



# Concordia Monthly Chimes

March 2020  
Volume 41 Number 3



**Pastor Rev. Claire Douglass**  
[pastorclairedouglass@gmail.com](mailto:pastorclairedouglass@gmail.com) | 608-643-8822—church  
608-338-8084—Cell | 608-643-8068—parsonage  
**Laila Drescher, Administrative Assistant**  
[secr@concordiaumc.org](mailto:secr@concordiaumc.org) | 608-643-6356—office





Dear Concordia Friends,

Julius Caesar is believed to have said, "No one is so brave that he is not disturbed by something unexpected." We all experience moments in life that are outside of our expectations. Whether it is illness, or grief, or changes in life circumstance unexpected changes can often turn our lives upside down. Even happy unexpected changes like the birth of a child, or meeting someone we love can make us feel off balance and unsure about where we are going next. Watch any romantic comedy and you are sure to see someone who is feeling overjoyed and yet secretly disturbed by the unexpected.

Lent in many ways is the season we prepare for the unexpected in our church. We spend forty days praying, fasting and reflecting on the ways in which Jesus unexpectedly changed the world. At the end of these forty days, we sit with Jesus at the Last Supper as he unexpectedly washes his disciple's feet and shared with them a simple meal. We walk with Jesus as one of his own disciples unexpectedly betrayed him sending him down a path towards his eventual crucifixion on the cross. Finally, Jesus does the most unexpected thing of all and on the third day he rises from the dead defeating death with life.

In the midst of our toughest moments, during the days when the most unexpected things happen when everything seems to go wrong and it feels like we have nothing left to hold unto, isn't it wonderful to know that our God is the God of the unexpected. That our God is a God who cannot be defeated by anything that comes our way, not even death. While the unexpected may challenge us and change us it cannot defeat us as long as God is by our side. In this Lenten season, I challenge us all to be brave in the face of the unexpected, not so that it doesn't disturb us, but so that we may feel God's presence with us through it all.

With the peace of Christ,  
Pastor Claire

P.S. The unexpected in Pastor Claire's life recently has been challenges with her gallbladder. Pastor Claire will receive surgery to remove her gallbladder on Tuesday March 3, 2020. She will be out of the office for a week recovering. For Pastoral Emergencies please contact Laila in the office or Emily Carncross. Thank you for your prayers and well wishes in this time of surgery and recovery.

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## March Birthdays

4th– Brody Wolfe  
 7th– Ken Harris  
 8th– Ellen Allen  
 8th– Richard Henn  
 9th– Craig Bender  
 11th– Dennis Paskey  
 11th– Alyssa Wenzel  
 16th– Alden Jones  
 17th– Gavin Carncross  
 18th– Levi Endres  
 18th– Ellis Kirner  
 20th– Mark Fritschler  
 20th– Nathan Fritscher  
 24th– David Rogalla  
 29th– Eulaine Kohlman  
 29th– Phyllis France



## A Couple of Reminders from the office...

- We have a new Galena Street entrance and security system! If you come to the church and the door is locked, during regular office times, please press the button and if someone is here you will be buzzed in. There are directions on the door. If you have questions, please ask!
- Office hours for Laila are posted in the weekly Chimes. The office is typically open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, but please check the weekly Chimes for changes.
- If you have changes (or know a member who has changes) to any contact information please let Laila know! It is very helpful in communicating and updating our membership.
- The annual book has been printed! Paper copies are available in the back of the sanctuary. Electronic copies are being sent on Feb. 27th. If there are corrections that need to be made to the annual book, please let me know through email at secr@concordiaumc.org. Thank you!
- There are authorizations forms for electronically transferring funds for your offering. They are located in the back of the sanctuary.
- If you would like to be added to the bulletin for prayer, or any announcements for the bulletin, please have it to Laila by 10:00am on Thursday.

## Remember Spring Break!

No Sunday School for kids on  
 March 22 or 29



# Outreach

## Mission...Mercy...Justice

### MELODIES OF COMPASSION

The loose coin offerings for the months of March & April will go to Hope House.



### 2020 MISSIONARY SUPPORT

Temba works with the UM Board of Global Ministries serving as an agriculturist at Mujila Falls Agricultural Center in Zambia.



### ZELPHA'S PANTRY

"Zelpha's Pantry" was an idea of Zelpha Hook's during the time that Concordia started serving the Community Meals. It is another way to provide for those that don't always have enough of the basics when it comes to personal hygiene items. Donations can be placed on the counter in the kitchen or put in the tub under the counter labeled "Zelpha's Pantry". Items that are popular are toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, soap, deodorant.

**Thank you for helping the outreach committee continue what Zelpha started!**

### SECOND SUNDAY DONATIONS

Second Sunday donations (food, cash, hygiene, household items) for March will go to

### **Hope House**

Please place any donated items in the blue bin that is located in the Galena Street Entrance.

### STOCK THE SCHOOLS

For the month of March, items that will be collected to help SP Students in need are:

Pudding Cups  
Liquid Body Wash

Please place donated items in the red bin in Fellowship Hall and they are given to the school social worker to distribute to kids in need. Thank you!

### MARCH COMMUNITY MEALS

All are welcome to join us for the Community Meals at Concordia on the following Sundays from 4:00-6:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Great food and fellowship!

#### March Community Meals:

March 8– Team ACTS  
March 29– Team Virchow



*Share A Meal*

# Nurture Team

## Congregational Care

## Spiritual Formation

### Youth Group/Grades 6-12

#### March Calendar

**Sunday, March 1**

9am-10am— Prayer and Discussion

**Wednesday, March 4**

6:15-7:30— Worship at First UCC

**Sunday, March 8**

9am-10am— Prayer and Discussion

**Sunday, March 8-Monday, March 9**

6pm-3pm Confirmation Retreat

**Wednesday, March 11**

5:15-8pm Food Pantry

**Sunday, March 15**

9am-12:00pm Youth Sunday

**Wednesday, March 18**

6pm-8pm Worship at Concordia  
Youth will serve and clean up after  
the service. This will be at 8pm.

**Wednesday, April 1**

6pm-8pm Youth Group

**Sunday, April 5**

9am-12pm Youth Sunday Worship  
and fellowship leaders

#### *Looking Ahead...*

Youth Group will lead worship on Palm Sunday, April 5th this year! We will not be leading the early morning worship on Easter. Youth group does not meet on Wednesdays in April or May, that includes no serving at the food pantry. We will schedule some fun outings. Watch your email for updates!

## REVIVE

Definition— return to consciousness of life, become active or flourishing again, to restore to consciousness. It is our prayer that through connection we will become more active and flourish as individuals, a community of faith, and help strengthen our community. We are asking God to revive us, restore us to Him through sharing.

This program is about sharing; sharing our food in the form of a biweekly meal, sharing our time together, and sharing our talents with each other. We ask you to look inside, find your gifts and ask God how He would have you share them with the church in 2020 and beyond!

Here are some topics that may give ideas on how to share your strengths:

- You know how to make something (crafts, cooking, woodworking, taking a pinterest idea, etc..)
- You have knowledge of something that would be helpful or fun to participate in with others (budgeting, fitness ideas, a port or an activity you are willing to teach, decorating, how to become more organized, gardening, soap making, food preservation, the topics are endless!)
- Or if you have a cool experience or place to share, we don't need to stay with in the church walls. If you are willing to open up your homes, workshops, gardens and more fieldtrips would be welcome. After all this is about being open and sharing our lives with each other.

## **March Revive Activities!**

### **Friday, March 13th— 5:30-8:00pm**

Bring a dish to pass and any supplies to share in card making! We will be making cards of all kinds! Sign up in Fellowship Hall!

### **Friday, March 27th— 5:30-8:00pm**

Bring a dish to pass and be ready to play some card games! Euchre, Michigan Rummy, and any card games you would like to teach/share with others.

Sign up in Fellowship Hall to attend!

## **WCC- Women's Conversation and Connection**

WCC meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at Eagle Inn Restaurant, Prairie du Sac  
Next meeting is:  
March 24th

All women of any age are invited to join the conversation. Come for coffee/breakfast as we share what's happening in our lives.

## **SOFAS** ***Seniors Out for Adventure***

*Open to anyone 60 years young and older*

*March 4, 2020  
9:30am Fellowship Hall*

John Lehan from the Sauk Prairie Recreation Dept. and Marrieta Reuter, will present the new plan for the Culver Community Park. Discussion and questions to follow the presentation. This is an open meeting to anyone who is interested so spread the word and invite others. Coffee and treats will be provided. Come and hear the plans! Any questions, call Mary at 643-6720.

## **Sunday School Leader Needed!**

Are you passionate about helping to continue to grow our Sunday School Program? We are looking for someone to lead our Sunday School Program. If you feel a calling to do so, please contact Pastor Claire!



## **Stephen Ministry at Concordia**

Our Congregation offers Stephen Ministry to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people who are going through a difficult time.

A Stephen Minister is a well-trained caregiver who listens, cares, prays, encourages and offers the love of Christ during a time of need.

If you are someone who would like to be a care-receiver, please contact our leaders Holly Neale, Pastor Claire or John Budd. A Stephen Minister will be available after worship on Sundays to answer any questions or guide you through starting the process.

## **Living Out Our Faith**

There is a small group that meets on Saturday mornings at 8:00am. All are welcome to join us! The group is currently reading Psalms for devotions and discussing how it relates to our lives. Breakfast and coffee are served! Please come if you would like!



## **Summer Camp 2020**

UM Summer Camp information and registration materials are on the table in Fellowship Hall. Concordia and the Conference has scholarships available to attend summer camp. Please talk to Pastor Claire if you would like more information about scholarships. Check out the brochures! There are awesome opportunities for kids and families!



## **Camp in the Community Volunteers Needed!**

Concordia is VERY excited to welcome back Camp in the Community June 15-19 this summer! To make this happen, we are in need in the following:

- 3 volunteers to work with the groups to assist the leaders of each group. Volunteers do no planning, just helping!
- Volunteers to check campers in and be the home base during the week.
- Provide/make meals and snacks for the campers

If you are able to help, please contact Sue Evans! Thank you!

# Witness

## Worship, Hospitality, & Telling the Story

### March 1, 2020

**Ushers:**

Tim Ladd, Karen Ladd,  
Ted & Robin Henn

**Communion:**

Bruce and Leslie Koch

**Liturgist:**

Heidi Halling

**Tech Desk:**

Doug Hultberg

**Acolytes:**

Griffin, Gillie and/or Evie  
Fritsch

**Snow Removal:**

Dickson Family

### March 8, 2020

**Ushers:**

De Enge,  
Gordon and Emily Carncross

**Liturgist:**

Kevin Emshoff

**Tech Desk:**

Pat Mings

**Acolytes:**

Carly & Max Schroeder

**Snow Removal:**

Emshoff Family



### March 15, 2020

**Ushers:**

Concordia Youth Group

**Greeters:**

Concordia Youth Group

**Liturgist:**

Concordia Youth Group

**Tech Desk:**

Bruce Koch and

Concordia Youth Group

**Acolytes:**

Maddy & Myles Mauch

**Snow Removal:**

Virchow's

### March 22, 2020

**Ushers:**

Tom & Mary Clark

Jane Cordero

**Liturgist:**

**Tech Desk:**

Irene DeVoe

**Acolytes:**

Anna & Addie Drescher

**Snow Removal:**

Koch Family

### March 29, 2020

**Ushers:**

Don Wenzel

John & Joanne Budd

**Liturgist:**

**Tech Desk:**

Bruce Koch or Irene DeVoe

**Acolytes:**

Ava and Otis Andres

**Snow Removal:**

Dickson Family



### Wednesday Evening Lenten Schedule 6:30pm

March 4: First UCC

March 11: St. John's Leland

March 18: Concordia UMC

March 25: First UCC

April 1: Blackhawk UMC

### Coffee Fellowship

Coffee Fellowship is every Sunday morning at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall. It is a great opportunity to connect with other members of the church.

We are in need of individuals or families to sign up to bake/bring treats and serve coffee on Sunday mornings. There is a sign-up on the clipboard in Fellowship Hall.

### Bulletin Sponsors

Please **consider** sponsoring a bulletin at \$10.00 per week to support the cost to print our weekly bulletins. Contact the church office if you would like to sponsor the bulletin! It is a great way to honor a loved one. Thank you!

### Good Friday Ecumenical Choir Rehearsals

Wednesday, March 18

Wednesday, April 1

Wednesday, April 8

Rehearsals are 7:45-8:15pm at St. John's Lutheran in PDS.

There will be 2 pieces under the direction of Ruellene Seymore.

The songs will be sung at Good Friday Worship Services at St. John's on April 10 at 1:00 & 6:30pm. All are welcome!



## *Different Storms, Same Jesus*

And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. A gale arose on the lake, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him up, saying, ‘Lord, save us! We are perishing!’ And he said to them, ‘Why are you afraid, you of little faith?’ Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. They were amazed, saying, ‘What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?’ Matthew 8:23-27

Our world, our culture, our church – so many sources of anxiety, discomfort, fear and anger. Truly, people of faith have rarely been more tested than today. Yet, this is what it means to be a people of faith – to stand fast in the conviction that God is in charge, and “even the winds and the sea obey him!” We may not like what we see with our eyes, but in our hearts the Spirit of the living God prevails. We may shake our fists in outrage at the injustices, personal or shared, but the Prince of Peace abides. We may worry about our own future, the future of our church, the future of our country, or the future of our world, but the grace of the Redeemer has the final word.

Would Jesus address us as “you of little faith,” or as faithful disciples living in the power and assurance of gospel truth? I wonder. I hope it would be the latter, but I sense for many it would be the first. We seem to be in a place of reactivity where we walk more by sight than by faith. This is not meant as criticism or judgment, but as observation. We are making huge decisions with lasting implications from a place of anxiety, division, and uncertainty, instead of a firm faith foundation.

So, what can we do?

First, let us take our eyes off the storms and turn them back toward Jesus. Let us pray. Let us immerse our emotions, reactions, energies, and passions in prayer. Let us pray with and for each other, not *about* each other. Let us actively look for the Jesus in every other human being, especially those with whom we disagree.

Second, let us refocus on our baptism, our connection, and our call. Let us give the greatest measure of our energy to doing all the good we can. The elegant symmetry to doing all the good we can is that it leaves us no time to do harm. There is no limit to the good we can do, only so long as we cease to engage in harm-producing behaviors.

Third, let us work hard for the future in which we want to live. We may never become “one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,” as our Communion liturgy calls us to pray, but we can continue to align our discipleship and commitment to the transformation of the world. Virtually no one believes the world we have is the best of all possible worlds. We know we can be better. We know we can be more loving. We know we can be more caring. We know that the world will not change if everyone demands their own way puts their own needs above those of others. Wanting to be better is not enough; taking steps to continuously become more Christlike is a full-time pursuit.

Last, let us simply be kind – kind to ourselves, kind to each other, kind to the stranger, and kind to our opponents. If we should find a way as The United Methodist Church, let us be kind in our differences. If we are to separate, let us be kind in our parting. No matter what, my beloved, beautiful Wisconsin siblings, let us be kind as our basic witness to the world of the love and grace of God. We will face many more storms, but let us do so in the assurance that the Christ is with us.

Grace and Peace,  
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

## Giving— When Propensity Meets Capacity March 2020

*To give away money is an easy matter and within anyone's power, but to decide to whom to give it, how much to give, when to give, and to give for the right motive and in the right way, is neither in everyone's power nor an easy matter. Hence, it is that such excellence is rare, praiseworthy, and noble. Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethis, Book II, Chapter 9.*

Recently a church asked me to help determine their congregation's capacity for giving. Here is my simple answer: any congregation's capacity to give is at least 10% (the tithe) of its annual income. I usually estimate a church's congregation-wide annual income as the median income within a 5-mile radius of the church times the number of giving units in the church. (So I do not inadvertently overestimate congregational income, I usually work with 90 percent of this number.)

**Ten percent of total congregational income is the tithe and is our best scripturally based estimate of congregational capacity to give.** God proposed the tithe as a target for giving to support the church with other charitable giving to be over and above that amount. (Our denomination's stance is that "tithing is the minimum goal of giving" (Book of Discipline 630.5e) and "God's standard of giving" (304.1c))

In Wisconsin, our actual giving averages 2.9%. We are spending much of God's share on ourselves. How much could our churches accomplish if we tithed and had more than three times as much in giving? In my talks with United Methodists around the state, I hear a lot of anxiety about the state of our churches, often because they are experiencing budget shortfalls. What they often propose is cutting more costs or getting new people to pay for the church.

Yet, we could reverse the trajectory of United Methodism by simply giving what God has asked us to give. That is the revitalization we need.

*Jim Wells, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation*



### UMW General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, March 10 at 1:00pm  
Fellowship Hall at Concordia UMC

"Prayer and Self Denial Program" will be presented by Jane Cordero, offering will be collected at this meeting. Jane will be sharing what missions our offerings will support this year. We hope you can join us!

### Bazaar Committee Meeting

Monday, March 23rd at 5:00pm  
Fellowship Hall at Concordia UMC



### 6:8 Community Meal

A free buffet style meal is served on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at the 6:8 building. All are welcome to attend between 5:00-7:00pm. 6:8 is located at 821 Industry Road.

### Alzheimer Dementia Support Group

Whether you simply want a reference point to know what to expect when cognitive changes knock on your loved one's door or find comfort from others who are walking in your same shoes, the Alzheimer Dementia Support group welcomes you. Free meetings are hosted at Maplewood, every 4th Tuesday, 3:00-4:30. RSVP's are not necessary. Questions, contact Theresa Grimes at 632-3383.

### Sauk Prairie School Referendum Information Session



There will be an information session about the upcoming school referendum on Friday, March 6 from 7:00am-9:00am at the Prairie House. Public is invited. Come and learn more about what is on the referendum and ask school administrators questions.

### Soup and Chili Supper

Hosted by Christian Fellowship at First UCC, 504 Washington Ave in Sauk City. Yummy homemade chili and soups, bread, beverages and desserts! Cost is Free—will donation.

### Community Choir

A community choir is being formed to present the Sacred Cantata, "Come Walk With Me Through the Passion and Resurrection of Christ" by Pepper Choplin. The performance will be at GraceWay Church on Saturday, April 11th. The first rehearsal, under the direction of Robin Steinweg and pianist Karen Schlittler, will be held at GraceWay on Sunday, March 8th at 1:00pm and the following Saturday mornings from 9:30am-11:00am. If you would like to sing in this choir and have questions, contact Karen Schlittler at 544-3991.



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Women's Retreat at  
Lake Lucerne  
April 24-26

For more information:  
Bonnie Clement  
262-895-2644  
[bonnieclemento5@gmail.com](mailto:bonnieclemento5@gmail.com)



Dear Concordia UMC,

"A flicker of hope..." that is what we strive for as we offer our services and support to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Your recent donation to Hope House will help fuel that flicker to a flame. And if that flame can light the way for those we work with, we will have achieved our mission.

Thank you for your generosity,  
Hope House

Dear Concordia,  
The UM Hospitals Ministry would like to express our sincere appreciation for your congregations most recent gift. We thank you for your generous and ongoing support.

Sincerely,  
UM Hospitals Ministry

# March 2020


**Sun**
**Mon**
**Tue**
**Wed**
**Thu**
**Fri**
**Sat**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
<b>1</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Worship	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:30am SOFAS 6:30pm Ecumenical Lenten Service First UCC	<b>5</b> 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 7:00am UM Men	<b>7</b> 8:00am Living out our faith
<b>8</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Worship 4:00pm Community Meal	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 1:00pm UMW General Membership Meeting 6:00pm Finance Meeting	<b>11</b> 5:30pm Youth at Food Pantry 6:30pm Ecumenical Lenten Service at St. John's Leland	<b>12</b> 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Handbells	<b>13</b> 7:00am UM Men 5:30pm REVIVE– Potluck and Card Making	<b>14</b> 9:00am-3:00pm SW District UMW Team Mgt 8:00am Living out our faith
<b>15</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Worship	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:00pm SPRC Meeting	<b>18</b> 6:30pm Ecumenical Lenten Service at Concordia	<b>19</b> 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Handbells	<b>20</b> 7:00am UM Men	<b>21</b> 8:00am Living out our faith
<b>22</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Worship	<b>23</b> 5:00pm UMW Bazaar Committee Meeting	<b>24</b> 8:30am WCC at Eagle Inn	<b>25</b> 6:30pm Ecumenical Lenten Service First UCC	<b>26</b> 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Handbells	<b>27</b> 7:00am UM Men 5:30pm REVIVE– Playing Cards	<b>28</b> 8:00am Living out our faith
<b>29</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Worship 4:00pm Community Meal	<b>30</b> 6:30pm Stephen Ministry	<b>31</b>				