

# MALTA UNITED



## Methodist Church February 2023

### PASTOR JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE

Years ago, when I was just out of seminary there was an online video that I and several other pastors (particularly pastors working with youth) watched, discussed, and enjoyed. The video was called The Chair and it was about the chair in the youth pastor's office in a church. The chair where people sat to talk to the youth pastor. One of the parts of the video was a man coming in angry at the youth pastor. The man was angry because a young woman with her hair dyed blue had become part of the church praise band, and he didn't think it was right. The man in the video had ideas about what a follower of Jesus was supposed to look like, but he wasn't thinking about what's inside the heart that makes someone a disciple of Jesus.

Our church during Lent at Adult Sunday School (though youth middle and HS aged are invited to join the discussion), will be looking at a new book by Rev. Adam Hamilton about the Gospel of Luke entitled: *Luke, Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws*. We will be meeting in the church basement from 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. starting on Sunday February 26 to April 2<sup>nd</sup>. This study focuses on how Jesus' ministry came for everyone, not just the people

considered "respectable" and "of good families" of his time. But truly everyone. Jesus ministered to people with illnesses, people who other's judged, people who were poor, people who were convicted criminals, everyone!!! As we look at the example of our Teacher and Savior, Jesus, we will be invited to consider how we can be in a loving relationship with more people in our society, not just the people we think are like us. But truly everyone. For truly everyone is God's child, whom Jesus came to love, and teaches us to love.

Lent is always a time of reflection and invitation to grow in faith. These weeks before Easter can be a period when God speaks to us in powerful ways and when the Holy Spirit can point us in new directions to become closer to God and to share God's love with others. Join us for this book and video study as we seek to hear what God has to say to us through the Gospel of Luke this lent.

Blessings and Peace,

*Pastor Jeremiah*





**NORTHERN IL CONFERENCE**  
**LAITY GATHERING**  
**SCHEDULED WITH**  
**BISHOP SCHWERIN**  
**FOR " PRAIRIE SOUTH"**  
**DISTRICT**

You are invited to attend a  
 Laity Gathering to meet with  
 Bishop Schwerin on  
 Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at  
 Sycamore United Methodist  
 Church, 160 Johnson St.,  
 Sycamore at 7:00 p.m.

**You are encouraged to join the  
 Gathering for our District.**

**Other dates available with other  
 districts, if this doesn't work for you.**

The **Bishop's Days on the District** will be held  
 on the following dates and locations:

- **Prairie South - Wednesday, February 15**  
 Clergy: Sycamore UMC - 160 Johnson  
 Ave, Sycamore, IL  
 Laity: Sycamore UMC (7:00 pm) - 160  
 Johnson Ave, Sycamore, IL
- **Prairie North - Wednesday, February 8**  
 Clergy: Rockford: Christ UMC - 4509  
 Highcrest Rd, Rockford IL  
 Laity: Freeport: Harmony UMC (6:00  
 pm) - 2600 W Pearl City Road, Freeport,  
 IL
- **Prairie Central - Thursday, February 9**  
 Clergy: Naperville: Grace UMC - 300 E.  
 Gartner Road, Naperville, IL  
 Laity: Elgin: Journey of Hope UMC (7:00  
 pm) - 37W040 Highland Avenue, Elgin,  
 IL
- **Lake North - Monday, February 13**  
 Clergy: Chicago: Olivet UMC - 147 S  
 Keeler, Chicago, IL  
 Laity: Glenview UMC (7:00 pm) - 727  
 Harlem Ave, Glenview, IL

- **Lake South - Thursday, February 16**  
 Clergy: Hinsdale UMC - 945 S Garfield  
 Ave, Hinsdale, IL  
 Laity: Palos UMC (7:00 pm) - 12101 S.  
 Harlem Avenue, Palos Heights, IL

I encourage you to join in the gathering for our  
 district, but should the one planned for our  
 district not work for you, any gathering can be  
 attended.



**LAITY CONVOCATION 2023**

**Saturday, February 11**  
**from 9:00 – 1230 p.m.**

Available on –line or in person at 3 locations:  
 Barrington UMC, Disciples UMC, Mt. Morris, IL, and  
 New Lennox UMC

Theme: THINKING OUTSIDE THE CHURCH,  
 MAKING COMMUNITY MINISTRY HAPPEN

Register at:

[umc.nic.org/calendar/laity-convocation-2023](http://umc.nic.org/calendar/laity-convocation-2023)



***TODAY'S SISTERS***

*Today's Sisters will be meeting on*  
**Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at**  
**9:30 a.m. at Malta UMC.**



**Wednesday, February 22, 2023**

**Worship Service 7:00 PM**

**Ash Wednesday** is the first day of the season  
 of Lent (the 40 days, not including Sundays, before  
 Easter). Malta UMC, joining with Esmond UMC, we  
 will have a 7:00 PM Worship Service at Malta UMC.  
 Lent is a season for us to look at our lives, and to  
 repent. That is, with God's help, changing the ways  
 we live to be more in-line with Jesus' teachings.

# MALTA UNITED



## Methodist Church February 2023

Ash Wednesday in particular, is a day of repentance; where those who follow Jesus are invited to examine their lives. See where we have caused harm, ask forgiveness, make amends, and then change how we live, with God's help, to not cause harm in the future.

You are invited, as all are in our community, to join us for worship Ash Wednesday evening as we repent, pray, and hear from the scriptures; all as a sign that we seek to repent. To live in a new way guided by God's love, shown in Jesus. May we be changed by God's forgiveness and love, and may we be equipped to share that love with others in Jesus Name this season of Lent and all year long.

**Daylight Savings Time starts: Sunday, March 12**  
(Turn clocks ahead Saturday at midnight)

**1<sup>st</sup> Day of Spring:** Sunday, March 19  
SPECIAL OFFERING SUNDAY: UMCOR

**PALM/PASSION SUNDAY: April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**HOLY WEEK: April 3 – April 8**

**HOLY/MAUNDY THURSDAY:**  
**April 6<sup>th</sup>**

**GOOD FRIDAY: April 7<sup>th</sup>**



**He is  
RISEN**  
**EASTER: April 9<sup>th</sup>**



**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT: FEBRUARY 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Daylight Savings Time starts: Sunday, March 12**  
(Turn clocks ahead Saturday at midnight)

**1<sup>st</sup> Day of Spring:** Sunday, March 19  
SPECIAL OFFERING SUNDAY: UMCOR

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



JESUS STOPPED BY AND NOBODY LOVES  
MORE THAN HIM, BUT BEFORE YOU GET  
JEALOUS OR ANYTHING YOU SHOULD KNOW  
THAT IT IS FOR YOU TOO





**MALTA /AREA MILITARY  
MEN AND WOMEN CURRENTLY  
SERVING OUR COUNTRY**

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Almburg, Brett        | Norman, Jacob     |
| Bakken, Benjamin P.   | Nunez, John       |
| Bakken, Monique       | Nunez, Nicolas    |
| Built, Andy           | Page, Greg        |
| Clark, Ben            | Peterson, Eric    |
| Clark, Kerry          | Ritter, Matt      |
| Howe, Chase           | Swink, Ashley     |
| Hoyle, Steve          | Tucker, Bryan J.  |
| Johnson, Brett & Mrs. | West, Jonathon M. |
| Johnson, Samantha.    | Wilson, Kim       |
| Madsen, Jeff          | Woodyatt, John M. |
| Nelson, Michael       | Yedinak, Pete     |

**Send Cards & Letters (anytime) to the Troops,**

**Send them to:  
Support Our Troops  
13791 N. Nebraska Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33613.**



**AFTERNOON**



Our Sunday School Kids are enjoying a special treat

after learning the reason why we Celebrate Christmas.

All young children up to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are invited to attend our Afternoon Sunday School at Malta UMC. This month they will meet on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. We have songs, activities, videos, and more. All young children are invited and to bring their friends.



|    | BIRTHDAYS                    |
|----|------------------------------|
| 01 | Wilbur Watson                |
| 02 | Jay Hunt                     |
| 03 | Madison Hunt                 |
| 04 | Amy Spychal                  |
| 05 | Ken Slade                    |
| 07 | Evelyn Luoma (106 years old) |
| 08 | Dorothy Weaver               |
| 10 | Rachel Hill<br>Marilyn Berg  |
| 15 | Ted Plote                    |
| 16 | Owen Fucilla                 |
| 24 | Sue Augustine                |
| 25 | Alice Pileski                |
| 26 | Amy Engstrom                 |
| 27 | Jeanette Gommel              |



# MALTA UNITED



## Methodist Church February 2023



### Story of St. Valentine

"The story of Valentine's Day begins in the third century with an oppressive Roman emperor and a humble Christian Martyr. The emperor was Claudius II. The Christian was Valentinus.

Claudius had ordered all Romans to worship twelve gods, and had made it a crime punishable by death to associate with Christians. But Valentinus was dedicated to the ideals of Christ; not even the threat of death could keep him from practicing his beliefs. He was arrested and imprisoned.

During the last weeks of Valentinus's life a remarkable thing happened. Seeing that he was a man of learning, the jailer asked whether his daughter, Julia, might be brought to Valentinus for lessons. She had been blind since birth. Julia was a pretty young girl with a quick mind. Valentinus read stories of Rome's history to her. He described the world of nature to her. He taught her arithmetic and told her about God. She saw the world through his eyes, trusted his wisdom, and found comfort in his quiet strength.

"Valentinus, does God really hear our prayers?" Julia asked one day. "Yes, my child, He hears each one."

"Do you know what I pray for every morning and every night? I pray that I might see. I want so much to see everything you've told me about!" "God does what is best for us if we will only believe in Him," Valentinus said. "Oh, Valentinus, I do believe! I do!" She knelt and grasped his hand.

They sat quietly together, each praying. Suddenly there was a brilliant light in the prison cell. Radiant, Julia screamed, "Valentinus, I can see! I can see!" "Praise be to God!" Valentinus exclaimed, and he knelt in prayer.

On the eve of his death Valentinus wrote a last note to Julia, urging her to stay close to God. He signed it, "From your Valentine."

His sentence was carried out the next day, February 14, 270 A.D., near a gate that was later named Porta Valentini in his memory. He was buried at what is now the Church of Praxedes in Rome.

It is said that Julia planted a pink-blossomed almond tree near his grave. Today, the almond tree remains a symbol of abiding love and friendship.

On each February 14, Saint Valentine's Day, messages of affection, love, and devotion are exchanged around the world.



## Malta UMC Lay Leadership

Church Council Chair: Ed Cheek

Board of Trustees Chair: Tom Plote

Committee of Finance & Stewardship Chair:

Bill Augustlne

Staff, Pastor & Parish Relations Chair:

Marcia Hueber

Worship Ministries Chair: Jodi Slade

Mission & Outreach Chair: Mary Lynn McArtor

Christian Education Chair: Kitty Jouris

Membership Care Chair: Sue Augustine

Committee on Records & History Chair: Marilyn Berg

Committee on Lay Leadership Chair: Pastor Jeremiah

Discipleship Chair: Pastor Jeremiah



to **Ruth Hueber** on the passing of her **Mother,**

**Nora Ostby**

on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Celebrated Her Life on

January 9<sup>th</sup>, which was Nora's

**99<sup>th</sup> Birthday.**

**and**

**to the Family of Gaye Hicks**

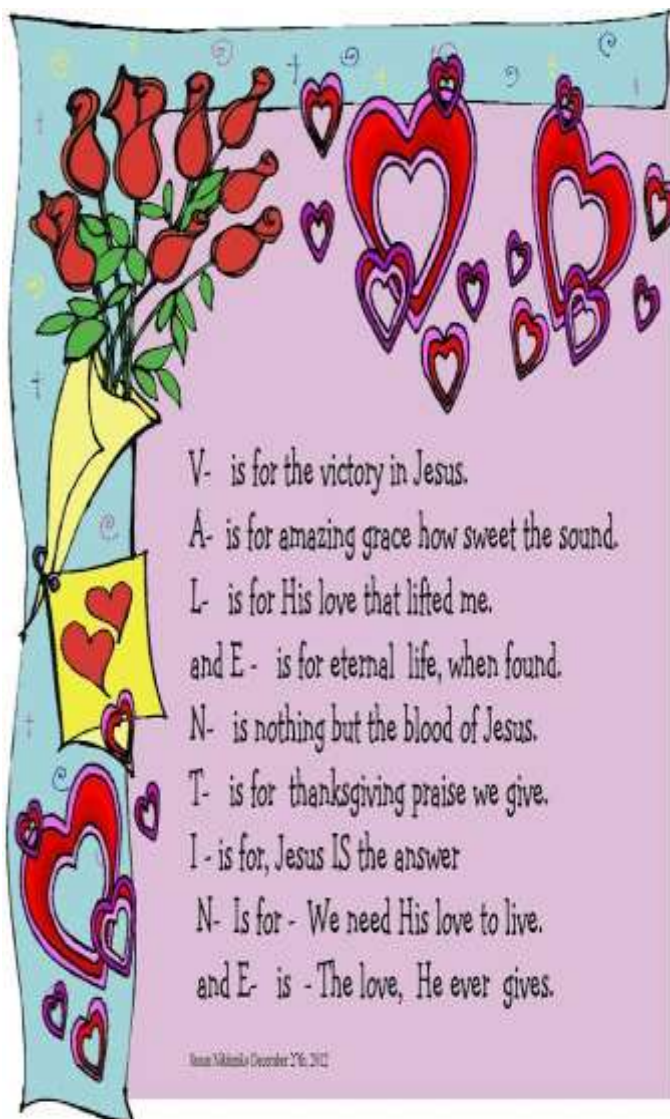
She passed on January 17<sup>th</sup>

Her Celebration of Life was

held on Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>

at Anderson Funeral Home

with a Private Burial at the graveside and a special luncheon at the Senior Center.



V- is for the victory in Jesus.  
A- is for amazing grace how sweet the sound.  
L- is for His love that lifted me.  
and E- is for eternal life, when found.  
N- is nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
T- is for thanksgiving praise we give.  
I- is for, Jesus IS the answer  
N- Is for - We need His love to live.  
and E- is - The love, He ever gives.

Karen Mikulak December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012



**FEBRUARY**

|      |                      |
|------|----------------------|
| 2/05 | Mary Langley         |
| 2/12 | Marcia Hueber        |
| 2/19 | Shirley Kyler        |
| 2/26 | Harry & Marilyn Berg |





# MALTA UNITED



## Methodist Church February 2023



JUNE/OCTOBER 2022/

**FEBRUARY 2023**

### Co-Chairs:

Cook, Dawn & Doug

815-757-3303

Slade, Jodi & Ken

815-761-2753

McArtor, Denise & Kevin

815-751-5812

Anderson, Annika & Matt

815-762-7569

Arndt, Darla & Ed

815-825-2701

Engstrom, Amy & Rod

815-901-0286

Fucilla, Jacque & Brian

630-248-5695

Gommel, Jeanette & Dave

815-751-8224

Mattis, Katie & Troy

815-825-2063

Rempfer, Niki & Derek

815-501-7885

Willrett, Larisa & Jamie

815-761-4781



**MARCH 2023/JULY/NOVEMBER 2022**

### Co-Chairs:

Heins, Vicke & Denny

815-252-0841

Hueber, Marcia

815-762-0010

Anderson, Ann & Marlin

815-825-2695

Berg, Marilyn & Harry

815-761-6232

Davison, Verna

815-756-2008

Fenstermaker, Katie & David

417-291-2031

Hopkins, Norma

815-751-1454

Hunt, Brenda & Jay

815-762-9845

Jordal, Linda & Jerry

815-601-6262

Quincer, Alice & Jim

815-761-8750

Siebrasse, Pat

815-970-5304

## Malta United Methodist Church

«Church Partners & Lunch Bunch»

FROM

**Habitat**  
for Humanity®



**FOR HELPING MAKE OUR 2022 BUILD at**

**406 S. 4<sup>TH</sup> Street in Malta**

**A SUCCESS!**

## **MALTA UMC - LAY LEADERSHIP**

### **NOMINATIONS 2022-2023**

(Some were missed last month - reposting)

#### **Church Council**

Ed Cheek Chair, and Annual Conference Delegate  
Nancy Plote, Financial Secretary  
Sue Augustine, Church Council Secretary  
Bill Augustine, Finance Committee Chair  
Kevin McArtor, Treasurer  
Kitty Jouris, Christian Education  
Jodi Slade, Worship Committee  
Ruth Hueber, At Large  
Mary Lynn McArtor, At Large  
Tom Plote, Board of Trustees  
Marcia Hueber, SPRC  
Marilyn Berg, Records and History  
Pastor Jeremiah

#### **Board of Trustees**

Tom Plote, Chair  
Larry Vint  
Frank Jouris  
Dave Fenstermaker  
Bill Augustine  
Justis Willrett  
Rodney Hueber

#### **Finance and Stewardship**

Bill Augustine, Chair  
Nancy Plote, Financial Secretary  
Tom Plote  
Larry Vint  
Kevin McArtor, Treasurer  
Mary Lynn McArtor  
Dave Gommel

#### **Staff Parish Relations**

Marcia Hueber, Chair  
Frank Jouris  
Derek Rempfer  
Vicky Vint  
Dave Gommel  
Marilyn Berg  
Jodi Slade

#### **Worship Ministries**

Jodi Slade, Chair  
Nancy Plote, Co-Chair  
Ed Cheek  
Marcia Hueber  
Kitty Jouris  
Hope Willrett  
Niki Rempfer  
Vicke Heins  
Pastor Jeremiah

#### **Mission and Outreach**

Mary Lynn McArtor, Chair  
Jodi Slade  
Ed Cheek  
Marcia Hueber  
Denny Heins

#### **Membership Care**

Sue Augustine, Chair  
Hope Willrett, Secretary  
Rachel Rempfer-Hill  
Vicky Vint  
Katie Fenstermaker  
Marcia Hueber  
Vicke Heins

#### **Committee on Records & History**

Marilyn Berg, Chair  
Kaye Dinsmore  
Marcia Hueber  
Carol Sandberg  
Pat Siebrasse

#### **Lay Leadership**

Pastor Jeremiah, Chair  
Mary Lynn McArtor  
Marcia Hueber  
Vicky Vint





# MALTA UNITED



## Methodist Church February 2023

*February*

| SUNDAY   | MON                                   | TUES | WED  | THURS                                | FRI  | SAT |
|--|---------------------------------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----|
| <b>2023</b>  |                                       |      | 1<br>Prayer & Fellowship<br>6:30 pm<br>Choir Practice 7 pm   | 1                                    | 3  | 4   |
| 5 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after<br>Epiphany<br><b>with Communion</b><br>Mission Meeting<br>during Fellowship<br>Adult Sunday School<br>after Fellowship | 6<br>Finance<br>7pm<br>CC 7:30pm      | 7    | 8<br>Prayer & Fellowship<br>6:30 pm<br>Choir Practice 7 pm   | 9 4H 6:30pm                          | 10   | 11  |
|  |                                       |      |  |                                      | Saturday, February 11<br>LAITY CONVOCATION<br>2023 from 9-12:30 p.m. |     |
| 12 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after<br>Epiphany<br>Adult Sunday School<br>after Fellowship<br><br>Oak Crest 3:30pm<br><br>Kid's Sunday School<br>4:00pm    | 13<br><br>Confirmation<br>Class 6-7pm | 14   | 15 LAITY GATHERING<br>at Sycamore UMC 7PM<br><br>Prayer & Fellowship<br>6:30 pm<br>Choir Practice 7 pm | 16<br>Today's Sisters<br>9:30am MUMC | 17   | 18  |
| 19 Transfiguration<br>Sunday<br><br>Adult Sunday School<br>after Fellowship  | 20                                    | 21   | 22 ASH<br>WEDNESDAY<br>7PM WORSHIP<br><br>NO Prayer &<br>Fellowship<br>NO Choir Practice               | 23                                   | 24   | 25  |
| 26 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in<br>Lent<br>Lenten Bible Study<br>after Fellowship<br><br>Kid's Sunday School<br>4:00pm                                    | 27<br><br>Confirmation<br>Class 6-7pm | 28   |  |                                      |  |     |

Malta United Methodist Church  
(815) 825-2118  
201 E. Sprague P.O. Box 158  
Malta, IL 60150

[maltaumc@outlook.com](mailto:maltaumc@outlook.com)

Rev. Jeremiah Thompson, Pastor  
Vicke Heins, Adm. Assistant  
Hours: M-W-Th 8-Noon



**Malta United Methodist Church**  
**201 E. Sprague (P.O. Box 158)**  
**Malta, IL 60150**