**GILBERT COMMUNITY CHURCH – UNITED METHODIST**

**202 Wisconsin Avenue West**

**MARCH - APRIL 2024**

Pastor Mary Lou Sixberry

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**PASTOR’S CORNER**

Well, we are officially in the Lenten Season and I hope each of you are using and enjoying this year’s Lenten Devotional with the hope it will assist you as you experience Lent and the preparation for Easter. Lent is the time for repentance and coming closer to God. It seems appropriate that taking the extra time to read an additional daily devotion as a good start.

Being in Lent, I find myself thinking what I can do in my life to honor this part of the church year. Some people celebrate Lent by giving up something, a favorite food or activity. Some years I have looked each day at what I have and donated something which I realized I really do not need so many of them or even the item itself, but someone else may need it, that way having two great outcomes, someone is able to have something they need and I am not wasting space in my closets and shelves. The one I try to do every day is to think up something extra to share God’s Love with someone else. It doesn’t have to be anything big or time consuming. It could be as simple as calling someone I felt may be lonely or I hadn’t contacted for a long time. Everyone loves to get mail, other than bills no matter their age, so sending a note saying you are thinking of them. I am sure you can think of ways that may make someone else’s day. With majority of Lent being in March and the fact this is month that donations to the Quad City Food Shelf are increased maybe you can put an food item aside for them to get an envelope and each day of the rest of Lent put a dollar in it for the food shelf. If you do the monetary giving please mark for the Quad City Food Shelf and DeEtta in her great wisdom and organization will make sure to get it to the food shelf. It may help if you got it in by Palm Sunday. All I know is that by doing for other we can share God’s Love. I will admit that I am more into doing something for others than giving something up.

 During Lent we have two special Sunday services. Palm Sunday is on March 24th with Easter Sunday on March 31st. Besides the Sunday services during Lent we have two special services available for you to attend. You are invited to attend on March 28th at 5:00 p.m. the Maundy Thursday Services at Trinity in Hoyt Lakes and on March 29th there are Good Friday Services at 4:00 p.m. at the church.

With spring we start thinking about the mission project we will be sending to the MN Annual Conference at the end of May. As a church we are planning again to put together 120 hygiene kits to take with us. We need to raise two dollars a kit, a dollar to buy toothpaste when they are sent out to a disaster and a dollar to help with the shipping, so a total of $240.00. If you wish to help with raising these funds, please give DeEtta your donation and let her know that it is for the hygiene kits.

The Bible Study is the Women of the Bible this Spring and depending on when we complete it, we may be able to tied blankets again or they will have to wait for the end of the year.

Remember that Lent is a time we are to be reminded that we are to grow closer to God through service to others, not just this season but all year long. Mission projects are only one example of how we as a church do so, but do not limit yourself to only those. So during the Lenten Season, I pray that as a church we will serve our Heavenly Father and through our service each of our personal faiths wilow. As a church we are to support each other, for we support others on their individual paths of faith, we will find our faith also grows.

Take care of yourselves and your loved ones. God Bless each of you. Remember He is always only a prayer away.

Pastor Mary Lou

**MISSIONS**

March is Quad City Food Shelf Month…. The time of the year when all donations are matched. The weight of all food items are donated is doubled. Likewise, cash gifts are doubled also. Food Shelf organizations have access to sources and suppliers at much reduced rates, purchasing groceries at up to seven times the buying power of a normal grocery store.

**EASTER GARDEN**

We are looking for anyone willing to provide flowers/plants for our Easter Garden on the altar for Easter on Sunday, March 31st. The flowers/plants can be brought to the church on Saturday, March 30th. Please don’t bring Easter lilies as some people have issues due to their strong scent.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Remember that all ages are welcome and encouraged to attend. Join us for 45 minutes of Bible stories, music and crafts!

**AD COUNCIL/EVA KIEREN CIRCLE**

Our next Ad Council meeting will be Wednesday, April 17th at 10:00 a.m. Please join us.

**CHURCH CLEANING.**

Cleaning is scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. If you are available, please come and help. Many hands make light work!

**DIRECTIONS FOR CHURCH WEBSITE**

Directions for the church website. Open your browser on your computer, Ipad or phone. Type in [www.gilbertcommunitychurch.org](http://www.gilbertcommunitychurch.org) – HIT ENTER – this will bring you to the church website. Once into the church website, click on the section you would like to access, for example Daily Devotionals, click and it will open at the bottom of the page. If you choose to watch a Sunday Service, just click on the zoom service (RED) and click the picture of the church with the date of the service you would like to view.

**NOISY OFFERING**

The last Sunday of each month we will be holding a Noisy Offering…. In this offering we will pass a can and everyone will bring pocketfuls of change to put in the can and make lots of noise. Our donation for 2024 will be Bill’s House…

The donation from the Noisy Offering to the Gilbert Police Department was $341.00.

**COFFEE AN’s**

March 3rd Sue will be serving…

April 14th Warren, MaryAnn and Lyle will be serving…

**BIRTHDAYS** **BIRTHDAYS**

March 11th Jack Makela April 3rd Bryan Kern

March 13 John Malevich April 19th Lyle Matteson

 April 20th Brooke Kern

**ANNIVERSARIES ANNIVERSARIES**

 April 5th Ken and Wyonne Anderson

 April 5th Don and Terri Peterson

**SCRIPTURE**March 3rd Psalm 19 (UMH 750) April 7th Psalm 133 (UMH 850)

 Exodus 20:1-17 Acts 4:32-35

 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 1 John 1:1-2:2

March 10th Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (UMH 830) April 14th Psalm 4 (UMH 741)

 Numbers 21:4-9 Acts 3:12-19

 Ephesians 2:1-10 1 John 3:1-7

March 17th Psalm 51:1-12 (UMH 785) April 21st Psalm 23 (UMH 754)

 Jeremiah 31:31-34 Acts 4:5-12

 Hebrews 5:5-10 1 John 3:16-24

March 24th Psalm 31:9-16 April 28th Psalm 22:25-31

 Isaiah 50:4-9 Acts 8:28-40

 Philippians 2:5-11 1 John 4:7-21

March 31st Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

 Acts 10:34-43

 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

**LITURGIST SCHEDULES**

March 3rd Warren Ross April 7th Deborah Ross-Jagunich

March 10th Don Peterson April 14th Sue Malevich

March 17th Norma Purkat April 21st Warren Ross

March 24th John Malevich April 28th Don Peterson

March 31st DeEtta Annala

**USHER SCHEDULES** – we are back to using Ushers

March 3rd John Malevich April 7th Warren Ross

March 10th DeEtta Annala April 14th John Malevich

March 17th Deborah Ross-Jagunich April 21st DeEtta Annala

March 24th Don Peterson

March 31st Tom and Deanna Hafdahl

**YARD WORK SCHEDULES**

Feb 26th-March 3rd Matteson April 1st-7th Jagunich

March 4th-10th Kerzie/Hafdahl April 8th-14th Matteson

March 11th-17th Kern April 15th-21st Peterson

March 18th-24th Peterson April 22nd-28th Kerzie/Hafdahl

March 25th-31st John and Norma Z. April 29th-May 5th Kern