

MALTA UNITED



Methodist Church February 2024

PASTOR JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE

As we prepare for Lent this year, the season before Easter, I know it will be very different than years before. We are now part of a two-point charge, and so we won't be having a Lenten Study I will be leading after service. We will have Lenten services at both churches, Malta and Maple Park, and I am sure there will be other differences as well.

Yes, even when things change, the message of Lent remains, it is a time of repentance. I used to think to repent meant just for one to confess their sins, that is admit what they'd done wrong to God and to others. However, over the past several years I've come to understand that to repent is to not just admit what one has done that has caused harm, but also to make changes in one's life so that they don't continue to cause harm. To repent is not just to confess, but to change and do better.

In our lives we seek to do better at things all the time. When I was young, I wanted to learn to ride a bike and so I worked at it; maybe some of you have memories of working to learn to ride a bike too? When I finally could ride a bike, I was much happier, I had more freedom to get around town, I had a whole new range of fun activities opened to me. We should think of

repentance in a similar way. Yes, it can be hard work, we won't get it right all at once, and sometimes it can even hurt. Much like learning to ride a bike. But in the end we have learned something new, new opportunities are available, and life can be better for us and others.

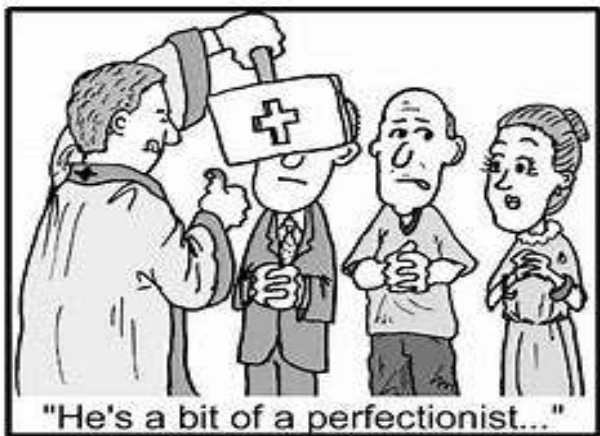
I invite you this Lent to think about repenting. In what ways may God be asking you to change so that some hurt in your life, or someone else's life can heal. Yes, it may not be easy, but how could things be so much better at the end. May the Holy Spirit guide us all in repentance this Lenten season and guide us towards something better to come.





**JOINT ASH Wednesday,
February 14th
Worship Service 7:00 PM
at Grace UMC**

On February 14, Ash Wednesday this year will mark the start of our season of Lent, the 40 days not including Sundays, before we celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday (March 31 this year.) The sister church in our charge, Grace United Methodist of Maple Park located at 506 Willow Street in Maple Park, will host our Ash Wednesday Service, which will start at 7:00 PM. This service will have music, scripture, a short message, and a time for repentance as we admit the ways we've not lived loving lives. For those who wish, you can be marked with the sign of the cross in ashes as a sign of your pledge to have God guide you as you seek to live more in tune with Jesus' teachings. This service will be designed for all ages. We hope you can join us! Invite your loved ones!



www.catholiccartoonblog.blogspot.com



1st SUNDAY IN LENT: FEBRUARY 18th

Sunday, March 10th

SPECIAL OFFERING SUNDAY: UMCOR

Daylight Savings Time begins: Sunday, March 10th
(Turn clocks ahead Saturday at midnight)

1st Day of Spring: Tuesday, March 19th

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY: March 24th
Regular Worship at Malta UMC 11am
with Coffee Time at 10:30 a.m.

HOLY WEEK: March 25 – March 30th

MAUNDY THURSDAY: March 28th
Joint Worship Service at Grace UMC

GOOD FRIDAY: March 29th
Joint Worship Service at Malta UMC
with Grace UMC

EASTER: March 31st
Regular Worship at Malta UMC 11am
with Coffee Time at 10:30 a.m.



TODAY'S SISTERS

*Today's Sisters will be meeting on
Thursday, February 15th at
9:30 a.m. at Oak Crest.*

MALTA UNITED



Methodist Church

February 2024



**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.**



	BIRTHDAYS
01	Wilbur Watson
02	Jay Hunt
03	Madison Hunt
04	Amy Spychal
05	Ken Slade
07	Evelyn Luoma (107 years old)
10	Rachel Hill Marilyn Berg
16	Owen Fucilla
24	Sue Augustine
27	Jeanette Gommel



2024 ACTION GROUPS

JANUARY/MAY/SEPTEMBER

Co-Chairs:

Sandberg, Terry & Steve	815-762-1035
McArtor, Mary Lynn & Jerry	815-751-3658
Plote, Nancy & Tom	815-751-2925

Augustine, Sue & Bill	815-762-5553
Cheek, Ed & Becky	815-761-0696
Sandberg, Carol	815-761-1254
Sandberg, Sheli	630-677-7900
Tucker, Joan	815-981-6209
Willrett, Donna	815-825-2870

MARCH/JULY/NOVEMBER

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
Fenstermaker, Katie & David	417-291-2031
Hunt, Brenda & Jay	815-762-9845
Jordal, Linda & Jerry	815-601-6262
Quincer, Alice & Jim	815-761-8750
Siebrasse, Pat	815-970-5304

FEBRUARY/JUNE/OCTOBER

Co-Chairs:

Slade, Jodi & Ken	815-761-2753
McArtor, Denice & Kevin	815-751-5812

Anderson, Annika & Matt	815-762-7569
Arndt, Darla & Ed	815-825-2701
Fucilla, Jacque & Brian	630-248-5695
Gommel, Jeanette & Dave	815-751-8224
Rempfer, Niki & Derek	815-501-7885
Willrett, Hope & Gene Hickey	815-901-8486
Willrett, Larisa & Jamie	815-761-4781

APRIL/AUGUST/DECEMBER

Co-Chairs:

Jouris, Kitty & Frank	815-751-3238
Vint, Vicky & Larry	815-751-5178

Abbott, Joanne & Dennis	815-825-2563
Arndt, Noel	815-751-0404
Glen, Stella	815-761-2302
Hill, Rachel & Jason	630-441-0585
Hueber, Ruth	815-764-9932
Kyler, Shirley	815-751-2435
Schafer, Sandy	815-825-2364



FEBRUARY

2/04 Harry & Marilyn Berg
 2/11 Hope Willrett & Gene Hickey
 2/18 Marcia Hueber
 2/25 Frank & Kitty Jouris

This Spring Jacket was left in the Fellowship Hall. It is now hanging in the Narthex.

ARE YOU MISSING A JACKET?



MALTA UNITED



Methodist Church February 2024



Our Children's Afternoon Sunday School Class were the Advent Readers and also were our Special Music on Sunday, December 17, 2023.

They all did an AWESOME JOB!. They are truly a gift and a blessing to our church, along with their teachers: Kitty Jouis & Ruth Hueber.

Advent Readers:
Azalea Hammette, Elaina Anderson & Albree Slayton



Candle Lighters: Albree Slayton,
Elaina Anderson & Shelby Fenstermaker



Special Music Leaders:

McKinzie Anderson & Rylee Slayton

Special Music sung by: Albree & Rylee Slayton,
Azalea Hammette, Elaina & McKinzie Anderson,
and Shelby Fenstermaker



Hymns: Away in A Manger, Jesus Loves Me, and
Happy Birthday Jesus



Children's Sunday School meets the 2nd & 4th Sundays
of each month at 4:00 p.m. All children are welcome!



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.

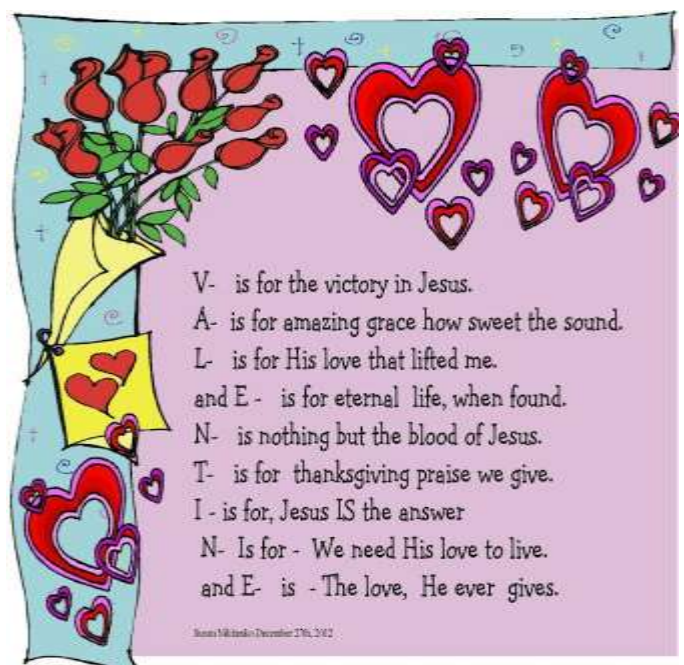
They sat quietly together, each praying. Suddenly there was a brilliant light in the prison cell. Radiant, Julia screamed, "Valentinus, I can see! I can see!" "Praise be to God!" Valentinus exclaimed, and he knelt in prayer.

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 UNITED



Methodist Church February 2024

February

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
2024				1	2	3
4 5 th Sunday after the Epiphany	5 Finance 7pm CC 7:30pm	6	7 Prayer & Fellowship 6:30 pm Choir Practice Resumes at 7 pm	8 4H 6:30pm	9	10
11 Transfiguration Sunday Oak Crest 3:30pm Kid's Sunday School 4:00pm	12 Youth Group 6PM at Grace UMC	13	14 JOINT ASH WEDNESDAY Worship 7:00 p.m. AT GRACE UMC	15 Today's Sisters 9:30am Oak Crest	16	17
18 1 st Sunday in Lent	19	20	21 Prayer & Fellowship 6:30pm Choir Practice 7pm	22	23	24
25 2 nd Sunday in Lent Kid's Sunday School 4:00pm	26 Youth Group 6PM at Grace UMC	27 Worship Meeting 7PM on Zoom	28 Prayer & Fellowship 6:30pm Choir Practice 7pm	29		



Malta United Methodist Church

(815) 825-2118

201 E. Sprague P.O. Box 158

Malta, IL 60150

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