

OPEN
HEARTS

OPEN
MINDS

OPEN
DOORS



March
2019

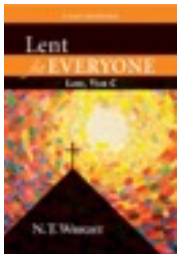
Issue
133



THE PRISM

THE NEWSLETTER OF SIERRA PINES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Lent Devotional



Read through the Gospel of Luke this Lent and read a short reflection each day by N.T. Wright, a retired Anglican Bishop and New Testament scholar. Copies of the daily devotional book *Lent for Everyone* will be available later this month for a suggested \$12 donation.

Readings start on Ash Wednesday March 6 and finish the week after Easter on Saturday, April 27. You will find the devotional has us reading through the gospel of Luke on Mondays through Fridays. On Saturdays, we will be reading the scripture that is Pastor Joan's text for the following day. On Sundays, we will be reading a Psalm. For an introductory video to the Gospel of Luke, go to our church website and look for the Lent Devotional news article.

5th Sunday Potluck

Please join us for our special **5th Sunday Potluck**



lunch on Sunday, March 31 after the Church Service! Please bring a casserole, salad or dessert to share, and sign up on Sunday to let us know you are coming.

After we have eaten lunch,

Pastor Joan will give a short presentation with slides and video clips about her seminary immersion trip to Uganda & Rwanda in Africa in 2008. She visited an Internally Displaced People's Camp, encouraged women in the slums of Kampala, sat in on a community gacaca (genocide justice and reconciliation process), met with government officials, the chief of police, genocide survivors, AIDS victims, widows, orphans, and former child soldiers. We look forward to seeing you all there!



Ash Wednesday March 6

Soup & Ashes at Noon

Enjoy a light lunch with a bowl of soup followed by a short ceremony with the Imposition of Ashes.

Ash Wednesday Worship Service at 7 pm

A service of repentance with the Imposition of Ashes as we begin our Lent journey *Cultivating & Letting Go*.

From the Pastor's Keyboard



Dear Friends in Christ,

This year Ash Wednesday is on March 6; this is the day that reminds us of our mortality when an ash cross is marked on our foreheads and we begin the 40-day sacred season of Lent leading up to Easter on April 21. We are traditionally called to mark and use this time to pay attention to our relationship with God. Self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, works of love, and reading and meditating on the word of God all help to make this an intentional quality time of demonstrating our love for Christ.

This year in our Lenten worship services, we will be pondering what it is that we need to cultivate and what we need to let go of or prune away. Our Christian lives should be balanced – God said to rest on the Sabbath, but how many of us tend to skip that step? We need to take the time to pause and refresh our souls. With the news that there will be a pastoral transition this summer, and with the outcome of General Conference, we will use this Lenten season to pause and grieve and acknowledge our feelings and let go of whatever it is that we are hanging onto in order to create some room for the Holy Spirit to enter and revitalize us.

On the first Sunday of January, you were given a star word to ponder for the year. There are still some words available in the office if you did not get one. How will you use your word during Lent? Is it something in your life that you should cultivate or is it something that you need to practice letting go? My star word was empathy. I am having a hard time right now with cultivating empathy for those with whom I am angry for causing so much harm to our LGBTQ siblings and to our denomination. How do we cultivate love for our enemies? One way to start is simply to pray for them as I suggested in the sermon *Love is Hard* on February 24; you can find that sermon on our website. Praying for those who wish us harm will be a part of my Lenten practice this year. What will your practice be?

My Lent this year is also going to include Jury Service. If I do get selected to be a juror, then I may have to figure out what I will need to let go of and I may need to ask some of you to step up and help out. Thank you in advance, for your understanding.

I also invite you to join with others in the congregation in listening anew to the words of Jesus by reading through the whole of the gospel of Luke. We have copies of a Luke daily devotional available and you can also participate in our Thursday group where we will be reflecting on these readings.

May you have a blessed Lenten journey.

In Christ,
-- *Pastor Joan*

2019 General Conference

February 23 – 26 in St. Louis



I am sure many of you were either following the Special Called General Conference or have read about the outcome in the national news. Several plans were being considered, including the One Church Plan which was favored by the Council of Bishops and was designed to keep the denomination together. In the end though, it was the Traditional Plan that was passed. This plan retains the restrictive language of the Discipline and toughens prohibitions on same-sex marriage and LGBTQ clergy and adds punitive actions towards dissenting clergy and churches. The judicial council has already indicated that some of the statements that were passed are out of order, so it is unclear what will remain standing once it has undergone a full review.

Many hearts are sad, broken and heavy. To our LGBTQ siblings, we love you, we see you and we will always stand with you. Despite what the General Church might say, you are a beloved child of God and you are welcome with open arms to this congregation. You have a place at Christ's table. We love you and we acknowledge that you are made in God's image. As a church and as a conference we will continue to share the love and mercy of Christ with our ALL of our community and our world. If you need to talk, to pray, or to just have someone to listen please let me know.

Bishop Minerva Carcaño is holding a series of gatherings over the next few months as we process and discuss the actions of the General Conference and the implications for our conference and denomination. These visits will also be times of prayer and seeking God's way forward for our ministry in the California-Nevada Conference. **Several of us are planning to go the gathering at First UMC, Sacramento on March 5 at 6:30 pm – please let Pastor Joan know if you would like to join us.**

The Western Jurisdiction, which includes our church and conference, issued this statement:

We have long appreciated the richness of the global diversity of our United Methodist Church and have embraced opportunities to join with you all in the work of making disciples for the transformation of the world. We also understand the purpose of the Church to be in mission and ministry. Consequently, we in the West have been functioning for years as One Church committed to full inclusion, seeking to be a home for all God's people. Today we acknowledge the fracture of this body, yet we worship a God who tells us that the body of Christ has many parts, all equally valued. Rooted in Wesleyan tradition, grounded in Scripture and committed to mission and ministry, the Western Jurisdiction intends to continue to be one church, fully inclusive and open to all God's children, across the theological and social spectrum. We know from experience we are stronger when we live together as progressives, traditionalists and centrists in our Church. Many times during this Conference we have sung or prayed or blessed each other with the reminder that we need each other. Thank you.

Remember resurrection happened on the third day as the movement of God could not be legislated and stopped. Let's pray for the Holy Spirit's movement that we may all be filled with healing and hope.

--Pastor Joan

Save these Dates!



Tuesday, March 5	Fulton Street Jazz Band - Nevada City UMC (2 pm). Leave SPUMC at 1:30 pm
Wednesday, March 6	Soup & Ashes (Noon), Ash Wednesday Service (7 pm)
Sunday, March 31	5 th Sunday Potluck with Africa Presentation
Thursday, April 11	Visit to Ananda to see the Tulips. Leave SPUMC at 1 pm
Tues/Wed/Thurs	Stations of the Cross in the Sanctuary (9 am – 1 pm) April 16 – 18
Friday, April 19	Good Friday Service (7 pm)
Sunday, April 21	Easter Day Sunrise Service at 6:30 am followed by Continental Breakfast and Easter Service at 10 am
Saturday, April 27	Flower Arranging Workshop led by Yvonne Turner (10 am)
Saturday, May 4	Spring Tea at 1 pm

Small Groups

We have three small groups at present. All are meeting at the church.



Mondays at 1 pm

This group is reading *If Grace is True: Why God Will God Save Every Person* by Quaker ministers Philip Gulley and James Mulholland and discussing the topic of salvation and whom God saves.

Wednesdays at 1 pm

This group is discussing the topic of Forgiveness.

Thursdays at 10:30 am

This group is studying the gospel of Luke using the Lent Devotional by N.T. Wright. (See article on the front page).

Fat Tuesday 2019

Mardi Gras Hymnal

Tuesday, March 5 at 2:00 pm

1:15 pm - Car Pool Leaves Church

Reception featuring a decadent dessert, tea and coffee following the Hymnal in Fellowship hall

*****Sign up today after services *****

Nevada City UMC

433 Broad Street

(Free Will Offering for Band Only)



In Loving Memory

Paul Schreiber



Celebration of Life

Sunday, March 17 at 1:30

Sierra Presbyterian Church

175 Ridge Rd, Nevada City, CA 95959



Monday, March 11

7:00 pm

PLACER COUNTY PFLAG

Conference Room A
Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital
11815 Education Street,
Auburn, CA. 95603



Tuesday, March 26

6:00 pm

NEVADA COUNTY PFLAG

Unitarian Church
246 South Church St
Grass Valley, CA

Thank You!

We collected \$570 for our
February Communion Offering going to
Habitat for Humanity

March Communion Offering

Our March communion offering will go to the Conference Disaster Response Fund to help those affected by the *Camp Fire*. Our California-Nevada Conference has been busy at work helping those affected by the *Camp Fire*. This work is funded by United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) grants and through the Conference Disaster Response Fund.



HABITAT LUNCH FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS:

We serve lunch (for the folks who are building Habitat houses) every second Saturday. We need cookies and sandwiches. You can choose what and how much you will contribute. Sign up on the "sign up board" on the table. Please contact Susan Lewin with any questions.

This Article is available in Print



Turn your clocks forward before
bed Saturday, March 9th



New BSA Troop for Girls
Troop 583



Scouting Sunday, February 10, 2019
BSA Troops 783 & 583
The Place to Be

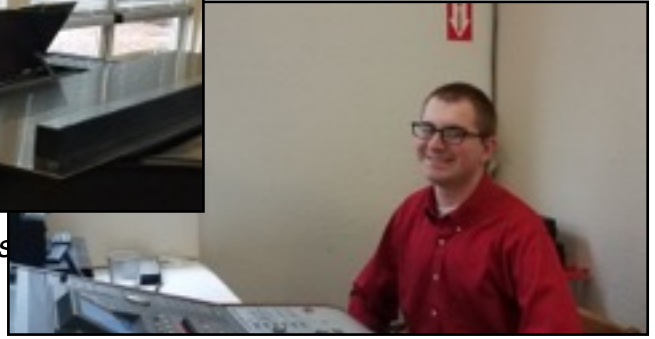


BSA Troop 783



Thank you to Adrian and Owen for helping with the Spiritual Retreat.

Embracing Wholeness
Spiritual Retreat
led by Susan Kopp



"My Niece did this it me!" ~ Bill Smith



One of the Altars for Sermon Series: Fear<Less



Snow at Sierra Pines



Celebrating Phyllis's 90th Birthday
We also celebrated Al's 90th Birthday

March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
24 Comunion Sunday 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School 11am - Fellowship	25 12:30pm - AA 1pm - If Grace Is True Book 4:30pm - Hospitality House 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 783 @	26 9am - Diaper Project 12:30pm - AA Rm 4 1pm - Fulton Street Jazz Band- 6pm - Boy Scouts 6:30pm - BSA Troop 523 for Girls	27 Ash Wednesday 9am - Diaper Project 12pm - Soup & Ashes 12:30pm - AA Rm 4 1pm - Forgiveness Study 4pm - Colla Voce Children's 4pm - Worship Committee 6pm - Scouts Pack Meeting MPR 7pm - Ash Wednesday Service	28 9am - Diaper Project 10:30am - Bible Study 12:30pm - AA 2pm - Book Study 6:30pm - Music Practice @ Room 7pm - Scouts Order of the Arrow 7pm - AL-ANON Rm1	1 9am - Diaper Project 12:30pm - AA Rm 4 @ Room 4	2 11:30am - Habitat for Humanity -
3 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School 11am - Fellowship	4 12:30pm - AA 1pm - If Grace Is True Book 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 783 @	5 9am - Diaper Project 12:30pm - AA Rm 4 1pm - Fulton Street Jazz Band- 6pm - Boy Scouts 6:30pm - BSA Troop 523 for Girls	6 Ash Wednesday 9am - Diaper Project 12pm - Soup & Ashes 12:30pm - AA Rm 4 1pm - Forgiveness Study 4pm - Colla Voce Children's 4pm - Worship Committee 6pm - Scouts Pack Meeting MPR 7pm - Ash Wednesday Service	7 9am - Diaper Project 10:30am - Bible Study 12:30pm - AA 2pm - Book Study 6:30pm - Music Practice @ Room 7pm - Scouts Order of the Arrow 7pm - AL-ANON Rm1	8 9am - Diaper Project 12:30pm - AA Rm 4 @ Room 4	9 11:30am - Habitat for Humanity -
10 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School 11am - Fellowship	11 12:30pm - AA 1pm - If Grace Is True Book 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 783 @	12 9am - Diaper Project 12:30pm - AA Rm 4 6pm - Boy Scouts 6:30pm - BSA Troop 523 for Girls	13 9am - Diaper Project 12:30pm - AA Rm 4 1pm - Forgiveness Study 3pm - Trustees 4pm - Colla Voce Children's 6pm - Scouts Rm 1 6:30pm - Toastmasters 4/5	14 9am - Diaper Project 10:30am - Bible Study 12:30pm - AA 6:30pm - Music Practice @ Room 7pm - AL-ANON Rm1	15 9am - Diaper Project 12:30pm - AA Rm 4 @ Room 4	16 9am - PEO
17 ReGenesis 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School 11am - Fellowship	18 12:30pm - AA 1pm - If Grace Is True Book 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 783 @	19 9am - Diaper Project 12:30pm - AA Rm 4 6pm - Boy Scouts 6:30pm - BSA Troop 523 for Girls	20 9am - Diaper Project 12:30pm - AA Rm 4 1pm - Forgiveness Study 3:30pm - Fellowship Committee 4pm - Colla Voce Children's	21 9am - Diaper Project 10:30am - Bible Study 12:30pm - AA 4pm - Finance 6:30pm - Music Practice @ Room 7pm - AL-ANON Rm1 7pm - District Scouts Rm 5	22 9am - Diaper Project 12:30pm - AA Rm 4 @ Room 4	23 9am - Diaper Project 12:30pm - AA Rm 4 @ Room 4
24 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School 11am - Fellowship	25 12:30pm - AA 1pm - If Grace Is True Book 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 783 @	26 9am - Diaper Project 12:30pm - AA Rm 4 6pm - Boy Scouts 6:30pm - BSA Troop 523 for Girls	27 9am - Diaper Project 12:30pm - AA Rm 4 1pm - Forgiveness Study 4pm - Colla Voce Children's 7pm - Adult Leader Troop-783	28 9am - Diaper Project 10:30am - Bible Study 12:30pm - AA 2:30pm - Church Council 6:30pm - Music Practice @ Room 7pm - AL-ANON Rm1	29 9am - Diaper Project 12:30pm - AA Rm 4 @ Room 4	30 9am - Diaper Project 12:30pm - AA Rm 4 @ Room 4
31 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School 11am - Fellowship 11:30am - 5th Sunday Potluck	1 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School 11am - Fellowship 11:30am - 5th Sunday Potluck	2 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School 11am - Fellowship 11:30am - 5th Sunday Potluck	3 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School 11am - Fellowship 11:30am - 5th Sunday Potluck	4 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School 11am - Fellowship 11:30am - 5th Sunday Potluck	5 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School 11am - Fellowship 11:30am - 5th Sunday Potluck	6 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School 11am - Fellowship 11:30am - 5th Sunday Potluck



22559 West Hacienda Drive,
Grass Valley, CA 95949
530.268.6907

www.sierrapinesumc.org

Sunday Celebration Services

10:00 am

Sunday School Children

10:15 am

Fellowship at 11:00am

*Communion Monthly - 1st Sunday of each month

SPUMC is a reconciling congregation. We are empowered by God, called by Christ, and motivated by our faith to love and serve all God's people. We reach out with loving hospitality to those who know the pain of exclusion within the United Methodist Church. We welcome ALL, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation, to full participation in the life and ministries of our church community.

