



On the second month of the new year, I

greet all of the First United Methodist Church families in the name of the Christ. I pray that we all may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

In the lectionary, there are two waiting seasons; one is Advent when we wait for Jesus' birth and second coming, and the other is Lent when we wait for Jesus' resurrection. Lent of 2018 begins on February 14th which is called Ash Wednesday. It is a period for 40 days before the Easter (April 1st) except 6 Sundays. During the Lent, Christians come closer to the Christ especially through discipline accompanied by moderation.

Key words of Lent are '**moderation**', '**discipline**', and '**growth**'.

First, '**moderation**' is to quit or stop doing something that might hinder us to come to Christ. Traditionally, alcohol, tobacco, meat-eating, sweet food have been were on the moderation food list. Some people bravely stop drinking caffeine, well I (would) applaud their courage. In today's age of the internet, some people will stop posting on social media such as FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter... etc or they stop using a smartphone altogether.

"Just because something is technically legal doesn't mean that it's spiritually appropriate. If I went around doing whatever I thought I could get by with, I'd be a slave to my whims."
(1 Corinthians 6:12, The Message)

At this point, we need to think about why we moderate rather than moderation itself. I encourage you to use this time that you gain by not "doing" to come closer to Christ.

The second keyword of Lent is '**discipline**'. We need to practice harder now than in other seasons. Especially important is, *attending the Sunday worships*, which is a regular celebration time to worship God. When you travel, it would also be a good opportunity to experience how other Christians worship. Then by sharing what you have learned from where you visit, we can grow together.

Gospel reading is another good tradition for the discipline. During the Lent, the churches read four Gospels; Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. If you read 2-3 chapters a day, you will read them all. Or if you pick one book of them, and read a paragraph 3-5 times, which is the way of *Lectio Divina*, you will have an experience that the Bible speaks to you. It is possible because the author of the Bible, the Holy Spirit, is alive.

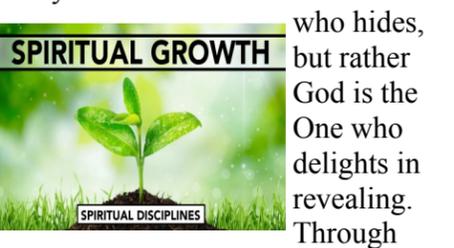
Reciting the Bible verses is a great discipline as well. Once the words have been stored in your brain, then just like a vending machine; when you have been pushed by any problem, the proper words will come up and hold you up so that you do not fall, or can

even can serve others in their time of trouble.

Additionally, '*prayer*' is a way of practicing good discipline. You can pray in various ways. You can speak to God with looking at the cross. You can listen carefully to His voice. You can cry out. You gather in a circle and take turns or you can pray at the same time with others. Prayer is to lift up our requests; however, it is also a time we can learn the heart of God through prayer. He pours out peace to our heart and provides the power to overcome this world. Finally, with the power of the Holy Spirit, we can be changed.

The last keyword, '**growth**' is the one we must pursue beyond Lent and is the end result from the practice of discipline.

The prophet Hosea cried out, "Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord" (Hosea 6:3a). Hosea was proclaiming to the Jews who knew very well about the law of God and prayed regularly. We need to seek God every single day. Since God is not the One



who hides, but rather God is the One who delights in revealing. Through

prayer, we will know Him better and grow.

Families of the First UMC, the Lent is the seeding time in spirit. Let us practice our spirituality to move fully mature adults, fully developed within and without,



fully alive like Christ. May God bless all of you to grow in spirit in this holy season, Lent.

Love and Blessings,
Pastor Hojin Shin

*Those who go out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with them.
(Psalm 126:6)*



Dying to Self

When you are forgotten or neglected and you don't hurt with the insult but your hearts is happy -that is dying to self.

When your advice is disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and you refuse to let anger rise in your heart, and take it all in patient, loving silence-that is dying to self.

When you lovingly and patiently bear disorder, irregularity, tardiness, and annoyance...and endure it as Jesus endured it-that is dying to self.

When you never care to refer to yourself in conversation or record your own good works, or itch for praise after an accomplishment, when you can truly love to be unknown...that is dying to self.

When you can see your brother or sister prosper and can honestly rejoice with him, and feel no envy even though your needs are greater-that is dying to self.

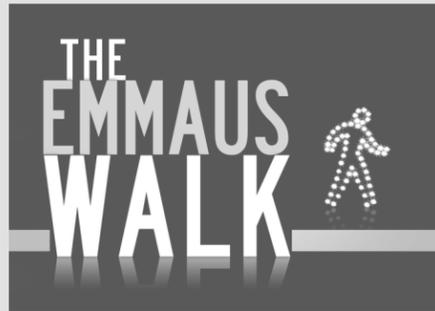
When you are content with any food, any offering, any raiment, any climate, or any society-that is dying to self.

When you can take correction, when you can humbly submit inwardly as well as outwardly, with no rebellion or resentment rising up within your heart-that is dying to self.

Author- Unknown

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 5-8:30pm Just for Kicks 6pm Intensified Prayer @War Room	2 Offices Closed	3
4 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Adult School 10:00am Worship Holy Communion	5 4pm Intercessory Prayer @Emerald Oak 7pm Dig in Bible Study	6 4:30pm Shekinah Praise 5-8pm Just For Kicks	7 1:30pm Upper Room 1:30pm 345 ALIVE 5pm Confirmation 6pm JR/SR UMYF 7:30pm Admin Council	8 5-8:30pm Just for Kicks 6pm Intensified Prayer @War Room	9 Offices Closed	10
11 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Adult School 10:00am Worship *Outreach Ministries annual Valentine Candy Sale following church service	12 4pm Intercessory Prayer @Emerald Oak 5-7pm Girl Scouts 7pm Dig in Bible Study	13 4pm Classic Quilters 4:30pm Shekinah Praise 5-8pm Just For Kicks	14 1:30pm Upper Room 2pm Chocolate Extravaganza @ Emerald Oaks 3:30pm 345 ALIVE 7pm Ash Wednesday Service	15 <u>Scholarship applications due!</u> 5-8:30pm Just for Kicks 6pm Intensified Prayer @War Room	16 Offices Closed	17
18 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Adult School 10:00am Worship	19 4pm Intercessory Prayer @Emerald Oak 7pm Dig in Bible Study	20 4:30pm Shekinah Praise 5-8pm Just For Kicks	21 1:30pm Upper Room 1:30pm 345 ALIVE 5pm Confirmation 6pm JR/SR UMYF	22 5-8:30pm Just for Kicks 6pm Intensified Prayer @War Room	23 Offices Closed	24
25 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Adult School 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Walk to Emmaus 4th Day Group Pottluck & Prayer	26 4pm Intercessory Prayer @Emerald Oak 5-7pm Girl Scouts 7pm Dig in Bible Study	27 4pm Classic Quilters 4:30pm Shekinah Praise 5-8pm Just For Kicks	28 1:30pm Upper Room 3:30pm 345 ALIVE 5pm Confirmation 6pm JR/SR UMYF	3/1 5-8:30pm Just for Kicks 6pm Intensified Prayer @War Room	3/2 Offices Closed	3/3



The Walk to Emmaus was an event that many of my church family had urged me to attend. For numerous reasons I just couldn't find the time. Finally I set all things aside and decided to work on my spiritual life. I took a huge leap of faith asked a sponsor (which is basically anyone who has been on the walk before) and signed up. Everything (money, family, ride, food, and rest) was taken care of. All that was needed was for me to say yes.

I attended with some mental hesitation. As the weekend unfolded, I wondered at times when this 'transformation' of my heart was going to occur. Through many speakers, group activities, prayer, and the gentle guidance of leaders; my mind and heart opened.

Jeremiah 29:13 says "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart". The spirit of the Lord came to me. It slowly became more than a weekend away but one of renewed faith, tears, and appreciation of family, old and new friends, and an understanding of my journey with Christ. I encourage you to take the step to attend and participate in the Walk to Emmaus. Each walk is your own journey but believe me you will not walk alone.

Sincerely and faithfully submitted.

Betty Zeigler

**Winter – Men's Walk
West Des Moines, IA
Feb 8 – 11, 2018**

**Winter – Women's
Walk
West Des Moines, IA**

Chapters in Our Life Together



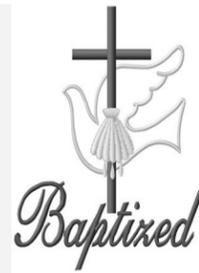
- 1 Mae Stevens
- 2 Dayton Strohmman
- 5 Tiffany O'Leary
- 6 Ryan Ballman
- Ava Salas
- Seth Freeman
- 7 Amber Enger
- Joyce Muller
- 8 Janice Bare
- Ray Stanley
- 9 Janet Nirk
- 10 Carol Simonsen
- 11 Julie Leners
- Michelle Kogel
- 12 Craig Kassel
- Emmry Beving
- Katie Malm
- Autumn Simonsen
- 13 Keith Bare
- Judd Duhn
- Tony Salas
- Heather Strohmman
- Joshua Hobart

- 14 Kaylyn Hobart
- Kristen Kassel
- Troy Sargent
- Linda Hill
- 15 Barbara Boulton
- 17 Olivia Hampe
- 18 Logan Gonzales
- Karen Sargent
- Jackson Lowman
- Cade Shirk
- 19 Margorie Solberg
- Tami Culver
- 20 Charla Eglund
- 21 Romina Rasmussen
- 23 Anne Carney
- 25 Nancy Hunsaker
- Juliana Appiah
- Don McKinney
- Jason Stanley
- Luke Jensen
- Martha Wells
- 26 Abby Goodlaxson
- 27 Bill Bramley
- 28 Paxton Duhn
- Cenek Hoch
- Jameson Hokinson
- Parker Hokinson
- Maxton Hamell
- Everett Young Gonzales



7 Dave & Cindy Kassel

Baptisms



Congratulations to Craig and Bridget(Merrill) Myhre on the baptism of their son Macklan Douglas Myhre, Sunday January 7, 2018. Witnesses were Brian Merrill & Janice Sorenson.

Congratulations to Derrick and Rachel (Pelzer) Jungers on the baptism of their daughter Hazel Rose Jungers, Sunday January 21, 2018. Witnesses were Ashley (Pelzer) Forrer and Anthony Jungers.

Sympathies to John, Lana, and Reba Williams on the death of their son and brother



Hunter Williams on December 16, 2018. Services were held on December 20, 2018. Hunter had been a member of Emmetsburg First United Methodist Church since October 13, 2013 when he was confirmed.

Sympathies to the family of Mona Knudson, who died on December 27, 2018. Services were held on January 5, 2018. Mona had been a member of Emmetsburg First United Methodist Church since June 15, 1941.

2018 VBS Shipwrecked: Rescued By Jesus



The theme for VBS this year is Shipwrecked (Rescued By Jesus). VBS for 2018 will be **June 18-22**.

In Shipwrecked kids will discover that there is "Someone bigger than their struggles. Someone stronger than their weakness. Someone who loves them unconditionally... Jesus." Kids focus on one important lesson each day with a special theme character as well. The lesson is reinforced through bible verses, songs, snacks,

and hands on activities. By the end kids know that Jesus is with them through all of life's storms.

Sound like fun? Wanna be a part of the experience? Sign up to help with VBS this year. As a teacher or helper you will experience joy. Joy at watching kids discover God again or for the

very first time. You can be there first hand to see Jesus working in their lives and in yours. The VBS program can use teachers, helpers, snack providers, registrars, people to build sets, decorations and stations to transform the church into a tropical island for the week. While VBS is a lot of work, it is also a lot of fun. Think about and act on a way you can help VBS this year.

Contact Sarah Strohmman or the church office to get involved in creating, building, teaching, feeding, leading, and promoting Vacation Bible School this summer!

"What Do I Have?"

What do I have, Lord, that you would need me as a servant?

Eyes, he said, to see the beauty in all that I've made — and my children as they travel life's highway.

Hands, he said, to reach out and touch hurting souls, to give a hug or encouraging pat on the back.

Feet, he said, to lead my children through this world of strife and to help them run from sin and follow me.

Mouth, he said, to lift up your voice and sing praises to me so others may hear the joy in your heart.

Ears, he said, to listen to my still, small voice of love and to hear my children when they cry for help.

Heart, he said, so you may know the full love of my Spirit and love my children as I have loved you.

—Thomas Butler

10 Biblical Ways To Love

1. Listen without interrupting. "To answer before listening — that is folly and shame" (Proverbs 18:13).
2. Speak without accusing. "Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" (James 1:19).
3. Give without selfishness. "The righteous give without sparing" (Proverbs 21:26).
4. Pray without ceasing. "We have not stopped praying for you" (Colossians 1:9).
5. Answer without arguing. "Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife" (Proverbs 17:1).
6. Share without pretending. "Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:15).
7. Enjoy without complaining. "Do everything without grumbling or arguing" (Philippians 2:14).
8. Trust without wavering. "[Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres" (1 Corinthians 13:7).
9. Forgive without punishing. "Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13).
10. Promise without forgetting. "A longing fulfilled is a tree of life" (Proverbs 13:12).



Below are the addresses of our members who are in area nursing homes or assisted living facilities.

Please visit or send a card to brighten their day. They would love to hear from you.

PARC Hall
3201 1st Street,
Emmetsburg, IA 50536
712-852-5520

Joyce Muller
Paul Kooker
Lois Lowman
Vi Sampson
Pearl Whitmore

Willow Ridge
3203 1st Street,
Emmetsburg, IA 50536
712-852-5480

Pat Anderson #103
Anne Carney #216
Jackie Donovan #104
Virginia Place #210

Lakeside Assisted Living
401 N. Lawler Street,
Emmetsburg, IA 50536
712-852-4060

Shirley Levernz
Anna Beth Magee

Emerald Oaks Assisted Living
2603 17th Street,
Emmetsburg, IA 50536
712-852-8408

Mary Etta Baxter #5
Gwen Carmichael # 20
Doris Gustafsen #8
Rosabelle Johnson #1
Florence Malm #22
Louise Sackett # 16

Emmetsburg Care Center
2405 21st Street,
Emmetsburg, IA 50536
712-852-4266

Lilian Cox
Bev Hankey
Vida Krough
Betty Miller
Mae Stevens
Ted Strohmman
Shirley Weisbrod

Lord,
have mercy
on them,
strengthen their
weakness,
protect and guide us!

John and Lana Williams Family,
Gene Twait, Rose Spears (Mother of Lynette McGrath),
Reba Williams, Nancy Hinrichs, Carol Ensley,
Bernice Hersom, Lois Lowman, Sharon Hobart, Carol Hersom,
Kort Freeman, John and Stacey Strohmman,
Marge Solberg, Scott Sanne (Grandson of Pearl Whitmore),
Deb Nissen (sister-in-law of Deb Wickman),



Mike & Lea Shipull,
Devin Morey, Jon Williams, Cole McDonough, Philip Christenson (brother of Marge Solberg),
Jane Stevens, Cindy Kassel, Ted Strohmman, Vi Sampson, Joyce Muller, Police Officers, firefighters, and our military members.



If you or a loved one is hospitalized, please call the church to inform us. The hospital does not and will not call us.

1 John 3:18

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Intercessory Prayer Group

Intercessory Prayer Group continues to meet every Monday at 4:00pm at Emerald Oaks at either Doris Gustafson or Florence Malm's apartment. We continue to pray for anyone who needs God's healing powers or comfort; for peace for our world; for our country and our community; for our churches and leaders; for anything or anyone who needs God's love and care. So we pray for you and send God's Blessings to each of you!



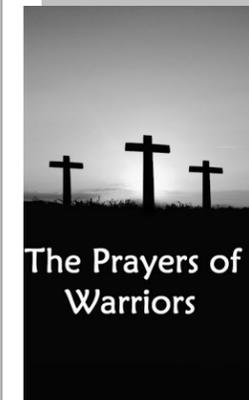
Upper Room Bible Study

Each Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. At Emerald Oaks Study is open to anyone desiring fellowship and growth. Refreshments are not served but we do have food for the soul!

Emerald Oaks
2603 17th St, Emmetsburg

Intensified Prayer Meeting

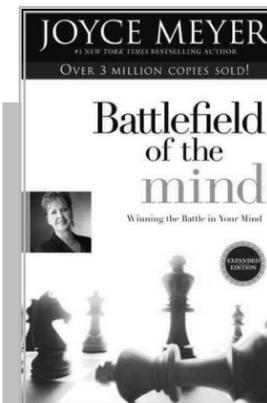
The Prayers of Warriors



every Thursday at 6pm in the "War Room" at Ruth Hand's.

Prayer in the Sanctuary

Every morning at 8am. We encourage everyone to come and pray in the way that is most comfortable for you. The sanctuary is opened at 8am but you can come anytime throughout the day.

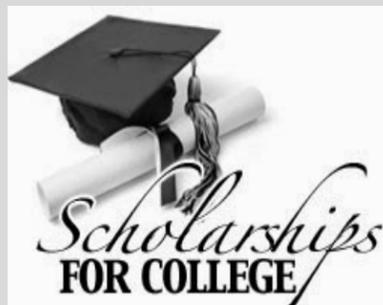


Dig In To God's Word Bible Study

Mondays
7pm
Church Library

All are welcome to join us!





Scholarship applications for the 2018-2019 school year are now available. Pick one up in the church narthex or see **Jackie**



The Endowment Committee is now accepting applications for ministry request. If you have a project or idea that needs funding to promote our church ministries, please fill out an application. Applications are due back by March 15, 2018. Applications are available at the church office or contact **Kent Klootwyk**.

Join the Chancel Choir!

Practices: the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month at 9:00 a.m.,
Sing: during the worship service following practice.

Singers of all ages and levels are welcome. The ability to read music is helpful, but not required.

High School students are encouraged to join for community service.

Choir Director - David Fog
Accompanist - Kelley Fog



Potluck & Prayer

Emmaus 4th Day group meets on the 4th Sunday of every month at 5pm at Emmetsburg First UMC.

If you have any questions contact **Sarah Strohmman** for further details.



You are invited to join Bell Choir!

The Bell Choir performs the 3rd Sunday each month during the worship service. The ability to read music is helpful, but not required.

Bell Choir Director
Melanie Flynn



QUILTING GROUP

Classic Quilters will get together at 4:00pm the 2nd and 4th Tuesday every month.

Anyone who enjoys quilting is welcome to join us.

Outreach Ministries IS HAVING Annual Valentine's Candy Sale on February 11th
following Sunday morning worship service. Remember to pick up your candy and support outreach ministries at the same time!

A NEW COMMANDMENT
In John 13:34, Jesus offers important instructions for his followers.
Directions: Figure out the pattern in each vertical line of letters. Then add the next letter in the sequence to the blank underneath, completing John 13:14, NIV.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNPOQRSTUVWXYZABCD...

F	L	S	Y	F	K	Y	X	E	I	Q	B	V	O	O	J	F	
H	M	T	A	I	L	A	Y	H	K	R	D	Y	P	S	M	G	
J	N	U	C	L	M	C	Z	K	M	S	F	B	Q	W	P	H	

E	X	M	B	C	L	M	B	U	V	F	R	P	L	V	F	R	
F	Y	P	C	F	M	P	C	X	W	I	S	Q	M	W	I	S	
G	Z	S	D	I	N	S	D	A	X	L	T	R	N	X	L	T	

A	R	J	Q	C	C	S	B	F	K	Y	X	H	L	Q	B	Y	I
E	S	M	R	F	G	T	C	I	L	A	Y	J	M	R	D	A	L
I	T	P	S	I	K	U	D	L	M	C	Z	L	N	S	F	C	O

JOHN 13:34, NIV

Answer: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34, NIV



heart sandwich

Show your love by making someone this heartfelt snack on Valentine's Day.



What you need:

- 2 slices of bread
- 2 heart-shaped cookie cutters (one large, one small)
- Lunchmeat and cheese (or peanut butter and jelly)

What you do:

1. Cut a large heart out of each slice of bread.
2. Cut a small heart from the middle of one big heart.
3. With the small cookie cutter, make several heart shapes out of the meat and cheese. Place between the bread slices.
4. If you're using peanut butter and jelly, spread both onto the large, solid heart. Then place the slice with the small heart cutout on top.

First United Methodist Church
Regular Monthly Administrative Church Council Minutes
Wednesday, January 10, 2018, at 7:30 pm

In attendance: (13) Dave Ballman, Jackie Black, Mike Embrock, *Brian Garrels, Ruth Hand, Cindy Kassel, Ken Kassel, Kent Klootwyk, Cindy Magee, Lisa Siebrecht, Lois Stanley, Troy Strohman, Myram Tunnicliff*

Call to order: Troy Strohman called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and opened the meeting with prayer.

Devotions: Pastor Hojin Shin's absent, He was in Washington, DC for Continuing Education.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from December 6, 2017, Motion to approve: Ken Kassel, Approved as written, by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Lois Stanley reported the December, 2017 Treasurer's Report, General Fund Balance: \$19,175.40, Motion to approve: Brian Garrels, Approved as presented, by voice vote.

Committee Reports:

Nurturing Ministries Planning Team: Dave Ballman and Cindy Magee

Cindy reported the Youth Groups restarted today from Christmas break. She had not talked to Susan Embrock regarding any upcoming plans for UMYF groups.

Dave reported the Utica, NY Church provides a breakfast each Sunday morning before church, and asked us to prayerfully consider a Special Offering to help with the cost of this activity. Also, the church gymnasium floor will be replaced by insurance to fix the bump in the flooring.

Outreach Ministries Planning Team: Rosie Argabright

No Report (Lois Stanley mentioned the next activity would be the Candy Sale in February.)

Witness Ministries Planning Team: No Report

Administrative Committees:

Chair of SPRC: Cindy Kassel

Cindy reported on the Pastoral Support Report, Pastor Hojin has requested to move \$1,500 from his reimbursed travel expense to his continuing education expense. Motion: Brian Garrels, Approved by voice vote.

Chair of Finance: Brian Garrels

Committee met at 6:30 pm this evening. This being the first meeting with new committee members present, a detailed discussion of the 2017 Treasurer's Report was held.

No meeting to be held in February, unless a need arises.

Chair of Trustees: Lisa Siebrecht and Ruth Hand

Lisa reported the Building Committee is still waiting on a revised estimate from Morton, expecting to have one soon. An additional bid for the remodeling of the parsonage bathroom is coming. Lighting concerns for the south entrance is being investigated.

Chair of Endowment Committee: Kent Klootwyk

Committee is waiting on the Year to Date Statements which should be coming in January. Details regarding Endowment Request will be in the February newsletter and weekly Sunday bulletins. Request Forms will be available soon.

Lay Leadership Vice Chair: No Report

Chair of History Committee: Anne Carney and Myram Tunnicliff

Myram read a list of accomplishments of some of our past Pastors. Please take a few minutes and look at the History Cabinet in the South entry.

Memorial Committee: No Report

Other Committee/Additional New Business:

Formation of a Scholarship Committee – Applications for Scholarships are due February 15, and review of applications will begin soon after. Discussion was held regarding who should be on this committee and it was decided the head of each of the Administrative Committees, plus a representative from one of the Women's Circles would make up the committee. (Trustees-Lisa Siebrecht, SPRC-Cindy Kassel, Finance-Brian Garrels, Endowment-Kent Klootwyk, Lay Leadership-Pastor Hojin Shin, Circle Representative-to be announced)

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm

Closing Prayer

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 7:30 pm

Submitted by Recording Secretary: _____

Cindy Magee