

# Message from Pastor Dean

## Forty Days of Love

With Lent just beginning, I thought it would be appropriate to share just a snippet from the 40 Days of Love material with you:

*“ He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.”*

1 Peter 1:19 (NLT)

How much are you worth? Look at the cross. Jesus said, I’m willing to die for you. You are so worthwhile God says I’ll pay the ultimate price. I’m willing to give my Son for you. That’s how valuable you are.

You want to know how much you matter to God? You look at the cross. Jesus who had been whipped and beaten and tortured and scourged and nailed to the cross and with arms outstretched he’s saying, “I love you this much. This is how much you matter to me. This much is how much you matter to me. I love you this much.” The cross proves your value.

## “40 Days of Love” Bible Study Groups

You are invited to join a study group:

Monday @ 7:00 p.m. @ The McPherson’s

Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m. @ The Church

Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m. @ The Church

Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m. @ The Joyce’s

Saturday @ 7:00 p.m. @ The Herrman’s

Call the church for more details 527-4607.

## Join Us for Supper & Worship During Lent

We hope you will join us each Wednesday during Lent for...

Supper at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Worship at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

A freewill offering for missions is received at the suppers. We thank the following groups for volunteering to serve a supper:

Feb. 25 Education Committee – Potato bar

Mar. 4 God’s Kids – Taco salad

Mar. 11 Men of Grace – Chili

Mar. 18 U.M.W. –Potato & ham casserole

Mar. 25 MOPS – Sloppy Joes

Apr. 1 Mission Outreach Committee - ?

## **HOMEMADE** *Chicken Noodle Dinner*

**March 7 – 5-7 P.M.**

**Grace United Methodist Church**

**\$7...Adults      \$5...12 & Under**

## Prayer & Praise Sisters

You are invited to join the Prayer & Praise Sisters each Wednesday morning for prayer, praise and some fun activities:

... March 4 at 8:15 they will meet at Patti's Place, Glenwood and celebrate Verna Kelley's birthday.

... March 18 they will meet at the church at 8:14 a.m. to carpool to Village Inn, Council Bluffs and celebrate Vera Tackett's birthday.

... March 11 & 25 they will meet in Fellowship Hall at 8:15 a.m.

If you have questions call Louise Weber.

## MOPS Meeting

MOPS will have their meeting March 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Library Annex. Kim Frink from Parents as Teachers will present on Developmental Readiness. Child care will be at Grace UMC.

The MOPS group will serve the Lenten Supper on March 25 and the Book Club will meet March 25 at Amy Richards' home at 7:00 p.m.

Join other mothers at a MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) meeting! For more information about MOPS contact Monica Mayberry or Amber Dyer. MOPS have a website. Check it out at [www.freewebs.com/mopsofgrace](http://www.freewebs.com/mopsofgrace).

## Easter Lilies and Recognition

The Worship Committee is inviting members of the congregation to remember family and friends on Easter morning. This can be done through the purchase of an Easter lily (cost \$13.00) for use on Easter Sunday to decorate the sanctuary or by designating your gift to our Building Fund. The gift or lily can be in honor or in memory of your special person(s). Recognition of the gifts and the lilies will be printed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. Lilies will be purchased from Country Flowers & Water Gardens. You are welcome to take your lily home after the 10:30 worship service on Easter morning or the week following Easter.

Please fill out your order form and place it, accompanied with your check or cash, in the offering plate or mail it to Grace United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 450, Glenwood, IA 51534. Your order or monetary gift must be received by **April 5**.

## Join United Methodist Women

**March 5** – The U.M.W. unit meeting is at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. A special offering will be received for "A Call to Prayer & Self-Denial." Lynn Mueller will provide the worship center. Sunny Seitz will present the program and Marie Hopp will present the devotion. Hostesses are Lynn Mueller, Donna Bishop and Pat Conrad.

U.M.W. volunteers will provide the Lenten Supper on Wednesday, March 18 and serve at the Bloodmobile on Monday, March 30.

**March 9** – Faith Circle will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Church Lounge. Susan Church will provide the devotion and program. Hostess is Mary Ann Gregory.

**March 16** – Hope Circle will meet in the Church Lounge at 7:30 p.m. Karen Jones will provide the devotion. Phyllis Schwaninger will present the program. Louise Weber is the hostess.

## **Mission Outreach News:**

### **Food/Meal Ministry**

We now have in place a new food/meal ministry. We have eleven teams, each consisting of five members. The food ministry is designed to help people that need meals taken to them due to an illness, birth of a child, hospitalization, etc. Please notify the church staff (527-4607) if you need or you know of someone who may appreciate having a prepared meal delivered to them.

Our volunteers want to serve! Don't be shy, we're here for you. Our purpose:  
Love God. Love Others. Serve the Kingdom.

### **One Great Hour of Sharing**

Necessities of life include food, shelter and clothing. However, many people around the world lack these basic necessities. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering, received on March 22, makes those necessities a reality by sharing the goodness of life with those who hurt.

When a catastrophe occurs, your offerings to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to reach out and ease the pain and suffering by providing humanitarian aid of food, shelter, health and peace.

By giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, you enable UMCOR to keep the promise that 100 percent of designated gifts go to the specific causes. Unlike other mission programs, UMCOR receives no World Service or other apportionment money. This is why your faithful support of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering is crucial.

God calls us to be the hands, heart and hope of the church for people who are suffering. Through the One Great Hour of Sharing, we enable the church to answer that call. A special offering envelope will be in the bulletin on Sunday, March 22 or you may send your check to the church and designate OGHS on the memo line. Please give generously. Be there. Be hope.

## **Mark Your Calendar – Mission Auction – Sunday, April 26**

**Auction Items & Bidders are Needed!!**

## **Christian Education News**

### **On the March Calendar:**

**March 1<sup>st</sup>:** The Pre-K/Kindergarten class will be serving Fellowship. We ask the children's families to provide 2 dozen cookies or bars, help set up and clean up afterward. *Thank you* for your support of this ministry! Remember, the 'Free-Will' offering proceeds are for the Sunday School Wing needs.

**March 15<sup>th</sup>:** The 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade class will design the Bulletin Covers for the march 22<sup>nd</sup> Worship Services.

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> is Camp Sunday!** We will have a guest counselor from Wesley Woods come and tell us all about the camping opportunities this summer and teach us a song or two! Camp Catalogs and scholarship forms will be available at that time. Everyone is encouraged to wear camping-type clothing and classrooms may turn into campsites!

**Joy Choir Sings!** This choir will sing at the 8:45 service during the Children's Message.

**March 29:** is Youth Sunday. Our church youth will serve as Liturgist, Ushers & Greeters during the 10:30 worship service.

## What's Happening in Small Group Ministries?

**Jesus' Shining Stars:** Is a mid-week program for kids in the Pre-k through the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The Stars meet each Wednesday from 3:30-4:30 in the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom. We have fun learning about the 'Fruit of the Spirit'. This month will be all about "Goodness" and how our right actions can help others do what is good!

**Joy Choir:** During our July in January Hotdog Luncheon, it was fun for the Faithful Frogs to sing "God Bless America" while the Harmony Hands accompanied them on the Bells. This is a great tradition for the Joy Choir! On February 22<sup>nd</sup> (during the 10:30 service-), the Joy Choir sang about God's Love. They are learning the sign language for Jesus Loves Me. On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, this choir will sing during the 8:45 a.m. Thank you to the parents that help support this choir by their presence.

**Harmony Hands Bell Choir:** Harmony Hands would like to invite all 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> graders to join their choir. They meet each week in their regular Sunday School Classroom (9-10 a.m.) Come play with your friends!

**Grace Notes:** This choir just keeps growing, growing, and growing! They all sound great and are excited to be planning another performance.

**God's Kids:** God's Kids will be serving the meal before the Lenten service on March 4th. They will meet at 4:30 to prepare, serve and clean up until 6:30. Please wear your T-shirts if you have them and be ready to cook up some Taco Salad fixings. Any parents that would like to come and help would be very much appreciated. Call Lori at 527-4196 if you have any questions.

## What's Happening in Sunday School?

**The Toddlers & 2's Class:** This class is learning about sharing and helping others by simply using sticker activities and showing pictures to these small children. The children have learned the songs, 'Jesus Loves Me' and 'Jesus Loves the Little Children'. They have been talking about the "Golden Rule" and Love and have been learning to pick up their toys after their snacks. We are sure looking forward to Easter!

Thank you to Krystal Wyatt, Laura Lambert, Amber Dyer, CrisDee Plambeck, Misty Trumble, and Julie Godbout. We are so grateful for all of your help and wonderful ideas!

**The Pre-K/ K Class:** The Faithful Frogs have been learning all about Jesus and his life growing up. They have learned that Jesus wants them to spread the "Good News" as He and his disciples and many others did long, long ago. They have gone on many great adventures learning how Jesus taught others in the church, out on the water and in many towns.

In coming weeks the Faithful Frogs will be learning about Jesus and the Children, Giving to the Lord, and The Last Supper. In Luke 18:6 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me".

We continue to learn all about God's many creatures and how they live through the long winter months.

The class has made special "Good News" and "God Loves You" handouts that they gave to others to 'share the good news'!

We are looking forward to serving Fellowship Time on March 1<sup>st</sup>!

**The 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Class: (The Holy Bees!)** This class is buzzing about learning to follow Jesus! Will there ever "bee" a Bible verse party? Come help your friends, get the other Bees out of the hive!

**The Jr. High Class:** This class is going on an Amazing Bible Race this spring, March - May. This is an online competition with other youth throughout the country. This race is a team event where they keep each other accountable. They want to earn as many points as possible! If you are in Jr. High, come be a part of our team. Curious? Go to [www.amazingrace.com](http://www.amazingrace.com).

**The Sr. High Class** is still using the “The Good God Theater” series. This group is lead by the Three Wise Guys and Ron always brings treats! Please: No Cell Phones!

**The Adult Class:** This fun-loving, but studious group is led by Larry Herrman. They are studying the book of Hebrews and will begin a study of the book of James. Larry says that they have books from Back to the Bible that are informative and help the class study the Word of God. Great Stuff! Please join them!!

**God’s Word is Alive!**