

*Faith United Methodist Church*

1616 Blue Avenue

Zanesville, Ohio 43701

**March Newsletter Deadline:**  
February 20 at 10:00 a.m.  
**E-mail submissions to:** [fumcza@gmail.com](mailto:fumcza@gmail.com)  
**Be sure to put "Newsletter"**  
**in your subject field.**



## **From the Pastor's Desk**

Dear Friends,

Easy is in. Everything is about easy. From the food we eat – microwavable, fast food, and meal kits – to the things we buy – even shopping for a car is now done in your own home! Order ahead online and just pull up to the store to pick up your order! There is a goal for it all to be easy. If given a choice of two options, we often prefer the one that requires the least effort. Why work hard if we don't have to, right? It's very reasonable and logical. And this sensibility spills over into our faith and theology. If God really loves us, wouldn't God want life to be easy for us? We typically want life to be easier for our children and others that we love, don't we? Hasn't a life of ease always been humanity's goal? We think, "If only I had money, my life would be easier." Or, "If only this problem would go away, life would be great!"

Of course, the reality is that life is dull without challenges, and we learn the most when facing life's difficulties. But who *wants* difficulties and challenges?! Who would choose to work hard for something that is just as available through an easier route? Yet, not only do we grow more from difficulties and challenges, we rarely have much choice in the matter. The Apostle Paul empathizes, for he faced many hardships in his life. In 2 Corinthians 4, he writes, "<sup>8</sup> We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. <sup>9</sup> We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. <sup>10</sup> Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies... <sup>11</sup> For our pre-

## From the Pastors Desk cont.

sent troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! <sup>18</sup> So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen." And, in Romans 8:37, as Paul considers the outcome of the difficulties we face in life, he writes, "in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."

We may not like challenges and difficulties, we may prefer taking the easy way, but the reality is that sometimes the more difficult path is more beneficial. Likewise, sometimes watching those we love struggle is painful for all involved, yet that struggling may be the only path to growth. My preference is still for life to be easy for all of us! Yet I know it is neither practical nor profitable. Going through struggle has shown me how God works through others and the great depth of compassion of the human soul. Being a pastor has also shown me how universal difficulties and challenges truly are. No one avoids these realities. And if you somehow are thinking that your life really is 'easy', perhaps you have merely become skilled at keeping yourself safe and insulated from the world's problems.

Where do you see challenges or difficulties in the world around you? How can you relate? Where is God calling you to help? And if the difficulties are 'close to home', know that God is faithful and will sustain you. Connect with those in the Body of Christ and allow others to share their experiences to encourage and guide you. God will sustain and guide!

The final Wednesday in February is Ash Wednesday. It begins Lent, the annual season of reflection on the suffering and death of Jesus in preparation for the resurrection and celebration of Easter. It reminds us that suffering is a part of life and that even Jesus suffered, and, therefore, he understands our suffering. I hope you will make plans now to journey through Lent with us and to be present in weekly worship that you may experience the grace of God as you choose paths of greater or lesser resistance.

Blessings,

Pastor Joy Wigal

Church is a body.

Church is a group of sinners, saved by grace, living in fellowship as saints.

Church is a body of believers bound as brothers and sisters by an eternal love.

Church is a holy ground where sinners stand as equals before the Throne of Grace.

Church is a refuge for broken hearts and a training ground for mighty warriors.

Church is a converging of confrontation and invitation. Where sin is confronted and hearts are invited to seek restoration.

Church is a lesson in faith and trust.

Church is a bearer of burdens and a giver of hope.

Church is a family. A family coming together, setting aside differences, forgetting past mistakes, rejoicing in the smallest of victories.

Church, the body, and the circle of sinners-turned-saints, is where He resides, and if we ask, He is faithful to come.

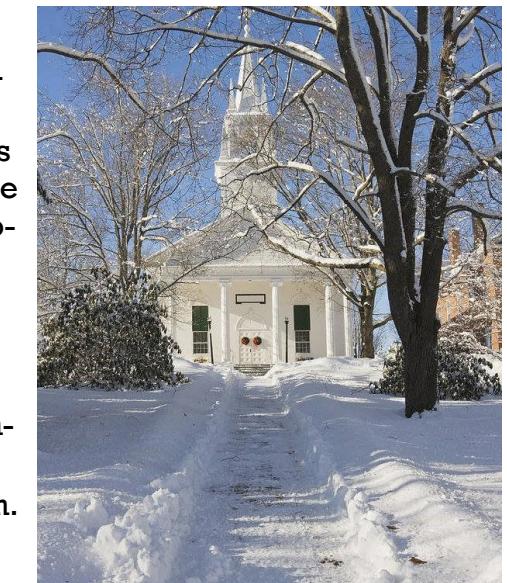
So even on the hard days at church—

The days when I am at odds with a friend, When I've fought with my husband because we're late once again. When I've walked in bearing burdens heavier than my heart can handle, yet masking the pain with a smile on my face. When I've worn a scarlet letter, under the microscope. When I've longed for a baby to hold, or fought tears as the lyrics were sung. When I've walked back in, afraid and broken, after walking away.

I'll remember, He has never failed to meet me there.

Church is a body, a family, a place to love God and love others through our struggles!

--Choosing by Arianna Freelen.



## **Something to Think About...**

Choosing by Arianna Freelen.

Church is hard.

Church is hard for the person walking through the doors, afraid of judgment.

Church is hard for the pastor's family, under the microscope of an entire body.

Church is hard for the prodigal soul returning home, broken and battered by the world.

Church is hard for the girl who looks like she has it all together, but doesn't.

Church is hard for the couple who fought the entire ride to service.

Church is hard for the single mom, surrounded by couples holding hands, and seemingly perfect families.

Church is hard for the widow and widower with no invitation to lunch after service.

Church is hard for the deacon with an estranged child.

Church is hard for the person singing worship songs, overwhelmed by the weight of the lyrics.

Church is hard for the man insecure in his role as a leader.

Church is hard for the wife who longs to be led by a righteous man.

Church is hard for the nursery volunteer who desperately longs for a baby to love.

Church is hard for the single woman and single man, praying God brings them a mate.

Church is hard for the teenage girl, wearing a scarlet letter, ashamed of her mistakes.

Church is hard for the sinners.

Church is hard for me.

It's hard because on the outside it all looks shiny and perfect. Sunday best in behavior and dress.

However, underneath those layers, you find a body of imperfect people, carnal souls, selfish motives.

But, here is the beauty of church—

Church isn't a building, mentality, or expectation.

## **Basement Sale**

We are once again participating in the annual community yard sales. On May 2, (with a rain date of May 9) we will have items available for the community to purchase. We will set up in the Fellowship Hall throughout the week prior to the sale. Barb Wolfe and Don and Roberta Covert have volunteered to serve food and we have a sign up sheet for more volunteers on the welcome table in the Narthex.

When you are doing your Spring cleaning, please remember to save items for the basement sale!

If you have any questions, please contact the church office by phone or email.



Job 37:6-10 "For to the snow He says, 'Fall on the earth,' And to the downpour and the rain, 'Be strong.' "He seals the hand of every man, That all men may know His work. "Then the beast goes into its lair And remains in its den

## **United Methodist Women**

### **Eventide Circle**

The ladies of Eventide Circle will meet at noon on February 6 at Bryan Place.

### **New Hope Circle**

New Hope Circle will meet on February 9 at 6:00 p.m. for a Valentine's dinner out.

### **UMW Executives**

The Executives will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 4.

Isaiah 55:10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;

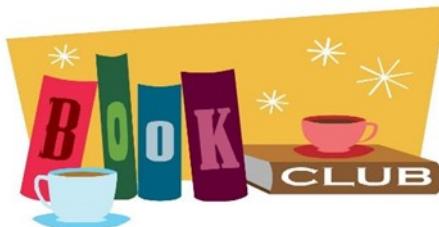
## **Birthday's**

February 3—Cassie Donovan  
February 3—Reese Donovan  
February 3—Pat Tolle  
February 15—Orlen Bates, Jr.  
February 22—Thea Crawmer  
February 24—Don Wolfe



Acts 27:12 Because the harbor was not suitable for wintering, the majority reached a decision to put out to sea from there, if somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, facing southwest and northwest, and spend the winter there.

# **United Methodist Women 2020 Reading Program**



We are ready to begin our 2020 UMW Book Club! We have chosen the books that meet the program requirements of our mission emphases. Below are the book titles and meeting dates. The time and location of the meetings vary and that information will be given as we approach the next book and date.

Falling into Place by Hattie Kauffman. Mission Emphasis: Leadership Development. We will meet on Monday, March 23, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Susie Dunlap will host.

You may acquire the book as you wish (a library, Amazon, Kindle). The UMW will provide 2-3 copies as they become available. See Barb Wolfe to get on the waiting list.

The other books and dates are:

On Pluto, Inside the mind of Alzheimer's written by Greg O'Brien. Mission Emphasis: Nurturing for Community. Meeting date: Monday, May 18, 2020.

Immigration and Justice for our Neighbors written by Jennifer Clark and Miriam Downey. Mission Emphasis: Social Action. Meeting date: Monday, July 27, 2020.

My Life and Lesser Catastrophes written by Christina Schofield, Mission Emphasis: Spiritual Growth. Meeting date: September 28, 2020.

"READER'S CHOICE" –Mission Emphasis: Education through Mission. You will be given a wide range of books to choose from. Meeting date: Monday, November 23, 2020.

## **Servant Schedule**

### **February 2**

Usher/Greeter:  
Floyd & Pat Tolle, Randy & Jeri Schreiber  
Liturgist:  
Randy Schreiber  
Nursery:  
Heather DeGarmo  
Communion Servers:  
Heather DeGarmo, Jim Tignor,  
Floyd & Pat Tolle

### **February 9**

Usher/Greeter:  
Don & Roberta Covert, Jim Tignor, Orlen Bates, Jr.  
Liturgist:  
Phil Allen  
Nursery:  
Cindy Howard & Pat Tolle

### **February 16**

Usher/Greeter:  
Mark & Thea Crawmer, Chris & Heather DeGarmo  
Liturgist:  
Marsha Kelly  
Nursery:  
Amanda Hatfield & Jessica Stonecypher

### **February 23**

Usher/Greeter:  
Susie Dunlap, Nonny Brackman,  
Beth Dougherty, Teresa Felton  
Liturgist:  
Roberta Covert  
Nursery:  
Cindy Howard & Pat Tolle

## Calendar

Sunday, February 2	
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Worship	10:30 a.m.
Monday, February 3	
Trustee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 4	
UMW Executive Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, February 6	
Eventide Circle at Bryan Place	12:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 9	
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Worship	10:30 a.m.
Paint Party	2:00 p.m.
New Hope Valentine's Dinner out	6:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 16	
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Worship	10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, February 18	
Finance Meeting	6:00 p.m.
Leadership Meeting	6:45 p.m.
Thursday, February 20	
Newsletter Deadline	10:00 a.m.
Sunday, February 23	
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Worship	10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, February 26	
Ash Wed. Service @ Grace UMC	7:00 p.m.

## Prayer List

*Australia  
Tom Burrows  
Thea Crawmer  
Ernie DeGarmo  
Steve DeGarmo  
Marlene Farley  
P.C. Fitz  
Friends and Family  
Homeless Community  
Eric Howard  
Family of Wendell Huhn  
All Levels of Leadership  
Betty Miller  
Jerry Moore, Jr.  
Joesy Moore  
Barbara Morris  
Joann Norman  
Karen Norman  
Parlin Family  
Joanne Peterman  
Billie Jo & Karen Sue Royer  
Steve Summers  
Greg Williamson  
Logan Wolford  
Medical Faith Shut-ins:  
Henrietta Hurst  
Frances Johnson  
Kathleen McCutcheon*

*Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless otherwise requested.*