



MaltaUnited Methodist Church
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Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/MaltaUnitedMethodistchurch or check us out
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Rev. Jeremiah Thompson, Pastor
Vicke Heins, Adm. Assistant
John Hansen, Church Keeper
Members & Friends, Ministers



MALTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Pastor Jeremiah's Message

I am not a fisherman. I hope none of you will hold that against me. I see the appeal of fishing, the very few times I've caught a fish and the fight on the line was exciting. I am fond of fish; baked, broiled, fried, etc. etc. etc. However, although fishing isn't my hobby, I like hearing about fishing. I like hearing about the things people caught and where they caught them. I even went to seminary with a professional fisherwoman, well lobster woman. But I figure the principle is the same and I was interested to hear her stories of working with her dad.

I am talking about fishing, because for much of February our sermon series will be about the book of Jonah from the Old Testament. And if people know much about Jonah they often know he was, as it is often translated, "swallowed by a great fish" though he wouldn't stay there - God had other plans for him. Our sermon series will be about the book of Jonah, and will be entitled "more than a fish story;" because there is much more to the book of Jonah than just a man and a fish. It's a book that uses humor to challenge us to see all people as children of God and as our siblings. Seriously, I hope can communicate to you all how funny this book is, and I believe God inspired the author to write it in a funny way; after all "God has a sense of humor, just look at the platypus" (to quote the movie Dogma.)

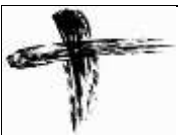


I do have one final thing to ask you this month, however. After Jonah, we will enter Lent and Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem and His resurrection will be our topic. But later in Spring and Summer, I would very much like to ask you all if there are some topics you think would be good for our sermons. Perhaps an aspect of our lives like friendship, and what the bible has to say about it. Or a part of the bible you'd like to know more about, or an aspect of faith you'd like to hear more about. Perhaps most of all, a sermon topic or series that might help us reach out to the people in our area and invite more people to worship with us. Please pray about it and let me know if God puts something on your heart. Stay warm everyone and lets keep some holy laughter in our hearts.

Correction on one of my New Years Resolutions.

Last month, I said in the newsletter I would be starting a time to come and talk about faith, life, or whatever at Remington's. But foolish me, I thought I would try it on Monday Nights, and Remington's is closed on Mondays. (Boy did I have egg on my face.) So, I will instead be trying this on one Friday night a month, starting on February 28 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. I have no idea if people in our area will be interested, but I hope it's a chance for me to connect with more people in our area. I encourage you all to think about how you can connect in conversation with more people in our community (with or without fried cheese curds).

+*Pastor Jeremiah*



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

The start of our 40 day Lenten season we will observe the Service of Imposition of Ashes on Wednesday, February 26th at 7:00 p.m. at Malta UMC.



From our organization and the 23 million lives you helped us change in 2019. **THANK YOU** choosing to support The Salvation Army. Your generosity makes miracles possible. **THANK YOU – FOR BEING THE LIGHT IN 2019!**



FEBRUARY 2020

PASTOR JEREMIAH'S HOURS: MON 8:30-10:15AM., TUES 8:30-NOON, WED 8:15-11AM
VICKE'S HOURS 8-NOON, M, W & TH

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SATURDAY
						1
2 4 th Sunday After the Epiphany with Communion Helping with Hungry Huskies 5:30pm	3 Finance Committee 7pm Church Council 7:30pm	4	5 Prayer Group 630pm Choir Practice 7pm	6	7	8 Breakfast for All at Martha's 8:30 a.m. with Pastor
9 5 th Sunday After the Epiphany Scouting Sunday	10 Worship Comm Meeting 6:30pm	11	12 Prayer Group 630pm Choir Practice 7pm	13 4H 6:30pm	14 Cub Scouts 6:30pm	15
16 6 th Sunday After the Epiphany	17	18	19 Prayer Group 630pm Choir Practice 7pm	20	21 Cub Scouts 6:30pm	22 Breakfast for All at Martha's 8:30 a.m. with Pastor
23 Transfiguration Sunday	24	25 Cub Scouts 6:30pm	26 ASH WEDNESDAY Worship Service 7pm Prayer Group 630pm	27 Lenten Bible Study 630-745pm	28 Pastor on Tap at Remington's 530-7:30pm	29



STAY INFORMED:

If you want to keep up on whats happenings at Malta United Methodist Church go online and visit: maltaumc.org

Or if you want to stay informed with whats happening at UMC / District / Northern IL Conference go on line and visit: UMCNIC.org



WHIPPED JELLO

- 1 large box Strawberry Jello
- 1 small can Crushed Pineapple, drained (reserve juice)
- 2 cups fresh or frozen Strawberries OR 1 can Apricots, drained (reserve juice)
- 6 oz. Cream Cheese, softened
- 8 oz. Cool Whip, thawed
- 1 cup Miniature Marshmallows

Dissolve Jello in reserved juices - plus boiling water - enough to equal 1 1/2 Cups
Stir in marshmallows, followed by ½ cup cold water. Chill until Jello begins to set,
Then whip with mixer. Continue to whip as you add cream cheese. Fold in Cool Whip, then pineapple and strawberries (apricots). Pour into a bowl and refrigerate until set.

Note: You can freeze this in muffin tins lined with foil or paper baking cups and pull out as many individual servings as needed shortly before serving.



BIRTHDAYS 2020

01	Wilbur Watson
02	Jay Hunt
03	Madison Hunt
04	Amy Spychal
05	Ken Slade
07	Evelyn Luoma (103 years old)
08	Dorothy Weaver
10	Rachel Hill, Marilyn Berg, Del Sandberg
15	Ted Plote
16	Owen Fucilla
24	Sue Augustine
25	Alice Pileski
26	Amy Engstrom
27	Jeanette Gommel
BLESSED BIRTHDAY TO ALL!	



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: TACO DINNER

Sunday, March 15, 2020



Lenten Study: 24 Hours that Changed the World

Jesus' crucifixion, and then more so, His resurrection are at the center of the Christian faith. In the 40 days (not including Sundays) of Lent we are invited to ponder these events. What they say to us about God's love, and what they say to us about our world and what God is calling us to do. The Lenten Study: 24 Hours that Changed the World, by Rev. Adam Hamilton is one of the best examinations of these events that I have ever read; the theology surrounding them, and what they mean to us today. I am eager to share this wonderful study with as many of you as possible this Lenten Season.

There will be two times when people can participate (assuming we get enough people to sign up for both times.) One will be Thursday Evenings at 6:30 p.m. starting on February 27. We will meet weekly from that date through April 2, and then we will have one final meeting on April 16, after Easter, as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ. The other time people can sign up for this study is Sunday mornings after fellowship. So 10:15ish from March 1 through April 5, with a final meeting on April 19th to celebrate the resurrection and to wrap up the study. This study will have a companion book, and a great video filmed in the Holy Land to help us learn together. (If you can make a \$10 dollar donation to defray the cost of the book, it would be wonderful. But if you can't - don't worry about it.) I want to invite everyone, Jr. High aged and up to join us for this study. I think it will really speak to your heart and help us all grow in faith. Please invite your friends and others in the community to join us! Sign up today! There will be sign-up sheets at church, or you can email me at castiger1@gmail.com, or call or text me at 815-592-3764.



FEBRUARY 26 – ASH WEDNESDAY



2020 FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS

2/02	Liturgist: Ed Cheek	Greeters: Tom & Nancy Plote
2/09	Liturgist: Jodi Slade	Greeters: Larry & Vicky Vint
2/16	Liturgist: Jamie Willrett	Greeters: Steve & Terry Sandberg
2/23	Liturgist: Marilyn Berg	Greeter: Pat Siebrasse

FEBRUARY 2020 COMMUNION MINISTERS:

2/02/2020 Kitty Jouris & Jodi Slade

February 9th is Scouting Sunday. We will be celebrating with Malta Scouts, Pack 123, and other Scouts and Leaders. Past & present Scouts wear your uniforms. **Celebrating 100 Years when the Methodist Church & Boys Scouts started a formal partnership.** We will be having a **"SPECIAL OFFERING"** for Boy Scouts on this Sunday. Scouts will be selling "Beef Sticks" for \$1 each during Fellowship.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

MARCH 2020	Liturgist	Greeters / Ushers	Communion Stewards
1	Ed Cheek	Darla & Ed Arndt	Tom Plote, Ed Cheek
8	Jodi Slade	Jim & Alice Quincer	
15	Jacque Fucilla	Jodi & Ken Slade	
22	Jamie Willrett	Marlin & Ann Anderson	
29	Ruth Hueber	Dave & Katie Fenstermaker	



Jeremiah 31:3 The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving kindness."

Luke 10: 27 Jesus answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself."

John 14:1-3 Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

Psalms 119:103 How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth.

John 14:15 If you love me, you will obey what I command.

Jeremiah 33:3 Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

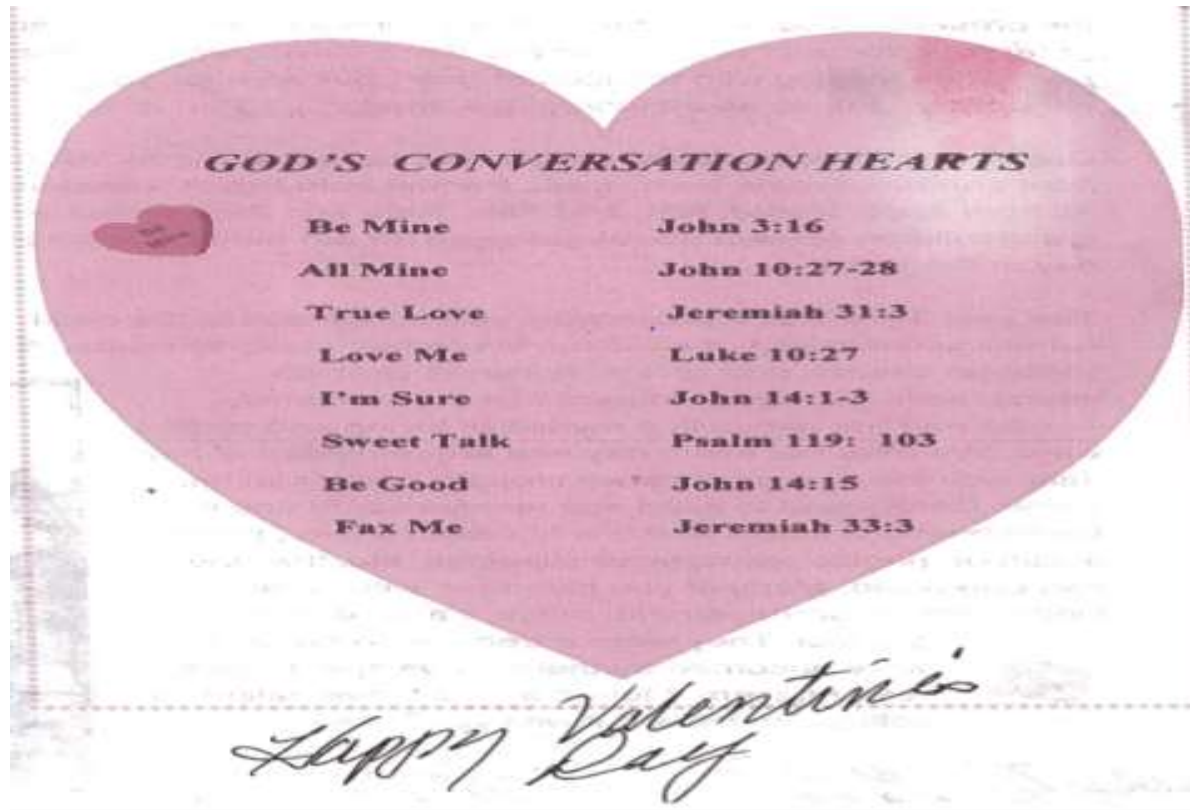


MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

181st Northern Illinois Conference

will be held on **June 7-9** at the **Renaissance Schaumburg Conference Center.**

2020 Theme: "Y Church"



John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

John 10:27-28 *My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life and they shall never perish. No one can snatch them out of my hand.*



Friend of Today's Sisters, thank you for the gift and for all the food you delivered to my home for Christmas. It was a very kind gesture.

Cyndi Wilson 

GENERAL CONFERENCE: PROPOSED SEPERATION

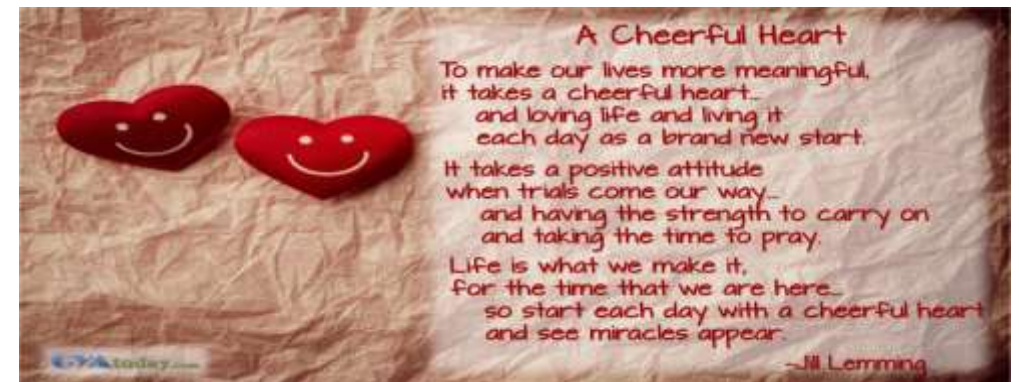
MARK YOUR CALENDARS – “CONVERSATION DATES”

What is expected to happen at GENERAL CONFERENCE on May 5-15, 2020?

The following scheduled conversations are co-hosted by the NIC Exploration Team and NIC General / Jurisdictional Delegation along with the DCM / Cabinet.

- Sunday, February 2 from 3-5 p.m. at River Forest UMC
- Thursday, February 13 from 3-5 p.m. at Woodridge UMC
- Thursday, February 13 from 7-9 p.m. at Schaumburg: Our Saviour's
- Sunday, February 16 from 3-5 p.m. at Rockford: Christ

Go on line UMCNIC.org for more information.





UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OFFERS “GRANTS” TO SUPPORT FARMERS!

After a difficult spring planting and harvest season due to unfavorable weather conditions, the Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church is offering grants to local farmers to ease some financial hardships.

In August when the crops showed visible signs of stress, NIC Bishop Sally Dyck toured several farms in the Rockford and DeKalb areas. She and other NIC leaders heard stories from the farmers of anxiety, uncertainty and even depression. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, farmers have some of the highest suicide rates of any professional group and they continue to rise each year.

Bishop Dyck wanted to raise awareness of this growing rural health concern and bring hope and care to the community's family farmers with a special offering that was collected at a November meeting of clergy and church members.

Thanks to the offerings, the NIC's Town and Rural Committee, which supports and equips small town and rural churches for vital ministry, is awarding the one-time grants up to \$500 to Farm Service Agency – recognized farmers in Northern Illinois for necessities such as groceries, utilities or equipment payments with no questions asked. An NIC pastor will fill out the online application on behalf of the farmer. The farmer does not have to be affiliated with a United Methodist congregation. The grants will be awarded based on funds available.

If you know a farmer who could benefit from a micro-grant, visit www.umcnic.org/bishopsappeal for a referral form. For more information, contact Rev. Mary Bohall at (815) 538-5587. She is the Chair of the NIC Town & Rural Committee and also Pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Mendota. Her email is: rev.marybohall@gmail.com



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

LENT & EASTER IS COMING!

February 26 – **ASH WEDNESDAY** Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

March 1, First Sunday of Lent – March 29, 5th Sunday of Lent

DAY LIGHT SAVINGS TIME CHANGE – March 8th

April 5 **PASSION/PALM SUNDAY**

April 6 – APRIL 11 **HOLY WEEK (GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 10th)**

April 12 – **EASTER SUNDAY**

Easter Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m.

Easter Breakfast

Easter Egg Hunt

9:00 a.m. Worship Service



CHURCH FAMILY GAME NIGHT on

Saturday, January 25th was a **“SUCCESS”**

We had lots of different games going at once – you could choose! Some learned a couple of new card games – others played Shoots & Ladders and there was a hot game of Scrabble going on. We had a lot of popcorn and other treats to munch on. Thanks to all who joined us from our church family and our village friends. A good time had by All! Hope more can join us next time.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1st

HUB CLUSTER Annual Soup & Dessert FUNDRAISER

Ashton UMC from 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Special Dessert Silent Auction

Come One! Come All!



2019 Lay Member Report to Congregation of Special Session NIAC **continued**
by Mary Lynn McArtor

Covenant Statement: *Therefore, we covenant to the following:*

- ❖ *To live into our baptismal vows to resist evil and injustice and oppression in all forms, including racism, sexism, and every abuse of power and privilege.*
- ❖ *To affirm the full participation of all ages, nations, races, classes, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations, and abilities.*
- ❖ *To affirm the sacred worth of LGBTQIA+ persons, and commit to being in ministry together.*
- ❖ *To eliminate discriminatory language and the restrictions and penalties of marriage and ordination in the Book of Discipline regarding LGBTQIA+ persons, and stand united in resisting trials and punishments.*
- ❖ *To affirm the right and responsibility of clergy to discern, counsel, and officiate for marriages.*
- ❖ *To engage in acts of justice, grace, mercy, kindness, compassion, and reconciliation.*
- ❖ *To affirm that God works in and through community and acknowledge that Jesus welcomes all people as beloved children of God.*
- ❖ *To embody and exemplify the best practices of our historic Methodist faith, including John Wesley's emphasis on grace, and to continue the practice of an open table.*



2020 Rainbow Covenant Plan for Malta U.M.Church

The Outreach and Mission committee met on Sunday, January 5, 2020 for the purpose of completing the plan for becoming a Rainbow Covenant congregation in this year. Members of the committee include: Members present: Rev. Jeremiah Thompson, Ed Cheek, Denny Heins, Jodi Slade, Marcia Hueber, Mary Lynn McArtor. members absent: Alice Pileski, Elvin Plapp & Sue Vaughn. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Jeremiah and chaired by Mary Lynn McArtor.

The requirements for becoming a Rainbow Covenant church includes three steps:

1 Apportionments- 1st mile giving - be paid in full= \$ 11,724.00

#2 Advance Projects- 2nd mile giving -1 project in each color band.

#3 "The Rainbow is God's promise to us. Here is our promise to God".(due Jan. 10, 2021)

This is our 2020 Rainbow Covenant Plan:

Red Band Lithuania in Mission Together (#12168A) The In Mission Together Project allows local congregations to partner with specific congregations in regions of new mission development.

Orange Band United Methodist Committee on Relief—Undesignated (#999895)

Yellow Band Tree of Life Ministry, Pierre, South Dakota (#123615) The Lakota Native Americans on the Rosebud & Pine Ridge reservations have needed groceries and meals for hunger, repairs to substandard homes, and support for local teachers as they reclaim native culture & language.



2020 Rainbow Covenant Plan for Malta UMC **continued**

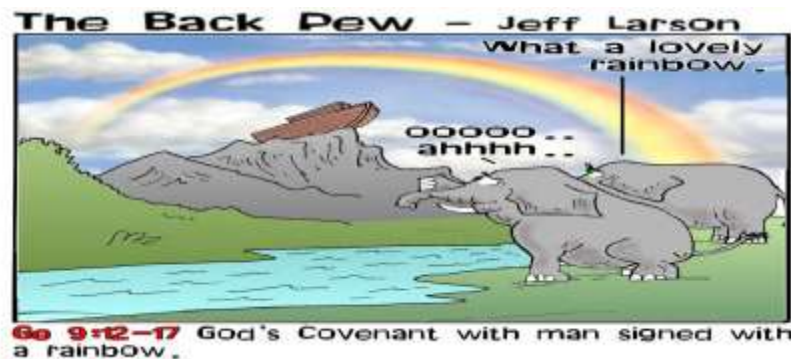
Green Band NIU Wesley Foundation at Northern Illinois University (#50000135) Support the Sunday weekly "Hungary Huskies" evening meals as a community connection.

Blue Band Food for Sharing (#60000118) assist with hosting the annual Day in the Country program to bring rural and city persons together.

Purple Band Missionary Support to Albert Willicor in Liberia (#15151Z) He is the Chief medical officer of Ganta United Methodist Hospital in Ganta, Liberia. A distinguished surgeon and hospital administrator.

We also agreed to continue our support for the Salvation Army (DeKalb) food pantry throughout the year and participate in the annual Christmas Giving Tree for Salvation Army families.

CROP Walk in DeKalb County is held in October and our congregation is supportive of that program.



2019 Lay Member Report to Congregation of Special Session NIAC

by Mary Lynn McArtor

The special session was held on Saturday, November 16, 2019 at the Kishwaukee College campus Malta, Illinois. Purpose of the gathering of delegates was to review and approve the 2020 Northern Illinois Conference Budget and the Northern Illinois Conference Exploration Team Identity and Covenant statements in response to the vote by 2019 Special Session of General Conference favoring the Traditional Plan which became effective January 1, 2020.

As we gathered for the meeting, we were given instructions that only lay members with voting privilege were to be seated on the main floor. Others were to be seated in the bleachers on either side of the gym. A large group of interested guests were present for this important session. We accepted the NIAC budget and reviewed the guidelines for determining the apportionments for the individual congregations in the conference.

Attached is the information given to the lay & clergy members for approval. It is a statement that will help guide us as we make decisions on our future and as we assess potential partners in ministry:

Identity Statement: *Following the witness of Jesus, we, the Northern Illinois Conference, are committed to becoming entirely inclusive and welcoming. We foster and celebrate the dignity and sacred worth of all of God's creation. By the power of the Holy Spirit and Christ's love, we commit ourselves to grow in love and understanding for one another, and commit to breaking down the walls that divide us. We hold the fullness of Wesleyan theology as a cornerstone of our faith, including the receiving and testing of Holy Scriptures through the lens of reason, tradition, and experience. We seek to do no harm, to do good, and to stay in love with God.*