**Weekday Words**

Thursday, March 20, 2025

**This Sunday**

Bring your donations of boxed desserts for the Food Pantry.

Faith Formation begins at 9:30.

Children: Amanda McCaslin, Jenelle Pedersen, Sheri Saddlemire, and Kate Toole will teach about the Parable of the Sower.

Adults: We will discuss pp. 32-49 of *A Sand County Almanac.*

At 10:30 we continue our Lenten journey. Gary McCaslin will bring a symbol of what sustains him, spiritually. Stefanie Fellows will offer the Children’s Time, and then Amanda McCaslin and Jenelle Pedersen will provide nursery care. Anelia Corbin will play her trumpet for our special music. Stick around afterward for a coffee hour hosted by Jenn Van Slyke. If you cannot attend worship in person, find our worship service live stream on Facebook, YouTube or at [www.homercc.com](http://www.homercc.com)

11:45 Our Outreach Team will meet in the Board Room.

3:00 Church of the Wild at Lime Hollow. For more information, see Gary McCaslin.

**Next Week**

Tuesday:

12:15 15-minute ZOOM discussion for *A Sand County Almanac*.

Read pages 50-86 and let Pastor Vicki know if you want the link.

6:30 The Church Council will meet.

Wednesday:

5:00 IN PERSON discussion of pages 50-86 of *A Sand County Almanac*.

At church – in the Board Room.

Thursday:

5:30 Youth Lenten dinner at the manse.

Next Sunday:

9:30 Faith Formation will learn about Jesus and the Good Shepherd.

Our Adults will discuss pp. 50-86 of *A Sand County Almanac*.

10:30 Lent 4 (it is a 5th Sunday)

Bring items for the Easter Basket give-away – baskets, candy, bubbles, etc.

**This Week’s Prayers**

We pray for people managing an array of situations:

For the family of Jenny Deshon (Jeanine Rose’s sister-in-law)

Health issues: Cindy, Dick, Gary, Joanne, Kathy, Kurt, Paul

For people who recently attended church for the first time: Lisa, Tessla & Jethro

**For our pondering…**

The following piece was a part of the Fairview United Methodist Church’s Lenten Devotional publication. It was written by the Rev. Bryant Clark, pastor of the Marcellus UMC and a dear friend of mine. Pastor Bryant attended Sky Lake, and he was a part of the Interfaith Crew when he attended SUNY Cortland. Here, he offers the perspective of a 30-something person of faith – a perspective we need to hear within the church. May you be blessed by this expression of faith.

**“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”** - Joshua 24:15

Many lament the changing landscape of American society—where prayer isn’t taught in schools or recited before football games. This nostalgia for a bygone era always makes me roll my eyes. The past is often seen as simpler, but it wasn’t better. Especially for those who are people of color, or women or LGBTQ, it wasn’t better. Yet in a time of rapid technological change and political stagnation, it’s no wonder some long to return to the “good old days.”

But life is more complicated than that. And in this complicated world, my faith in the Gospel remains my anchor.

Over the past six years, my own life has changed dramatically. I went from being a single 20-something to a husband and father of two. I’ve grown from a rookie pastor, with all the anxieties that go with a new career, to now confidently identifying as a minister of the gospel, full stop. The world around us has shifted too, bringing both uncertainty and transformation. Yet through it all, my faith has been both dynamic and unwavering. The Gospel’s message becomes clearer to me with every troubling news cycle.

Living in faith brings clarity to confusing times but this doesn’t mean everything is fine—far from it. It’s just that as things fall apart, and political forces try to move us backward, we persist. I know where to place my faith, and God hasn’t failed me yet.

It is a good time to remember that Christianity was born in a world where the empire wasn’t on our side. And through the centuries certain truths persist: the Church has thrived when the forces of the world sought to harm it; we are at our best when loving our neighbor contradicts the prevailing public discourse; and the faithful path becomes obvious when the rest of the world turns so far from it.

When life feels chaotic, it is the perfect time to recommit to Jesus. We don’t need a governor to lead public prayers; we need to walk in the way of Jesus—together.

**Prayer:** Spirit of God, keep true in us the Gospel message. Remind us that through your love, we are cared for, saved, and guided. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.