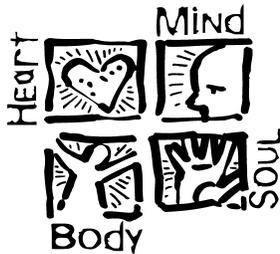




UNITED CHURCH NEWS

MARCH 2020



MUSINGS FROM LINDA

By the time this newsletter reaches you, we will have begun the season of Lent. Despite the fact that it seemed to come upon us suddenly, this is one of the later times the season can start. Whenever the season starts and whenever we begin to observe it, which we can do even if we miss "opening day," also known as Ash Wednesday, there are many opportunities to deepen or expand our spiritual lives.

While Lent is often associated with dietary restrictions, at UCF we offer a buffet – lots of opportunity for acting based on personal passion and preferences, exploring new spiritual exercises or returning to one that has been meaningful in the past. Just as with a food buffet, it can be tempting to over-eat – to try to consume too much – as opposed to choosing judiciously so as to be filled, but not uncomfortably so.

Some ideas: Join a choir, the Women's Bible Study or the Men's Discussion group for the season or teach a Sunday School class. Take part in a social activity – Tabitha, fellowship or a potluck if they are something new to you. Participate in a mission event such as Isaiah's Table or later on helping at the Spring Pops Concert, Highway Clean-up or a meal at Brown Memorial.

We also have Lent-specific options such as our One Great Hour of Sharing Calendar, which can also serve as a discussion starter; this year's daily devotional offering; intentionally bringing at least one thing each week for the Food Pantry (see article about needs); or participating consistently in our Sunday and special worship services throughout the season. This year's worship theme is "The Devil Made Me Do it." In preparation, I have appreciated Sarah Gilmore's research and recruiting of Lyn Bartlett and Barbara Morison, and Jared's insight in the formation of what I have been calling "The Devil's Belles" – who have created and will play a piece of theme music for the series.

Choose one thing or create a sampler. Discipline doesn't mean punishment and doesn't need to feel burdensome. Trying these things can not only expand experience, and help us develop a closer connection with our God, but can also strengthen relationships. Mark Lent not just as days on the calendar, but with an experience.

In faith,

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ABOUT THE DEVIL'S QUARTER AND THE DEVIL'S BELLES

In a previous church, our music director had a tradition of having something I thought was called "The Devil's Quartet" played at various points in the Lenten season – a particularly discordant piece of music. I could no longer remember if "quartet" referred to the name of a piece of music or the number of people playing. I asked Sarah Gilmore if she knew anything about it. She didn't, but was happy to do some research. As it turned out my memory was slightly more flawed. The reference was not to "quartet" but to "*quarters*"- a way of playing bells. Sarah, Barb and Lyn taught themselves to play from You-tube videos. Jared was listening to them one evening and provided additional information and another bell.

He referred me to the link *Diabolos in Musica* for more information. Taken from that website: "**Diabolus in Musica** means "The Devil in Music". In medieval times, high clergymen had a habit of debating esoteric theological themes - such as "How many angels can dance on the head of a pin?". They applied their mental machinations to music, too, and one of the ideas they came up with was that there was a true representation, in music, of the Holy Trinity. It was, of course, the musical interval produced by adding three pure tones - representing the Three in One. What you get if you try it is the interval of the augmented fourth, or tritone. Try it on a piano, if you like. Play a C and an F sharp together. To the modern ear, it's not a nice sound. OK to produce a passing scrunch in jazz, but not something you'd want to hear repeatedly unless you were watching a horror film.

The medieval ear was used to hearing perfect fourths and perfect fifths - and perfectly in tune, too, unlike the modern equal-tempered scale. The augmented fourth, being half-way between the two most common pure intervals, was about the worst discord imaginable. So this idea about the representation of the Trinity was a nice thought, but it doesn't work, so let's forget it. Oh no. It fitted in with Plato, notions of the Harmony of the Spheres, and other esoterica. The theory had to be right. There was something sour and evil lurking at the heart of music itself. What had happened was that when the rules of harmony were laid down at the creation of the Universe, Satan had crept in and corrupted the image of the Trinity. The tritone was therefore labelled "Diabolus in Musica", and comprehensively banned from church music. No self-respecting church composer would ever write one anyway, because it was 'orrible. *Linda*

Announcements

FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Save the Date: Spring Senior Fun day at Vanderkamp June 4th

The day will start at 9:30 as folks gather with coffee and goodies. Activities will begin at 10 with a prayer and introduction to the day. We have lunch and are ready for home by 4. Everyone is free to do what they choose and that may include just going off and reading a book or putting a

jigsaw puzzle together! More information coming in April.

Bible study

BIBLE STUDY!! Exciting news! Dr. Even has graciously offered, for the third year in a row, to lead us in four linked sessions. They will be held on the first and third Wednesdays from 1:45 – 3:00 in Women's Lounge during the months of March and April. Linda's subject will be four women in the Old Testament beginning with Dinah. You do not need to have been a member of the Bible Study group to attend or plan to continue in our regular study of the Old Testament although all of us would love to have everyone. If you are interested or have questions, e-mail or call Jackie Meyer jmeyer@twcny.rr.com or 315 632-4267 and she will make sure you have the readings for each of the sessions. It's a warm, welcoming group and Linda's presentations are a special treat.

...More Updates

GATHERINGS

Tabitha Women

Tabitha Women will be meeting Wednesday, March 11th at 7:00 pm. Our own Audubon enthusiast Donna Clutton will be sharing her passion with us for our fine feathered friends. With spring hopefully right around the corner, it would be fun to welcome some of them back into our yards and learn about their habits and habitats! All United Church Women are cordially invited!

FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL

We'd like to thank the Fayetteville/Manlius Food Pantry for a meaningful lesson about food insecurity in our area. As a result, the students are sponsoring a food drive of canned fruit and pasta for Lent. As we know, many people suffer from gluten sensitivity. The Food Pantry has seen a growing need for gluten-free pasta, so a donation of gluten-free would be greatly appreciated.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

March 6: First Friday off-site

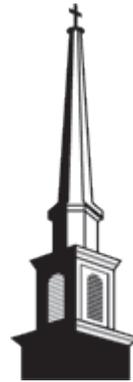
March 8, 15, 22, and 29: Sunday School classes

Don't forget to sign-up to teach or assist on the hall bulletin board. Help is always needed.

...More Updates

STEEPLE COFFEE HOUSE

- 3/14/2020 -- The Atta Boys
(Contemporary Americana)
- 3/28/2020 -- The Baby Boomers
(Favorites from the 60's & 70's)



UPDATES FROM THE BOARD



At its February meeting, The Board:

- *voted to receive Jean Bisha, Margaret Kelly and Barbara Townsend into membership. (They will be received in worship on March 15th.)
- *heard updates from Congregational Care on visiting, flowers to homebound, and the Valentines Potluck.
- *discussed options and bids on parking lot repair and resealing in the spring with plans to move ahead.
- *discussed need for a replacement shed and provider options.
- *received the report that the kitchen passed its health inspection without exception.
- *completed the detailed communications necessary for the handling of our financial assets by the Investment Committee, Treasurer and Asst. Treasurer, providing appropriate authorizations for action.
- *approved the Senior Adult Ministry (SAM) as the beneficiary of the Spring Pops Concert.
- *Heard of the Sunday School energy around their Food Pantry experience and one result: the Sunday School folk will be overseeing the Lenten weekly food collection focused on providing pasta and canned fruit – the two most needed items by the pantry.

Lent



Wednesday, March 18th
1:45 PM Bible Study—

Sunday, March 1st

The Lord's Supper/First Sunday in Lent

9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

9:45 AM Nursery Care

10:00 AM Worship (K-12 in worship)

11:00 AM Fellowship

Monday, March 2nd 7 PM Outreach Committee Meeting—Women's Lounge

Wednesday, March 4th 1:45 PM Bible Study
Women's Lounge

Sunday, March 8th

2nd Sunday in Lent

9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

9:45 AM Nursery Care

10:00 AM Sunday School (K-12 begin in worship then depart for Sunday School)

11:00 AM Fellowship



Tuesday, March 10th 7:00 PM Worship & Spiritual Life – Women's Lounge

Wednesday, March 11 7 PM Tabitha – Women's Lounge

Saturday, March 14th 7:30 PM Steeple Coffee House-The Atta Boys-Fellowship Hall

Sunday, March 15

3rd Sunday in Lent

9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

9:45 AM Nursery Care

10:00 AM Sunday School (K-12 begin in worship then depart for Sunday School)

11:00 AM Fellowship

Tuesday, March 17th 7 PM Board Meeting — Women's Lounge

Women's Lounge

Thursday, March 19th 7 AM Men's Covenant—Women's Lounge

Deadline for Newsletter

Sunday, March 22nd

4th Sunday in Lent

9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

9:45 AM Nursery Care

10:00 AM Sunday School (K-12 begin in worship then depart for Sunday School)

11:00 AM Fellowship

Saturday, March 28th 7:30 PM Steeple Coffee House

Sunday, March 29th

5th Sunday in Lent

9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

9:45 AM Nursery Care

10:00 AM (K-12 remain in Worship)

11:00 AM Fellowship





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