

CONNECTION

March 2025

MONTEZUMA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Our Mission in Ministry Together:
*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world starting in
Montezuma, Iowa*

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

Lord.. instead of fasting one meal a week, we are taking on the challenge of eating an extra meal per day.



Kent & Shiela were moved by pastor's request for an all church 'fast'.. but not moved enough to actually fast.

Biblical connections to Lent

*Matthew 4:1-11: Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness fasting, praying, and being tempted by Satan.

*Mark 1:13: Jesus was tempted by Satan.

*Luke 4:1-13: Jesus went without food for 40 days.

I gave up procrastination for lent this year.

Well.. I'm working on it.

Many individuals express, often with valid and comprehensible justifications, that they are "so busy!" This sentiment is prevalent among individuals, couples, families with one child, those with multiple children, and virtually any group or organization. It appears that there is significantly less time available for socializing, making phone calls for casual conversations, or engaging in leisurely activities such as taking a long walk or enjoying a good book. Even the younger generation seems to be busier than ever before. Of course, being busy to a certain extent is part of life, which it has been since the days of Adam and Eve! In fact, you could argue people were busier before with hunting, gathering, staying safe and alive, and fending off the next threat or attack. And in some places in the world, that is still the way life is and it's a daily fight that can determine life and death. For us, we usually are concerned about things that people in some parts of the world could only dream of having. And during this time of Lent, which began the 40 days on Ash Wednesday, March 5th . The last week of Lent is Holy Week, from Palm Sunday, April 13th, to Holy Saturday, April 19th . And of course we celebrate with Easter, which is on April 20th . Though it doesn't hurt to do so throughout the year, I encourage you to take time to pray and ask God to help you in a world that often screams to you that you must be so busy for this or that reason, to find how in your busyness that you're being busy not only living life and doing what you have to do, but also busy in how you are a living witness of Christ in your family, among your friends, and in your various groups and community. I encourage you to reflect on the significance of dedicating a day not only for rest each week but also for resting in the presence of the Lord. The rest we experience with God is an active form of rest that encompasses worship. I recognize that some of you may have work commitments on Sundays, and God is fully aware of this reality. As a pastor, I often joked with individuals who claimed they were too busy for church, suggesting that if I were not in ministry, I might also find myself too occupied for church attendance. However, I have since shifted my focus from the term "church" to "God." This perspective extends beyond Sunday, which is undoubtedly vital for communal worship; it emphasizes the importance of ensuring that we do not allow busyness to prevent us from engaging with God on a daily basis. Christ's sacrifice was not solely for the purpose of granting us eternal life, whether through our passing or His anticipated return, but also to enable us to experience genuine life each day. This encompasses Christ's invitation to all individuals, regardless of their circumstances, to embrace their daily challenges and follow Him, as stated in Luke 9:23. In moments of overwhelming busyness, after fulfilling our daily responsibilities, we can find assurance that our efforts are not in vain or without purpose. Each of us carries various burdens in life, some of which are chosen and others that are not. Through Christ, we are presented with a daily opportunity to make choices. Therefore, during this Lenten season, take the time to pray and seek God's guidance on how to create more space for the presence of the God who is ever near.

Blessings Y'all this Lenten Season

Pastor Brian



01 Madelyn Carl
01 Emma Snook
02 Michael Arendt II
09 Grace Burnett
11 Lacreia Heiman
15 Nancy Urfer
16 Brayden Arendt
20 Mark Lageveen
22 Michael Foels
23 Al Rabenold
25 Daryl Eichenberger
25 Becky Northcutt
29 Doug Johnston



31 Ron & Nancy Urfer 46 Years



**Doug &
Mindy
Johnston**



March 2nd

Greeter: Roger & Nancy Allen
Fellowship: Bonnie Cox & Robin Bolen
Liturgist: Vera Latcham
Childrens sermon: Nancy Allen
Communion Steward: Doug & Mindy Johnston

March 9th

Greeter: Mark & Julie Lageveen
Fellowship: Ron & Bea Hensel
Liturgist: Julie Lageveen
Childrens sermon: Vera Latcham

March 16th

Greeter: Phyllis Freeborn & Robin Bolen
Fellowship: Roger & Nancy Allen
Liturgist: Robin Bolen
Childrens sermon: Bonnie Cox

March 23rd

Greeter: Dennis & Vera Latcham
Fellowship: Carrie Stockman & Jeanette Wingert
Liturgist: Phyllis Freeborn
Childrens sermon: Vera Latcham
Audio: Olivia Burnett
Video: Greg Floyd

March 30th

Greeter: Peggy Morse & Donna Fraker
Fellowship: 5th Sunday
Liturgist: Roger Allen
Childrens sermon: Nancy Allen
Audio: Jeremy Miller
Video: Dennis Latcham



March 2nd is Communion Sunday.
Wednesday, the 5th is Communion delivery
in Montezuma. Thursday, the 6th is
Communion delivery in Grinnell.



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

United Methodist Women are
having a guest day on Friday, the 14th
@ 1 PM



3/12/2025



Sunday, March 16th
is Quarter Sunday
for Roots of Home



Monday, March 17th @ 5 PM is the finance meeting.
Tuesday, March 18th is the SPRC Meeting @ 4 PM.
Monday, March 24th @ 6 PM is the Committee Meeting followed by an all
Church Meeting @ 6:30 PM. Tuesday, March 25th from 5-7 PM is an all
Church Meeting for CAT.



We will be returning to the Sanctuary for services beginning March 23rd.

The Blessings of Spring

by [Deborah Ann Belka](#)

There are many blessings,
that each new Spring brings
you can see it bloom about
and hear the song it sings.

With winters bleakness over,
and brighter days ahead
comes promises of new life
Springtime loves to spread.

As God unfolds the flowers,
and their buds begin to show
He sends to us the promise
His care for us, we will know.

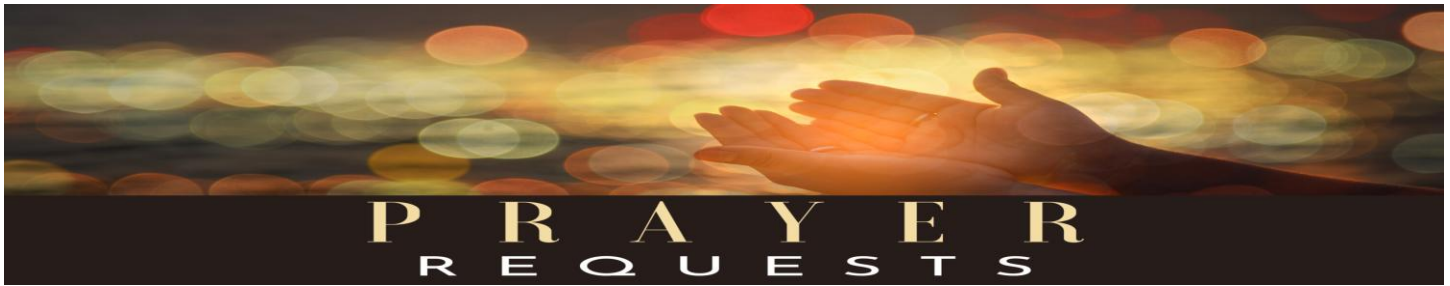
He sends us the robin song,
with the promise to provide
that under His mighty wing
we have a place to hide.

He melts the snowy covers,
and sends the refreshing rain
sprinkling us with His grace
to heal winter's every pain.

God has given to all His Son,
to shed upon us a new light
and the real blessing of Spring
is to keep Jesus in your sight!



We are still in need of new or gently used shoes. Any style or size. Help us reach our goal of 2250 pairs by April 30th. Shoes can be dropped off at the church or at Ron's Barbershop.



Prayer Request – Cardis family, Hazel Sig, Melissa Vinton, Sherry Cardis Carpenter, Lacreacia Heiman, Sally Moore, Rhonda Farwell, Our fire department, Our police officers, Our first responders, Our healthcare workers, Our military, Our community, Our church, Our elected leaders, The state of Iowa, The United States of America.

Spring Word Search

BLOSSOM

BLOOM

FLOWERS

RAIN

SHOWERS

EASTER

SPRING BREAK

GRASS

HATCH

BIRDS

SUNSHINE

SEASON

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

N L M O R D Y S M B M O O L B
N I A R M E L E S E E A W O G
U O Y E L O S E A S O N M S S
L M L I O D N E K L A Y R P H
H C T A H I N G Q L D B R K U
U T P E H O O D I O O I F C L
Y T I S R E T R M D N T R E U
V W N A O E P J T G N E D X V
E U G R N A D M B R A Y A T E
S L M E U B G R T A S O U P A
R E F G L C E B T S I R G A S
B A L Y B A E N O S R E H R T
Y A O I K D O O H R E H O H E
U Y W E M S H O W E R S E D R
C H E F A M C L Y O G D R E S
X L R O V Z R C O J B R I N O
F I S E A R A K S L E I O E L
B L O S S O M C B J W B M O B

ONESTOPWORDSEARCH

Lectionary Readings for March 2025 C

March 2 (White)

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

March 9 (Purple)

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

March 16 (Purple)

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

March 23 (Purple)

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

March 30 (Purple)

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



MARCH



2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2 10 Service Communion	3	4	5 Communion delivery in Montezuma Ash Wed. Service	6 Communion delivery in Grinnell	7	8
9 10 Service Daylight Savings Time	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 10 Service QTR. Sunday	17  Finance Meeting @ 5 PM	18 SPRC @ 4 PM	19	20	21	22
23 10 Service	24 All Church Meeting @ 6:30	25 All Church Meeting for CAT 5-7	26 Pastor in Newton 9- 12	27 Pastor out all day	28	29
30 10 Service 5 th Sunday	31					