



The Redeemer Review

Proclaiming Christ into the 21st Century

Volume 2

February, 2020



"Renewed by Living Water"

As I write this newsletter I am reminded of three events in the world today: bushfire in Australia, the earthquakes in Puerto Rico and the volcanic eruption of Taal Volcano in the Philippines. Water is the common theme in order to survive. We often take for granted these resources because for the most part these resources are plentiful around here.

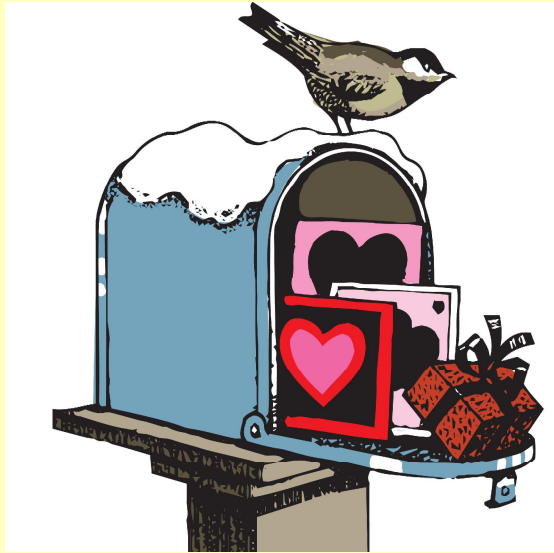
When the drought hit India, and my daughter was working there as an advocate, I asked her how she managed to get by. She replied that she was given a bucket of water in the morning and she had to ration that for the rest of the day. When I was growing up, we have a manual water pump (to supplement our water from the city) and I recall priming the pump with water so that the pump would function properly. There's always a bucket with water and the habit was of course to make sure the bucket is filled

with water, for the next person. That was my first experience of generosity.

How can we be renewed in the midst of many life changing moments? I read the prayer from Psalm 46. It was addressed to the *Koharites and the Alamoths*; worship leaders in the gathered assembly: *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble within its tumult.*

God is steadfast. God is always renewing His creation. In this newsletter you will notice an invitation to join the United Methodist Men for its 27th annual meals for millions Lenten program. It is sponsored by the Society of St.

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Andrew to provide meals for our brothers and sisters. I remember "Gleaning" and going from different farm stands to receive produce that were later distributed to the inner city.

Our local UMM also supports Habitat for Humanity, the Prisoner Release Program, Appalachia Service Projects and other local and short term missions. Spaghetti dinner, holiday treats and other activities support the work of the church. Many give their time without seeking recognition.

Renewed by living water is an invitation to prayerfully seek refreshment with God during this upcoming season of Lent. Imagine Jesus unleashing streams of living water within us, just as God unleashed water from the rocks in the desert land.

In the upcoming newsletters, we will highlight the ministry of UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief/Caring Ministries, Prayer Shawl Ministries, United Methodist Women and the Education/Youth Ministries.)

We welcome all of you and your partnership in the work of God through our community of faith at Our Redeemer's Church. Let us press on and be excellent in love and grace.

As Paul said in his letter to Philemon, "One thing more, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored by you." (Philemon 1:22)

See you in the renewing place,

Rev. Romir R. Esguerra

Redeemer Review

Published Monthly by

Our Redeemer's

United Methodist Church

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Schaumburg IL 60194-3900

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9:00 and 10:30 am

Pastor:

Rev. Romir R. Esguerra

Church Secretary:

Donna Echtner

Director of Youth Ministries:

Editor:

Jerry Mc Daniel

What's next for the United Methodist Church?

As you may know, many of the prominent news outlets have published a story about the future of the United Methodist church. The story speaks about a proposed settlement that would let a group of churches split off from the UMC and form a new "Traditional" denomination. This plan was written by a diverse group of 16 people including bishops and other leaders who labored through a mediation process with a renowned pro bono mediator to bring us to a point of being able to bless each other going forward. It specifies that the prohibitive language in our Book of Discipline, language that restricts the full participation of LGBTQ persons in the life of the church, would be removed. The protocol would not require any church or annual conference to take any votes unless they want to leave the UMC.

There has been much uncertainty over the past 10 months since the traditional plan was passed last February in St. Louis. There is reason to hope that that uncertainty might now ease or end all together. This plan still needs to be ratified by nearly 900 delegates who will meet in May, 2020 in Minneapolis. So, a decision will not be made until then.

We are standing at a crossroads of a new reality, so let us be in prayer for our United Methodist Church and for Our Redeemer UMC in the days ahead. Let us continue to stay focused on doing the work of Jesus Christ in our world.

There will be discussions around the NIC about what is expected to take place at the General Conference in May. The discussion nearest to ORUMC is scheduled for **Thursday, Feb. 13 from 7-9pm at Our Saviour's** just down the road. These discussions are co-hosted by the NIC Exploration Team and NIC General/Jurisdictional Delegation.

Mark your calendars and let's plan to attend!

The Lenten Season Will Be Here Before You Know It!

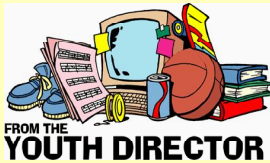
Our Ash Wednesday Service is scheduled for February 26, 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday Celebration Services are on Sunday, April 12, 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

The Worship Committee is pleased to announce our Lenten Worship Series:

Gifts of the Dark Wood

The "dark wood" moments of our lives are filled with many challenges, but God is with us through those times, helping us to learn and grow. Lent, a time of reflection and spiritual journey, is the perfect time to be reminded of that message. In our Lenten series, "Gifts of the Dark Wood," we will discover the spiritual gifts that God gives us as we journey through the "dark wood" on our way to the light beyond, the light of hope in Jesus Christ.



The SPRC committee is currently seeking a new youth director. In the interim, our youth group leaders (**Sarah Calderwood, Kim Maher, Doug Meneely, and Jon Montgomery**) will lead our youth in their weekly activities.

We are looking for additional adults to help out each week with general supervision—no preparation or lesson planning required, we're just looking for an extra adult to be at each event.

Scheduling is flexible— one Sunday a month would be great. Contact any of the youth group leaders if you would like to volunteer.

Teens have an opportunity to help with Sunday School on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in helping, please see any one of the youth group leaders.

Youth News:

January

26 Youth group @ ORUMC 5:30-7:30 pm

February

2 Youth group cancelled - Super Bowl

9 Youth group @ ORUMC 5:30-7:30 pm

16 Youth group @ ORUMC 5:30-7:30 pm

23 Youth group @ ORUMC 5:30-7:30 pm

28-29 Famine Weekend Meet at church on

28th @ 6:00 pm

March

1 Famine Sunday

No Youth group

30 Hour Famine February 28-29

From Friday February 28 at 6 pm till Saturday February 29 at 9 pm we will be participating in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine.

We will be kicking off Famine this year with a trip to Feed My Starving Children in Schaumburg. There we will be packaging vitamin-fortified rice for distribution in impoverished areas across the globe. We are inviting the congregation to join us and help prepare shipments from 8-9:30pm.

All youth in 7th through 12th grades are welcome to participate in the famine. We are also looking for volunteers to assist with bible study, team building and other activities. We are also in need for 1 male and 1 female volunteer (over the age of 18) to spend the night at church with the youth.

The weekend will conclude on March 1 Famine Sunday. Here some of the youth will reflect on their experiences over the weekend and assist in our worship experience.

Finally, we need magazines for our Famine visual. If you have any unneeded magazines and wish to donate them, please feel free to do so!

Interested?? Please see one of our youth leaders for more info- **Sarah Calderwood, Kim Maher, Doug Meneely** or **Jon Montgomery**.

Souper Bowl of Caring

On February 2, please bring one or more canned goods with \$1 wrapped around each to church either worship service.

The canned goods will stock the food pantry at ORUMC and the money will go into the Pastor's Discretionary fund to help those in need. Thank you for your support!

Appalachia Service Project

It's Time to Register

And, believe it or not it is that time of year again! Time to register for ASP 2020! This will be our 21st summer of serving with ASP!

So, if you are interested in going on the trip please contact **Kim Maher**.

Job Postings Available

The Staff Parish Relational Committee (SPRC) is currently seeking candidates for the positions of **Youth Director** and **Christian Education Director**.

Job descriptions are available outside the office, on the ORUMC Facebook page, via all-church email, and on our website (www.orumc.org).

Please share this information with anyone who you feel may be interested in either one of these positions.

Resumes may be submitted to the office or emailed to donna@orumc.org.

If you have any questions, contact **Pastor Romir** or any SPRC committee member.



Community Crisis Center

by Sally Donaldson

Dear Church Family, The Crisis Center could use the following items for women and children:

(New) sweatsuits, pajamas, slippers, shampoo, hair brushes, combs, Blistex and chap-stick.

For women, men and children: (gently used or new) coats, hats, gloves and mittens

Shelter needs: powdered laundry detergent (HE formula), fabric softener sheets, dishwashing liquid, dishwasher powder/liquid, bleach, cleanser and SOS pads.

Toiletries: disposable shavers, antiperspirant/deodorant for women and men, hand and body lotion

Food and Snacks: All non-perishable canned and boxed goods, soups, pasta/sauces, Ravioli/Spaghetti, chili, sloppy joe mix, mac and cheese

Baby Needs: formula, baby bottles, diapers and wipes

Please place your donations in the CCC bins located in the closet left of the Information Desk, located in the Narthex.

Thank you so much for your wonderful donations and continued support.

United Methodist Women

It's February and love is in the air, as well as some winter wind and snow. Spread a little extra love this month with a kind word, a thoughtful email or just lift up a prayer for a loved one.

Our 2nd Annual Trivia Night on Saturday, January 18 was a big success! A special thanks goes out to the organizers of this event: **Julie Kuhn, Melinda Taylor, Sarah Calderwood, Pam Miller and Debbie Weigel.**

We are especially grateful for our United Methodist Men partners, who prepared the food and helped with the organization and set-up of this event, as well as the bakers who contributed all of the yummy desserts.

Of course, we thank all of you who participated in this event. Proceeds from the event will go to designated mission agencies selected by UMW & UMM.

Please save this list of UMW events planned for 2020, so that you can be part of the Fun, Fellowship and Friendship.

Thursdays -thru April 16 @ 7:00 p.m.- UMW Bible Study on the book of Revelation. This is a 15 week study held in Room #1 @ church. Contact Mary Zalay if interested.

Friday, February 7 @ 6:30 p.m.- Game night at Melinda Taylor's home. RSVP to Melinda, so that she knows you're attending.

Tuesday, March 3 @ 6:30 p.m.- UMW Spring Meeting and Potluck. Program: "Know your Why" (Ted Talk) presented by Melinda Taylor

Friday & Saturday, May 1 & 2- UMW Retreat. The retreat will be held in our church this year and the discussion topic will be world religions. More details will be available soon.

Tuesday, June 2 @ 6:30 p.m.- UMW Salad Supper and Meeting. Program: "Spiritual Growth For the Love of God: John's Letter" presented by Mary Zalay

Tuesday, September 1 @ 6:30 p.m.- UMW Fall Meeting and Potluck. Program: "Phil's Friends- assembling packages or cards" presented by Sarah Calderwood.

Tuesday, December 1 @ 6:30 p.m.- UMW Holiday Meeting and Potluck. Program: "Holiday Happenings". White Elephant Gift Exchange.

United Methodist Men Super Bowl Spaghetti Dinner Feb 2, 10:45 (till we're done)

All men of *Our Redeemer's* are invited to the UMM meeting on Feb 1 at 8:00 a.m. to manufacture our world famous meat balls and Feb 2 at 9:00 to help cook and serve spaghetti and meat balls.

Everyone else is invited to come starting at 10:45 and enjoy fellowship and a great meal.

Fall Stewardship Campaign Good News/Bad News

Good News:

Our Capital pledges put us in the best position in a long time. We have Capital Fund commitments for 2020 totaling \$52,290.

That, along with the fact that our mortgage balance is less than \$4000, means we can pay it off by Easter.

However, the Capital Fund cannot be used to meet Operating Expenses.

Last year we were able to meet our expenses and our Apportionment to the Northern Illinois Conference.

In addition, we will be recognized as a Rainbow Covenant church because we were able to go the extra mile through contributions to Rainbow missions.

Rainbow Covenant missions include UMCOR Disaster Relief, Prison Release Ministry and other missions Our Redeemers has long supported.

Troubling News:

Pledged income for the General Operating Fund is below the last two years by 15%.

For 2020, pledge commitments to General Operations are \$240,000. In 2018 and 2019, pledges were \$282,000 and \$272,000, respectively.

Without additional financial pledges and donations for the Operating Fund, we will need to use our Reserve Funds.

Our reserves have been stable and not needed for more than 10 years.

If you have not made a Financial Pledge commitment for 2020, please prayerfully consider making it now.

If your 2020 Pledge was only to the Capital Fund, please consider moving some to the General Operating Fund where it is needed more.

Finally, if you have made a 2020 pledge towards the General Operating Fund already and have found that you have or will receive an unexpected company bonus, tax refund, or other additional income in 2020 we ask that you consider increasing your family's earlier pledge.

Thank you very much to all who pledged to Our Redeemers for 2020, in Prayer, Presence, Gifts and Service.

Because of you, we can continue with our vital ministries.

Together in Christ,

Finance and Stewardship Committees



Trivia Night - Chili - Potatoes - Dessert



Trivia Night - Fun - Fellowship - A Winner

Twenty Seventh 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 are 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 \$700.00. Since 1994 *Our Redeemer's* has raised over \$30,000.

This year's Lenten devotion entitled "Renewed By Living Water" 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, 26 and will conclude with a Good Friday Fast on April, 10.

Please sign up in the Narthex beginning Sunday, February, 9.



Personal Notes



Our deepest sympathy to **Susan Jackson** and her family on the death of her mother, **Jean Blix**, who passed away in Wisconsin.

Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers at this very difficult time.



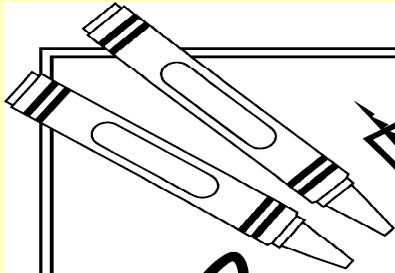
Trivia Night

Thanks to all who worked to make the Trivia Night a fun time. We had good food, good fellowship, a good time and didn't win a thing.

We did have a winner at our table - one of the two people who had a \$2 bill in their pocket.

Communion Servers

Please consider checking out the sign-up sheet in the Narthex for serving communion. This is done the first Sunday of every month and for special services. Thank you!



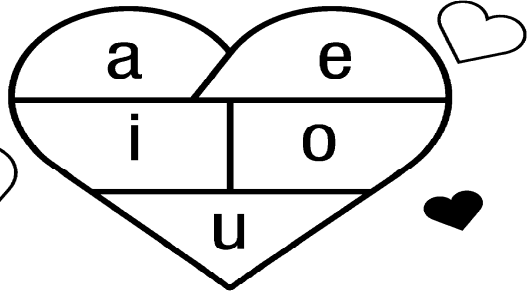
PUZZLE

A friend in Jesus

In the Bible, Jesus shares what it means to be a true friend.



Directions: Use the heart key to fill in the missing vowels from John 15:14, 17, NIV.



“Y _ _ r _ my fr _ _ nds _ f
y _ _ d _ wh _ t _ c _ mm _ nd. . . .

Th _ s _ s my c _ mm _ nd:

L _ v _ _ _ ch _ th _ r.”

JOHN 15:14, 17, NIV

Answer: “You are my friends if you do what I command. . . . This is my command: Love each other.” John 15:14, 17, NIV

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Visit our web site: www.orumc.org

January 26, 2020 - March 07, 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p align="center"><i>Jan 26</i></p> <p>9 am SS/Worship 10:30 Worship Nursery</p> <p>5:30 PM Youth Group at ORUMC</p>	<p align="center"><i>Jan 27</i></p> <p>7:00 PM New Life Bible Study @ Panera</p> <p>7:30 PM Nar-Anon Family Group</p> <p>7:30 PM Worship Team</p>	<p align="center"><i>Jan 28</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Woman's Book Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p align="center"><i>Jan 29</i></p> <p>5:15 PM Sonshiners</p> <p>6:30 PM Redeemer Ringers</p> <p>7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p align="center"><i>Jan 30</i></p> <p>8:30 AM TOPS</p> <p>7:00 PM UMW Bible Study Room 1</p> <p>7:30 PM Bound for Recovery AA Mtg</p>	<p align="center"><i>Jan 31</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 1</i></p> <p>8:00 AM UMM Spaghetti Dinner Preparation in Wesley Hall</p>
<p align="center"><i>Feb 2</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Soup-er Bowl of Caring Food Drive</div> <p>9 am SS/Worship 10:30 Worship Nursery</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">10:45 AM UMM Spaghetti Dinner</div>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 3</i></p> <p>7:00 PM New Life Bible Study @ Panera</p> <p>7:30 PM Nar-Anon Family Group</p>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 4</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Woman's Book Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 5</i></p> <p>5:15 PM Sonshiners</p> <p>6:30 PM Redeemer Ringers</p> <p>7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 6</i></p> <p>8:30 AM TOPS</p> <p>7:00 PM UMW Bible Study Room 1</p> <p>7:30 PM Bound for Recovery AA Mtg</p>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 7</i></p> <p>6:45 PM Scout Pack 195 Rm 1 & Rm 4</p>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 8</i></p>
<p align="center"><i>Feb 9</i></p> <p>9 am SS/Worship 10:30 Worship Nursery</p> <p>5:30 PM Youth Group at ORUMC</p>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 10</i></p> <p>7:00 PM New Life Bible Study @ Panera</p> <p>7:30 PM Nar-Anon Family Group</p>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 11</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Woman's Book Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM Staff Parish</p>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 12</i></p> <p>5:15 PM Sonshiners</p> <p>6:30 PM Redeemer Ringers</p> <p>7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 13</i></p> <p>8:30 AM TOPS</p> <p>9:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry</p> <p>7:00 PM Pack 195 Parent Meeting-Rm 2</p> <p>7:00 PM UMW Bible Study Room 1</p> <p>7:30 PM Bound for Recovery AA Mtg</p>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 14</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 15</i></p> <p>3:00 PM Delta Kappa Gamma Mtg</p>
<p align="center"><i>Feb 16</i></p> <p>9 am SS/Worship 10:30 Worship Nursery</p> <p>5:30 PM Youth Group at ORUMC</p>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 17</i></p> <p>President's Day</p> <p>7:00 PM New Life Bible Study @ Panera</p> <p>7:30 PM Nar-Anon Family Group</p>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 18</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Woman's Book Study</p> <p>6:30 PM Trustees Committee</p> <p>7:00 PM Finance Committee</p> <p>7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 19</i></p> <p>5:15 PM Sonshiners</p> <p>6:30 PM Redeemer Ringers</p> <p>7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 20</i></p> <p>8:30 AM TOPS</p> <p>7:00 PM Ad Council</p> <p>7:00 PM UMW Bible Study Room 1</p> <p>7:30 PM Bound for Recovery AA Mtg</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</div>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 21</i></p> <p>6:45 PM Scout Pack 195 Rm 1 & Rm 4</p>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 22</i></p>
<p align="center"><i>Feb 23</i></p> <p>9 am SS/Worship 10:30 Worship Nursery</p> <p>5:30 PM Youth Group at ORUMC</p>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 24</i></p> <p>7:00 PM New Life Bible Study @ Panera</p> <p>7:30 PM Nar-Anon Family Group</p>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 25</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Woman's Book Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 26</i></p> <p>5:15 PM Sonshiners</p> <p>6:30 PM Redeemer Ringers</p> <p>7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 27</i></p> <p>8:30 AM TOPS</p> <p>11:00 AM Brookdale-Communion</p> <p>7:00 PM UMW Bible Study Room 1</p> <p>7:30 PM Bound for Recovery AA Mtg</p>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 28</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>Feb 29</i></p>
<p align="center"><i>Mar 1</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Famine Sunday</div> <p>9 am SS/Worship 10:30 Worship Nursery</p>	<p align="center"><i>Mar 2</i></p> <p>7:00 PM New Life Bible Study @ Panera</p> <p>7:30 PM Nar-Anon Family Group</p>	<p align="center"><i>Mar 3</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Woman's Book Study</p> <p>6:30 PM UMW Quarterly Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p align="center"><i>Mar 4</i></p> <p>5:15 PM Sonshiners</p> <p>6:30 PM Redeemer Ringers</p> <p>7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p align="center"><i>Mar 5</i></p> <p>8:30 AM TOPS</p> <p>7:00 PM UMW Bible Study Room 1</p> <p>7:30 PM Bound for Recovery AA Mtg</p>	<p align="center"><i>Mar 6</i></p> <p>6:45 PM Scout Pack 195 Rm 1 & Rm 4</p>	<p align="center"><i>Mar 7</i></p> <p>2:00 PM Aguirre Party</p>

30 Hour Famine