

The Church Window



February
2016

FROM THE PASTOR

“God’s Freely Given Love”

February is upon us and I am asking what happened to January? Yes, it is still cold outside but our hearts should be warm as we think of love – you know, Valentine’s Day! Valentine’s Day can be heart breaking for some, lonely for some – but there is a love that will always be there for us. That love is... God’s Love!

*Sing to the Lord with thanks; sing praises to our God with a lyre!
God covers the skies with clouds; God makes rain for the earth;
God makes the mountains sprout green grass.
God gives food to the animals – even to the baby ravens when they cry out.
God doesn’t prize the strength of a horse; God doesn’t treasure the legs of a runner.
No. The Lord treasures the people who honor him, the people who wait for
His faithful love. – Psalm 147:7-11*

All of us have known relationships that seemed to have dried up. Often one of the signs and causes of such a breakup is the failure to express heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the other. In other words, taking the other for granted. When that happens, love dies. Love thrives and grows by finding joy in the other and expressing it in praise and thanks.

“Human beings need love in order to remain human, in order to thrive. Think of infants and how they thrive on parents’ praise as they express the depth of their love and identify the baby as the source of their delight and joy. Imagine what would happen to the infant if all love were denied. The baby’s developments would be impaired, the infant’s humanity threatened.

The psalmist knows that in order to grow into full human beings, full children of God who can give and receive love, we need to learn the art of praising God with all our hearts, with all our souls, with all our strength, and with all our minds. Only then can we love our neighbors as ourselves. And this offering of praise needs to occur regularly since it changes our lives. It is our way of knowing God." – Disciplines

There is a reason we are able to love God. It is, very simply, because God first loved us. God loves us and blesses us. Years ago, Tanya Tucker had a song out called, "I Won't Take Less Than Your Love." The last lyrics of the song are:

"How much do I owe you?" said the man to his Lord.
"For giving me this day and every day that's gone before.
Shall I build a temple, shall I make a sacrifice?
Tell me Lord and I will pay the price."

And the Lord said: "I won't take less than your love, sweet love.
No, I won't take less than your love.
All the treasures of the world could never be enough,
And I won't take less than your love."

Amen!

*With Love &
Serving with the Spirit of Christ,
Pastor Bud*

Love
Love
Love

FEBRUARY MISSION



*Blessed are those who are generous,
because they feed the poor.
-Proverbs 22:9*

Our Mission/Social Concern emphasis for February will go to a mission project many have become familiar with; Feed My Starving Children (FMSC).

Approximately 18,000 children die per day from hunger and hunger related disease (UNICEF).

Feed My Starving Children is a Christian 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. A single meal cost only 22 cents to produce, and 92 percent of total donations go directly toward the food program. FMSC is committed to feeding God's children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: children and adults hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children, and they ship the meals to nearly 70 countries around the world.

The mobile Pack that we are involved with is held in Boscobel and organized in part with Boscobel United Methodist Church. The pack will be April 14-16 at the Boscobel Fire Department. The goal is to have 100,000 meals packed in Boscobel. To accomplish this \$22,000 needs to be raised. We invite you to join us in being a part of the hunger solution through this Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack. This is an opportunity to learn about hunger related issues, pray for those in need, raise funds to cover the cost of meals and pack meals for the hungry. Through this powerful event, we can impact the lives of thousands of children and grow spiritually by serving others, not to mention it's a lot of fun.

Our Christian Education department has also taken this mission to heart and will be doing a silent auction to raise money for FMSC, are sharing information and involving our church as a whole for helping FMSC. For additional information and to eventually sign up to volunteer for the pack, please go to the website, www.feedmystarvingchildren.com

\$.22=one meal \$2.20 = 10 meals \$22.00 = 100 meals

Please place all mission offerings in the offering envelopes provided in the weekly church worship bulletins, and use the missions line to list amount, and what mission it is for. In this case February mission or Feed My Starving Children (FMSC). If you wish to give but cannot attend church, just send checks to the church office. All checks should be made out to **Fennimore United Methodist Church**, with mission offering designation marked on the line provided on the check.

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Our Christian Love and Sympathy is extended to the Robert Moon family. Bob passed away, Wednesday, January 20th.

RIDE SHARE

The Dream Team would like to offer the ride share program to anyone that is unable to drive to worship, but would like to attend. If you or someone you know may be interested, please let either Jerry Ames or the church office know.

CONNECTIONAL GROUPS

Connectional groups will be open for registration soon, and starting in March. Please watch for more information and get signed up soon. Connectional groups are small groups of people that share the same curriculum, build friendships and grow in Christ together. It's a win win situation. We will be offering a variety of groups, so be sure to check them out. Sign up can be done on the communication cards, on the website or by contacting the church office. If you have questions, please see Renee or Pastor Bud.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

Pastor Bud will be holding membership classes starting Sunday, Feb. 7th from 9:30-10:15 for four weeks, ending Sunday, Feb. 28th. Membership Sunday will probably be March 6th, but depends on when new members can attend. If you've indicated you're interested in joining, additional information will be mailed to your home. We are aware of some people that want to join the church, but if you have not let us know, please do so. (You can indicate such on your communication card also) If you're unsure, please pray about it and see where God is leading you. Hope you check out the classes.

DREAM TEAM TIDBIT

The straw that broke the camels back! What does this mean? It shows us how one event can alter the future. Sometimes given the right circumstances and the right person at the right time, someone's future can be changed.

Rosa Parks was tired and had enough. The result several months later, brought a city to it's knees. Was Rosa someone special? No, she was just too tired to care and took a stand. We as humans declared her special. History has countless people who took a stand and changed the lives of one or many.

God needs us to take a stand. Speak out for those that are in need. The poor, the hungry, the homeless, the oppressed and many others need someone to speak for them.

Speaking against an evil trend or behavior in society can be difficult, but when God calls us to a time and a place, it is his time and his place. God will give us the words and the boldness, we just need to trust in him and leave our fears behind. Stand up for others when there is an injustice or persecution. The life you change could be your own.

The Dream Team is a visionary team that continues to see how to do "Whatever It Takes" to have the church be the best it can be, for God's Kingdom and those who come through its doors. The team is known as the "Purple People" because of purple shirts or lanyards that are worn on Sunday morning. The Team Leader is Jerry Ames and if you are interested in being part of a wonderful ministry, Dream Team is a great one. Please see Jerry.

SMILE—it could make someone's day. God Bless!



Christian Ed News

We are well into the New Year and are on the Penguin curriculum. We have learned how to be Fishers of Men, being humble, the Good Samaritan, and to put Jesus first. The students are always excited to learn more stories from the Bible. In February we will do a Valentine's Day lesson then start on Untangled, which is our Easter curriculum.

FMSC

Again this year we will have a silent auction for various theme baskets. The money will be given to Feed My Starving Children (FMSC). Students should bring in items related to that theme for the basket ASAP and the auction will be held Feb 28th-March 13th. It will end at 10:30 on March 13th. The themes are as follows:

Tot's Turf- Movies/games

4k/5k- Cooking/baking

1st/2nd- Automotive/tools/garage items

3rd/4th Marianne- Arts/crafts

3rd/4th Tricia- WI sports (Badgers, Packers, Brewers, etc)

5th/6th- Outdoors (camping, hunting, pool, beach, gardening, etc)

7th-12th - Fennimore (Eagle items, Fennimore businesses/gift cards, etc)

Additionally, the FMSC pack will be April 14,15, & 16 at the Boscobel Fire Station. Some classes have an interest in participating in the pack. Please talk to your student's teacher regarding plans for that.

Food Drive

We are having a food drive in each class. Please have students bring in non-perishable food items or items needed at the food pantry. (personal Hygiene, laundry soap, etc are needs) The class with the most pounds of food will win a pizza party. In addition for each pound of food C.E. will donate \$1.00 to FMSC. The last day for this is Jan. 31st. Its great to know you're helping others. Good luck to everyone!

VBS Workday

Surf Shack is starting! We have scheduled our first VBS workday for Feb 13th from 9-3. This will be a potluck and open to anyone that would like to help. Please remember this is NOT just for those with students in C.E., its for adults of all ages to help out, it's a great outreach ministry to be involved in. The first workday will be a lot of tracing and coloring so it will be easy work. If you can't stay the whole time it's ok; even a couple hours will help greatly.

VBS Dates

VBS is on the calendar and the dates are set. SUFER SHACK will begin on Sun June 19th and end on Thurs June 23rd from 5:30-8:00. On Mon-Thurs we will have a free meal for students and families from 5:00-5:30. VBS will run from 5:30-8:00pm. On Thursday, we will have a program starting at 7:00.

Dates to Remember

Feb 13th VBS Workday 9-3

2/28 - 3/13 FMSC silent auction baskets

March 13th Easter program run through during CE time

March 19th Program practice 9-11

March 20th Easter program 10:30 service

If anyone has any questions please feel free to contact Sherry Kieler at 778-1556.

LENT SERVICES

~All Services start at 7:00pm~

Feb. 10th Ash Wednesday

Wednesdays—Feb. 17th, 24th (Healing Service),

March 2nd, 9th, 16th, Worship Services lasting about 45 minutes.

March 24th Holy Thursday (communion)

March 25th Good Friday **7:00PM**

EASTER—Sunday, March 27th 6:30am Sunrise Service, 7:00am Breakfast, 8:00am, 9:20 Christian Ed., 10:30am, 6:30pm Worship Services

NEWSLETTER ONLINE

You may not know but you can get a digital copy of the newsletter! If you prefer to read it on line, on your phone, tablet or whatever, you can do it. Check out the website to view it. If you have questions, please see Paul Adney.

COMMUNICATION CARDS

We wanted to share some information about the communication cards you are asked to complete each week. The cards replace various forms of communication into one. They are also a great source of information. To better serve you, as church attendees we want to communicate information with you as well as keep records up to date. The cards allow for changes to happen quicker, letting us know who is attending, as a record of attendance and where you are on your faith journey. The cards are reviewed and often prayed over with the next steps and prayer requests. Lastly, it is wonderful to have guests complete the cards and obtain important information from them so we can contact them and let them know we're glad they came to worship with us. However, here's the part we need everyone's help in.....if you were a guest, would you complete the card, if the person next to you didn't? So we are asking, especially if you are sitting next to a guest, please, please, please complete the communication card. We will not do the whole script each Sunday, but hope you know the importance of the cards.

Did you know in—

November—We had 13 guests for worship
December— a lot because of Christmas Eve
January— Already 7 (have 2 Sundays left)

We would not know this if it weren't for the cards & being intentional about who is coming through our doors. God is blessing us with his children, we need to do our part. Won't you do your part? How can you help? Lets all do, "Whatever it takes".

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

We've been blessed with a mild winter so far. However, if we need to cancel a meeting or worship services we will send an email out to those we can and post it on our website and Facebook page. If its worship we will also TRY to have it on WGLR and the TV. (We emphasize try because often they're not staffed early Sunday mornings) We hope we don't have to worry about it, but just in case, we have a plan.

SUPER BOWL PIZZAS

The youth will be selling Papa Murphy's Super Bowl Pizzas again this year. The pizzas are the family size for \$11.00, a great meal or two and they're ready to go in the oven or freezer. Orders will be taken between worship services and here for pick up on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7th. Please be sure to pick up your pizzas, we don't have freezer space to keep them for you. Thanks so much for your continued support.

YOUTH IMPACT NEWS

The youth (19) traveled to the Rockin' Jump Trampoline park on January 10th. A great time was had by everyone and we had a great turnout. A few Chinese fire drills happened too! Its an event we will do again!

31 students slept over for a lock in at church during Christmas break. It was a great time of games, hide n seek in the dark, movies, friendships and growing spiritually. Hope you had fun too!

Youth are selling Super Bowl Pizzas for pick up to be on Super Bowl Sunday. Thanks in advance for your support and you get a great inexpensive meal without much work!

The youth will be working on their Sunrise Worship Service as well as breakfast soon. Please be sure to attend Youth IMPACT during Christian Ed. Time so you are aware of the plans.

GREETERS

Feb. 7th 8:00 Bob & Maggie Miller
10:30 Connie Neal
Ash Wednesday
Feb. 10th 7:00 Jeff & Renee Thomas
Feb. 14th 8:00 The Davis Family
10:30 Helen & Dallas Croft
Feb. 21st 8:00 Richard & Bonnie Carlin
10:30 Wehrle Family
Feb. 28th 8:00 Torgerson/Lang Family
10:30

USHERS

Feb. 7th 8:00
10:30 Connie Neal
Feb. 14th 8:00
10:30
Feb. 21st 8:00 Kevin & Marianne Klais Family
10:30 Wehrle Family
Feb. 28th 8:00
10:30

ACOLYTES

Feb. 7th 8:00 Libby Wood
10:30 Brayden Fry
Feb. 14th 8:00 Izzy Bender
10:30 Wes Fry
Feb. 21st 8:00 Ethan Sheckler
10:30 Cooper Leffler
Feb. 28th 8:00 Blake Droessler
10:30 Natalie Zaluski

LITURGIST

Feb. 7th 8:00 Linda O'Kane
10:30
Feb. 14th 8:00 Karla Witzig
10:30 Jan Lintvedt
Feb. 21st 8:00 Randy Mouw
10:30 Jackie Wehrle
Feb. 28th 8:00 Mandy Henkel
10:30

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Feb. 7th 8:00 Bob & Maggie Miller, Jeff & Renee Thomas,
10:30 Connie Neal,
(For 8:00 worship we need a total of 8 servers, 10:30 we need a total of 4 servers. Often the Ushers help serve, and they would be included in total needed)

KIDS TIME

Feb. 7th 8:00 Catrice Hunt
10:30 Pastor Bud
Feb. 14th 8:00 Jeff Thomas
10:30 Pastor Bud
Feb. 21st 8:00 Rose Mouw
10:30 Pastor Bud
Feb. 28th 8:00 Carrie Friederick
10:30 Pastor Bud

ATTENDANCE

JAN.	3	10	17	24	31
8:00	105	135	111		
10:30	45	41	41		
6:30	14	14	10		
TOTAL	164	190	165		

Remember our Members at:

Morningside Assisted Living

Norma Neuroth

Orchard Manor

Doris Schneider

Good Samaritan Center

Becky Belscamper, Bob Belscamper, Carol Christiansen, Arlene Fry, Nip Leffler, Arlene Schmahlenberger, Jerry Wepking, Dave Lindow, Gerry McReynolds, Lois Jean Preston, Jeannette Schneiderwind

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Vegetable Beef Soup, Cream Style Corn, Mixed Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Ramen Noodles, Oatmeal (C.E. is having a food war & match...join the fun)