



LIVING AMIDST THE THORNS:
CHANGE AND RECONCILIATION

MARCH 6, 2016



FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH *of* KENOSHA

March 6, 2016 - 8:00 & 10:30

Third Sunday in Lent

Order of Worship to the Glory of God

*Please rise, in body or spirit

UMH = the red United Methodist Hymnal | **TFWS** – the black The Faith We Sing book

“One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn’t as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people, even those in deep distress, and perhaps help them find self-confidence and inner healing.” - Jean Vanier, *Community And Growth*

“I’ll name my town “Unwelcome,” and the sign will say, “Welcome to Unwelcome.”
- Jarod Kintz, *This Book Has No Title*

Announcements

We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship and service.

Thanks be to God.

Joys

We thank God for these blessings.

Thanks be to God.

Concerns

For these persons and all who are in need.

Hold your people near, O God.

Forming the Community

As we gather to worship, we form a unique type of community, focused not on ourselves, but on the Holy One. We need to know one another in order to intentionally form this community of faith. Some have known each other for years, and others do not know anyone present here. By asking three or four people a simple question, we come to know more about them than we knew when we entered this Sanctuary – even the people we have known for many years. Worshiping as a community is quite different from worshiping as a collection of isolated individuals!

Prelude

“What Wondrous Love Is This?”

arr. Sanborn

*Call to Worship

The mercy of the Lord, who comes to seek
and save the lost, be with you all.

And also with you.

God is too immense for the universe to contain, yet is closer to us than anything or anyone else.

God is nearer than our heart beat, closer than thoughts and feelings.

God is pure perfection, perfect beauty, yet is not disdainful of our imperfect lives and fragmentary praise.

God is our light and salvation, joy of the heart's desiring.

*Hymn of Praise

"This Is a Day of New Beginnings"

UMH 383

Prayer of Brokenness and Confession

Merciful God...

**We hide from the genuine nature of our relationships,
glossing over disputes and disruptions,
instead of confronting actual hurts,
with compassionate listening and understanding.**

**Our apologies focus on the feelings of others
caused by our actions and words,
instead of our actions and words themselves.**

**Even at our most eloquent we insert a "but" into an apology
followed by a further explanation of our "right-ness"**

**We escalate petty differences into moral outrage,
in a personal quest for self-importance,**

**And while we may serve with great integrity,
we are resentful of those who do not meet our standards.**

**Claiming again our self-right-ness as just excuse.
we create a false hiding place.**

Help us come to ourselves.

**Forgive us for the sins we name;
save us from what we hide. Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

God is faithful and reconciles us to himself through Jesus Christ. For Christ's sake our sins are forgiven. We are a new creation in Christ. In God's righteousness we have our true hiding place. Now we are commissioned to be ambassadors for Christ to the glory of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Anthem 8:00

"Gospel Gems"

arr. James A Firchow

Five for Hymn

10:30

"Just As I Am"

arr. Jeff Miller

Chancel Choir

Dr. Woodrow Hodges, director

The Epistle Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Ministry with Young Christians

(The congregation sings the chorus of "Jesus Loves Me" (UMH 191) as the children come forward.)

*Gospel Processional

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"
(*stanzas 1 and 3*)

UMH 269

*Gospel Lesson

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with

OF PRODIGALS AND NEW CREATIONS

According to Merriam-Webster a prodigal is a spendthrift who makes extravagant purchases. We think of the person as wasteful, but also add an air of poor judgment and bad living. In the case of the Parable of the Prodigal Son, the older brother is quite sure the younger son has not only wasted his inheritance, but spent the money for less than honorable activities.

Keep the thought of the evil (at least the elder brother thinks of him that way) younger son in your mind as we think back to Paul's second letter to the Church at Corinth. He tells us that we are not to recognize people by human standards, even though we used to know Christ that way. He says, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" Notice, he doesn't say, "If anyone is in Christ according to my terms, or the understandings of certain groups of people." Paul allows no room for judgment on our part. He is seeing the light of Christ in the faces of those who are in Christ. He is seeing the new creation that is taking place because of God working in the lives of the people. These are

words of celebration. Meanwhile, back on the farm, the father sees his once lost son coming home. He is overjoyed. He runs to meet him, throws his arms around him, and welcomes him extravagantly. Later, his elder son hangs back outside and refuses to welcome his own brother.

We live in a judgmental world. We constantly compare people to a set of human standards. Interestingly, many of these standards have changed through the years. Certainly, women's roles have changed in the church. In 1 Corinthians 14:34-35, Paul writes, "As in all the churches of the saints, women should be silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be subordinate, as the law also says...For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church." As the old Virginia Slims cigarette commercial said, "You've come a long way, baby." If it weren't for the women, the church would have died centuries ago!

Still, we build barriers. The early church, while not perfect, was far more culturally diverse than most of our modern churches. In the earliest days of Methodism in this country, blacks and whites

worshiped together. Richard Allen was even a lay preacher at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church in Baltimore. He was born into slavery, but bought his freedom in 1780. In 1794 he founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church because there was no longer proper welcome for people of color at St. George's.

The lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities have been told by many churches that they are not welcome. They have been told they are sinners and not loved by God. They have been treated the same way the older brother looked upon his "prodigal" younger brother. One of the things we love about this story is the unconditional love of the Father. Paul reminds us that we are not to view people from a human point of view. "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation...see, everything has become new!" "For everyone born, there is a place at the table.

"YESTERDAY, TODAY, RECOMMITTING TO THE FUTURE OF NORTHCOTT"

The 55th Annual Meeting and Dinner

Sunday, April 24, 2016

St. Martin DePorres

128 West Burleigh Street | Milwaukee, WI

Gathering 2:00 PM | Dinner 4:00 pm

Ticket Cost: \$40 per person

Please send your check or money order on
or before Monday, April 11th, 2016, to:

Northcott Neighborhood House

c/o Darlene

2460 North 6th Street

Milwaukee, WI 53212

(You will not receive a ticket, but must check in on the day of the event)

THE HIGHLIGHTER

First United Methodist Church

March 6, 2016

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9am-12pm

Mon, Wed, Thu
1pm-3pm

Contact Information

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Dr Amy-Jill Levine speaking at 10:30 am service
March 13

Fine Arts @ First, Master Singers of Milwaukee
Sun., Mar. 13 @ 3pm

3rd Annual Women's Day of Fun & Reflection
Sat., April 30

FAITH FORMATION

Children's Faith formation

- Pre-K - grade 1 continues Sparkhouse Bible Study
- Grades 2-4 continue with Legos Faith Builders
- Tweens - Connect Bible study
- High School join Adult Study after the early service in the Wesley Wing. We will be discussing Ken Carter's *Near the Cross*

Adult Study Adult Study begins after the 8am service in the Wesley Wing. Pastor Tim is leading us in a study of Ken Carter's *Near the Cross*, which focuses on Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

SECOND 50

March 16 - No meeting.

April 6 - "Advanced Health Care Directive, Part 1"
April 20 - "Advance Health Care Directive, Part 2"

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One of the special Sundays will be celebrated today. This Sunday highlights sharing the goodness of life with those who hurt; offering provides administrative expenses for UMCOR and support programs of food, shelter, peace and health. There is a special envelope in the bulletin for your donations. General agencies that provide resources for these activities are UMCOR, General Board of Global Ministries and UM Communications.

3RD ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

will take place on the east lawn near the big tree beginning at 10:30 on Saturday, March 26. This event is open to the public.

UW-P RELIGIOUS FORUMS

On Monday March 7, 12 noon, Molinaro hall, Room 105, *When Clergy Question Their Faith* will be presented by Schlomo Levin, Former Rabbi of Lake Park Synagogue, Milwaukee. This forum is free and open to the public. Sessions normally last about an hour. No parking citations will be issued during Forum hours. Information on the April and May forums is at the Welcome Desk tables.

GRIEFSHARE

From Mourning to Joy, a Christian based 12 week, grief support group, will begin on Saturday, April 2, at 10:30, in the Wesley Wing. Sessions are open to any adult in the community who is struggling with the loss of a loved one and has not attended a previous session. There is a \$15.00 work book fee. Registration is required. See info at the Welcome Desk.

SATURDAY SISTERS

Saturday, March 12, in the Great Room at 11am for coffee; meeting at 11:30.

RECONCILING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Greetings to all of you from the Reconciling Committee! We are approaching the first step in the voting process, which is to take a straw poll to determine members' thoughts and feelings about the welcoming statement we would like to adopt for our church. This polling will take place at both services on March 20. There will be a ballot in your bulletin for you to read and fill out, then place in the offering plate or special collection plates on your way out of the service. The welcoming statement we would like to adopt looks like this:

Convinced that all people are created in the image of the loving God, and that "in Christ there is no longer Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for all are one..." First United Methodist Church of Kenosha believes that having "open hearts, open minds, open doors" means we are called to share God's welcome with all people. We embrace diversity and believe every person is of sacred worth and a beloved child of God. We commit ourselves to the hospitality Jesus taught by creating a place of safety and spiritual sanctuary for all people. We welcome into full participation in the life of this church people of every race, ethnicity, age, ability, physical or mental condition, socioeconomic status, political affiliation, gender identity/transgender, sexual orientation (lesbian, gay, bisexual), family structure or marital status. We invite all people into the way of Jesus Christ to grow together in Christian faith and go forth into the world to serve.

The ballot will ask whether you affirm, oppose, or need more information about this process. There will also be room for you to write comments or questions, which will be read and answered by the committee. If the majority of ballots show that our congregation supports adopting this welcoming statement, then we will plan on having a final vote in April. As always, please feel free to stop by our table in the Great Room to chat with us and ask your questions. Thank you to everyone for your wonderful comments, questions, and conversations!

HOSPITALITY TEAM FOR

TODAY

WORSHIP ASSISTANT (8:00)

Stacy Breedon

WORSHIP ASSISTANT (10:30)

KREW

GREETERS/USHERS (8:00)

Santhy and Charlie Krass

USHERS (10:30)

Marty Matera, Jennifer Matera, Paul Huck, Joe Ripp

GREETERS (10:30)

Arlene Olson, June Nelson, Lois Wilson

WELCOME DESK

8:00

10:30

HOSPITALITY TEAM FOR

MARCH 13, 2016

WORSHIP ASSISTANT (8:00)

Santhy Krass

WORSHIP ASSISTANT (10:30)

Bruce Kappeler

GREETERS/USHERS (8:00)

Kathy and Chet Dickow

USHERS (10:30)

Bill Milligan, Len Wojciechowicz, Gene Olson, Frank Wilson

GREETERS (10:30)

Helen Beltoya, Angie Lange

WELCOME DESK

8:00 Ethel Roberts

10:30



Join us in Welcoming
Dr. Amy-Jill Levine

A self-described “Yankee Jewish feminist who teaches in a predominantly Christian divinity school in the buckle of the Bible Belt,” Dr. Levine combines historical-critical rigor, literary-critical sensitivity, and a frequent dash of humor in her provoking presentations.

She will give a public presentation at the following venues:

Carthage College

7 p.m. Thursday, March 10

Beth Hillel Temple

7:30 p.m. Friday, March 11

Holy Rosary Catholic Church

5:30 p.m. Saturday, March 12

First United Methodist Church of Kenosha

10:30 a.m. Sunday, March 13



3RD ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY OF FUN AND REFLECTION

WELCOMING EVERYONE TO THE TABLE

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

9AM - 3PM

WATCH FOR DETAILS IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

MARCH

DOWNLOAD CALENDAR INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE AT
FIRSTUMCKENOSHA.ORG

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>6</p> <p>8A EARLY WORSHIP</p> <p>9:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL</p> <p>10:30A LATE WORSHIP</p> <p>5P YOUTH GROUP</p>	7	<p>8</p> <p>HIGHLIGHTER DEADLINE @ 12P</p> <p>5:15P RE-SOUNDING JOY REHEARSAL</p> <p>6P DISCIPLE CLASS-PSALMS</p>	9	<p>10</p> <p>5:30P 5 FOR HYMN</p> <p>6:15P BOND BELLS</p> <p>7:15P CHANCEL CHOIR</p>	11	<p>12</p> <p>11a Saturday Sisters</p>
<p>13</p> <p>8A EARLY WORSHIP</p> <p>9:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL</p> <p>10:30A LATE WORSHIP</p> <p>5P YOUTH GROUP (SOCIAL MEETING)</p> <p>3P FINE ARTS AT FIRST PRESENTS: MASTER SINGERS OF MILWAUKEE</p>	14	<p>15</p> <p>HIGHLIGHTER DEADLINE @ 12P</p> <p>5:15P RE-SOUNDING JOY REHEARSAL</p> <p>6P DISCIPLE CLASS-PSALMS</p>	<p>16</p> <p>SECOND 50</p> <p>7P MISSIONS COMMITTEE</p>	<p>17</p> <p>5:30P 5 FOR HYMN</p> <p>6:15P BOND BELLS</p> <p>7:15P CHANCEL CHOIR</p>	18	19
<p>20</p> <p>PALM SUNDAY</p> <p>8A EARLY WORSHIP</p> <p>9:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL</p> <p>10:30A LATE WORSHIP</p> <p>5P YOUTH GROUP (SOCIAL MEETING)</p>	21	<p>22</p> <p>HIGHLIGHTER DEADLINE @ 12P</p> <p>5:15P RE-SOUNDING JOY REHEARSAL</p> <p>6P DISCIPLE CLASS-PSALMS</p>	23	<p>24</p> <p>MAUNDY THURS</p> <p>5:30P 5 FOR HYMN</p> <p>6:15P BOND BELLS</p> <p>7P WORSHIP SERVICE</p> <p>7:15P CHANCEL CHOIR</p>	<p>25</p> <p>GOOD FRIDAY</p> <p>12:30P WORSHIP SERVICE</p>	26
<p>27</p> <p>EASTER SUNDAY</p> <p>9:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL</p> <p>10:30A LATE WORSHIP</p> <p>5P YOUTH GROUP</p>	28	<p>29</p> <p>HIGHLIGHTER DEADLINE @ 12P</p> <p>5:15P RE-SOUNDING JOY REHEARSAL</p> <p>6P DISCIPLE CLASS-PSALMS</p>	30	<p>31</p> <p>5:30P 5 FOR HYMN</p> <p>6:15P BOND BELLS</p> <p>7P WORSHIP SERVICE</p> <p>7:15P CHANCEL CHOIR</p>	<p>1</p> <p>12:30P WORSHIP SERVICE</p>	2

HAVE SOMETHING FOR THE HIGHLIGHTER?

Submissions are due by noon Tuesdays. Write out an article or calendar item, or call the church office to speak with Shimon, or email him at shimon@firstumckenosha.com

WHAT'S AT THE WELCOME DESK?

DEVOTIONALS

Upper Room Daily Devotionals and Disciplines are available for purchase.

EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE

Many varieties of regular, decaf, and flavored coffee, teas and hot cocoa are available. All proceeds benefit the Janecke mission in Bolivia.

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Bring your nonperishable food items and deposit them in the collection baskets. Remember the special **SECOND SUNDAY**

COLLECTION each month — place your food items on the table on the east wall. The food is donated to the Salvation Army food pantry.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

Please call the office with any corrections.

CAMPBELL SOUP LABELS

The logo and UPC code should be clipped and brought in for submission. Place in container on table by welcome desk.

GENERAL MILLS BOX TOPS

Place in container on table by welcome desk. Proceeds benefit Brass Elementary School.

HIGHLIGHTER

In case you miss a Sunday, back issues of the Highlighter (Weekly News) are available.

SPONSOR A SUNDAY BULLETIN

Would you like to honor someone or celebrate a special occasion? For just \$5.00 you can sponsor a bulletin. Pick up a form at the Welcome Desk.

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Your attendance at worship is important to us. Please fill out the red "Who's who in the Pew" pad, pass it along to your neighbor, return the pad to its starting point, take note of the names of those next to you, and be sure to greet one another after the service. We have a staffed nursery available during worship services.

