



First United Methodist Church

February 2 - 4th Sunday after Epiphany / Communion Sunday

- 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
- "The Greatest"

February 9 - 5th Sunday after Epiphany

- Luke 5:1-11
- "Boats on a Shore"

February 16 - 6th Sunday after Epiphany

- Luke 6:17-26
- "Now And Then"

February 23 - 7th Sunday after Epiphany

- Luke 6:27-38
- "Do I Have To?"

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

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
respectful of ALL creation.*

989-725-2201
Church Office
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firstumc@owossofumc.org
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Rev. Dr. Mona K. Joslyn

Tower Tidings - FEB 2025
First United Methodist Church
1500 North Water Street
Owosso, MI 48867
Office Hours M-F @ 8-4
Sunday Worship 10 am



Tower Tidings

First United
Methodist Church

FEB 2025

Greetings!

February has begun! Hopefully, that means winter will soon be over...but then I suppose we will have to wait to see what Punxsutawney Phil has to say! According to the Stormfax Almanac, Phil's predictions have been correct about 39% of the time since 1887. Wow! I thought Phil was better than that! That is a low percentage! I suppose that Phil just wants to get our hopes up about an early Spring and ignore his inadequate predictions.

Last week we had a planning session for the Community Lenten Wednesday Night Worship Services. We worked on choosing a church to host and pastor to preach each week, and the six-week theme. This year, I chose to preach the week that has the theme titled "Inadequacies", because I know I have many. We are still waiting to hear from other clergy, and I may have to switch weeks, but I know about inadequacies!

I have also discovered that I am not alone in having inadequacies. Well-known people of great faith have struggled with what they perceived to be their "inadequacies". John Wesley, who along with his brother Charles, began the Methodist Movement in Great Britain was one of them. After all of his blunders on his mission trip to America, he felt as if he was not a Christian at all. During conversations on the boat headed to America, Wesley was traveling not only with Church of England clergy, also aboard were Germans, who were part of the Moravian Church. After arriving in Georgia, Wesley was in a conversation with one of the Moravian Pastors, who asked him a lot of questions that became the same questions that those coming to be ordained at Annual Conference will have to answer. Questions that all of us who were ordained as United Methodist Elders had to answer. When a couple of these questions were asked to John Wesley, his answers would not have been acceptable today for ordination. This conversation went like this, "Does the Spirit of God bear witness with your spirit, that you are a child of God?" I was surprised, and knew not what to answer. He observed it, and asked, 'Do you know he has saved you?' I answered, 'I hope he has died to save me.' He only added, 'do you know yourself?' I said, 'I do.' But I fear they were vain words."

Wesley would later realize that he had made a lot of blunders on this mission trip, and would leave America in shame. He believed that he was totally inadequate for this mission work that he was once so determined and anxious to do when he left Great Britain in 1736. He didn't think he was a Christian. If he were, his ministry in America would have gone so much better. Yet buried deep within him was hope, and he didn't just hope he would figure it out. He decided to figure it out. He went to Germany where he became friends with Moravian Peter Bohler. Wesley told Bohler his predicament and Bohler's response was "Preach until you have it." So Wesley did. He continued to study scripture, preach, and meet with the Holy Club. And two years later, in 1738, Wesley attended a Society meeting on Aldersgate Street and listened to the reading from Martin Luther's introduction to Romans, when his heart was strangely warmed, and he knew that he was indeed a child of God.

Wesley knew he was inadequate for what God was calling him to do and his mistakes in ministry made those feelings worse. Yet hope was there, and God showed up and Wesley's life changed! We all feel inadequate at some point in our lives, and paying attention to those inadequacies helps us to learn, learn a lot about ourselves and a lot about our faith, and even more about God. If we listen, even when we are dwelling on all of our mistakes in ways that calls us to learn from them, we might just hear the voice of God telling us that we are his beloved and favorite children, and he is proud of us. Proud of us! Even in our blunders, even with all of our inadequacies. God gets us through and God understands our inadequacies, our blunders. 2 Timothy tells us, "God, who saved us a called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began" (2 Timothy 1:9).

God uses our inadequacies to help us learn and grow. I really started thinking about my inadequacies at the beginning of the year and even though I don't make New Year's resolutions, I told myself that I was going to pay more attention to my blunders, my inadequacies and learn from them. The theme just kept coming to me as I was thinking about what I wanted to preach for Lent and Easter! I decided to preach a sermon series called "Good Enough, Embracing our Imperfection". I'll talk more about it in next month's newsletter. I wanted to give you a head's up, since we are planning a small group. If you choose to attend, you may want to purchase the book we will be using. It is called, "Good Enough, 40ish Devotionals For a Life of Imperfection." It is available from Amazon for \$9.99 in book form and Kindle. There are other sites to purchase the book, but it was much more expensive. We are going to plan on Sunday late afternoon/early evening for our small group with soup and bread to eat. We are still working on the time. If you have any questions, please ask. I will have more information for you in the March newsletter, the bulletin, and announcements during worship.

None of us are perfect. We all have inadequacies. Thank God we are still loved and God continues to speak to us, telling us that we are his beloved child in whom he is well pleased. God accepts and loves us, blunders, inadequacies and all! May we continue to love God and open ourselves to be filled with the Holy Spirit to use all of who we are to share the love of Jesus Christ with the community around us.

Shalom,

Pastor Mona



Men's Breakfast

Sat. FEB 1,
@ 8:30 am

in the church Café.
All men are welcome.



Please RSVP to the church office. The cost is \$8. Thank you!

Singles Over 60

Tues., Feb. 4
@ noon

401 Restaurant



Dear FUMC Women: Thank you so much for thinking of me during the holidays. I really enjoyed the cookies and candy. Also thank you Rev. Mona for visiting me. I hope to see all of you soon in 2025! God bless you all, Gail Rheume

To those who prayed, called, sent texts, cards and words of encouragement these past many weeks. . . Who visited and celebrated Larry's life. . . And to Pastor Mona for your prayers and visits. . . Thank you! Janet Wilt and family

Sarah and Fred Finnen would like to thank all those who showed concern, prayed, called, or sent a card while Fred and I are dealing with medical issues. Fred is doing wonderful, wearing a sturdy shoe now while getting therapy. Then end may be in sight. Sarah is experiencing neuropathy, but hope the doctors can give me some help. We are very thankful for our church family. Sarah and Fred



Brian Lawcock	3
Lynda Cobb	4
Tori Luna	6
Kit Kuhlman	10
Kelvin Alderman	11
Allison Cobb	13
James Mullins	15
Tyler Ardelean	17
Abbie Cobb	20
Faith VanderMolen	27
Matt VanderMolen	27
Nancy Wyllys	27

Breakfast Bags for Homeless

Because of your continued generosity, we are still donating 20 breakfast bags per week to the Salvation Army for distribution.

Items you can donate:

- Oatmeal packets
- Small waters
- Fruit cups
- Juice boxes
- Granola bars
- Breakfast bars
- Cheese crackers
- Peanut butter crackers
- 1 gallon Ziploc bags with sliding closure

There is a collection basket in the foyer under the large bulletin board.

THANK YOU!!



Noah's Ark Children's Center & Preschool

Here are the five ideas for Valentine's Day with kids, not one of which requires a crush.

- 1) Read a book about love to your child
Some favorites in this arena are Sam McBratney and Anita Jeram's "[Guess How Much I Love You,](#)" and "[Love You Forever,](#)" written by Robert Munsch.
- 2) Red dinner
Everything on the dinner table has to have red in it. Everyone in the family is responsible for making one item. Here's what is on the menu so far: spaghetti with red sauce, strawberry salad, pink milk, radishes, baked peppers, and red velvet cake with strawberry ice cream. Each one is also responsible for decorating someone else's place-setting, but the rule is that no one can spend more than \$5 to decorate.
- 3) A mailbox full of love
We got this idea from a suitor. On Valentine's night, he crept over to the house and filled the mailbox with Hershey's kisses. When the daughter went out to check the mail, she turned as red as the foil on the candy. This year, we are going to anonymously fill our neighbor's mailbox with a note that says, "Share the love!"
- 4) Let's talk about love
Use Valentine's Day with kids as an opportunity to talk about loving relationships with your child. Yes, give 'em the talk! With all the focus on couples and romance, what a perfect time to invite your kids to ask you any questions they want about love. One way to start the conversation: Give your children a sheet of paper and ask them to write five questions they have. Assure them that you will answer their questions in private and that you will not laugh at any question. Then take your children out (separately) to a special coffee shop and answer their queries.
- 5) The day we met
Every kid revels in the story of how her parents met. Use Valentine's Day as an excuse to share your story. It doesn't matter if you are married, divorced, or single now; hearken back to the moment you met your child's other parent, pulling out the warmest memories for your child to hold.

Early Childhood Fun Fact: Most 1 year olds are ambidextrous; they can use both hands equally. Most kids prefer one hand or the other by the time they are age 2 or 3. 90% of children will choose their right hand.

Staff Birthdays: None in February

Wish List: Craft Supplies (new or left over from your projects), Facial Tissue (regular and/or travel size), Rolls of Paper Towel, Free & Clear Laundry Detergent (safe for infants)

Our classroom and center Amazon wish lists can be found on our website:

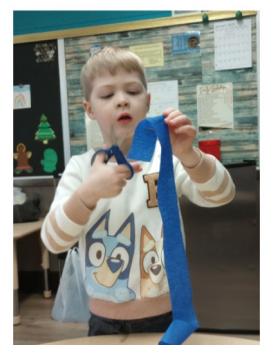
www.naccpreschool.com/lists

-- 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





PRAYER list

- Haiti, Israel / Palestine, Ukraine
- People affected by the tragedy in New Orleans & fires in California
- Family of Viv Seaver who passed away on Jan. 15
- Janet Wilt & family, Larry Wilt passed away Jan. 13
- Slim Groeneveld
- Cindy Helmker & family, her mother passed away
- Nancy Shellenbarger, cancer patient & husband died on 1/14 (sister of Terry E.)
- Sharon Marsh & family, Bob Marsh passed away Nov. 30
- Kim Wiedbusch, serious cancer issues (relative of Sharon Marsh)
- Aubriella, 10 yr old, recurring leukemia
- Sarah Finnen, stage 4 kidney disease
- Faith VanderMolen, health issues
- Diane Allen, surgery 12/7, chemo
- Joshua Janes, hit by car frac. spine (son of Cathy Burkitt)
- Janet Sutton, health issues
- Ed Payne, health issues
- Kay Champion, health issues
- Rhonda Mullins, health issues
- Joann Goodson, recovering from surgery
- Mike Bagwell (& Midge), ICU multiple health issues, their son Dustin died
- John Downing, poor circulation, health concerns (brother of Jim D.)
- Ken Smith, stage 4 kidney failure (friend of Frank & Diana Thaler)
- John Mullins, medical issues
- Todd Cohoon, end stage ALS, (son of Bonnie Cohoon)
- Cody Wheeler, rec. critical car accident (Bob & Sharon Marsh's nephew)

Military

- Todd Hofacker, California
- Kory Alliton, Marine, Camp LaJone
- Yuka Peters, Washington State
- Cody Rozell
- John Schlaud, Marines, 5th
- Ryan Weaver, Army Reserve

(any updates on military members would be appreciated: additions, those no longer active, etc.)

Homebound

- Elaine Shepard, Oliver Woods, 1330 W. Oliver St., 3-12, Owosso, 989-723-3074
- Gail Rheume, The Meadows, 245 Caledonia Dr., Owosso
- Judy Helmker, 1694 N M52 #221, Owosso
- Gaile Passmore, Memorial Healthcare, LTC 826 W. King St. 5th Floor, #578-1 Owosso
- Ann Ferden, The Woodlands, 910 Woodlands Dr. DeWitt, MI 48820
- Terry Gulick, 6410 Simpson Rd., Ovid, MI 48866

Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office 989-725-2201 or email firstumc@owossofumc.org

Any updates on those on the prayer list would be appreciated: additions, those that can be removed, updates. Thank you.



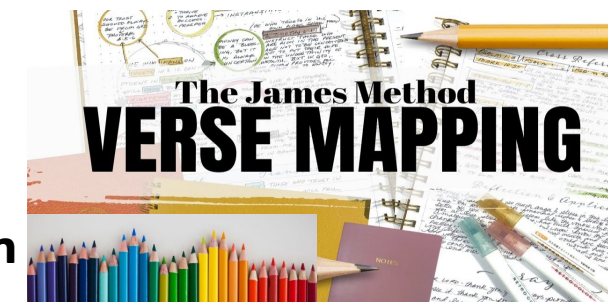
Yarn-spirations

Everyone is welcome to join us Sunday, February 9 @ 3pm in the Cafe

Bring your yarn/string project to work on while we fellowship and pray with each other. Bring a snack/drink. Bring a friend, or two!

The James' Method Bible Study

Tuesday, February 25, at 6:30 pm



Everyone is welcome to meet in the Café on Feb 25 for Bible Study.

Bring: Bible (print or digital), pens, markers, highlighters, snack/drink, friends & family. Additional items if you have them: phone/tablet, washi tape, pencils, stickers.

Psalm 56:8

"You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in Your book."

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

Artistic talent is NOT required.

EVERYONE WELCOME!



Mission Report 2024

Thank you! Your caring hearts and generous gifts have allowed us to do a lot of good for a lot of people in 2024.

Our actions in 2024 included:

- Drive-thru Food Pantries for seniors were held at FUMC on the 2nd Thursday of every month.
- Food collection all year, with a special emphasis for Thanksgiving & Christmas, which was delivered to the Salvation Army along with monetary donations.
- Hats, mittens, scarves & socks were delivered to Angel's Hands and Catholic Charities.
- 20 Breakfast bags per week were given to the Salvation Army for distribution throughout the year.

Our monetary donations included:

Local missions:

- Homeless Angels Owosso Campus: \$163
- Salvation Army: \$290
- Old Newsboys of Flint: \$ 217
- Owosso Hospice House: \$342
- Coins for Caring: \$905 (This money is used by the office to help people with gas, utilities, rent, etc.)

Michigan missions:

- God's Country Cooperative Parish in the UP: \$200
- Readers to Leaders: \$142
- Looking Glass Community Outreach: \$350
- NOAH Project in Detroit: \$600

U.S. missions:

- Midwest Mission: \$312
- Native American Ministries: \$10

International missions:

- Mujilla Falls Agricultural Center in Zambia: \$215
- Bishop Craig Children's Village in Liberia: \$170
- Haitian Artisans for Peace International: \$170
- Readers to Leaders Liberia: \$142
- CROP Hunger Walk: \$50
- World Communion Sunday: \$10

Missionaries:

- Temba Nkomozepi, serving at Mujilla Falls Agricultural Center: \$358
- Princess Jusu, serving in Liberia \$336

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief):

UMCOR Sunday: \$685

UMCOR U.S. Disaster Relief: \$3,144

*Dear Family & Friends:
There are times when "thank you" feels inadequate -- this is one of those times.*

This past year has brought good times and bad times; fun times and stressful times; family time and alone time. But through it all, you, my family and friends, were there for Bob and I.

Your prayers, your helpful deeds, your thoughtful gifts of food, the home baked cookies, the dozens of "get well" and "thinking of you" cards have blanketed us with abundant LOVE!!

And yet I can only give a sincere and heartfelt "Thank you"!

Sharon Marsh

"SOCK IT TO ME" - NOAH Project, Detroit



There is a collection box in the foyer to receive donations of socks. The NOAH Project wants to compassionately end homelessness in Detroit by extending radical hospitality to and entering into trusting relationships with low-income and homeless people. The Street Outreach Team spend three nights a week seeking out and engaging homeless individuals on the street. Bringing sandwiches, socks, and blankets, they build relationships with people who usually are ignored.

First UM Church ~ General Fund Income

Sunday	Tithes/Offerings	Noah's Ark Payments (utilities, snowplow, insurance, etc.)
1/5/25	\$12,640.60 (\$10,000 of that is an annual donation)	
1/12/25	\$1,060.70	
1/19/25	\$12,090.33 (10,200.33 of that is an annual donation)	\$2,926.96
1/26/25	\$3,388.90	\$128.92



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
2 Groundhog Day 9:00 am Adult SS 10 am - Worship	3 11:45 TOPS	4 12 - Singles Over 60 at 401 Restaurant 6:30 Stephen Ministry / Zoom	5 8am-Coffee Club	6	7 7pm AA	8
9 9:00 am Adult SS 10 am - Worship 3 pm - YARNspirations	10 11:45 TOPS	11	12 8am-Coffee Club 10am-Noah's Ark Chapel Time 7pm Worship Team	13 9-11 am Food Distribution 11 am Older Adult Min. Team	14 Valentine's Day 7pm AA	15
16 9:00 am Adult SS 10 am - Worship	17 President's Day 11:45 TOPS 1pm JOYful Beginnings 6:30 Noah's Ark Board	18 6:30 Stephen Ministry / Zoom	19 8am-Coffee Club	20	21 7pm AA	22
23 9:00 am Adult SS 10 am - Worship	24 11:45 TOPS	25 6:30 pm The James' Method Bible Study	26 8am-Coffee Club 10am-Noah's Ark Chapel Time 6pm Leadership Board	27	28 7pm AA	

