



# The PEAL of Zion

Newsletter of Zion United Methodist Church: Batavia  
March 2023

Rev. Dan Verdegan, pastor

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## **From the desk of Reverend Dan:**

“So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.” Daniel 9:3

Daniel in the book of Daniel is under pressure from the Babylonian king and culture to submit to their ways. And yet, we see his faith shine through these obstacles. One of the ways that he is able to endure is by engaging in practices of faith that connects him to God. Daniel makes personal sacrifices, and God responds with his faithfulness.

In the season of Lent, we too are called to be more connected with God. Every week we face some kind of hardships, temptations or evil. Every week we have choices. The season of Lent is a time of going more deeply in our faith so that we can make righteous choices when we face these situations. We can do three things: self-reflection, self-denial and self-improvement.

We reflect on what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ and living into that commitment. When we learn to follow Jesus better and the commitment we made, then our choices reflect our dedication to Him. How might you be a better follower of Jesus? What practices of faith do you need to work on?

We deny the temptations and sins that bring brokenness to ourselves, our families and our neighbors. The more we are aware of the brokenness in this world and how we contribute towards it, the more we can work to stop it and start healing. Are there sins in your life that you need to break? Are there temptations you need to remove yourself from?

We make adjustments to be better people of faith. If we don't make adjustments in life, we won't every get anywhere. If we don't make adjustments in our faith, then we stay selfish, bitter, and unforgiving people. What kind of person do you want people to say you are? What do you want to be known for?

As we live into the season of Lent, ask yourselves these three questions:

1. What areas of my life do I need to seriously reflect upon?
2. What things, people or situation do I need to deny?
3. What do I need to work on to be a better person?

We journey together in the season of Lent.

Rev. Dan Verdegan



# **"The final Teachings of Christ."**



**Services are held Wednesdays in March at 6:30pm. Location of each Lenten services are below.**

**March 1: St. John's UCC "I Am the Vine" John 15**

**March 8: Zion UMC, Batavia "The Coming of the Holy Spirit" John 15:26-John 16**

**March 15: New Horizon UCC "His Final Prayers" John 17**

**March 22: St. Paul's Lutheran "His Arrest" John 18**

**March 29: Our Lady of the Lakes "He is Sentenced" John 19**

**Lenten Offerings will support the residents of Gables on the Pond.**



## Non-sugary Cereal

The first Sunday of each month is designated as **Food Pantry Sunday**. All kinds of nonperishable food items are needed. Each month we like to highlight one type of item. This month we are highlighting all kinds of **non-sugary Cereal**. Items can be placed in the shopping cart. Thank you for supporting the food pantry.

## GOT MILK?

Zion is still supplying all of the funds for the purchase of milk through the Food Pantry. The demand is UP! Thank you to all who help fill this need. Please mail milk fund donations to Zion.

The Interfaith Food Pantry is located at 310 Center St, Adell, WI  
Call the Food Pantry at 920-447-2293 for appointment.



## Our Lenten Altar

When you look at the Lenten display on our altar what do you see?

Do you notice the different shades of purple? Purple is the color associated with the royalty of Jesus as King of Kings. It is also a symbol of penitence the act of asking for forgiveness for our sins. The burlap is also associated with repentance. It is rough and uncomfortable. The same could be said of confessing our sins.

Maybe you noticed the empty bowls. You can look at them in two ways: emptying ourselves of ourselves, our worries, our burdens. Then we will be prepared for what God wants to fill our hearts with. Bowls were also used by beggars. That should remind us that we are to care for others through alms-giving.

The bundles of branches have a wilderness feel about them. We remember Jesus' temptation in the desert and how through the power of the Holy Spirit and the word of God He was able to defeat the devil. They also could symbolize the burdens we carry and should lay at the feet of Jesus.

Even in our darkest times the Light of Christ goes with us. This is symbolized by the candles.

The drape of the cross is a little different this year. For me it symbolizes that our lives are closely woven with all that Jesus is and has done for us.  
Let us make this Lenten journey together at Zion.

Pastor Gail



Zion UMC's Annual Fish Fry  
Friday, March 17th, 2023  
Drive Thru Take Outs and Dine In  
4:30pm - 7:00pm  
Hope to see you there!



## THANK YOU FOR FOLLOWING YOUR HEART

We asked you to *FOLLOW YOUR HEART* to make a special gift towards Zion's tight budget, and you did. Thank you for your generosity! Our heart/Valentine-themed basket welcomed a nice number of envelopes totaling \$1,680. Most of the gifts were directed towards heat and salaries, but each of the categories received support. Every gift helps!

*2 Corinthians 9:7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

## DESSERTS FIRST!

How many of you love desserts? Its' a sweet, decadent and rich taste to the mouth! When we receive God's blessings in our lives, we too have that same taste—sweet, decedent and rich.

Dessert First! is a four week celebrating God's blessings campaign to help us grow in our understanding of stewardship and to live it out because of God's blessings in our lives. Usually it is the opposite- God will bless us when we are faithful. However, in Dessert First!, we are faithful because of experiencing God's blessings! On March 5, 12, 19, and 26, we will offer glimpse of God's blessings with testimony from the congregation about an experience of God's blessings. Don't forget to join us after each service to enjoy desserts. Finally, on Sunday April 2 (our commitment Sunday), immediately after church, Zion UMC will enjoy desserts **first** as a celebration of all God has blessed us with.

## Zion UMC Finance / Council Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2023

Present: Larry Huiras, Barb Pomeroy, Terri and Bill Yoho, Shirley Dekker, Dion Degnitz, Linda Gerlach, Wendy Bemis, Mark Leibham, Paul Wiedmeyer and Rev Dan Verdegan

Larry opened with prayer and devotion. Larry will record minutes. Dion Degnitz was approved to replace Bill Yoho as a Member At Large. We welcome Linda Gerlach as a Member At Large.

Finance- Mark and Paul: In January there was income of \$14,218.64 and expenses paid were \$16,110.13. Highlighted expenses included, \$900 of Pastoral continued education for Rev Dan, in which is the annual budget. Rev Dan is receiving a six months of coaching from the Conference for Church revitalization. There was \$909.45 of furnace repairs that was paid by the Trustee Checking Acct. There was a very thankful \$1680 of extra giving from the Giving from the Heart envelopes. \$250 was received for hosting the Vaccine clinic. The Finance committee approved paying \$1127.42 or 50% for monthly Conference Apportionments cost of \$2254.83, but 25% or \$563.71 was sent to the Conference and the other 25% was put in the Savings Acct for a safety net for time being. Larry will post the Identifiable Giving categories in the Peal. There was discussion about saving costs with our monthly The Sounder Ad. The Ad currently costs \$1200 annually. We will consider a smaller version cost.

Barb, SPRC Chair, reported that a meeting with DS Park Hunter was held and we were told that Rev Dan has been reassigned on July 1<sup>st</sup> to Faith UMC in Superior WI. Park will be presenting a minister candidate to SPRC on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. This will be via zoom due to the winter weather advisory. Discussion followed on how we can communicate to the congregation about the minister reassignment process. Many members are disturbed. Rev Dan will post communications in the Peal over next months. Barb stated we have a change in Church custodian. Sue DeRuyter has been appointed custodian at the rate of \$15/hr for 30 hours per month. Please support and take advisement from Sue.

Shirley, Youth Leader, There were 310 pizzas sold. Thanks to all those that help make the pizzas. The profit will be \$1600. The RADA knife sale should net \$250. Shirley is working with Lottie and Kristina planning the Easter Sunrise breakfast along with other Youth activities. We are in need of a male chaperone for the June 13-18<sup>th</sup> Red Bird Mission trip. The individual must be five years older than the eldest youth.

Wendy, Worship Chair mentioned that Easter services are being planned. The youth will present the Sunrise service. Wendy is organizing training for the acolytes and ushers. Experience ushers will guide others that are willing to serve.

Linda, Member At Large, mentions that some older members want service at 9:15 am year round. We should mention that to Christina and consider what parents think of what time Sunday school program should be held. This is the most important reason we switch to 10:15 in fall.

Bill, Trustees Chair, The Trustees are working on cleaning candle wax from the cloth on the benches and repairing drawers in the kitchen.

Terri, Lay Leader, is working with Rev Dan to organize the Stewardship program "Dessert First". Rev Dan plans on kicking of the program on March 5<sup>th</sup> and it will finish with Celebration Sunday on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Five minute testimony will be given in services.

Rev Dan mentioned that the sermon series in Lent will be "Living out our Faith". There are six individuals registered to go to the Midwest Mission Center and volunteer in late April. Rev Dan and Larry viewed a Conference seminar about rural churches. The largest take away is "Fellowship" however possible.

Larry, DOC correspondence and NE Circuit 12, DOC had a lot of good to report and organize at the January meeting. The minutes will be posted in the Peal. NE Circuit 12 Laity assisted getting finance funds, tooth brushes and vitamins for Steve Blake's Peru mission trip next month. Larry has been organizing the Fish Fry for March 17<sup>th</sup>. Let's promote the event to our family and friends. Help will be needed.

# LENT—OUR JOURNEY TO EASTER

Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, 40 days until Easter. It is a time that represents Jesus's sacrifice when he went to the desert to pray and fast for 40 days. Many people give up things as a sign of sacrifice and to test their self-discipline. My good friend Julie gives up chocolate each year for Lent, and each year she comes to my house to inspect my little antique glass baskets that I fill with chocolate. Although tempted, she always waits until after Easter to indulge. I applaud her sacrifice!

How can we acknowledge the meaning of Lent and reflect on the sacrifices that Jesus endured? Here are a few suggestions for you and your family as we move through the Lenten season:

Commit to a time of prayer and reflection each day—focus on God and reduce the other distractions in your life.

Find ways to serve. Use this time help others and share acts of kindness.

Pick a time or day to fast

Sacrifice. Give up something meaningful as a reminder of the sacrifices Jesus made for all of us.

Attend the weekly Lenten services

We will soon gather to celebrate Easter, but don't let Lent pass by without a second thought. It is the journey that brings us to the joy of Easter.

## Zion UMC 2022 Identifiable Givers

\$ 0	17
\$ 1 – 100	9
\$ 101 – 200	4
\$ 201 – 300	4
\$ 301 – 400	2
\$ 401 – 500	6
\$ 501 – 1000	10
\$ 1001 – 1500	16
\$ 1501 – 2000	9
\$ 2001 – 2500	5
\$ 2501 – 3000	8
\$ 3001 – 3500	1
\$ 3501 – 4000	1
\$ 4501 – 5000	1
\$ Over 5000	6



Please let the office know if we missed your anniversary or birthday? Month, day, and year (which we never publish) helps when putting into our system.

Listed are our family and individual giving units. What is your level? Would you consider lifting your giving to a higher level in 2023?



# Zion UMC (DOC) Disciple and Outreach Committee

January 26th, Meeting

Present; Lynn Oppeneer, Rev. Dan Verdegan, Larry & Nadine Huiras, Gwen Williams, Linda Gerlach, Marilyn Thornell, Jane Yoho and RC Bemis

-Rev. Dan opened with introductions and prayer.

-October 13th meeting minutes were viewed.

-Lynn shared "Bulletin Bites" correspondence from SCIO. There are needs for the 10 families living at Bridgeway House, mainly transportation assistance. We will instruct Mark to send our 2023 budget commitment to SCIO of \$600.

-Zion's Jesse Tree collection was another success. A total of \$1170 was collected. 18 children of the Random Lake elementary school received \$65 Wal-Mart gift cards that were distributed to the families. Gwen stated that Principal Sandy Mountain expressed great appreciation to us for the gifts. A Christmas card from Zion UMC was sent along. It was suggested next year we have our Sunday school children create the cards.

-Jane reported that 10 elderly congregation members received Home Bound Christmas Gift Bags.

-Rev Dan reported that we sent more than \$700 to the Random Lake Elementary school Angel Fund from our Pork Chop dinner and Christmas lunch/concert proceeds. The Angel fund is school lunch cost shortages from low income families.

-The Noisy Can collection of \$340 from the last three months of 2022 was delivered to the Random Lake School District to be used for purchasing supplies that teachers are short of. The District Superintendent expressed great appreciation. Dick Bemis recommended that we use the first three months to use to offset Zion's Sunday school costs. All agreed.

-Rev Dan mentions that three individuals received vaccines at the clinic Zion hosted on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Zion UMC received \$250 from Family Health LA Clinica for hosting.

-Rev Dan mentioned that assisted living homes appreciate items for activities, such as coloring books and things. We advised Jane to inquire with Gables on The Pond if items are needed as a outreach.

-Larry announced that Zion UMC will host our annual Fish Fry on Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. The event will be Dine In and Drive Thru carry outs. Larry will start the planning process and hope for everyone's support.

-Rev Dan reported that two Midwest Mission Center trips are booked for 2023. The dates are April 26-28 and September 22-24. It is recommended that we register minimum of 6 individuals. There are 3 interested to date for April's trip. We need to register by March 2<sup>nd</sup> with \$30 per person to qualify. Please promote the mission trips for 2023.

-Larry read a "Thank You" note from the Midwest Mission center for our 2022 donations of \$500 to their "Brick Campaign" to improve the facility and \$500 for mission kit supplies.

-Rev Dan asked if we would want to host fellowship after the Ecumenical service held at Zion on Wednesday evening March 8<sup>th</sup>. We all agreed to host and Gwen volunteered to organize.

-Rev Dan asked if we want to host breakfast following Easter Sunrise service. We all agreed and advised Dan to ask Shirley if the Youth wanted to host and serve.

-Zion's Finance Committee asked if we need the weekly Sounder newspaper advertisement. The ad cost \$1200 per year. We discussed. Other area churches do support the newspaper in different sizes. But in these times of electronic social media, how many individuals read the newspaper. We will advise Jay to look at a smaller ad for cost to consider or Zion to discontinue.

-We discussed sending gift bags to our College Bound students. Jane will look at items to send.

Submitted by; Larry Huiras





## **Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization**

### **Bulletin Bites**

**March 2023**

1. Three families are currently living in the Bridgeway House - one family of four, and two families with 2 members. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers regarding staffing shortages. We are happy to announce that our team is fully staffed, and stronger than ever. Bridgeway is in need of twin bed blankets and new pillows. Donations would be greatly appreciated.
2. Changes have been made to Wisconsin's "Cottage Law", which pertains to home made goods that can be sold to the public, often at farmers markets. The recent ruling expands the options to include candies and fudge, doughnuts, dried products, and more. You can expect to start seeing exciting new products at the market!
3. Family Pathways currently serves (10 ) families in the supervised visitation program. The purpose of these visits are for reunification and strengthening family bonds. We have two families who have been recently reunited after an absence of visits with their kids for two years. It is heart warming and our cup truly runneth over seeing these kids/parents' faces light up on visits. The visitation area is welcoming and kid friendly. Families engage in a safe, neutral environment for some quality time with their kids, where birthdays and holidays are celebrated and with weekly connection opportunities - emotionally, spiritually and physically (face to face). Donations are welcomed such as board games i.e Kerfuffle, Kites, Quakes and Co to name a few.
4. Bridgeway is bursting at the seams with toddlers at the moment, any help with diapers size 4 / 5 would be wonderful. We are also in need of feminine hygiene products and laundry soap.

## **Several mid-week opportunities to consider!**

Tuesday lunchtime devotions (Facebook) 12:00

Wednesday Bible study (in-person and Facebook) 10:30 - 11:30

Wednesday night Lenten services 6:30

# March 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			<i>1</i> Mail out scholarship applications	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> Easter flower orders due.	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> Lenten service @ Zion 6:30	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> Rev Dan starts vacation	<i>16</i> Trustee meeting 6:30	<i>17</i> Fish Fry 4:30 - 7:00	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i> Kids choir - Noisy can - WUMF guest speaker Jason Mahnke	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> Ad Council meeting 6:30	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> Rev Dan ends vacation
<i>26</i> Worship design meeting after service	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	