

February/March

Whiteface Community

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Marilyn S. Ward celebrates her birthday February 1

Ashley Fish celebrates her birthday February 26

Mitch Dickerson celebrates his birthday March 10

Don Morrison celebrates his birthday March 10

Church Staff

Russ Mulvey – Choir/Bell
Choir Director

Eric Klotzko – Pianist

Jeremie/Ashley Fish –
Administrative Assistant

Don Morrison – Lay
Leader

Church Phone-518-946-7757

Thrift Store-518-946-2922

A Note From the Pastor



Pastor's Reflection

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness where he was tempted by the devil. – Luke 4:1-2a

Having just come back from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, my heart is full of all that I experienced there - from touching the stone that marks the place of Jesus' birth, to kneeling at the edge of the Jordan River where he was baptized, to visiting the sites of his miracles, to boating across the very lake upon which he walked and calmed a storm, to walking the shore where he called his first disciples and later cooked fish for them, to gazing over the garden of his agony and walking the Via Dolorosa, and so much more. Israel is a place rich in history, and steeped in conflict, suffering, destruction, rebuilding, healing, life, faith, and hope. It is the birthplace of our faith and the home of humans who, just like us, are living, working, raising their families, and praying for peace and justice.

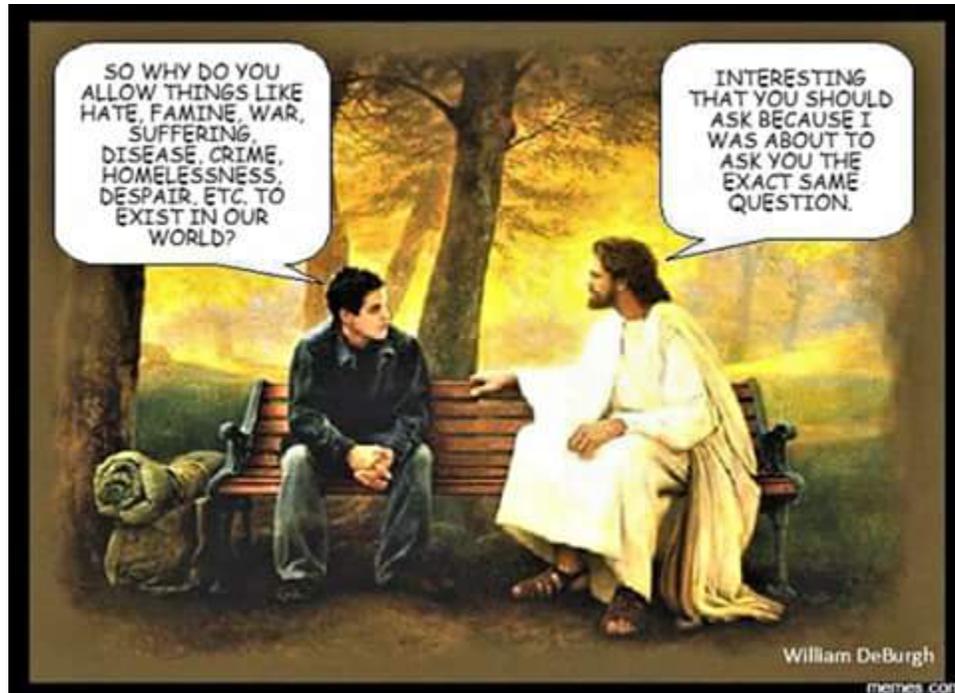
One of the traditional scriptures marking the beginning of Lent is the account of Jesus in the wilderness region of Judea resisting temptation. We recall, as we read, the times that we too are tempted and how, sometimes, we just step right in and make a wrong choice without even realizing we *were* being tempted! There is often a deeper level of temptation at work in our lives than just being tempted to eat that candy bar or buy that new gadget. In the wider scope, those things are rather inconsequential. The temptations we, as humans, need to be especially aware of are things like the temptations to gossip, judge, condemn, label, exclude, and rationalize behaviors that are hurtful to others. Sins of omission (failing to respond to an injustice, for example) are just as serious as sins of commission (committing the offense). If we look back and examine what happened in those situations, we often discover that we were too rushed, not thinking, and somewhere along the line lost touch with our Center.

Lent invites us to slow things down a bit, to walk with Jesus into the wilderness away from the world, that we may come face to face with the temptations in our lives that call us away from God's way for us. We are invited to take time, make time, to get back in touch with Christ, our Center. We are called to get back in tune with the notes God has given us to sing, that we may be in harmony with the people and all creation around us.

As we enter this time of Lenten discipline, beginning on February 14 with Ash Wednesday, Christ becomes more in view for us. As we embrace the discipline of self-examination and soul-searching, may we become more appreciative of the gift that Christ brings to our lives – all that Salvation, Death, Resurrection, and Grace means to us and our world.

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So, I invite you to join with me this Lenten season, spending your own personal wilderness time with Christ, in preparation for the glorious celebration of his Resurrection.



The Look on his Face...

The line of parents and guardians grew as the dismissal time approached. We all patiently and politely wait for our kids. Once the children start to head out the door is when the real chaos begins. I was dutifully waiting for Jordyn to exit when a young boy stopped in the doorway wrestling something out of his backpack, his mom trying to hurry him out of the way that little guy didn't budge! He stopped and pulled out a grocery sack that I recognized, it was the bag from our church that I dropped off that very morning. He held that bag with the brightest smile on his face to show his mom. He was so proud and happy. You ask what was in that magical bag? Godiva chocolate or perhaps some toy cars, no the bag was full of food for the weekend. He was absolutely thrilled with FOOD. Basic nourishment had him hold up the line of people trying to leave for the weekend. Sometimes I wondered who gets the bags? do they really need the bags? That day I found the answers to my questions. It was a beautiful moment that I am grateful to have witnessed. Thank you to all who have made the backpack program a success!

Written By:

Ashley Fish

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Regional Events

First United Methodist
Saranac Lake- FREE
Community Supper 5PM
every Wednesday

Plattsburgh UMC- Dinner
Church third Tuesday of the
month from 6-7:45PM

Upcoming Events

Join us here for Second
Sunday Supper and invite a
friend!

Knitting group will meet
the third Sunday of the
month following church

Announcements

The Office is open every
Tuesday 10-12 &
Wednesday 1-3

Kids Club

We were all very proud of our Kids Club youngsters for the fine job they did performing "Just A Little Christmas" on Dec. 18! Thank you to everyone who helped with costuming, prompting, music, logistics, food and hospitality that evening- we had a full house!!

It has been fun to discover how well the Children remembered the Christmas story even after Christmas break!

For the next few weeks we will learn the Bible stories of Jesus as a child.

If you have a skill or talent that you would like to share with the children, or if you would like to become a regular or occasional volunteer, please speak to Pastor Chrys or any of the other Kids Club workers

Church Wide Special Sunday

UMCOR Sunday- March 11, 2018

Gifts to UMCOR Sunday lay the foundation for all United Methodist Committee on Relief work by covering the costs of doing business. This means all contributions designated to specific programs can go 100 percent to those programs because UMCOR's basic expenses are covered.

For more information please go to www.umciving.org

UMW

A Birthday lunch is planned for Friday, March 16, at noon. We will gather at the new restaurant in upper jay- The Adirondack coffee cafe. Please sign up with Marilyn if you plan to attend.

My Preparation for Easter *(A Commitment to oneself)*

Lent is a time to prepare for Easter. It is a necessary prelude. The death and resurrection of Christ are true whether or not I prepare for Easter. However, without my heart and life being ready, I may not experience the depth and power of Christ's death and resurrection. So with my brothers and sisters, I commit myself to disciplines for conversion from sin and death to love and life in Jesus Christ. With the aid of the list below, I make the following commitments to discipline and growth for the next six weeks: *(Check the ones you desire or feel*

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prompted to do; circle the ones you then decide to do.)

Inward and Personal Disciplines: I will...

- Spend time in solitude each day.
- Read a book for inner growth.
- Read twice through the Gospel of the lectionary cycle you are in. (Luke in 2013)
- Begin to keep a journal of prayer concerns, questions, reading.
- Focus on thanksgiving, rather than on asking, in prayer.
- Give myself a gift of three hours to do something I always say I don't have time to do.
- Find a way to go to bed earlier or sleep in so I get enough rest.
- Pray for someone with whom I need to be reconciled. Let Jesus guide me in my thinking and feeling toward them.
- Take control of my life by _____.
- Take one hour to inventory my priorities and plan how I will reorder them.
- Give up a grudge or a rehearsal of a past event.
- Forgive someone who has hurt me.
- Dance my prayers to a favorite tape or CD.
- Other promptings:

Outward and Social Disciplines: I will...

- Take on some loving task:
- Join with a Prayer Partner
- Plan to visit a "shut-in" neighbor or church member weekly.
- Write a letter of affirmation once a week to a person who has touched my life.
- Listen and respond to Christ's call to a ministry of service:
- Go to coffee or dinner with someone I want to know better.
- Begin to recycle waste from my home and workplace.
- Give blood and recall the cross.
- Call a local mission and ask how I can help.
- Say "NO" to something that is a waste of money and time.
- Pray to God to help me resist racial or religious prejudice and to give me courage in opposing it.
- Decide to become a member of the church and speak to the pastor.
- Rebuke the spirit of criticism and keep my own tongue in control.
- Find a way to live out the baptismal promise to "resist evil, injustice, and oppression" in the power and liberty God gives us by _____.
- Other outward and social promptings:

As a way of being accountable, I will:

- Share my plan with at least one other person and share with that person my experience of Lent during Holy Week.

(signed) _____

(date) _____

Keep this for reference during the coming weeks.

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The
United
Methodist
Church

Whiteface United Methodist Church

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