

Dear Pursued and Loved,

This morning as I was getting ready for the day, I was listening to the local Christian radio station and the song, *Reckless Love of God* by Cory Asbury came on. It was the answer to my prayer I prayed last night before I fell asleep. I prayed, "Lord, it's that time of the month again, when another newsletter is due. What, what do I write about? What do I share with the flock at Peace UMC this month? Lord give me rest. Lord above all – inspire me! amen" And then this song plays on the radio this morning and.....my prayer was answered.

*Before I spoke a word, You were singing over me  
You have been so, so good to me  
Before I took a breath, You breathed Your life in me  
You have been so so kind to me*

*Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God  
Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the 99  
And I couldn't earn it  
I don't deserve it, still You give yourself away  
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God*

*When I was Your foe, still Your love fought for me  
You have been so, so good to me  
When I felt no worth, You paid it all for me  
You have been so, so kind to me*

*There's no shadow You won't light up  
Mountain You won't climb up  
Coming after me  
There's no wall You won't kick down  
Lie You won't tear down  
Coming after me*

*Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending reckless love of God  
Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the 99  
I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it, still You give yourself away  
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending reckless love of God*

This loving God who *pursues* us --- *chases us down* --- as the lyrics say, *fights until we are found*. We cannot earn it, we do not deserve it --- still you give yourself away.

This divine, omnipotent God, all-powerful and all loving that He will pursue us until the very end --- that is truly *Reckless Love*.

During this season of Lent, I am always flabbergasted that we worship a God, **the God**, that loves us so much that He would send His One and Only Son down to Earth, taking on our flesh, to walk among us, and showing us "*the way*" to live a life pleasing to God. And then that Son, Jesus, loving us so much that He would bear our beating and die our death, for our sins. That He would take our place on the Cross. How do we wrap our head, our minds - around that kind of *reckless love*? It brings me to my knees as I say, "*I am not worthy.*" No matter what we have done, no matter how we have hurt others, what sins we have committed --- our Creator sees our worth - when we do not.

As we walk towards the Cross this month, during our worship services we will be looking at: Jesus as our *moral example* for how to live our day to day to lives. We already explored that He was our *substitute*, that He took our place and this coming Sunday looking at that He paid our *ransom* to set us free. We will wrap up our Lenten worship time together looking that Jesus provides *reconciliation* between us and our Heavenly Father, *restoring* our relationship with God to what it was intended to be from the beginning of Creation. Then looking at the *cleansing* power of Jesus blood shed for us to wash away our sins and finally, our *victory* over death, through His death and resurrection. Jesus defeating death so that we would have everlasting life, that we too would experience resurrection --- we are Easter people.

We will also resume our Lenten Bible Study, *Final Words from the Cross* by Adam Hamilton, on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. beginning March 3, in the Sanctuary to ensure proper physical distancing. We will pick up with Chapter 3 – Behold Your Son... Behold Your Mother. If this Bible Study is of interest to you and you do not have a book, I would encourage you to come and join us, I can either get a copy of the book to you or you can just soak in the video and the discussion that follows.

I did not "grow up" with Lent as part of my faith journey. When I moved to Minnesota and my classmates were talking about Lent, I thought they were talking about "lint" (saying that word with their funny Minnesotan accents) and why would they give up things in their life - for dust? But as I reflect, even lint, that dust makes sense --- *from dust we were formed, to dust we will return.*

Enclosed you will find who I call "*flat Jesus*." I encourage you to get out your crayons or colored pencils and color in his clothes, etc. Then cut the figure out and display in a window of your home or car. If you need more than one, give me a call, I have more 😊.

Display your "*flat Jesus*" for all to see --- so that if they ask you about your "*flat Jesus*" you can share the Good News, so that they too may be set free and experience *Reckless Love*.

You are loved! You are worthy! You are God's!

*Pastor Velda*

**P.S.** If you are receiving the Newsletter via e-mail, you can pick up a "*flat Jesus*" when you come to attend a worship service, Lenten Bible Study or at the Church Office or give me a call and I will get one to you.



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**

**SUNDAY**

**MARCH 17, 2021**

Remember to Spring ahead!

# Lenten Greeting



## Practicing the disciplines of love

I greet you in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the peace and power of the Holy Spirit as we enter the season of Lent. “The United Methodist Book of Worship” tells us that Lent “began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians.” Lent begins with Ash Wednesday where we are reminded of our mortality. Somber colors are encouraged during the season, with an encouragement to remove “all shiny objects from the worship area,” and perhaps give up flowers. Individually, people often give something up for Lent.

It was last year during Lent that our churches were asked to refrain from in-person worship due to the coronavirus pandemic. The hope early on was that perhaps by Easter we would again be able to gather together for worship. It was not to be. Months later, we would also be asked to refrain from in-person worship during the Christmas season. We have given up a lot and we are not yet through this pandemic.

Of course, some have given up even more. This past year has been a year of incredible loss. Reminders of our mortality arrive every day as we hear the running total of deaths from COVID-19, now over 400,000 here in the United States. Some of you are grieving loved ones lost, whether from COVID or not. We have lost time together with family and friends, missed marking milestones in ways we would have liked. There have been moments when we’ve lost a measure of hope—moments such as the death of George Floyd, or when some of our cities were aflame, or when our political rhetoric burned, or when we witnessed the violent storming of the Capitol building.

Lent acknowledges loss and limits. It invites giving something up, but that never for its own sake. When we voluntarily give something up, it is intended to be in the service of creating space for something new, creating more space for God’s grace, God’s love. Lent reminds us we don’t have all the time in the world, so we are invited to use our time well. Lent reminds us that life entails real loss, so we’re invited to appreciate its good gifts when they come our way. Lent encourages us to be more

disciplined in our use of time, in the direction of our attention, in the expenditure of our energy. Discipline—and the most important Lenten disciplines are the disciplines of love—patience, kindness, thoughtfulness, and humility. I wrote about these in my monthly blog for February, and I hope you will go back and read it.

Friends, Lent reminds us that we are fragile, mortal, and sometimes broken, that we know loss and that we lose our way. Yet we are always also loved by God, wildly and extravagantly, and in these limited mortal lives of ours we might reflect that love of God in what we do and who we are. Disciplines of love exercised in grace help us do that. I invite you to observe a holy Lent, honing the disciplines of love, knowing that you are loved by God.

**Bishop David Bard**

Interim bishop for the Minnesota Conference. He also serves as resident bishop for the Michigan Conference.

## 2021 Giving

**2021 GOAL:**

**\$121,494**

**Needed EACH Month**

**\$10,125**

**January Offering:**

**\$7,065**

**February Offering:**

**(as of 2.21.2021)**

**\$3,505**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Giving commitment

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Date of first withdrawal \_\_\_\_\_

Frequency (Check one)

☐ Once/month

☐ Twice/month 1st & 15th

☐ Weekly Mondays

Bank name \_\_\_\_\_

Routing # \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

or include a voided check

I authorize Peace United Methodist Church and the financial institution listed above to initiate debits from my checking or savings account. This authority will remain in effect until I notify PUMC in writing to cancel it in such time as to afford my financial institutional a reasonable opportunity to act. I can stop payment or make changes to any entry by notifying PUMC's bookkeeper at least five (5) business days before my account is debited.

### HELP WANTED

Seeking an individual to serve as a part-time (12 hours) per week, Communication Specialist/Church Secretary.

#### Job Responsibilities

- Manage the flow of the office, receive telephone calls, assist visitors, gather and distribute incoming mail, update church web-site and social media presence to reflect current church news and events.
- Perform church secretary duties including producing Sunday worship power-point. Send timely notices via email and text messages to team leaders and church members for scheduled meetings and special church events.
- Draft, print and distribute church newsletter to the congregation electronically and by USPS mail.

#### Minimum Qualifications

- Excellent computer skills with MS Windows operating system, Microsoft Outlook, Office Suite, Social media platforms (Facebook & Instagram)
- Strong organizational and time management skills
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Experience preferred

Contact Jenny Severson or Pastor Velda to apply



***At this time we have received \$1,775 towards are goal of \$15,000 for updating the Parsonage Air Conditioning Unit. We appreciate your assistance in helping us meet this goal. Trustee Committee***



# Confirmation

**Wednesday - March 3rd, 2021**

**Sunday - March 7, 2021**

**Wednesday - March 10th, 2021**

**Sunday - March 14, 2021**

**Wednesday - March 17th, 2021**

**Sunday - March 21, 2021**

**Wednesday - March 24th, 2021**

**Sunday - March 28, 2021**

**April 1, 2021 - Maundy Thursday  
Service**

## REMINDER

**We will meet at 7 pm  
on Wednesday evening  
and at 6:30 pm  
on Sunday evenings**



## Communion Services

**Sunday - March 7, 2021**

**Maundy Thursday - April 1, 2021**

**Easter Sunday - April 4, 2021**

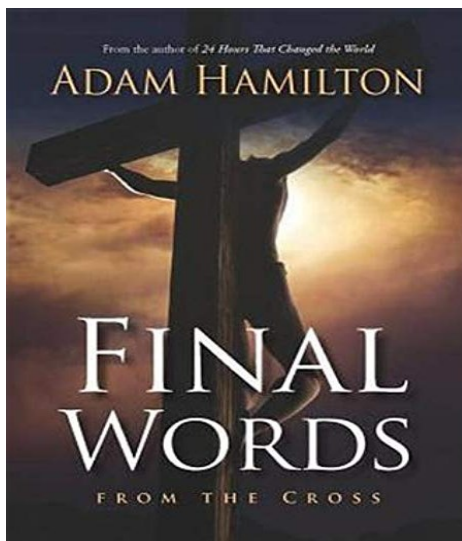
**Sunday - May 2, 2021**

The beautiful trumpet-shaped white flowers symbolize purity, virtue, innocence, hope and life — the spiritual essence of Easter. For these reasons we would like to have Easter lilies decorating the Sanctuary on Easter morning. If you would like to contribute a Lily, please fill out the order form enclosed and turn it in with your money/check to the Church Office by Sunday, March 17, 2021

The lilies will be wrapped in foil with a bow, and they will be beautiful! When ordered through the church, they are tax-free to you at \$10.00 each.



You may pick up your lily after the 9:30 am Easter Worship service on April 4, 2021



## Lenten Bible Study Final Words from the Cross

Bible Study will meet  
Wednesday evenings  
March 3rd, 10th, 17 & 24  
We will meet in the Sanctuary  
We will pick up where we left off last year  
with Chapter 3.

**LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING**  
Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 7 p.m.

**Present:** Steve Schulze  
Sandy Lopau  
Pastor Velda

Chuck Vaux  
Becky Sietsema

Elly Erks  
Jan Wussow

**Treasurer's Report** - Sandy Lopau

Total giving for the month of January 2021 was \$7,065. New monthly need is \$10,125. Also received \$1,575 towards the Air Conditioning Fund for the Parsonage.

**Children's Ministry** - Becky Sietsema

Delivered Valentines and Lent activity bags to each J.A.M. family. Looking at Easter Egg Hunt with the J.A.M. kids on Easter Sunday, April 4 with a craft project following the hunt. Plans are still being formulated, watch for additional information when it becomes available.

**United Methodist Women (UMW)** - Jan Wussow

At this time they are looking at beginning to meet once again in the Fall of 2021.

**Peace Foundation** - Chuck Vaux

Have not met, but are looking for creative ideas for the Vision Fund to invest back into our church ministry. If anyone has an idea or ideas, please contact Chuck. Once things begin to open up, would like to have ministries in place. Any and all ideas will be entertained.

**Worship Committee** - Elly Erks

Met via Zoom Meeting which works good for their committee as all members can join, even Joan from wherever they are traveling. Ash Wednesday Service will be tomorrow night February 17 at 7 pm. Will have Imposition of Ashes using a fresh Q-tip for each person. Confirmation students will be reading scripture at the service. Lenten Bible Study will begin meeting again on Wednesday, March 3 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. Study will resume where it left off last year due to the pandemic. Maundy Thursday Service will be Thursday, April 1 at 7 pm with Confirmation students assisting during the service. Order forms for the Easter Lilies will be included in the March Newsletter as well at the church office and available at Sunday worship services. Will also purchase palms for use at Palm Sunday service. Rick Erks is now responsible for securing assistants in the Sound Booth. If you are interested or know of anyone who might be able to assist, please contact Rick. Your assistance is needed.

**Trustees** - by Report

Candy Whipple is the newest member to the committee. Welcome Candy! Viking Glass was at the church and repaired the East double doors, looked at the North entrance doors and will need to return to repair. Karr Tuck Pointing out of Vinton, IA has been contacted to obtain a free inspection and estimate of areas of concern of the bricks and mortar at the church and the parsonage. Appointment has been set to have Rusty's Drywall come and look at ceilings and walls at the parsonage that have water damage and cracks. Steel box outside the elevator has been damaged and needs to be replaced. Contact made with MEI for replacement.

**Pastoral Report** - Pastor Velda

Confirmation is up and running once again. Meeting twice a weekly to try and cover material that has been missed during the pandemic. Ad for Church Secretary/Communication Specialist will run this week in the local papers. Jenny and Pastor are working on job description. Steve Schulze shared that correspondence has been received from Church Mutual regarding claim for damage from faulty air-conditioning unit at the parsonage. This information will be shared with the Trustees.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Velda



## Peace Quilters

Monday - March 15 - 9 am

meet in the Fellowship Hall

Bring your lunch if you plan to  
stay past noon.

## PEACE QUILTERS

Meets on the third (3rd) Monday of the month at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall. You do not have to be a master quilter to join us, we design and sew various quilt tops, we tie fleece blankets and also have added baby receiving blankets to our ministry. During the month of January we were able to bless a family with quilt tops/comforters for five beds and also four fleece blankets, one for each child. It feels "sew" good to serve our community.

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## Pipestone Area

### Kindergarten Roundup Scheduled

Pipestone Area Schools Kindergarten Roundup  
for the 2021-2022 school year will be held on

**Friday, March 26th at Brown Elementary School**

If you have not been contacted in regards to this Roundup  
and your child will be 5 years old **ON OR BEFORE**  
September 1, 2021, please contact Lori at Brown School  
(507-825-6756 ext. 4202) as soon as possible.

You may call between 8:30 am-3 pm

Monday through Friday.

Please leave a message if necessary

**ON-LINE WORSHIP SERVICE** – Although we are open for worship service, we are still broadcasting live via Facebook live. You can also watch the past services on our website: [www.peaceumcpipestone.com](http://www.peaceumcpipestone.com)



**Beginning on March 21, 2021 we will once again begin collecting funds towards our Change for CHANGE ministry. I am sure that you have a large number of coins that have accumulated since the pandemic began. Now is the time to lighten your pockets once again of all that change. We are going to resume our schedule that was set for last year and we did not get to complete.**

**March - Youth Fund for Pipestone**

**Ministerial Assoc**

**April - Camperships**

**May - Relay for Life**

**June - Back Pack Program and School Supplies**



1st Karen Vaux  
 4th Barbara Shaffer  
 5th Chuck Vaux  
 5th Easton Williamson  
 5th Sandy Lopau  
 8th Benjamin Harstad  
 12th Lulubeth Stromberg  
 13th Barb Visker  
 14th Alyssa Winter  
 20th Chad Williamson  
 23rd Virgil Bahn  
 23rd Jackson Matthiesen  
 24th Brielle Schulze-Radloff  
 29th Dennis Johnson

17th - Al & Shelly Winter



*If you do not see your Birthday or Anniversary on the list, or have someone to add, please contact the Church office at: [office.peacemethodist@gmail.com](mailto:office.peacemethodist@gmail.com) or leave a voicemail message on the church answering system at 825-4348*



# Church Calendar of Events March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Prayer Shawl 5:30 pm NA Meeting 7 pm	3 Confirmation & Bible Study 7 pm	4	5	6
7  9:30 am Worship  Confirmation 6:30 pm	8	9 Prayer Shawl 5:30 pm NA Meeting 7 pm	10 Confirmation & Bible Study 7 pm  Trustee Mtg 7 pm	11	12	13
14  9:30 am Worship  Confirmation 6:30 pm	15  9 am Peace Quilters	16 Prayer Shawl 5:30 pm NA Meeting 7 pm Leadership Council 7 pm	17 Confirmation & Bible Study 7 pm	18	19  <b>NEWS- LETTER DEAD- LINE</b>	20
21  <b>Change for Change (Youth Ministry)</b>  9:30 am Worship  Cpnfirmation 6:30 pm	22	23 Prayer Shawl 5:30 pm NA Meeting 7 pm	24 Confirmation & Bible Study 7 pm	25	26	27
28  9:30 am Worship  Cpnfirmation 6:30 pm	29	30 Prayer Shawl 5:30 pm NA Meeting 7 pm	31  NO CONFIRMATION	1  Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm	2  Good Friday	3  Holy Saturday

**Peace United Methodist Church**

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PO Box 26

Pipestone, MN 56164

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**Email:** office.peacemethodist@gmail.com

**Velda Maine, Pastor**

301 8th St SE

Pipestone, MN 56164

**Mobile:** (507) 227-5453

**Parsonage:** (507) 825-4418

**Email:** pastor.peacemethodist@gmail.com



**PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**PO BOX 26**

**PIPESTONE MN 56164**



**Be sure to 'like' us on Facebook!!**

**Stay up-to-date with what's going on at the church. See photos, connect with members and talk with the Pastor!**

**@peaceUMCpipestone**