

The APPLESEED

SEBASTOPOL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER

FROM MEMBERSHIP TO DISCIPLESHIP

Luke 9:28-36

Is it March already? Praise be to God and all that is in Him.

Our amazement at the transcendence of transfiguration on the first Sunday of the month, followed by Ash Wednesday during the same week, is profound. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we come from dust, and that we will return to dust. At the beginning of March, we are awakened by the glorious appearance of the Mighty Christ, described in the Bible as being in a ministerial conversation with former leaders (prophets) on a mountaintop, while his team looked on in wonder. The powerful appearance of a transfigured Christ surpassed the understanding of his disciples, who were shaken as if by an earthquake, awakened from a half-sleep. Their attitudes and their actions were forever transformed.

We are at the end of the season of Epiphany, during which Jesus manifested himself, making tremendous preparation for Leadership. The Leadership conference was on a mountaintop. A message was sent to all his disciples, who were guided to proclaim the message of love and hope – that the Power of God surpasses all imagination. The Jesus that the disciples viewed on the mountaintop had the invisible recreation of who God really is: you get closer to God, obtain strength and power, and go back to meet with your people and show them the truth. His invisibility raised the fight against wickedness to a higher level in order to crush them all. It is well recorded, in the Old Testament, how Moses's face was glowing upon returning from meeting with God for forty days and nights. Jesus's three disciples probably knew that story of Moses when they witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountaintop. Peter, James, and John were half-asleep even though it was daylight.; the glorious brightness they witnessed outshone even the light of the day – human eyes could not tolerate such light. What comes to mind is that whatever intellect we have, it will never be equal to God's. Our human wisdom is insignificant when compared with God's. Disciples then dared not, and we now should not, underestimate the power of the Most High – he is Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and Omniscient. The images of Jesus, Elijah, and Moses on the mountaintop were God's images in different eras. Scholars presumably alluded they were talking about the upcoming exodus of Jesus. The disciples must have been utterly speechless as Peter felt that booths be erected up there. Jesus corrected him: that plan wouldn't work up there, but would be useful down in the plains. Discipleship is most successful when it *goes to the places where people are* – being humble, going down to the plains, that is where we shall meet them. We are privileged to be in His presence when we are in his pool of discipleship. His message in us is: *go forth and I will be with you forever.*

March is full of blessings for us, celebrating life to the fullest. Look around – there is always the image of God, everywhere, every day, not only in the high places but also on the plains. We may not find the powerful mystery of God on high ground, but every day, everywhere we go, there are images of God that do not look like us; but look deeper in their eyes, imagine their circumstances – there is the image of God in them. Take time to connect with God through those images. To make disciples for Christ, we practice deep faith and trust in Him. As one of our own Golden Girls has said, "*Join a group and move slowly,*" with the grace of God, so that we can all make a better world, with love.

Pastor Lunisi Tovo



Sebastopol United Methodist Church 500 North Main Street, Sebastopol CA 95472
office phone: (707) 823-7971 email: sebumc@sonic.net website: sebumc.org

CHILI LUNCH COMING UP !!

Sunday, March 17th – following worship

The Mission Team hosts its annual, ever-popular Chili Lunch fundraiser. Choose from beef, chicken, turkey, or vegetarian chili; add salad, corn bread, French bread, and cookies. Delicious! This year's beneficiary is the West County Homeless Advocates, right here in Sebastopol. The agency helps its clients to receive hot showers, laundry vouchers, hair cuts, and other necessities. Through the Mission Team, funds will be allocated to this organization based on their needs, as they arise. Members of our church attend the monthly meetings of the West County Homeless Advocates, which is where they will learn of the current needs. *Come and enjoy a meal with the congregation and donate to a worthy cause!*

GOLDEN RULE

Golden Rule meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm in Epworthian Hall. We share a potluck meal and discuss religious and philosophical issues of mutual interest.

For info please contact the church office.

- Next Meetings are 3/14 • 3/28 • 4/11 •

SATURDAY TABLE

Thank you to everyone who donates money, food, and/or time to help with Saturday Table – your unstinting contributions directly help hungry people in our community.

- *March Saturday Table is 3/23* •
- *April Saturday Table is 4/26* •

MISSION TEAM MEETING

Thursday, March 14th, is our monthly meeting. Please join us in Epworthian Hall from 9:30-11:30 am.

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

The next meeting of the Women's Study Group will be **Saturday, March 9, at 10:00 am** Starting in our sanctuary, then moving into the chapel. The meeting is hosted this month by Mary Blom & Jennie Cheshier.

Looking ahead: The APRIL meeting will be hosted by Janice Magnoli on Saturday, April 13 at 10:00 am. We will be tying the quilt that we dyed last year.

LENTEN STUDY GROUP

*Simon Peter:
Flawed but Faithful Disciple*

Our FIVE-WEEK Lenten Study course begins Thursday, March 14 from 2:30 to 3:30 pm in the Chapel – everyone is invited – this is a group for adult men and women.

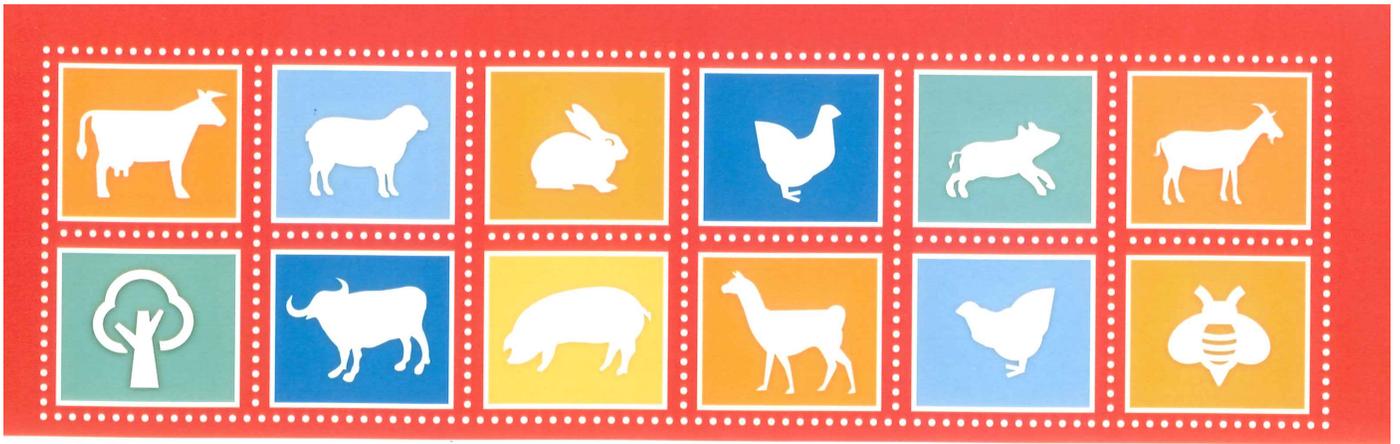
Our text will be Adam Hamilton's recent book, *Simon Peter: Faithful but Flawed Disciple*.

Books are available! Contact Carol Wegner: carolwegner@yahoo.com 707-829-8267

• LENTEN BLESSINGS •

MARCH WORSHIP LEADERS

- 3/3 Carol Wegner
- 3/10 Matt Witteman
- 3/17 tba
- 3/24 Arthur George
- 3/31 tba



Heifer International gratefully recognizes

United Methodist Church

for coordinating and holding a Living Gift Market. Because of your contributions, families struggling with hunger and poverty will receive the gift of healthy animals and training in their care. Thanks for making a meaningful difference in the world.

Pierre A. Fenari

Heifer International

January 2019

Date



SUMC DONATIONS OF WARM CLOTHES FOR THE HOMELESS

The Mission Team thanks everyone who donated warm clothing items for the homeless toward the end of 2018.

There was a total of 77 pairs of men's and women's warm socks, as well as 44 knit hats, several pairs of women's gloves, and some wool scarves. There were 3 warm jackets, 2 sweaters, a vest, and 2 sweatshirts. All of these items were delivered to the Homeless Service Center in January, where they were gratefully received.

We also delivered 55 pairs of children's socks to The Living Room, which is a daytime shelter for homeless women and children. Thank you all!

THE SEBASTOPOL INTER-CHURCH FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOU!

Our congregation generously supports the Sebastopol Inter-Church Food Pantry, which gives a generous supply of food to anyone who needs assistance. The pantry is open Mon, Wed, Fri, & Saturday from 10am to noon, and is located behind St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 500 Robinson Rd, Sebastopol. The Pantry needs more shoppers, which are volunteers who drive to the Redwood Empire Food Bank in Santa Rosa, pick up food, and deliver it to the Pantry. We could use a couple more drivers for our team. Please call Karen Bohn at 707-823-7963 or 707-791-4186. *Thank you!*

· A WONDERFUL GIFT ·

Wilma May (Boggs) Orr moved to Sebastopol from Kansas as a young girl and became a member of our church. Along with her husband Donald Glen Orr, Wilma developed one of the largest apple ranches in Sonoma County. The two of them were parents to six children, who have many childhood memories of church attendance and youth activities here at Sebastopol UMC.

Throughout her life, Wilma was a faithful and energetic church member. She brought her skills and experiences to the Operation Getting It Together Program, which paired high school students with at-risk junior high students. She sang in the choir for many years, and donated to the stained-glass window design and installation in the sanctuary – the large window depicting Jesus and the children that shines into the heart of Sebastopol.

When she passed away in September of 2015, she and her family continued to remember the church with a bequest of 10% of her estate. The gift was in the form of cash and stock certificates totaling approximately \$350,000. Wilma didn't designate any particular use for this gift, but in talking with her two daughters who acted as executors, the plan for remodeling three of our classrooms for preschool use was appealing to them. Plans have been developed, the building permit has been approved, and contractors are being contacted for this project – soon the church will be welcoming small children into a bright new learning space.

Any funds not used for the preschool project will be used in ways that will always keep the Orr family's love of this church in mind. Wilma was an example of Christian giving throughout her life and beyond.

– Charlotte Fisher



· WE BID FAREWELL ·

Our congregation mourns the passing of two pillars of this church, both of whom left us in recent days – HUGH BAILEY and REV. DON SCHILLING – We send love to their families, including wives Suzanne Bailey and Dee Schilling. Their presence is deeply missed.

A service for Hugh Bailey is being planned by his family. At this time, a celebration of Rev. Don Schilling's life is scheduled to be in our sanctuary on Saturday, March 30th at 2:00 pm. For further information, please speak with the families or with Pastor Iunisi.

DAILY READINGS MARCH 2019

- **Friday, March 1, 2019:** Psalm 99; Deuteronomy 9:6-14; Acts 10:1-8
- **Saturday, March 2, 2019:** Psalm 99; Deuteronomy 9:15-24; Luke 10:21-24
- **Sunday, March 3, 2019: Transfiguration Sunday**
- **Monday, March 4, 2019:** Psalm 35:11-28; Exodus 35:1-29; Acts 10:9-23a
- **Tuesday, March 5, 2019:** Psalm 35:11-28; Ezekiel 1:1; 2:1; Acts 10:23b-33
- **Wednesday, March 6, 2019: Ash Wednesday**
- **Thursday, March 7, 2019:** Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Exodus 5:10-23; Acts 7:30-34
- **Friday, March 8, 2019:** Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Exodus 6:1-13; Acts 7:35-42
- **Saturday, March 9, 2019:** Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; John 12:27-36
- **Sunday, March 10, 2019: First Sunday in Lent**
- **Monday, March 11, 2019:** Psalm 17; 1 Chronicles 21:1-17; 1 John 2:1-6
- **Tuesday, March 12, 2019:** Psalm 17; Zechariah 3:1-10; 2 Peter 2:4-21
- **Wednesday, March 13, 2019:** Psalm 17; Job 1:1-22; Luke 21:34-22:6
- **Thursday, March 14, 2019:** Psalm 27; Genesis 13:1-7, 14-18; Philippians 3:2-12
- **Friday, March 15, 2019:** Psalm 27; Genesis 14:17-24; Philippians 3:17-20
- **Saturday, March 16, 2019:** Psalm 27; Psalm 118:26-29; Matthew 23:37-39
- **Sunday, March 17, 2019: Second Sunday in Lent**
- **Monday, March 18, 2019:** Psalm 105:1-42; Exodus 33:1-6; Romans 4:1-12
- **Tuesday, March 19, 2019:** Psalm 105:1-42; Numbers 14:10b-24; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- **Wednesday, March 20, 2019:** Psalm 105:1-42; 2 Chronicles 20:1-22; Luke 13:22-31
- **Thursday, March 21, 2019:** Psalm 63:1-8; Daniel 3:19-30; Revelation 2:8-11
- **Friday, March 22, 2019:** Psalm 63:1-8; Daniel 12:1-4; Revelation 3:1-6
- **Saturday, March 23, 2019:** Psalm 63:1-8; Isaiah 5:1-7; Luke 6:43-45
- **Sunday, March 24, 2019: Third Sunday in Lent**
- **Monday, March 25, 2019:** Psalm 39; Jeremiah 11:1-17; Romans 2:1-11
- **Tuesday, March 26, 2019:** Psalm 39; Ezekiel 17:1-10; Romans 2:12-16
- **Wednesday, March 27, 2019:** Psalm 39; Numbers 13:17-27; Luke 13:18-21
- **Thursday, March 28, 2019:** Psalm 32; Joshua 4:1-13; 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5
- **Friday, March 29, 2019:** Psalm 32; Joshua 4:14-24; 2 Corinthians 5:6-15
- **Saturday, March 30, 2019:** Psalm 32; Exodus 32:7-14; Luke 15:1-10
- **Sunday, March 31, 2019: Fourth Sunday in Lent**

CHURCH DOOR SUPPLIES – DONATIONS APPRECIATED

Church Door still could use some help with items for the snack bags we give out.

"Thank you to all who support our Church Door program. We could use your support in the form of donations of the following items: Kellogg's NutriGrain Soft Bake Bars; juice boxes; cracker sandwiches with real peanut butter or cheese in the middle; individual applesauce; raisins or fruit cups. Any number of individual items we can put in the church door bags will be very appreciated. There is a basket in the Narthex for these items, or put your donations on the Epworthian Hall kitchen counter closest to the hall and we will put the items away. Thank you very much!" – Vi Moir

MARCH 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
PLEASE CHECK OUR WEEKLY BULLETINS AND OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT LENT & EASTER PROGRAMS & SERVICES. THERE WILL BE SEVERAL WONDERFUL EVENTS. JOIN US.					1 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER at Santa Rosa 1st UMC 1-3pm	2
3 Worship 10:30 COMMUNION & Imposition of Ashes	4	5	6 Ash Wednesday Centering Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	7	8 Open Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	9 10:00 am Women's Study Group
10 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS Worship 10:30 LENT 1	11	12	13 Centering Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	14 Golden Rule Worship Team Lenten Study	15 Open Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	16
17 Worship 10:30 LENT 2 CHILI LUNCH	18	19	20 Centering Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	21 Lenten Study	22 Open Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	23 Saturday Table
24 Worship 10:30 LENT 3 Rummage Collection - 1	25	26	27 Centering Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	28 Golden Rule Lenten Study	29 Open Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	30 2:00 pm Schilling Memorial
31 Worship 10:30 LENT 4	 <p>• LENT IS A TIME OF REFLECTION •</p>					

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SCRIP SALES SUPPORT SEB UMC! THANK YOU!!