



The Redeemer Review

Proclaiming Christ into the 21st Century

Volume 2

February, 2015



Lent

I looked at my planning calendar and suddenly realized that the season of *Lent* is around the corner. Epiphany season is still much in my mind and the awesome beauty of fresh snow but I welcome the anticipation of another liturgical season from *Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost*. The times in between are referred to as “Ordinary times.”

From the very beginning, what is central to Christian formation is attention given to the scripture and the sharing of a meal and both have remained the central connection that binds us together. Christ is known and present in the way we express ourselves. There are many opportunities to be a missional church and we invite you to be a part of it and be a catalyst for renewal.

How is this season of Lent going to be different for you and me? In the *Alive Now* magazine three popular authors were introduced at the very beginning. “*Self rejection is the greatest enemy of spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us beloved.*” (Henry Nouwen) “*Selfcare is never a selfish act—it is simply good stewardship of the only gift I have..*” (Parker Palmer) “*There comes a time when it is vitally important for your spiritual health.., look in the mirror and say, “Here I am.” “ This is my soul’s address”* (Barbara Brown Taylor)

I am certain that there are many different voices that call us to a deep and enduring faith. That legacy is something that cannot be

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Redeemer Review

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Our Redeemer's

United Methodist Church

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email: Call for email address

Website: www.orumc.org

Worship Services:

9:00 and 10:30 am

Pastor:

Rev. Romir R. Esguerra

Church Secretary:

Donna Echtner

Director of Youth Ministries:

Marianne Rogenski

Editor:

Jerry Mc Daniel

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taken away from us. How is it going to be different during Lent? Maybe you can take photographs, selfies, an art project, erupt into a song, dance, read poetry, mentor, offer encouragement, seek peace with justice and we will find a way to offer our reflections in our time of gathering.

During Lent, let us recall the Psalm prayer of David : *But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble. (Psalm 59)* It is possible that Jesus offered this prayer also in addition to what he said –“ I am the light of the world”. (John 8) We know nothing about the vocal range or timber of Jesus’ voice but it prompted one of the guards who were watching Jesus to say, “ No one spoke the way this man does.” It takes an open and willing spirit to fully embrace the love of God.

Our children’s choir expressed it in this way, “...*don’t bother me, I belong to someone else.*” To carry the light of Christ to the world takes practice. And so during the training for the acolytes, we practiced going forward and returning the light of Christ to the world. How will Lent be different for all who long for the face of God? I pray that our language will be filled with “awe and wonder.”

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2015.

See you in the house of prayer,

**Rev. Romir R.
Esguerra**



Community Crisis Center

by Sally Donaldson

Dear Church Family,

The Crisis Center could use the following items:

- New Sweat suits and pajamas for women and children
- New slippers for women and children
- Shampoo, hair brushes, combs
- Blistek, chap-stick
- Bath towels/washcloths (new or used)
- Non-alcohol cough syrup and non-aspirin pain reliever (for adults and children)
- Facial tissues
- Disposable diapers (larger sizes and pull-ups)
- Diaper wipes
- Powdered laundry detergent
- Fabric Softener sheets
- Ground coffee (regular and decaf)
- Non-perishable canned and boxed food
- Tooth paste and toothbrushes
- Bar Soap
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Deodorant for women and men
- Hats, gloves, mittens
- Coats, gently used or new for women, men, and children

Thank you so much for your past donations. Everything that we take to the Crisis Center is needed and used. They are so appreciative of your kindness.



Souper Bowl of Caring February 1

Join the youth for the Souper Bowl of Caring February 1.

Bring a canned food item with \$1 wrapper around it. All food will be donated to the ORUMC food pantry. All money will be put in the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Thank you for supporting this important mission!



Meatball Saturday January 31, 8:00 am

Super Bowl Spaghetti Dinner February 1, 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Breakfast Meeting February 14, 8:00 a.m.

All men of the church are invited to join us Saturday, January 31 at 8:00 a.m. to manufacture and cook meatballs for the Sunday dinner.

Then come Sunday, February 1 to help cook, serve and clean up at the Super Bowl Spaghetti Dinner.

Join us for our regular breakfast meeting on Saturday, February 14 at 8:00 a.m..



Youth News:

by Marianne Rogenski

Appalachia Service Project News: We have had our first official meeting. Our trip will be June 13-20 and will most likely be in West Virginia. If you are interested in this trip or know someone who is, there are still openings for youth and adult volunteers—please see Marianne right away!

Youth Group Schedule:

Feb 1	NO YOUTH GROUP
Feb 8	Youth Group @ ORUMC 6:30-8:30pm
Feb 15	Youth Group @ ORUMC 6:30-8:30pm
Feb 22	Youth Group @ORUMC 6:30-8:30pm
Feb 27-28	30 Hour Famine Fri 6:00pm - Sat 10:00pm
Mar 1	Famine Sunday Both services NO YOUTH GROUP
Mar 8	Youth Group @ ORUMC 6:30-8:30pm
Mar 15	Youth Group @ ORUMC 6:30-8:30pm
Mar 22	NO YOUTH GROUP
Mar 29	NO YOUTH GROUP

We do not have youth group on February 1. However, youth will be collecting food for our Souper Bowl of Caring ministry. Please see Marianne if you can help at the beginning of either worship service.

Also, please come and enjoy our UMM's Spaghetti Dinner after the second service that day—spend some time and share a meal with your church family!

Our Jr. and Sr. High youth will be participating in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine on February 27 and 28. This is an amazing event and I encourage all youth to be a part of it and invite your friends! We do a juice and water fast for 30 hours—start on your own at 3pm on Friday, come to church at 6pm Friday, and we are together until we break the fast at 9pm on Friday. While we are together we participate in service projects, do Bible study, learn about hunger and poverty in our world and our community, play games, and be present with one another—it is truly a great time. If you are interested in participating please see Marianne for a consent form and a participant packet.

Youth—if you are interested in making an announcement about the famine please see Marianne!

We will recognize high school and college graduates at the 10:30 worship service on May 17 and there will be a lunch following for graduates and families. We look forward to seeing you there! Please let the church office know if you are graduating or have a graduate in your family.



Education News:

by Marianne Rogenski

Thank you to our dedicated teachers and assistants for continuing to serve and make Sunday School fun, inviting, and warm for all of our kids! Gwyn, Sarah, Doug, Shelley, Jean, and Judy—you are the best!

Thank you to the many youth who help each week—you are great!

We have our One Room Sunday School each Sunday during the 9am worship service. We will continue through May 17 which is our last day of Sunday School for this school year.

We will NOT have Sunday School on Easter Sunday—April 5.



We will have an Easter Egg hunt that day right after the worship service!

Education Sunday

May 17

Attention all teachers: Education Sunday is May 17. Teachers and assistants will be recognized at the 10:30 service and there will be lunch after for all teachers, assistants, and families.

VBS

July 20-23



We hope that everyone can join us for Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer!

July 20-23, 6:30-8:30pm with dinner at 5:30 for volunteers and families.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Marianne.



Karen Greenwalt	2/3
Zander Maher	2/9
Ellen Swartz	2/11
Michael Hernandez	2/20
Caitlin Wilkes	2/21
Justin Edwards	2/26
Kelsey Lukowicz	2/29

Our birthday records have not been updated for quite a while. If we have missed your child's birthday (or yours), please give Donna in the office a call with your dates.



30 Hour Famine

Our youth will be participating in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine on February 27 and 28. Famine Sunday will be both services on March 1.

If you are interested in helping, there are several ways to do that...and our church has been amazing in the past!

We need adults to be at the event to chaperone and lead—there will be a sign up poster in the narthex in February.

We need adults to be prayer partners—one for each participant.

We will be having a food drive and possibly a hat/mitten drive—watch the bulletin for more info.

The youth need sponsors! Many of them will be asking over the next few weeks—if you would like to donate please do. If no one asks you but you would like to donate—let Marianne know and she can point someone in your direction!

This is our 12th year doing this event—in that time we have raised over \$40,000 for World Vision and have seen the number of children dying from hunger and related causes significantly drop. Thank you for being a part of that with us.

Twenty Second Annual Meals for Millions Lenten Program

Meals for Millions is a mission project for the United Methodist Men, sponsored by the Society of St. Andrew. UMM has provided literally millions of meals of potatoes and other food to the hungry through fund raising activities.

The funds are used to salvage and transport food (especially potatoes), that is perfectly good to eat but which is not suitable for use by processing plants due to size or shape.

All members and friends of *Our Redeemer's* are invited to join the Society of St Andrew in a program of spiritual reflection and action to fight hunger during Lent. During last year's Lenten season. *Our Redeemer's* raised \$500.00. Since 1994 *Our Redeemer's* has raised over\$27,000.

This year's Lenten devotion entitled "Into the Wilderness" can help you grow spiritually and provide an opportunity to feed the hungry. Money saved from "giving up something" during Lent will go to the Society of St. Andrew to provide food for the hungry.

The Lenten devotion program will begin Ash Wednesday, February 18 and will conclude with a Good Friday Fast on April, 3.

Please sign up in the Narthex beginning Sunday, February, 1.

Secretary Needed

Are you looking for a way to serve our church? Do you have some secretarial skills?

Our Redeemer's has a ministry opportunity for you! Our Administrative Council is in need of a recording secretary.

The Ad Council is the leadership and decision-making committee of the church. Meetings are generally held on the 3rd Thursday evening of the month from 7 to 9 p.m.

Melinda Taylor has stepped down from this position, but would be glad to discuss job duties in greater detail with anyone interested. If you feel called to serve our church in this way, please inform **Pastor Romir** or **Donna** in the office, 847-882-6116.

UMW Quarterly Meeting

March 3, 6:30 p.m.

All women of the church are invited to attend our next dinner meeting on Tuesday, March 3rd @ 6:30 p.m. **Pastor Romir** and **Vren** have invited us to the parsonage for this occasion (1214 Sharon Lane, Schaumburg).

Everyone attending should bring a side dish or a dessert to share and the main dish will be provided by some of the church men. It will be a wonderful evening of fellowship, friendship and fun. Please join us!

Ask any of the board members if you would like more information - **Melinda Taylor**, **Julie Kuhn**, **Mary Zalay**, **Cathy Mottar**, or **Elinor Reader**.

Women of Faith

This inspiring weekend event is coming once again to the Sears Center in Hoffman Estates September 25 and 26. UMW will have a group going, and will purchase tickets as a group at a discounted rate. Tickets will be \$84.45 and will include admission to both Friday evening 7-10 pm and Saturday 9-5. Watch for more information in the Narthex or the bulletin, and check out <http://www.womenoffaith.com>. Feel free to invite friends, relatives, or any women you would like to share this amazing experience with.

To get the group discount we need to order early, so please plan to purchase your ticket(s) with a check for the full amount from UMW by March 8. Contact **Pam Miller**, **Mary Stehlin**, or the church office for further information.

Elgin District Training Event

*Jan 31, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
at Our Saviour's UMC*

2015 Laity Convocation

*Feb 14, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
at Sycamore UMC*

Two training events are available for members of *Our Redeemer's*. Workshops are available on a variety of topics.

Brochures with details of both sessions are available in the Narthex.



Personal Notes



Sophie Byrnes



Sophie Byrnes was honored January 25 for her 37 years as Nursery Care Person. If one of your children (or you) have been under Sophie's care, you may wish to add your thanks to Sophie.

If you have comments or pictures you would like to give to Sophie, please contact **Shelley Lukowicz**, 847-843-8912, or email lukieshell@sbcglobal.net.

Giving Envelopes

Giving envelopes for 2015 are in the Narthex. Please pick them up and help us save on postage. If you did not receive an envelope and would like one, please call **Donna** in the office, 847- 882-6116.

Thank You

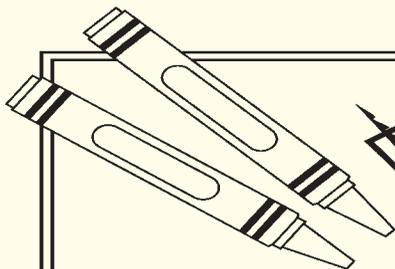
Did you notice the beautiful landscape additions in the garden outside the main church door? Thanks to **Jeff Randall** and the UMM for donating their labor to beautify the church for Christmas, and thanks to Cornerstone Partners Horticultural Company for the donation of the materials.

Watch for another surprise from Jeff and the UMM when bulbs emerge in the spring!



Giving Statements

The year-end giving statements are also in the Narthex ready for pick up.

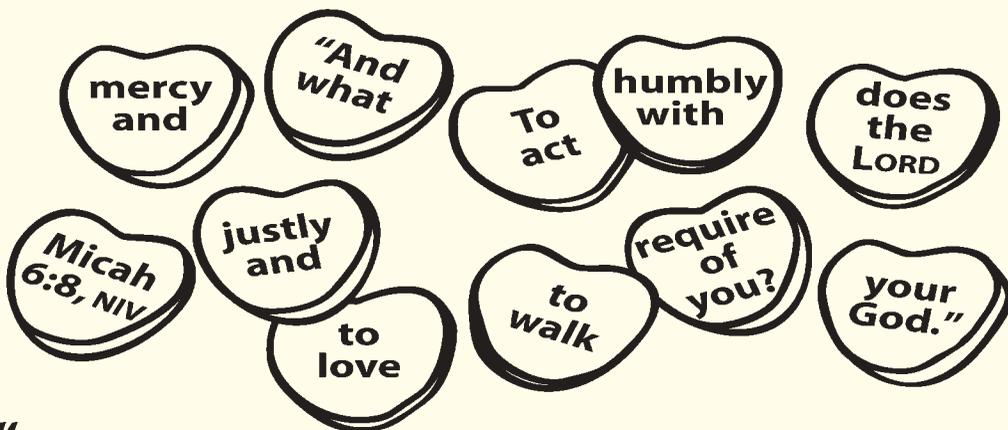


PUZZLE

Conversation hearts

The world encourages people to look out for themselves and seek success, but in Micah 6:8, God tells us to live differently.

Directions: Put the conversation hearts in the correct order by writing the words on the lines below. Hint: Capitalization and quotation marks are included.



"

_____ ? _____

_____ " _____ 6:8 _____

Answer: "And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8, NIV

Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church

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