

MARCH 2018



March 2018

*"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O God,
my rock and my redeemer." - Psalm 19:14*

Lent, a time of Rehabilitation

We begin the month of March in the third week of Lent and we will end it on the last day of Holy Week. This Lenten Season we are exploring the worship series "Rehab" which started on Ash Wednesday where we recognized our own mortality. On Lent 1 we entered into the wilderness and on Lent 2 we acknowledged that all are in need of some intervention in our journeys. We continue to explore and learn about our rehabilitation in the weeks to come for those who are able to attend worship service. For those who aren't, here are a few words from the author about it:

The annual observance of the Lenten discipline among Christians is a time to seek restoration for our lives. It is a time to reflect, take stock of our spiritual condition, and realign our lives. There is much to mine from considering our Lenten journey this year within the frame of rehab, much to explore, much to learn. On each Sunday of this journey, the Scriptures provide the core guidance for the work of the week to come in our own lives and with others.

Rehab is a word that can refer to many different things. Just a quick glance through the Wikipedia article on rehabilitation, or "rehab," points to issues ranging from health (cognitive rehab, wildlife rehab, drug rehab, occupational rehab, physical rehab, psychiatric rehab, vision rehab, vocational rehab) to politics (restoration of disgraced politicians) to home improvement (Rehab Addict!). In general, the word rehabilitate means to restore to a condition of good health, ability to work; to restore to good condition or operation; or to restore a person's reputation. The core of the learning in rehab, like the core of the learning in Lent, isn't cognitive. It's behavioral. In rehab, we learn how to live differently, to set a "new normal" for ourselves and our relationships after a period of time or perhaps a crisis has made it clear to us it is impossible to live as we had before.

Likewise in Lent, we focus on helping those coming to faith in Christ for the first time, as well as those making their way back to Christ and the fellowship of the church after a period of absence or neglect, primarily in concrete, behavioral ways. Our goal for all who engage this period of time is that the way of Jesus becomes either the "new normal," or, for those who have been consistent in the journey over time, is strengthened as our normal.

On Lent 3, we encounter the specifics of the kind of program that can keep us moving forward and learning this new normal, if we stick with it. On Lent 4, we address the sense of progress (and lack of progress) that comes with beginning to make some recovery. And on Lent 5, we remember with gratitude and hope the promise of healing and wholeness that awaits us as we continue to persevere, even in the face of challenging circumstances.

It is with that sense of gratitude and hope of a journey well-begun that we enter Holy Week. All of what has come before has prepared us to walk through this final leg of the journey with Christ and his church, through his suffering, execution, death, burial... and finally, after all of that, his resurrection.

Come and explore with us!
In Christ's Love,
Pastor Margaret Currier

518-372-9575 – church
518-688-9515 – parsonage
PastorMargaretC@outlook.com



Wesley's Wisdom

"**Inward holiness** is impossible without God's sustaining grace made available in these gifts. Inward holiness has to do with examining our lives, repenting of our sins, and cultivating the gifts of the Spirit in us. It is about seeking God's presence to deepen our faith, hope and love. Genuine, lasting peace and joy are the results of the holy life." (John Wesley, *Holiness of Heart & Life*, page 57)

Worship Schedule

Liturgists

3/4 RoyAnn Rogerson
3/11 Sharon Gaunay
3/18 Wendy Liebl
3/25 Janet Daly

Ushers

3/4 Martha Hatt, Sue Sykes
3/11 RoyAnn Rogerson, Sally Dean
3/18 Shelly Graves, Holly Russo
3/25 Irene Coburn, Sue Sykes

Greeters

3/4 Jill & Steve Wesley
3/11 Sally Dean, Fiona Goodell
3/18 Stephen Long, Deb Cieslak
3/25 Holly Russo, Judy Swain

Sound

Mark Cieslak
Dave Read
Bob Hatt
Jim Coburn

Counters

Martha Hatt, Tim Keegan

Social

Deb Elliott
Rob Currier
Deb Cieslak, Laurie Peconie
TBD

SUMC IN MISSIONS

Regional Food Bank – Volunteers, please meet at the Food Bank at 2:30 pm on Tuesday, March 20th. If you need to carpool, contact Dick Knapp at 518-393-5737. -Jill Dunster-Wesley (cell) 423-3546 (home) 372-4047 jldunster@hotmail.com

SICM Meeting 3/6 at 7 PM, refreshments just prior at 6:45 PM; Emmanuel Friedens Church, [218 Nott Terrace, Schenectady 12307](#). The church is right behind the MVP headquarters; parking next to the church or in the lot adjacent on Chapel Street. **Theme:** "Workforce Shortages and Challenges in Health Care" with a panel of local experts on the various aspects of the topic.



The children have been continuing their study of Women in the New Testament this year. They will be focusing on Palm Sunday & Easter during the month of March.

Save the Date! Planning is underway for the **Children's Easter Party** which will be on Saturday, March 24th from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. There will be egg coloring, an egg hunt, games, crafts & activities followed by "make your own ice cream sundaes." Bring friends, family members...all are welcome. Don't miss it!

March Calendar

- 3/4 Holy Communion
- 3/5 Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm
- 3/10 **SPRING FORWARD!** – Set your clocks 1 hour ahead at the end of the day.
- 3/11 UMCOR Sunday Special Offering
- 3/11 *Worship/Welcoming Meeting after service*
- 3/15 Choir Practice 7:30 pm
- 3/17 Community Breakfast
- 3/17 Building Use – AA Event 4:00 pm Community Room
- 3/18 Chili Cook-off – Youth Fundraiser after service (details on page 6)
- 3/20 **SPRING** ☀️☀️☀️
- 3/20 Food Bank 2:30 pm
- 3/20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- 3/24 Children's Easter Party 1:00 pm
- 3/24 Youth Gathering
- 3/25 *Staff Parish Relations meeting after service*
- 3/26 *Admin. Council meeting 7:00 pm*
- 3/26 – 4/5 – Regina Caeli Academy on break
- 3/28 *Finance Meeting 7 pm*
- 3/29-4/1 - Please see Holy Week Schedule on page 5
- Coming Soon – Details on Annual Rummage Sale May 4&5

The Tuesday Bible Study will continue to meet at 9:30 am on Tuesdays in the Fireside Room.

SUMC Ladies - Winter Break! Our next meeting will be April 9, 2018. Future details to come...

**Church Treasurers Report
31-Jan-18**

	Total thru Jan-18
Individual Contributions	\$9,097
	2,33
Building Use/Rent	6
Fund Raising/Interest Income	3
Other Designated Giving	-
Total Operating Receipts	<u>\$11,436</u>
Wages & other employment expenses	\$6,362
	45
Church Operations/Program	9
	1,15
Parsonage Expenses	9
	41
Church Building-Repairs/Safety	2
	1,23
Church Building-Utilities/Water	1
	1,03
Church Building-All Other	5
	62
Apportionments	8
Benevolences	-
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$11,286</u>
Surplus	\$ 150

There was a surplus of \$150 for January 2018.

If there are any questions or requests for detailed information,
please contact Mary Connors at mechardball@yahoo.com.

UMCOR SUNDAY OFFERING MARCH 11th

Supports UMCOR'S administrative costs so that all designated gifts will go to the program of the giver's choice. Your contribution ensures UMCOR'S response in times of crisis.



Palm Sunday – March 25

Maundy Thursday March 29– Service & Potluck Dinner at 6:00 pm

Please bring a dish to share for dinner. Dessert and drinks will be provided. Sign-up lists on clipboards will soon be available at Sunday service, be sure to sign up!

Good Friday Crosswalk – March 30 at 9:30 am

Good Friday Joint Service at Alplaus UMC 7:00 pm

RESURRECTION SUNDAY! – April 1, 2018

Friends,

Easter is right around the corner and to make it sound like a Holy-Day we would need more people in the choir. Please consider joining us, especially for Palm Sunday and Easter. The choir rehearsals will take place on Thursdays March 1st and March 15 at 7:30 pm in the choir room downstairs.

Blessings, Oded



Easter Flowers

Please return this form if you would like to offer flowers in memory or in honor of someone on Easter morning. Forms with check must be received in the church office no later than Tuesday, March 13, 2018.

Given

by _____

In Memory of

Or in Honor of

6" pots for \$8.00 each: _____ Tulips _____ Hyacinths _____ Lilies _____ Daffodils

6" pots for \$8.00 each: _____ Mums (specify yellow or white)

_____ Please check here if you would like your flowers to go to a shut-in after Easter service.

_____ Please check here if you can deliver flowers to a shut-in after Easter service.

_____ Please check here if you do not want a plant and want to make a donation to the church.

Checks can be made out to the Scotia United Methodist Church. Please note on check: "donation" only.

Questions: Call Deb Cieslak, 518-372-5562.



Pastor Photos

Thank You to Meredith Van Vorst for updating the photos in the back of the sanctuary. It is nice to see the blank spaces filled in with familiar faces.

Annual Statistical Reports

Thank You to our treasurer, Mary Connors, for handling so much of the numbers and data for our annual reports. We submitted everything just under deadline! Mary, we couldn't have done it without you and the hours of work you put into it...

****SUMC Chili Cook-off**** *Organized by the Youth of SUMC*

Do you think your chili is hot? Are you willing to put that to the test?

Who will be the Chili Champ of SUMC? We don't know. You'll have to come and see.

Come be a judge and taste the recipes on Sunday, March 18th, 11:30 in the Community Room.

Admission for your chili is free! For all others who'd like to taste and judge, it's only \$5.

So bring your best recipe or just yourself out to support our Youth.

Please RSVP your chili by March 11th to pastormargaretc@outlook.com or 518-847-3819.