



First United Methodist Church

3/2/25 - Transfiguration / Communion
Luke 9:28 - 43a
"How Long?"

3/5/25 - ASH Wednesday
7:00 pm Service in Chapel

3/9/25 - 1st Sunday in Lent
Romans 10:8b-13 & Luke 4:1-13

3/16/25 - 2nd Sunday in Lent
Philippians 3:17-4:1 & Luke 13:31-35
"So Much is Out of Our Control"

3/23/25 - 3rd Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 55:1-9 & Luke 13:1-9
"Lots of Things Can Be Medicine"

3/30/25 - 4th Sunday in Lent
2 Corinthians 5:16-21 & Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
"We Often Believe We are The Problem"

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.*



Tower Tidings

First United
Methodist Church

MAR 2025

Greetings! March means Spring, right? Writing this in February as we are anticipating a snow storm has me wondering which would be better: March coming in like a lion and going out like a lamb or the other way around? As I ponder, the reality is that March will come, and that I have no say if it will be more winter like or spring like. We will get what we get!

I know for certain that our Ash Wednesday Service is March 5th at 7:00 pm in the Chapel. Then we journey through Lent in March. Our Lenten sermon series is titled "**Good Enough: Embracing the Imperfections of Life and Faith**". It is based on a book written by seminary history professor and podcaster Kate Bowler and her co-writer Jessica Richie titled "Good Enough, 40ish Devotionals For A Life Of Imperfection." This is the book we will be using in our small group meetings. To describe the series I will share the words of Dr. Marcia McFee, "We live in a culture bent on definitions of a good life as continuous upward mobility—climbing ladders of prosperity with increasingly fabulous experiences that we can post to ever-more-likable social media accounts. We may comb the shelves of the self-help section in search of just the right formula to gain success. Perhaps we even gravitate towards spiritual leaders who promise great rewards if we only do 'the right thing.' But life happens, right? Most times we are not moving upward but trying to repair the rung we've just slipped from. So what if we stopped climbing and started fertilizing, watering, and blowing right where we find ourselves? Welcome to a Lent of affirming a faith in which we are blessed regardless, and where we can lean into embracing our "good enough" lives."

Jesus, himself tells us, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light" (Matthew 11:28-30). Jesus didn't tell us to come after we are awarded our degree or I've got nothing for you until you get that next promotion. Nor does Jesus tell us that we need to memorize more scripture, use a certain version of the Bible, or when we have climbed the ladder of success for him to pay attention to us. Jesus is waiting for us to come just as we are, tired, carrying baggage, making mistakes on our jobs, broken, poor, and whatever else we think we are failing at. We are welcome and don't have to meet any qualifications to be accepted by Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and loved beyond measure by God.

As I consider all my imperfections (even though I am moving on to perfection in the Wesleyan tradition), I can't always understand why God would want me around. And yet...God is longing for me/for all of us to realize that he is all we need and he will give us all we need to carry on in this world. God will transform us into who he created us to be, even if we start out as broken, weary, sick human beings.

May we all learn that we are indeed Good Enough just as we are! May we rest from our burdens and allow Jesus to work in us.

Lenten Blessings to you!

Shalom,

Pastor Mona

PS: Small Groups will begin meeting on Sunday's at 4:30pm, there will be soup and bread provided, so you don't have to worry about supper. We will be looking for volunteers to make soup and provide bread. Also if you plan to attend the small group, you will need the book "Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals For A Life Of Imperfections," by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. The cost from Amazon is \$10. If you would like to have the church order your book, please let us know soon so we can get the order in and the books delivered.

The Wednesday night Lenten Community services are back! Each Wednesday night there will be community worship at one of our Community Churches with refreshments after the service. Owosso First will be hosting the service on Wednesday, March 26, 2025 and will be needing goodies for our time together after the service. See schedule in this newsletter.

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

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



Men's Breakfast

Sat. MAR 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 Tuesday Mar. 4

@ noon

McAllister's Deli



- Brian Drake 1
- Karolyn Dawley 3
- Steve Schmidt 14
- Bob Vogl 15
- Sharon Downing 23
- Sharon Marsh 23
- Bruce Freeman 26
- Re'e Wyzynajtys 27
- Roger Elford 28

Haven't seen your birthday in the monthly newsletter?
Please email Karin with your birthdate fristumc@owossofumc.org



Community Lenten Services Wednesdays at 7pm

"Thy Will Be Done"

Offering Collections go to Owosso Area Ministerial Association for Warming Shelter/Unhoused of Owosso Area

March 12

Christ Episcopal Church
120 Goodhue St.
Dr. Rev. Mona Joslyn
"God's Will and My Inadequacy"

March 19

St. John's UCC
429 N. Washington St.
Rev. Gary Beal
"God's Will and My Dreams"

March 26

First United
Methodist Church
1500 N. Water St.
Rev. Deb Grazier
"God's Will and My Identity"

April 2

First Baptist Church Owosso
114 W. Mason St.
Rev. Ken Herbruck
"God's Will and My Worldview"

April 9

First Congregational
Church UCC
327 N. Washington St.
Rev. Tony Moore
"God's Will and My Response"

Good Friday April 18

Owosso Free
Methodist Church
1249 N. Chipman St.
Rev. Mark Green
"God's Will Is Done"



Noah's Ark Children's Center & Preschool

NACC is beginning to prepare for the 2025/26 school year. Our PreK Open House is Monday March 3; 5:30-7:00 pm and all are welcome to tour the classrooms. If you know a PreK child who is looking for quality care and a great start to their education have their parents fill out the intake form at www.shiawasseepreschool.org and choose Owosso - Noah's Ark as their first choice of school. Children must be 4 years old by December 1 to qualify for our PreK program AND be fully potty trained (or have a diagnosed disability/delay from a physician).



Early Childhood Fun Fact: Children who watch more than three hours of television, videos, or DVDs a day have a higher chance of conduct problems, emotional symptoms, and relationship problems by the time they are 7 than children who do not.

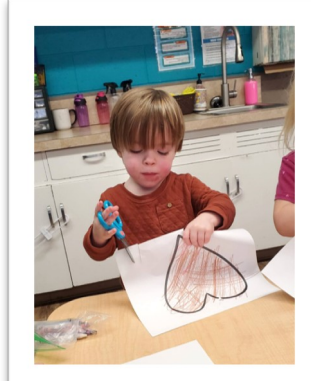
Staff Birthdays: None in March

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
- Those affected by war & disasters
- Ed Payne, hospitalized, not improving, Kay Payne
- Connie Voight & family, Jerry Voight passed away Feb. 21
- Deb Bendall, breast cancer
- Mark Keesler, Influenza A and Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis
- Fred Delcamp surgery Feb. 11
- Betty Braschwitz, health issues, (sister of Sarah Finnen)
- Family of Slim Groeneveld, who passed away Feb. 2.
- Cindy Helmker & family, her mother passed away
- Nancy Shellenbarger, cancer & husband died on 1/14 (sister of Terry E.)
- 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, radiation
- Joshua Janes, hit by car frac. Spine, physical therapy (son/Cathy Burkitt)
- Janet Sutton, health issues
- Kay Champion, health issues
- Rhonda Mullins, health issues
- Joann Goodson, rec. from surgery
- Mike Bagwell (& Midge), 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 LaJune
- 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, etc. Thank you.



March 5
7pm
Ash Wednesday
Service
In the Chapel
You are invited!

Women's Circle

All women are invited to meet in the church Café on Saturday, March 15, at 10:00 am. We will discuss a possible rummage sale and plan events and meetings for this year.

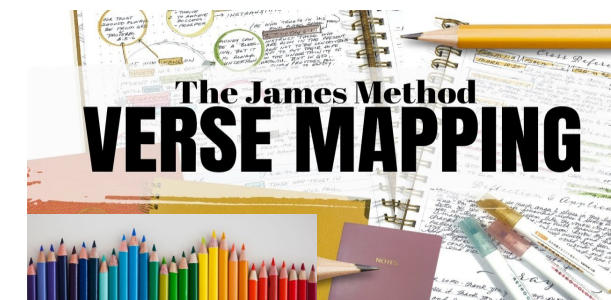


Yarn-spirations ! Everyone is welcome to join us Sunday, March 9 @ 3pm in the Cafe Bring your yarn/string project to work on while we fellowship and pray with each other. Bring a snack/drink. Bring a friend, or two!



The James' Method Bible Study

Tuesday, March 25, at 6:30 pm



Everyone is welcome to meet in the Café on March 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.

"Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from Him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God - truly righteous and holy." NLT Ephesians 4:21-24

Mapping sheets provided. Limited pens and markers will be available to borrow. Artistic talent is NOT required.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Pancake

Supper

Tuesday

March 4

5-7 pm

- Pancakes
- Sausage
- Juice
- Coffee
- Heslip's Maple Syrup

\$8 adults; \$4 kids under 10

Everyone welcome to the Fellowship Hall of Owosso First UM Church.
Bring your family and friends!

1500 N. Water Street ~ 989.725.2201
owossofumc.org ~ firstumc@owossofumc.org



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:30 am Men's Breakfast
2 Transfiguration Sunday 9:00 am Adult SS 10 am - Worship	3 5:30-7pm Noah's Ark PK Open House 11:45 TOPS	4 12 - Singles Over 60 at McAllister's Deli 5-7pm Pancake Supper 6:30 Stephen Ministry	5 ASH Wednesday 8am-Coffee Club 7pm Service in Chapel	6	7 7pm AA	8
9 1st Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Adult SS 10 am - Worship 3 pm - YARNspirations 4:30 - Lent Small Group	10 11:45 TOPS	11	12 8am-Coffee Club 10am- Noah's Ark Chapel Time 7 pm Lent Service	13 9-11 am Food Distribution 11 am Older Adult Min. Team	14 7pm AA	15 10 am Women's Circle Meeting in Café
16 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Adult SS 10 am - Worship 4:30 - Lent Small Group	17 11:45 TOPS 1pm JOYful Beginnings 6:30 Noah's Ark Board	18 6:30 Stephen Ministry / Zoom	19 8am-Coffee Club 7 pm Lent Service	20	21 4-10pm FH Reserved Barber Shop Soci- ety Horton 7pm AA	22
23 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Adult SS 10 am - Worship 4:30 - Lent Small Group	24 11:45 TOPS	25 6:30 pm The James' Method Bible Study	26 8am-Coffee Club 10am- Noah's Ark Chapel Time 7 pm Lent Service-Here	27 6pm Leadership Board	28 7pm AA	
30 4th Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Adult SS 10 am - Worship 2-4 Café Reserved Euper/Bridal Shower 4:30 - Lent Small Group	31 11:45 TOPS					