AN EASTER CELEBRATION



3rd, 4th & 5th Graders...

Mark your calendars,
call your friends
Join us for a



Sunday, April 25

5:30 – 7:00pm

It's Food, Fun & Fellowship!!!
Don't miss it!

Questions? Call Val at 373-8623 or
val@fumcmarion.org

Youth Mission Trip

July 25-31 to Cincinnati, OH

Cost will be \$250 plus travel.
Space is limited to 15 people.
So sign up with Pastor Nathan ASAP.
Open to both Jr High and
Sr High students.

COMING THIS SPRING –

The Five Love Languages

FUMC Marriage and Family Studies

– Building Stronger Christian Marriages!



In *The Five Love Languages*, Dr. Gary Chapman talks about how different people express love in different ways. Some people are verbal, expressing their love in words. Others may never speak their affection, yet they show it by the things they do.

If you are interested in this class or have questions please contact Jon Moss, Pastor of Adult Discipleship at jonmoss@fumcmarion.org.

New Marriage Essentials Class



This new class covers some basic marriage topics that all good marriages need. If you are an engaged couple or are a newly married couple, you will enjoy and learn from this class. We are committed to helping you build a strong, healthy and happy marriage.

Some of the topics that will be covered in this six week class:

- Communication
- Finances
- Parents and families
- Faith
- Leisure and work
- Children

You can register for this class by calling Karen Schmitz at the church office 377-4856, emailing karen@fumcmarion.org or indicating your interest on the yellow attendance card in the pew on Sunday. This will help us in planning for needed materials.

Class starts Sunday, April 11, in Room 106 from 10:45 AM – Noon

How to be a Healthier You!

If you have a chronic illness, or are caring for someone who does, this is an opportunity you don't want to miss. **Beginning Thursday April 15**, FUMC will be hosting a **Healthy Living with a Chronic Condition Self-Management** program. The program will meet every Thursday afternoon from 1:00 to 3:30 pm and will run for 6 weeks. The class will be led by trained volunteers from St. Luke's hospital and will meet in Room 104.

The goal of the program is to achieve the greatest possible physical capability and pleasure from life. You will learn to successfully:

- Manage your symptoms
- Fight fatigue – making your daily tasks easier
- Breathe better
- Reduce stress and anxiety
- Take back control of your condition
- Communicate better with your healthcare team

Registrations are requested, so call Vicki at 377-4856, or email vicki@fumcmarion.org for more information. There is a \$20 fee for the class which covers materials, but can be waived if necessary. It is also waived for anyone who has already taken the class but would like to go through it again as a refresher.



Climb Aboard for the adventure of a lifetime...

Plan to join us this summer

June 14–19 Vacation Bible School

Kids of all ages are needed aboard.

- Crew (kids)
- Stowaways (adult & youth leaders)
- Captains & First Mates (teachers)
- and many more for decorations, preparation, etc.

Contact Val with questions – 373-8623

The Children of Olive Port



Invite you to her **90th Birthday Party**

An Open House and Card Shower

1:00-3:30pm

On Saturday, March 27
At Summit Pointe
3505 English Glen Avenue
Marion, Iowa
319-377-8098

We also know she would enjoy a card and a message.

Roget Port, Janet (Port)
Ellis and Dale Port

Spring Clean Up Day

April 24 from 8am – Noon
Keep your eyes open for sign ups

Visit our website at

www.fumcmarion.org

for information about the church, current activities, organizations, newsletter, etc.

Articles for the newsletter can be submitted by email to

norma@fumcmarion.org.





Stewardship Corner

March 21

Greeters: 8:30 8th Ave Harold & Mary Cramer
12th St Ken & Kay Stanford
11:00 8th Ave Wanda Campbell
12th St Walt & Shelby Roth

Ushers: 8:30 Glen Goehring, Josh Standley, Ned & Connie Albert
9:45 Mona Morgan
11:00 Walt, Shelby & Courtney Roth

Acolytes: 8:30 JP Grissel, Nathan Baldwin
11:00 Becca Pisarcik, Monica Richmann

March 28

Greeters: 8:30 8th Ave Tom & Joan Padley
12th St Wilbur & Sherry Busch
11:00 8th Pam Couser
12th St Chris & Mary Blanchard

Ushers: 8:30 Glen Goehring, Josh Standley, Ned & Connie Albert
9:45 Mona Morgan
11:00 Walt, Shelby & Courtney Roth

Acolytes: 8:30 JP Grissel, Nathan Baldwin
11:00 Becca Pisarcik, Monica Richmann

Attention all friendly, happy, helpful people:

We are looking for individuals, couples or families to help usher, especially for the 9:45 service. If this is something you would love to do at our 8:30, 9:45 or 11:00 services, please talk to Karen email Karen@fumcmarion.org or call 377-4856



UMM

The United Methodist Men meet on the second Saturday of the month at 8:00am for Breakfast and a Meeting in Fellowship Hall.



UMW

March 23

Executive Board
3:30pm, Adult Library

Circles

March 23
Martha
1:30pm, Mr. Beans

March 25
Sowers
9:15am, Room 104

March 30
The Bookends
Suzanne Haehlen's, 3390 Willowridge Rd
377-6269

Women's Friendship Group

The Women's Friendship Group meets on the third Monday of each month at the Pizza Ranch in Marion at 11:00am. All single women of FUMC who are interested in a time of good fellowship and good food are invited to attend at any time. Call Idella Hogan, 377-1382, for more information or with questions.

Win a Ticket to the UMW Spring Membership Brunch on May 1

Read one book from the UMW Reading Program list from February 1 through March 22. Write or email your name and book title to Rosalyn Clauson by March 22. Two names will be drawn at the March 23 Executive meeting for the Membership Brunch tickets

Televised Services

Mediacom is televising our church services on Monday evenings at 7:00pm on Mediacom Channel 18.

Early Response Team Being Formed

Marion First United Methodist Church is creating an Early Response Team. The team's purpose, along with other ERTs in Iowa, and in the nation, is to provide a Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster, take steps to prevent further damage to a person's property, listen to survivors, and observe survivors' needs and connect them to the local operations.

There are many positions within an Early Response Team including:

Team Leader - This is the person in charge of the Early Response Team. This person needs to be a leader and have an over-all understanding of the role of Early Response Teams. This person will relate directly to the Conference Early Response Team Coordinator. It should be the responsibility of the team leader to direct the work of the team.

Assistant Team Leader - This person serves as a back up to the team leader. If it is necessary for the team leader to leave the work site, the assistant then would take over the responsibilities of directing the team.

Logistics - This person is responsible for helping the team find needed supplies and for transportation of the team. The logistics person is also responsible for team safety! This is the person who would check out a site before the team walks into an area to make sure there is no danger to the team where they are to work and that the team has the equipment and ability to do the job assigned.

Base Camp Manager - This person is responsible for food, cooking, water and preparing a place to sleep if it is necessary for the team to spend the night.

Equipment Maintenance - This person is responsible for keeping any equipment that the conference may own as a part of an equipment trailer in good working order. This person may be able to do this in off hours or in an "as needed" role but should also accompany the team to a disaster site.

Safety Officer - In addition to the safety functions performed by the logistics person, another member of the team is designated to pay particular attention to the individual team members' safety. This person checks that the proper personal safety equipment is being used and that all team members are performing at optimal efficiency. When team members start to get tired, it is the responsibility of the safety officer to pull that person out to rest or hydrate as necessary.

Listener/Team Recorder - This person is the one person on the team who is designated to be the listener to the survivors. While all members of the team should ALWAYS put people before their task, this person should be a good listener. This person is NOT to provide pastoral care, but should listen to the survivors and get their story. This person will keep the records and forms for the team and be able to refer the survivors needs to members of the Conference Disaster Response Team.

There is also the need for those whom would like to "just do the work."

What's it take to be a member of an Emergency Response Team?

- Possess a spiritual commitment
- BE A TEAM PLAYER
- Understand that people are ALWAYS more important than the task at hand
- Be trained prior to assignment
- Have a positive attitude
- Be observant ... listen
- Be understanding of cultural differences
- Be understanding of the psychological stress survivors' are suffering
- Be willing to admit you do not have all the answers
- Be realistic about issues and problems that are likely to be faced
- Understand that ownership of disaster must stay with the local community

There is also the requirement to go through an Early Response Team training, and get "badged" from UMCOR. Being "badged" is now a requirement to get into any disaster area. The scheduling of this training is in the works. If you believe that you have a passion for this ministry, there will be an informational meeting on **Sunday, March 21st, at 1pm, in the FUMC Chapel.**

Tax Preparation for Your 2009 Tax Returns at Methodist Church

John Slusher will be volunteering again to do tax returns. He will be doing tax returns in the Methodist Church office basement on Thursday and Saturday mornings starting January 30. John will also be doing tax returns at the library in Hiawatha on Monday and Wednesday afternoons starting February 1. He is doing this volunteer service as an AARP tax volunteer. You don't have to be a senior citizen or a member of this church to obtain his help. The returns will be filed electronically for both the federal and state returns.

Harold Cramer and Dave Van Gorp are also AARP tax volunteers and again will be doing tax returns at the Methodist church office basement on Mondays and on the 3rd floor on Tuesdays. They start working on Monday February 1. So there are 4 days during the week that you can get help for filing your tax returns at your church.

Please make your appointment by calling HACAP at phone number 211. Any of these 3 men can help you with your tax returns.

Pantry Partners Continue

Pick up an extra can or two of food while at the grocery store to contribute to the Marion Food Pantry. Bring to church any Sunday and put in the food carts near the doors.

Suggestion for March is Macaroni and Cheese.

Suggestion for April is Canned Fruit.

Thank you for your donations - January total - 330 Jars of Peanut Butter and other items February total - 1418 Cans of Soup on Souper Bowl Sunday, 283 Cans of Soup & other items rest of month.

Caregiving Group

The Thursday Caregivers Support Group Meetings will be held on the **first and third Thursdays at 1:30pm** at Summit Pointe Senior Living, just off of 29th Avenue in Marion. The group will meet in their private dining room. Meetings begin at 1:30 and end at 3:00pm. Respite care will be offering for loved ones.

Join us for support, prayer, information, and free respite. If you have a question, call Vicki Standley at the church office, 377-4856.

All Pink "How Can I Serve?" Booklets are being recalled

Please fill yours out and return to the church or the church office as soon as possible.

Thank You

One of the Ministries of FUMC - benefiting the small membership church

Hey, Mike, just wanted to thank you for what you said Sunday in church. What you mentioned to the folks about helping us reach the smaller congregations was true on that evening! There were folks from about 6 different small churches in attendance and it was a great concert!! This could not have happened without your congregation's help.

- Phil Morgan

LECTIONARY READINGS

March 21, 2010

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

March 28, 2010

Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms

Luke 19:28-40

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 22:14-23: 56

or Luke 23:1-49

Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

BAPTISMS:

March 7, **Grace Elizabeth Estling**, daughter of Casey & Erica Estling.

March 14, **Arabella Grace Bennett**, daughter of Tim & Sarah Bennett.

DEATHS:

Mar 8, **Walter Phillips**, Des Moines, father of Glenn Phillips.

Mar 13, **Jack Hotchkiss**, family members include wife, Juanita and children John (Heather) and D'Anne.

You're invited to join us at "Carnegie Corner" any Tuesday morning from 9:00-11:00am.

We play cards & games:
500, Bridge (some weeks)
Dominoes & Table Games

Coffee Refreshments Devotions

Contact Myrna Carter or Sherry Murray for more information.

Using the Computer to search for:

- Christian websites
- Hearing the Bible
- Reading Large print scriptures
- Finding & Playing hymns
- FUMC website
- How to use free clipart
- Making greeting cards
- And more!

While this group is geared toward our Senior Citizens, anyone is welcome to attend at anytime. We occasionally have potlucks and take short trips also.

The Marion Methodist deadline schedule

Deadline dates for the next issue of the Marion Methodist is on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24 by NOON. This issue will cover from April 4-April 17, 2010. Emails are appreciated and can be sent to norma@fumcmarion.org

Church Information

First United Methodist Church **Fellowship Hall**
Corner of 12th Street and 8th Avenue 377-4252
Church Office, 1298 7th Avenue
Marion, Iowa 52302
Office 377-4856 **Caring Corner**
377-8490

Staff

Pastor Mike Morgan
mike@fumcmarion.org

Pastor of Youth and Mission, Nathan Richardson
nathan@fumcmarion.org

Director of Pastoral Care, Vicki Standley
vicki@fumcmarion.org

Business Administrator, Craig Liscum
craig@fumcmarion.org

Membership Assimilation, Karen Schmitz
karen@fumcmarion.org

Editor, Norma Swift
norma@fumcmarion.org

Director of Children's Christian Education & Discipleship, Val Lawrence
Val@fumcmarion.org

Director of Adult Christian Education & Discipleship, Jon Moss
jonmoss@fumcmarion.org

Director of Music, Mike Ransom
mikeransom@fumcmarion.org

Organist/Keyboardist, Diane Beach
diane@fumcmarion.org

Handbell Choir Directors, Mary Lee Parks
marylee@fumcmarion.org
and **Angie Moss** amos@fumcmarion.org

Children's Choir Director, Angie Moss

Youth Worship and Outreach Leader, Matt German
matt@fumcmarion.org

Caring Corner Daycare Director, Dawn Blair
dawn@fumcmarion.org

Food Service Manager, Kathy Scritchfield

Custodian, Ardyce Port
ardyce@fumcmarion.org

Assistant Custodian, Alan Arduser
alan@fumcmarion.org

Maintenance, Leon Smock
lsmock@fumcmarion.org

This newsletter is made possible by the Grace of God and is intended to lift up the Interests and Ministries of First United Methodist Church of Marion that are dedicated to His Wonderful Name.

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LABEL HERE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MARCH 21 7:45a Worship (Chapel) 8:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45a Griefshare (Room 105) 9:45a Worship-Two Songs & A Sermon (Sanctuary) 9:45a Church School for All Ages 9:45a Praise Team Practice (Carnegie - UL) 9:45a Discover FUMC - New Member Class (Rm 106) 9:45a Student Leadership Class (Flood Office UL) 11:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 12:30p Praise One Practice (Sanctuary) 1:30p Library Board (Adult Lib) 2:00p Joyful Noise 3:00p Jubilation 4:00p Bell Canto 4:00p Girl Scouts (Rm 303/305) 5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - UL & LL)	MARCH 22 8:00a Tax Preparation (Carnegie - LL) 7:00p Small Group - Labs (Rm 105) 7:00p Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	MARCH 23 8:00a Tax Prep (Carnegie - ULCC) 9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 1:30p Bible Study (Room 105) 6:45p Touch of Brass	MARCH 24 8:00a Quilters (Room 104) 1:00p Card Stamping (Carnegie - UL) 5:00p Adult Praise Team Practice (Sanctuary) 6:00p Small Group - Fawcett (Room 106) 6:15p Junior High Youth Group (Carnegie - Youth) 6:30p Bible Study (Chapel) 6:30p Powerhouse Classes 6:30p Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room) 7:30p Senior High 8:00p AA Support Group (Adult Library) 9:00p 12th Grade Bible Study (Carnegie - Pastor's Office)	MARCH 25 6:00a Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 8:00a Tax Preparation (Carnegie - LL) 9:00a Sowers Circle (Room 104) 7:00p Building Committee Interviews (Room 105)	MARCH 26 6:00a Men's Fraternity (Fellowship Hall)	MARCH 27 8:00a Tax Preparation (Carnegie - LL) 9:00a Emmaus Women (Carnegie - UL)
MARCH 28 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 7:45a Worship (Chapel) 8:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45a Worship-Two Songs & A Sermon (Sanctuary) 9:45a Church School for All Ages 9:45a Praise Team Practice (Carnegie - UL) 9:45a Griefshare (Room 105) 9:45a Discover FUMC - New Member Class (Rm 106) 9:45a Student Leadership Class (Flood Office UL) 10:30a New Member pictures (Chapel) 11:00a New Members join 11:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 12:30p Praise One Practice (Sanctuary) 1:30p Library Board (Adult Lib) 2:00p Joyful Noise 3:00p Jubilation 4:00p Bell Canto 4:00p Girl Scouts (Rm 303/305) 5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - UL & LL)	MARCH 29 7:00a Lenten Moments (Chapel) 8:00a Tax Preparation (Carnegie - LL) 7:00p Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)	MARCH 30 7:00a Lenten Moments (Chapel) 8:00a Tax Preparation (Carnegie - ULCC) 9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 1:30p Bible Study (Room 105) 6:45p Touch of Brass	MARCH 31 7:00a Lenten Moments (Chapel) 8:00a Quilters (Room 104) 5:00p Adult Praise Team Practice (Sanctuary) 6:00p Small Group - Fawcett (Room 106) 6:15p Junior High Youth Group (Carnegie - Youth) 6:30p Powerhouse Classes 6:30p Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room) 7:30p Senior High 8:00p AA Support Group (Adult Library) 9:00p 12th Grade Bible Study (Carnegie - Pastor's Office)	APRIL 1 6:00a Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 7:00a Lenten Moments (Chapel) 8:00a Tax Preparation (Carnegie - LL) 9:00a TMC (Adult Library) 1:00p Maundy Thursday Service (Chapel) 1:30p Caregivers @ Summit Pointe 6:00p Girl Scouts (Room 104) 7:00p Maundy Thursday Service (Sanctuary)	APRIL 2 7:00a Lenten Moments (Chapel) 7:00p Good Friday Service (Sanctuary)	APRIL 3 8:00a Tax Preparation (Carnegie - LL)

Noon Friday to Noon Saturday Prayer Vigil