

**Fennimore United Methodist
Church
1450 2nd Street
Fennimore, WI 53809**

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- Renee Thomas, Pastoral Associate
- Sherry Kieler, Christian Education Coordinator
- Paul Adney Jr., Multimedia Director
- Chelsea Wanek-Bedward, Administrative Assistant
- Catrice Hunt, Treasurer
- Julie Baumgartner, Custodian

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 AM—12:00 PM

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“Grateful for Fleas!”

“In every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” (Philippians 4:6).

Max Lucado in his book and study, *Anxious for Nothing*, shares the following reflection:

Really? In every situation pray with thanksgiving?

Even when that punk takes your parking spot? Even when there is no more creamer in the fridge, your toddler is screaming bloody murder, and all you want is a cup of coffee?

Even when she says, “I have cancer,” or he leaves after decades of marriage?

Surely not! Surely the original Greek translation of this verse means “in most situations pray with thanksgiving.”

In her book *The Hiding Place*, Corrie ten Boom tells a remarkable story about gratitude. During World War II, she and her sister Betsie lived in three different concentration camps. The entire ten Boom family had been arrested for providing a safe haven to Jews and Nazi rebels. It's estimated they saved eight hundred lives before being caught and sent away.

Corrie describes how the barracks of the Ravensbruck concentration camp in Germany was infested with fleas. The sisters were forced to sleep on wooden platforms with straw on top, but the straw was dirty, smelly, and crawling with the skin-biting pests. Corrie writes:

“I sat up quickly and bumped my head on the platform above.

‘Fleas!’ I jumped down to the floor. ‘The place is crawling with fleas! I... I don’t know how I can cope with living in such a terrible place!’

“Corrie, I think God has already given us the answer,” my sister Betsie said. “What was that verse we read from the Bible this morning?”

I pulled out my Bible from the bag I wore on a string around my neck. In the dim light, I read from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: “Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” Oh, Betsie, that's too hard in a place like this!”

“No, come on, Corrie – let's try. What are we thankful for?” my sister asked.

“Well... if we must be in this awful place, I'm thankful that we're together.”

“That's right!” Betsie's eyes danced. “And thank you, God, for the fleas.”

Corrie goes on to say that the flea infestation kept the guards out of their barracks, allowing Corrie and Betsie to read the Bible aloud twice a day for any woman who wanted to hear. More and more women found the light of Christ in the darkest of places because of fleas.

Yes, there is a reason to be grateful in every circumstance.

Corrie ten Boom famously asked the question, “Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire? How would you respond?”

Christian Ed. News

We have started our new curriculum "**What Makes a Hero**". We are learning to be fair, kind and walk with God to be a faith hero!

Snow Day

We had a great day for our Snow Day with lots of fun! There was just enough snow to sled down the hill in back. After, we warmed up with some hot chocolate and a little dance party inside.

Easter Program and Practice

The Easter Program Practice will be **Saturday March 24th from 9 to 11 AM.**

The Easter Program will be on **March 25th (Palm Sunday) at the 10:30 AM service.**

We **WILL** have Christian Education at our normal time from 9:20 to 10:25 AM on the day of the Easter Program. This will allow students to practice songs and skits before it starts.

Easter Program Theme

Our Easter Program this year will go with the "What Makes a Hero" curriculum. The students can wear a superhero shirt or cape if they want! If they choose not to, that's fine too, they can dress up in their Easter outfit also.

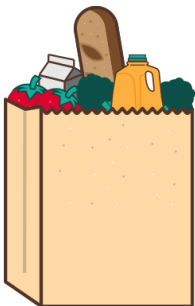
Easter

There will be **NO** Christian Education **OR** Egg Hunt on Easter this year. This will allow students and teachers to come to church and then be able to spend time with their families.

Food Challenge

We continue to have our Food Challenge of 1,000 lbs. of food to be donated by May. So far we have 144 lbs. of food donated. We have a long ways to go but we have faith that we can do it. When we

meet our goal we will NOT be having a food fight. Instead we will have the "FUMC Olympics" on May 6th. Lots of games, fun and medals for everyone! We will need spectators to cheer on our athletes!



Movie Night

We have scheduled a Movie Night for April 14th. Concessions will start at 6:00 PM and the movie beginning at 6:30 PM. We haven't decided on a movie yet. Let us know if you have any suggestions!

Salvation Store

We will have the Salvation Store on April 15th and 22nd. Food will be available that the students can buy with their Bible Bucks to be donated to the Food Pantry.

VBS

Mark your calendar for VBS! This year the dates are June 10th – 14th from 5:30 to 8:00 PM. We will have fun exploring Rolling River Rampage. A list of donations needed will be up soon. If you would like to share your talents and help volunteer at VBS please let Renee, Sherry or Paul know.



VBS Workdays

We will have a workday on Sunday March 11th from 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Please bring a dish to pass and be ready to trace, color and have some great fellowship! Come and help for an hour or the whole time ... whatever works for you! We appreciate **ALL** of your help.

Please let Renee or Sherry know if you have any questions.

Christian Education Team

Youth



Thank you to everyone that helped support our youth by purchasing a Super Bowl Pizza. It's appreciated and helps allow us to do more activities.

We now have our own group on Facebook, "YOUTH IMPACT". This helps us communicate, have devotions, discussion, etc. rapidly and most of our Youth have Facebook or their parents do. If you are not included in this group, please let Renee know and she would be happy to add you.

We will be working on the Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast. We will need some parental assistance ... if you are available, we'd greatly appreciate it. There's much to do that morning so we love having parents help us out.

We will be doing an Escape Room adventure soon. Be sure you check our Facebook Group for updates.

We have two options for Mission Trips this year. Again, please refer to the Facebook Group for information. One is to Michigan and one to Texas. So excited about this!

DREAM TEAM

What a Special Night! The Father Daughter Dinner and Dance was such a terrific time. Over 40 Dads and Daughters shared the night and created special memories.

A special thank you to our Dream Team food team for a great meal, to DJ Paul for the great music that got everyone on the dance floor, to our decorators for a fun night under the stars, and to McKenna for great cupcakes (McKenna is our newest member on the Dream Team and will be a great contributor)!

The Dream Team is looking forward to Easter with 4 services available again and a great breakfast at 7:00 AM.

A "New Member Class" is being offered on April 8th from 4 to 6 PM. New Member Sunday will be on April 15th at the 8:00 AM service. We're excited to welcome new members into the church family!

You are encouraged to utilize our valet services on Sunday morning to help with in climate weather and for your safety. Simply ask our door person and we will gladly get your vehicle to a spot (Chuck).

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday as the "What Makes A Hero" teaching series continues. We're all super heroes, but Jesus is the *best one ever!*

God is Good — All the Time!

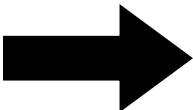
Jeff Thomas and "The Dream Teamers"



The UMW will host the March Birthday Party at Good Samaritan. It will be held on Tuesday, March 13 at 2:00 PM in the Activity Room. We are excited to help celebrate the resident's birthdays!

The UMW Quarterly Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 28 at 6:30 PM.

*by His wounds
we are healed*
ISAIAH 53:5



March Mission



Mission:

Appalachia Service Project is a Christian Ministry, open to all people, that inspires hope and service through volunteer home repair in Central Appalachia.

Vision:

Appalachia Service Project's vision is that substandard housing in Central Appalachia will be eradicated and that everyone who comes into contact with this ministry will be transformed.

Repairing Homes, Transforming Lives

ASP provides one of the most rewarding structured service opportunities in the nation — bringing thousands of volunteers from around the country to rural Central Appalachia to repair homes for low-income families.

For 48 years, Appalachia Service Project has made homes **warmer, safer,** and **drier**^(R) for families and provided transformational experiences for volunteers. Last year, 16,231 volunteers served with ASP, providing critically needed repairs for 493 families and constructing 26 new homes.

For more information about ASP, please visit: www.asphome.org

March Food Pantry Needs:

- Cream of Chicken Soup
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Cereal
- Canned Green Beans
- Oatmeal
- Body Soap



What Makes a Hero?

The Death Defying Ministry of Jesus

February 25—April 1

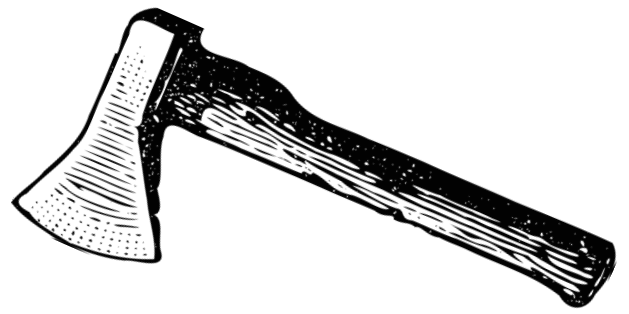
Looking at pop culture heroes and others through the lens of faith we will explore how Jesus turned the concept of hero on its head. We will examine how good vs. evil, right vs. wrong, and overcoming adversity are fundamental to how Christians understand salvation. Heroes help us discern the good, fight for what's right, define identity, execute justice, spark revolution, and save lives!

A different victory story will be told — one obtained through humility, obedience to the cross, and an empty tomb. How does Jesus redefine what it means to be a hero?



February 2018 Attendance

February 4	172
February 11	218
February 18	185
February 25	171



Mid-Week Lenten Services

Join us on Wednesday Night's at **7:00 PM**. We look forward to seeing you!



Newsletter

As of March 2018, we will no longer be mailing the Newsletter to everyone. Due to increased postage, printing costs and use of modern technology, we are going to be distributing the monthly Newsletter in different cost effective manners. *No worries — we have several options available!*

1. Access our Newsletter online:

www.fennimoreumc.org

News and Events

Newsletter

You can also sign up here to receive notification as to when the Newsletter has been posted.

2. Pick up a printed copy at Church.

3. Contact the Church Office at (608) 822-6797 OR fennimoreumc@tds.net to continue having your Newsletter mailed to you.



Giving Envelopes

We are asking that you please seal your giving envelopes. This way, if they don't happen to make it to the offering basket, we will know they have been used. *Thank You!*

The Story of Two Lumberjacks

as told by Dr. Tony Evans

The story is told of two lumberjacks — an older and a younger — both known for their expertise and speed. The younger challenged the older to a contest to see who could cut down the most trees in one day.

The contest began. The younger man, with his vim, vigor and vitality, began in earnest chopping down one tree after another without stopping. He soon noticed that the older lumberjack chopped trees for one hour then took a 15 minute break.

At the end of the day when the felled trees were counted, the older lumberjack had chopped down 1/3 more trees than the younger lumberjack.

Puzzled, the younger lumberjack asked the older, "How could you, taking a break every hour, cut down more trees than I did cutting nonstop all day?"

The older lumberjack responded, "Because when I stopped, I sharpened my ax."

The Challenge

How many of us are trying to do the Lord's work with dull axes? During this Lenten season we challenge you to sharpen your spiritual ax for the building up of the body of Christ — his church — through fasting and prayer.

"Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe."

Abraham Lincoln

Who's Serving in March?

Ushers

Date	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
3/4/2018	Kevin Klais Family	Judy and Carl Nelson
3/11/2018	Rob and Karla Rands	Sandy Knapp and Cindy Bruner
3/18/2018	Mitch and Natalie Tollefson	Rod and Jackie Wehrle
3/25/2018	Natalie Zaluski and Maya Stephanek	Confirmation Students

Kid's Time

Date	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
3/4/2018	Maggie Kartman	Pastor Bud
3/11/2018	Jeff Thomas	Pastor Bud
3/18/2018	Sherry Kieler	Sherry Kieler
3/25/2018	Krista Demo	Pastor Bud

Greeters (Sanctuary)

Date	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
3/4/2018	Kevin Klais and Family	Judy and Carl Nelson
3/11/2018	Shawn Handfelt and Cecelia Hollister	Sandy Knapp and Cindy Bruner
3/18/2018	Dan and Coletta McLimans	Rod and Jackie Wehrle
3/25/2018	Doreen Wood and Audrey Doan	Confirmation Students

Communion Assistants

Date	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
3/4/2018	Thomas', Trent, Saralyn, Kevin and Marianne Klais, Burkum's and Kreul's	Sandy Knapp and Linda Stephenson

Liturgist

Date	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
3/4/2018	Trent Klais	Judy Nelson
3/11/2018	Rochelle Lindow	Linda Stephenson
3/18/2018	Karla Witzig	Jackie Wehrle
3/25/2018	Linda O'Kane	N/A



Remember our Friends at:

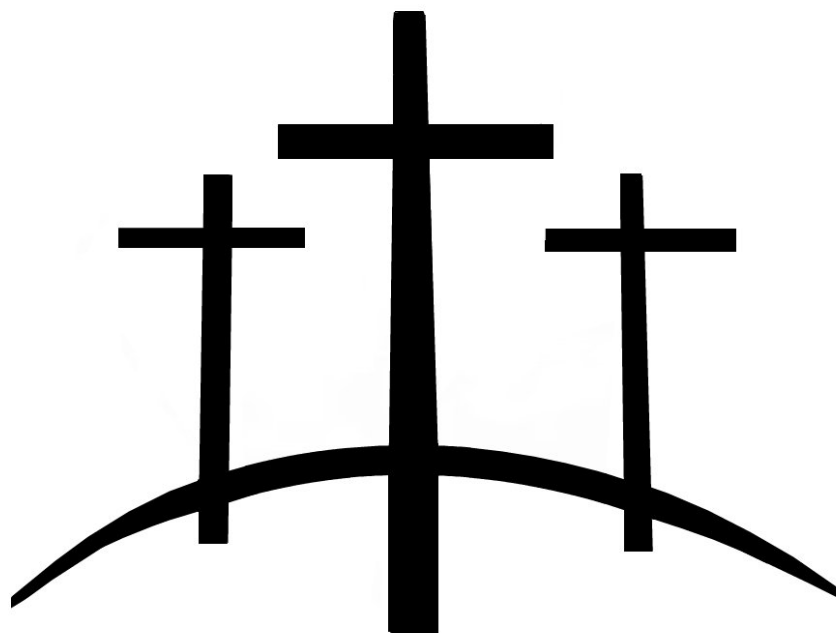
Orchard Manor
Doris Schneider

Good Samaritan Center
Nip Leffler, Dave Lindow, Gerry McReynolds,
Dennis Freymiller, Jeannette Schneiderwind

Sunset Fields
Donna Blackburn, Paul Rector

Acolyte

Date	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
3/4/2018	Keira Kartman	Ethan Sheckler
3/11/2018	Blake/Abigail Droessler	Jackson Sheckler
3/18/2018	Peyton Hollister	Brayden Fry
3/25/2018	Corbin/Brogan Demo	Cooper Leffler



Holy Week

Sunday, March 25: Palm Sunday

10:30 AM — Christian Education Easter Program

Wednesday, March 28:

NO Mid-Week Lenten Service

Thursday, March 29:

7:00 PM — Holy Thursday Service

Friday, March 30:

7:00 PM — Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 1:

6:30 AM — Sunrise Service

7:00 AM — Sunrise Breakfast

8:00 AM — Worship

10:30 AM — Worship

6:30 PM — Sunday Evening Worship