



First United Methodist Church

Pastor's Preaching Schedule

2/4/24 - 5th Sunday After The Epiphany
Mark 1:29-39 - "Everybody Is Looking"

2/11/24 - Transfiguration Sunday
Mark 9:209 - "How Good It Is"

Wednesday, February 14, 2024
Ash Wednesday @ 7pm
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 - "Store Up"

2/18/24 - First Sunday In Lent
Mark 1:9-15 - "Come Up"

2/25/24 - Second Sunday In Lent
Mark 8:31-38 - "Take Up"

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Mona Joslyn,
Pastor

Karin VanderMolen,
Admin. Asst. &
Bookkeeper

Jon Carroll,
Building Supervisor

James Mullins,
Music & Audio/Visual
Coordinator

Mary Jo Pouillon,
Noah's Ark Director

Leadership Team

Diane Allen
Karolyn Dawley
Fred Delcamp
James Downing,
Chair

Sherry Elwell
Cindy Helmker
Jerry Hitchingham

Larry Johnson
Emma Johnson
Rev. Mona Joslyn
Karin VanderMolen

The **MISSION** of
Owosso First United
Methodist Church is to live
out our faith in Jesus Christ
through acts of love with
honesty, integrity, and
respect.

The **VISION** of
Owosso First United
Methodist Church is to be
Christ-centered, a welcome
and loving environment,
service-oriented, and re-
spectful of ALL creation.



Tower Tidings

First United
Methodist Church

FEB 2024

Greetings!

The Christmas decorations at my house are put away, although some stragglers are still hanging around. It seems like Christmas was just last week, and now here we are preparing for Lent. Ash Wednesday is on February 14th this year, which makes Easter March 31st. How can that be?!

Lent is a season that finds Christians taking the time to look inside themselves and find all the things that are getting in the way of having a true relationship with God. The Lenten tradition is to sacrifice something we normally do to spend that time with God. Things like turning the television off, even if our favorite show is on, or cutting our social media time, or other things that we enjoy so that we can pray, read Scripture, meditate, or ponder our relationship with God. So it often baffles me when people give up chocolate or caffeine for Lent, because I wonder how they use that time they would have eaten chocolate or drinking coffee or pop to draw themselves closer to God. I'm not judging (not my place to judge), I just wonder.

This year, I am preaching a sermon series called "[What R U Up 2?](#)" It was put together by Dr. Marcia McFee who is the creator of The Worship Design Studio. In the overview of the series she writes this, "**Lent is often known as a time of giving something up in order to make room in our lives for spiritual pursuits. Rather than just "giving up" in Lent, the scriptures ask us to consider all that Jesus is "up to" and all that he asks us to be up to in his name. Instead of bemoaning what we can't do, or used to do, in a culture where "measuring up" to external standards seems impossible, this Lent we will celebrate the small things that we can do right now to respond to God's call in our place, for our time.**"

Jesus calls us to "Go," to be "fishers of people" to offer hope, make people happy, be humble, be hungry for righteousness, show mercy, have pure hearts, be peacemakers, not to worry about being harassed, or insulted, instead be full of joy! All throughout his ministry, Jesus was going and teaching. Many times that teaching was not with words, but with action. Feeding hungry people is one example of Jesus' words put into action. We are called to be of service to Jesus and to all who Jesus loves. When we take up the call to live by our actions more than our words, we are transformed and someone else might be transformed as well.

This Lent I pondered what kind of study we could do with small groups and some of the other ideas offered in this series. I talked with the Worship Committee and decided that instead of giving something up for Lent, instead of having a book study...we would answer the question [What R U Up 2?](#), with action. So we are going to be "Up To Something Good" during Lent.

The Worship Committee talked about three places we can help by collecting items for two weeks and then celebrate what we have been up to by having a party! The first party will be a Baby Shower for the Baby Pantry. We will collect items for the Baby Pantry and then have a party! Keep watching for the other two party's celebrating what we are up to in March!

Also this Lent everyone will be provided with a Daily Lenten Journal that you are encouraged to use as your time with God during this Lenten Season.

Each week in the bulletin there will be a blank card for you to write "Uplifting" words or phrases and place them in a container (not quite sure what that container will look like at this very moment, stay tuned!), and we will share them on the screen during announcements and on Easter Sunday we will display them around the church! Then we will be able to continue to share your uplifting thoughts throughout the year, continuing to celebrate that we serve a risen Savior!

The Owosso Area Ministerial Association is brining back the Wednesday Lenten Services and Owosso First will be hosting in March. The schedule is printed elsewhere in the Newsletter and watch the bulletin.

As Methodists, we are called to live by the General Rule of Discipleship, "**To witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.**" This was gleaned from Wesley's General Rules.

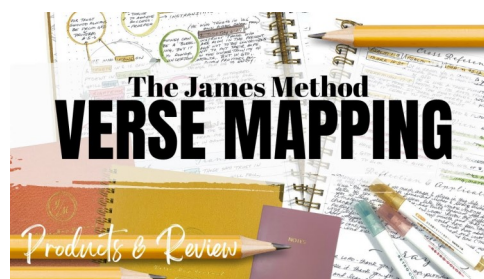
John Wesley's interpretation of the call of Jesus Christ is that we are to have a relationship with God, through our acts of piety (worship, prayer, meditation, scripture study, fasting), and our works of mercy (acts of compassion and justice). For Wesley faith and good works were united. James says it like this, "**What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead**" (James 2:14-17, NRSV).

So this Lent when someone asks us what are we up to, let's tell them that we are up to something good! That we are living our faith by serving others. Shalom, Pastor Mona

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Return
Service
Requested

Tower Tidings - February 2024
First United Methodist Church
1500 North Water Street
Owosso, MI 48867
Office Hours M-F @ 8-4
Sunday Worship 10 am



Feb. 27

Everyone is welcome to meet in the Café on Tues., Feb. 27 at 6:30 pm for Bible Study.

Anyone 16 & older are welcome (no childcare provided at this time).

Bring: Bible (print or digital), pens, markers, highlighters, snack/drink, friends & family.

Additional items if you have them: phone/tablet, washitape, pencils, stickers.

Mapping sheets provided. Limited pens/markers will be available to borrow.

Artistic talent is NOT required. EVERYONE WELCOME!

But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

What R U up 2 ?

You're invited to a Baby Shower on Sunday, February 25 after worship service in the Café.

We will enjoy cupcakes.

If you can, please bring an item to be donated to The Baby Pantry at First Baptist Church.

They are in need of 2T-5T clothing and baby wipes.



Noah's Ark Children's Center & Preschool

6 Sweet Ways to Celebrate Valentine's Day with Your Kids

1. Make Valentines for Others

Get crafty and create some handmade valentines for some special people - whether it's residents in a local retirement home, neighbors on your street, or family members, your kids will have fun gluing and drawing and cutting up paper hearts to add their own flair to each card.

2. Plan A Fancy Valentine's Date

Make up a special dinner menu just for your kids and make sure to include all of their favorite foods - macaroni and cheese, hot dogs, rice Krispy treats - you get the picture! Then "make" the meal together and enjoy it in a fancy Valentine's Day themed setting. Take photos, bring flowers, make it a big deal that they won't forget!

3. Write Notes of Affirmation

Take the opportunity to celebrate Valentine's Day all week by writing a daily note to your kids telling them why you love them and leaving it on their door each day to give them a week full of love!

4. Countdown to Valentine's Day

Advent calendars aren't just for Christmas! Do a countdown to Valentine's Day with a calendar featuring little gifts for each day leading up to February 14th and let your kids cross off the dates in anticipation. Have a special treat on the final day!

5. Go Heart Crazy

Make as many hearts as you can - out of pearly beads, craft paper, play dough, pipe cleaners - and decorate your whole house with hearts! Have fun putting them up, counting them all, and taking them down together.

6. Go On A Hot Chocolate Date

Who doesn't like a good cup of hot chocolate? Head to your favorite café and make it a date - you might even have more than one hot chocolate option to choose from...maybe order them all!



Early Childhood Fun Fact: Music naturally makes people happy but it also helps fuel healthy learning. Singing along, playing an instrument or just listening to music all help boost spatial orientation as well as mathematical thinking.

Staff Birthdays: 2/22 Ms. Julie

Wish List: Rolls of Paper Towel, Scrapbook paper (prefer 8.5x11, but will take 12x12), Bulk chocolate (for staff)

Our classroom and center Amazon wish lists can be found on our website: www.naccpreschool.com/lists

Mary Jo Pouillon, Director, Noah's Ark Children's Center
989-725-2202 Work - 989-666-1352 Cell - 989-729-1721 Fax

www.naccpreschool.com

"Imagination is more important than knowledge." ~Albert Einstein



Men's Breakfast Sat., Feb 3 @ 8:30 am
in the church Café.
All men are welcome.

Please RSVP to the church office by Jan 31. The cost is \$6. Thank you!



MEN'S GROUP

Collecting new and gently used coats for Owosso schools.

Other winter gear appreciated too: hats, gloves, snowpants in all children's sizes. There is a red box in the foyer for your donations.

Thank you!





Prayer Requests

- Pray for peace Israel / Palestine
- Rosie Tkaczyk, stomach cancer (friend of Dave & Kathy Watson)
- Holly Hunter Crawford, passed away
- Trish Agle, recovering at home
- Linda Wightman, heart problems (neighbor of Darlene Ustynek)
- Deb Bendall & family, her mom passed
- David Grant, critical, car accident
- Jody Tyler, chemo (friend of Cindy Thompson)
- Bob Marsh, bladder cancer surgery went well
- Bill & Judy Norman, health issues
- Kay Champion, undergoing procedures for balance
- Delores Simpson, femur surgery
- Greg Huckins major heart surgery
- Robin Chandler cancer treatments (sister of Cindy Helmker)
- Michael Wozniak (friend of Alpert's)
- Rhonda Mullins, health issues
- Janet Sutton, inoperable cancer, no treatments
- Bob Davis, cancer free !!!
- Blake King, bad motorcycle accident (great nephew of Diane Allen)
- John Downing, poor circulation, health concerns (brother of Jim D.)
- Ken Smith, stage 4 kidney failure (friend of Frank & Diana Thaler)
- Dorothy Woodworth, mass on brain
- John Mullins, medical issues
- Scott Hancock, home, multiple serious health issues (nephew of Wilt's)
- Todd Cohoon, end stage ALS, (son of Bonnie Cohoon)
- Ken & Pat Beebe, Ken new diagnosis pending for stroke-like symptoms (friends of Wilts)
- Cody Wheeler, rec. critical car accident (Bob & Sharon Marsh's nephew)

Military

- T Sgt Tyler Ardelean, Idaho
- Todd Hofacker, California
- Kory Alliton, Marine, Camp LaJune, NC
- Yuka Peters, Ft. Bliss, TX
- SPC Brady Watts, Ft. Campbell, KY
- Cody Rozell, home fm Syria w/ new baby
- Kamerin DeWulf, Air Force
- Corp. Jonathan Heath, Ft. Wainwright, AK
- SGT Joseph Heath, Wahiawa, HI
- John Schlaud, Marines, 5th
- Ryan Weaver, Army Reserve
- MSG Jason Cassing

Shut-Ins

- Elaine Shepard, Oliver Woods, 1330 W. Oliver St., 3-12, Owosso, 989-723-3074
- Gail Rheume, The Meadows, 245 Caledonia Dr., Owosso (989-720-8823)
- **Helen Stanton, cancer, HOSPICE, Owl's Nest, 3837 S. M52, Owosso (989-723-6378)**
- Judy Helmker, 1694 N M52 #221, Owosso (989-723-1044)
- Genny Jennings, The Meadows, 245 Caledonia Dr. #110, Owosso (989-277-3695)
- Billie Sisson, c/o Peggy Johnson, 37054 Millstone Tr. Lenox Twp, MI 48048
- Gaile Passmore, Memorial Healthcare, LTC 826 W. King St. 5th Floor, #578-1 Owosso
- Ann Ferden, The Woodlands, 910 Woodlands Dr. DeWitt, MI 48820 (517-668-6559)
- Terry Gulick, 6410 Simpson Rd., Ovid, MI 48866



Yarnspirations

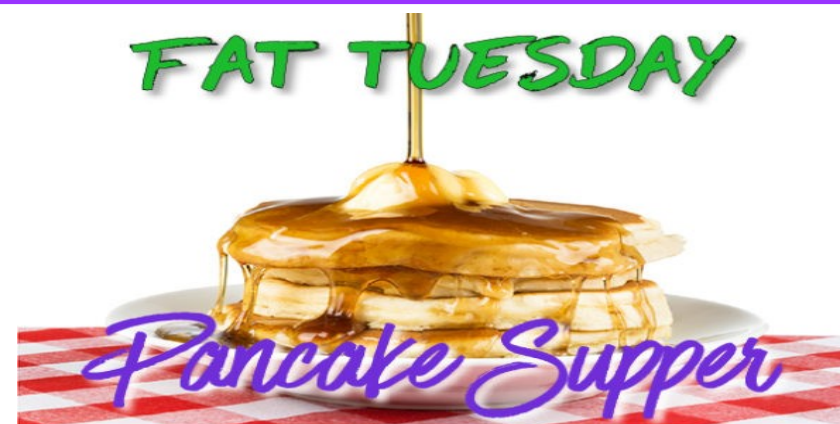


YARNSPIRATIONS ~

Sunday, Feb. 11 @ 3pm

An informal service, prayer, & fellowship group with a shared interest in creating knit, crochet, loom weaving, or any other yarn/string items. Open to everyone regardless of skill level. Bring your own crafting supplies and drink/snack. Invite your friends! Childcare will not be provided at this time. We will plan to meet in the foyer in the comfy chairs. If needed, we can move to the café. Our vision is that we will begin to create items to be donated to the community. This is an option now, but you can keep your craft if you'd like, too!

FAT TUESDAY



Pancake Supper

Tuesday, Feb. 13 @ 5-7 pm

Suggested donation

\$8 adults; \$3 kids under 10.

Pancakes, sausage, applesauce, beverage.
ALL WELCOME! Invite your family & friends.
Proceeds benefit First UMC's ministries.

Dear Church Family & Friends,
 I want to express my sincere and heartfelt thanks for your prayers, phone calls, and cards during the numerous tests and long wait for surgery. Your expressions of caring and concern were deeply felt by me and our family.

A special thanks to my 'coffee buddies' for your help in keeping a positive attitude through the entire process. I enjoy the coffee and our chats on Wednesday mornings and look forward to many more times together.
 - Bob Marsh



Women's Circle

The next meeting is Saturday, Feb. 17 at 9:30 a.m. in the Café. ALL women are encouraged to attend as Janet Drake and Sherry Elwell lead the planning for the April rummage sale (dates TBD) and discuss other activities for the year. Leadership for meetings and activities through the year will rotate among members.



The Circle continues to sponsor the Mid-Michigan Honor Flight quilt project, with a goal of delivering at least 12 patriotic lap quilts by the end of Feb. Thank you to those who donated fabric - we have enough at this time to meet our goal. If you are sewing quilts, please contact Janet Wilt by Feb. 5 so you can pick up labels and arrange to deliver your completed quilt to church by Feb. 18.

Mission Statement of the Women's Circle: Christian women who worship and serve God, serve the community through mission-giving, and serve one another through prayer and fellowship.

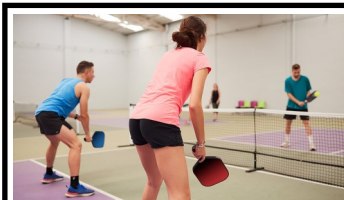
- Madlen Warfle 2
- Brian Lawcock 3
- Lynda Cobb 4
- Tori Luna 6
- Sherry Elwell 8
- Stephanie Allen 9
- Emma Holmes 9
- Kit Kuhlman 10
- Kelvin Alderman 11
- Jordan Waters 12
- Allison Cobb 13
- James Mullins 15
- Tyler Ardelean 17



- Abbie Cobb 20
- Faith VanderMolen 27
- Matthew VanderMolen 27
- Nancy Wyllys 27
- Jamie Holmes 28

Breakfast Bags for the Homeless

Family Ministry/Outreach are continuing to provide 20 breakfast bags every week to the Salvation Army. Suggested items to donate: instant oatmeal packets, peanut butter/cracker packs, breakfast bars, granola bars, pop tarts, small waters, juice boxes. There is a box in the foyer for your donations. Thank you!



Pickleball Schedule

Mondays and Thursdays, 10am-noon)

Though several regulars will be enjoying warmer climates, Mon. and Thurs. morning Pickleball is still available for those who want to gather at least 4 people to play. Please let Karin know by 8:30 that morning if a group is coming so Jon can prepare FH.

Wednesday evening pickleball is available The 1st Wed. each month 7-8pm. (Feb. 7 this month)

PLEASE call the church office in advance (by noon that day) if you are planning to attend.

Church Emergency Info

First Aid Kits are located in the kitchenette of the Café, narthex, main office, Pastor's office, kitchen hallway, above sink in kitchen.

Defibrillator is located in the main hall near the Pastor's office door.



Fire Extinguishers are located in the café, narthex (2), choir room hallway (2), sacristy room (right of altar), & south of altar, kitchen entrance hallway, 2 in kitchen by sink on northwest wall, Fellowship Hall.



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | 1 10-12 Pickleball | 2 | 3 8:30 am Men's Breakfast |
| 4 9:30 am Café Open 10 am - Worship in Sanctuary | 5 10-12 Pickleball 11:45 Tops 6:30 Fam Min / Outreach | 6 12:00 pm - Singles Over 60 401 Restaurant | 7 8 am - Coffee/Chat 10 - Noah's Ark Chapel Time 7-8 pm Pickleball | 8 8:30-10:30 am Food Bank for Seniors 11 am Older Adult Ministry Team 10-12 Pickleball | 9 | 10 |
| 11 9:30 am Café Open 10 am - Worship in Sanctuary 3:00 pm Yarnspirations | 12 10-12 Pickleball 11:45 TOPS 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry / Zoom | 13 5-7 pm Pancake Supper | 14 Ash Wednesday 8 am - Coffee/Chat 7pm Ash Wed Service | 15 10-12 Pickleball | 16 | 17 9:30 am Women's Circle - Café |
| 18 9:30 am Café Open 10 am - Worship in Sanctuary | 19 10-12 Pickleball 11:45 TOPS 1:00 pm JOYful Beginnings 6:30 pm Noah's Ark Board | 20 | 21 8 am - Coffee/Chat 10 am - Noah's Ark Chapel Time 7pm Community Lent Service at St. John's UCC | 22 10-12 Pickleball 6:30 Worship Team Meeting | 23 | 24 |
| 25 9:30 am Café Open 10 am - Worship in Sanctuary BABY SHOWER / Café after worship | 26 10-12 Pickleball 11:45 TOPS 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry / Zoom | 27 6:30 pm The James Method Bible Study - Café | 28 7 pm - Leadership Board Meeting 7 pm Community Lent Service at Assembly of God | 29 | Rev. Dr. Mona K. Joslyn drmjosl@owossofumc.org First United Methodist Church 1500 N. Water Street Owosso, MI 48867 firstumc@owossofumc.org owossofumc.org | |

March newsletter articles are due the 15th. Thank you.