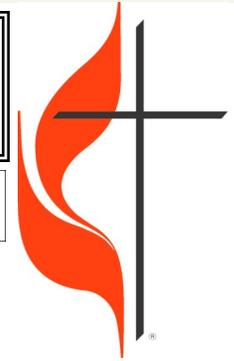


OSCEOLA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Your Church at a Glance

March 2017

Upcoming Calendar



Wed. Mar 1—11:45 am Lenten
Lunch at Swede Home
7 p.m. ASH Wednesday
service at Shelby UMC
Thurs. Mar 2—7 am Bible
Study
Thurs & Fri—Pastor Teri at St.
Benedicts Retreat Center
Sun. Mar 5—8:45 am Coffee in
Gathering Place
9 am—Worship &
Communion
10 am—Sunday School
Wed. Mar 8—11:45 Lenten
Lunch—here

Wed Mar 8—5:30 Confirmation
7 pm—Praise Band
Thur Mar 9—7 am—Bible study
Sun Mar 12—8:45 am Coffee in
Gathering Place
9 am—Worship Service
10 am—Sunday School
Mon Mar 13—Middle School PIPS
party here at the church
Wed Mar 15—11:45 Lenten
Luncheon at St. Vincent Hall
Fri Mar 17—Mission Meal to
York
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Safe Gatherings Required

The following information is extremely important to all Sunday School teachers, Bible school teachers and youth leaders . Please read very carefully as everyone must become certified within the next couple of months.

Safe Gatherings is a biblically-based boundary awareness and abuse prevention program developed to certify volunteer workers, staff and clergy, enabling them to work with children, youth and vulnerable adults. The annual conference program applies to all conference and district events, as well as all local church events and activities. By completing this certification program, individuals are authorized to work with children, youth and vulnerable adults in any church-related setting.

All individuals in the Great Plains Conference renewing or completing first-time certification will complete their education and certification process online.

The cost of \$35 for the state and national background checks will be paid for by our church so please be sure to check the payment box for the church. **Website is: www.safegatherings@greatplainsumc.org**

Please contact Pastor Teri at 308-629-7540 or call the church at 402-747-2671, if you have any questions at all.

Sunday School Teachers:

Pre K—Jenna Mattox
K-1—Amber Kumpf
2-3—Beth Soll
4-5—Sarah Hotchkiss
Middle School—Stephanie
Sterup
High School—Doug
Rathjen & Mark Gustafson
Adult Class—lay led



*Daylight Saving
Time Begins*

*Change clocks next
Saturday night!*

A Call to Repentance

"That is why the LORD says, "Turn to me now, while there is time. Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Don't tear your clothing in your grief, but tear your hearts instead." Return to the LORD your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love." He is eager to relent and not punish."

Joel 2:12-13

March 1st begins the Season of Lent; a time to review our life, repent of our sins, and realign ourselves to be in sync with God's purposes as individuals and as the body of Christ. It's true that many Christians do not feel a need to take stock of their life; they may say to themselves "everything is just fine, thank you very much!" However, the dissension, dysfunction, and disparaging actions witnessed in this world prove otherwise.

Anytime we find ourselves cranky or irritable, judgmental, easily offended or intolerant, it means we have lost the ability to love as Jesus commands us to love. It is in these times that we should seek the Lord in prayer and maybe place ourselves in a God-centered *time out* so we can humbly seek guidance from the Holy Spirit to resurrect and revitalize our faith.

When we take to heart the Prophet Joel's words stated above, we can truly accept an invitation from God to return to the Lord. No matter how Christian we believe we are, it is not our right to expect people to be just like us; to think like us, look like us, and act like us. Diversity is to be embraced by humanity as a gift from God. *"Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."* Colossians 3:12-13

Lent is the season to ask ourselves whose example we want to emulate; the evil forces of the world or a loving God who is merciful and compassionate; who is kind, humble, gentle, tolerant, and patient. If we have been anything but that, then we need to take a close look at ourselves and get right with God; to check our priorities, sort through the areas of our life that are contrary to God's will, and focus anew on all that is good and true according to the Gospel of Jesus! Only then will we be fully ready to receive the grace and joy that comes through the Resurrection Story of Easter.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Teri Lucas



Lenten Luncheon Schedule

Each year during Lent area churches host an ecumenical worship service and luncheon. Serving of the luncheon begins at 11:45 and will continue until the last person to arrive has been served. The clergy will alternate in leading a short worship service.

Date:

March 8
March 15
March 22
March 29
April 5

Host Church:

Osceola U.M.C.
St. Vincent Catholic
St. Paul Lutheran
Calvary Lutheran
Osceola U.M.C.

March Calendar Continued ~

Sun. Mar 19 ~ 8:45 am—Coffee in the Gathering Place

9 am—Worship service

10 am—Sunday School

Mon, Mar 20—5:30 pm Trustees meeting

7 pm—Administrative Board

Wed. Mar 22—11:45 am Lenten Luncheon @

St. Paul Lutheran

5:30 pm—Confirmation Class

7 pm—Praise Band

Sun. Mar 26—8:45 am—Coffee in Gathering Place

9:00 am—Worship service

10:00 am—Sunday School

Tues. Mar 28—6 pm—Staff-Parish Relations Committee
committee meeting at Osceola UMC

MISSION MEALS

We are now into our seventh year of preparing, delivering and serving a monthly meal at either the Columbus or the York Missions.

Sincerely thanks to each and everyone who so faithfully contributes to the meals. Our next meal will be taken to the York Living Water Mission on St. Patrick's Day. They are going to receive corn beef and cabbage and green salads! It's so much fun to do something extra especially for those who are in need.



SCHOOL KIT BAGS

OK you seamstresses! Let's start sewing the bags for our school kits now rather than at the last minute!

The filled bags will be sent to Annual Conference on June 7th. We have a few weeks of winter left so let's sew now rather than when we want to be outside.

Sewing instructions may be found at:

www.umcor.org



If you have been at the Good Samaritan Center at 4 p.m. on Sunday afternoon you know that the residents have the opportunity to attend a chapel service. Additional volunteers are needed to assist the clergy with the service. This is a one hour commitment four or five times per year. Is this something you can do? Contact Mary Nelson at the Good Samaritan Center 402.747.2691.

CONTEMPORARY

"LIVING LAST SUPPER"

Seeking willing and able males, high school and adults of all ages, to take part in a presentation of "A Living Last Supper" on Maundy Thursday, April 13.

Imagine how you would feel if you were sitting at the table with Jesus and were told that someone among the twelve was going to betray him. It is an age old story with a contemporary twist. No costumes other than blue jeans and a long sleeved black, grey or blue shirt (Jesus wears a red one), no make up, nor wigs or beards (unless you grow your own).

The point of this story is to help the church believe they are actually there, in the upper room, witnessing first hand what it may have been like. After the service, as the twelve and Jesus silently eat their meal, the church will be invited to reverently receive Holy Communion.

Please, prayerfully consider being Jesus or one of the twelve disciples so we all may experience that fateful night together! Contact Pastor Teri as soon as possible if you are interested! Text or call [308-629-7540](tel:308-629-7540).

