



The Flame Bearer

Brown Deer United Methodist Church February 2018



CHILI BOWL XXVII Saturday, February 3rd

4:30—7:00 PM

At Brown Deer U.M.C.

Tickets are \$8.50

Volunteers are needed to make Chili Bowl a success!
Please sign up by the sanctuary doors.



Tuesday Extraordinaire

See inside for information.



WORSHIP

February 14
7:00 PM

The God We Can Know

Wednesdays at 9:15, starting Feb. 14th

Getting to know God means getting to know ourselves. The more we know who God is the more we know who we are. The Gospel of John records several declarations of Jesus known as the “I Am” sayings. This study is designed to explore each of those sayings and will help you find and form an answer to the most essential question in the Christian faith, “Who do you say I am?”

We will learn more about this topic in our February session of Wednesday Morning Companions in Christ. Starting Ash Wednesday, February 14th, under the leadership of Audrey G. and Cathie H., we will delve into a 6-week study of Rob Fuquay’s book “The God We Can Know”.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the parlor. Books are available from Audrey for \$7.00. Please have the first chapter read for the first meeting of the class. It will be a great way to experience Lent together!

Brown Deer United Methodist Church

5736 W. Brown Deer Road
Brown Deer, WI 53223

Facebook: fb.me/bdumc

Website: www.browndeerumc.org

Phone: 414-354-4477

SUNDAY WORSHIP—

8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Business Hours: M-F 9:00-3:00

browndeerumc-ofc@att.net

Pastor: Ellen Rasmussen

Director of Pastoral Care:

Richard Whitaker

Office Manager: Barb Johnson

Organist: Cindy Schroeder

Choir Director: Cliff Gribble

Custodian: Hilary Forbes

Angel Care — 414-371-9868

Director: Hilary Forbes

bdumcangelcare@aol.com



From the Heart of Pastor Ellen February, 2018



My Beloved~

It a great joy to embrace our first Ash Wednesday together that also happens to be Valentine's Day! Is there a better way to affirm that Christianity is all about love? My heart overflows with love for all of you. I am so very grateful for how you have welcomed and cared for me in our time together. You are a special congregation and I am grateful to serve you.

Love is at the center of who we are as disciples of Jesus Christ. It is not a romantic (eros) love and it is more profound than brotherly (philia) love. It is agape love—unconditional love that calls us to seek the sacred and holy at the core of each person. It is love that is sourced by God—always flowing, growing and rejuvenating. As God first loved us, we can love each other with agape love. We are to love one another as we have been loved by God—Perfect Love.

As Wesleyan theologians we understand the value of another gift from God—grace. Grace is that love and mercy that God offers because God wants to offer it to us. We do not deserve it, we cannot earn, but we can readily choose to receive it. It is because of God and God's desire for us to experience grace that we can do just that. As God has gifted us with grace, I believe that we are also called to share grace with one another. Unfortunately, just as there are times when we fail to love, we fail to be gracious. The world needs us now more than ever to be overflowing practitioners of love and grace. Unfortunately, that is not always the case. Instead of being agents of love

*"Let me give you a new command:
Love one another.
In the same way I loved you, you
love one another.
This is how everyone will recognize
that you are my disciples—
when they see the love you have for
each other."
John 13.34-5, The Message*

and hope, we become facilitators of pain and despair. In *A Missionary Mindset* by Douglas Ruffle, he shares teachings from the great Methodist missionary and theologian E. Stanley Jones. "The Christian witness is hindered when Christians fail to love. For E. Stanley Jones, writing in 1925, that lack of love was manifest through racism, accepting war as an answer to conflict, and unfair immigration legislation." It is sad that these same issues continue to be front page news today.

We are called to love our neighbors in all of their diversity and understand the similarities and differences between our way of living and theirs. ~ Douglas Ruffle from A Missionary Mindset

You have shown me how you love. You make a difference in so many lives. Mac Weddle, Executive Director of Northcott Neighborhood House, shared

I AM A HEALER AND MY LOVE IS MEDICINE
*Love is the greatest medicine.
I ask to be healing medicine for others.
I ask my heart to expand its boundaries and to love others as they wish to be loved.
I ask my heart to expand its boundaries and open to my being loved as I wish to be loved.
~ Julia Cameron
from Heart Steps: Prayers and Declarations for a Creative Life*

how he felt loved and cared for on his visit. He needed that love to be re-centered and refocused. Thank you for loving him.

Let's embrace February as the "Love" month! Let's love each other, our neighbors and our community like we have never loved before. Let's be intentional about being agents of love and grace wherever we may travel.

**Let's be brave!
Let's be bold!
Let's love!
Pastor Ellen**



Council of Bishops
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 12, 2018

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Bishop Bruce R. Ough, president of the United Methodist Council of Bishops, issued a statement today on behalf of the Council concerning remarks reported to have been made by President Donald Trump regarding immigrants. The statement follows:

We are appalled by the offensive, disgusting words attributed to President Donald Trump who is said to have referred to immigrants from African countries and Haiti, and the countries themselves, in an insulting and derogative manner. According to various media accounts, President Trump made the remarks during a White House discussion with lawmakers on immigration.

As reported, President Trump's words are not only offensive and harmful, they are racist.

We call upon all Christians, especially United Methodists, to condemn this characterization and further call for President Trump to apologize.

As United Methodists, we cherish our brothers and sisters from all parts of the world and we believe that God loves all creation regardless of where they live or where they come from. As leaders of our global United Methodist Church, we are sickened by such uncouth language from the leader of a nation that was founded by immigrants and serves as a beacon to the world's "huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Thousands of our clergy, laity and other highly skilled, productive citizens are from places President Trump has defamed with his comments. The fact that he also insists the United States should consider more immigrants from Europe and Asia demonstrates the racist character of his comments. This is a direct contradiction of God's love for all people. Further, these comments on the eve of celebrating Martin Luther King Day belies Dr. King's witness and the United States' ongoing battle against racism.

We just celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ, whose parents during his infancy, had to flee to Africa to escape from the wrath of King Herod. Millions of immigrants across the globe are running away from such despicable and life-threatening events. Hence, we have the Christian duty to be supportive of them as they flee political, cultural and social dangers in their native homes.

We will not stand by and allow our brothers and sisters to be maligned in such a crude manner. We call on all United Methodists, all people of faith, and the political leadership of the United States to speak up and speak against such demeaning and racist comments.

Christ reminds us that it is by love that they will know that we are Christians. Let's demonstrate that love for all of God's people by saying no to racism; no to discrimination and no to bigotry.

Bishop Bruce R. Ough
President – Council of Bishops

In Gratitude We Cherish....

~the gift of art from our children. The covers for the Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Perspective Christmas bulletins were created by our Sunday School Children. A sampling of their work:



~the gift of flowers and Christmas decorations and all of those who made it possible to enjoy them as well as those who put things away.



~for Bishop Melvin Talbert and his message for the MLK Service on January 14.



~for the youngest reader at the service.



With Hope We Embrace....



A Worship Series With Special Guests



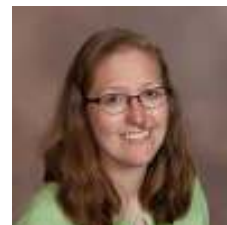
Mac Weddle, ~January 21
Northcott Neighborhood House



Jim A. ~ January 28



Rev. Tina Itson ~ February 4
United Methodist Children's Services



Rev. Sharon Cook ~ February 11
UM Camps & Retreat Ministry



Lent Begins

**Ash Wednesday Service with Imposition of Ashes
& Communion**

Wednesday, February 14, 7pm

All Are Welcome!



Welcome

Bishop Hee Soo Jung

Palm/Passion Sunday

March 25, 2018

@ 8:15 & 10:45

and Children's Sunday School!

TO: B.D. United Methodist Church Members

You are welcome to peruse the updated and completed BDUMC Confirmation Album presently on display. We now need a church member to begin a new album for the last three confirmation classes and those beyond. Would you like to come "to the rescue"? If you are interested, please let the church office be aware of it. A new album and other necessities will be provided.

Our talented and dearly loved Isabel Thompson was our "Historian" for many years, and her exemplary and deep interest in keeping this position going strong for many years has made our record keeping outstanding !!

God Bless Isabel!

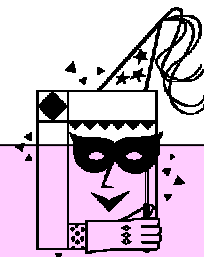
Are you interested in becoming our **Church Historian**? If you enjoy writing about historical times, you have found the "right spot". So, please come forward and get us "on the road again" - Thank you!

PLEASE NOTE: The above - (Confirmation volunteer, and Historian), may work together on both album and historian or separately if they so wish.

SPECIAL REQUEST: We are seeking a copy of the Confirm-ands of 1979, which is missing from the album. If you have this copy, we will be extremely grateful if you would allow us to borrow it. It will be copied, and your copy returned promptly! Thank you!

With kind thoughts to all!

**Lee T.
Gayle W.**



*Tuesday
Extraordinaire*

FAMILY MARDI GRAS EXPERIENCE

**FEBRUARY 13,
6:00—7:30 PM**

AN EXTRAORDINAIRE EVENING
FOOD FUN SONG DANCE

ALL ARE INVITED

BRING NEIGHBORS

PRECURSOR TO AN EXTRAORDINAIRE
LENTEN JOURNEY

**REFLECTION REPENTANCE
RENEWAL**

Brown Deer United Methodist Church

5736 West Brown Deer Road

MASKED, UNMASKED, FANCY DRESS, CALICO

Free Will Offering For Mission

Sponsored by United Methodist Women.

ICD 2018 Update

Session One: Overview



First of all, thank you BDUMC for your support, encouragement and financing of this opportunity to participate in the Institute for Congregational Development (ICD) of the Wisconsin Annual Conference (WIAC). From its inauguration, I have been asked to participate in ICD, but things didn't line up to do so until now. I believe that I wasn't supposed to participate until we were together. I take you all with me and I am excited to share this journey with you and the potential that what we learn can have for ministry in our area. As we embrace this journey, let us continue to hold each other in prayer—let's bathe this adventure in prayer!



ICD is a year long program that meets monthly, either in the Madison area or Wausau. We will typically meet all day on Tuesday (8:30 am—7:30 pm) and Wednesday morning (8:00/9:00 am—noon)—and yes, that is an intense schedule. We share our meals together as we alternate between lecture, table top dialogues and small group activities. We have two modes of homework. The first mode involves primarily reading materials to prepare for the session and the second mode is to complete an application assignment.

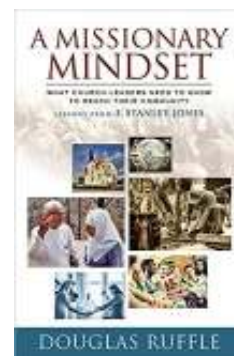
For January, as shared in last month's newsletter, the reading assignments were Douglas Ruffle's *A Missionary Mindset* and Bob Farr's *The Necessary Nine*. We also read a short handout, *The Seven Seasons of Planting a New Church*—a [Path1](#) resource. [Path1 is an agency of the General Board of Discipleship that focuses on new church starts.] Little did I know that that handout was providing the initial overview of the course. ☺

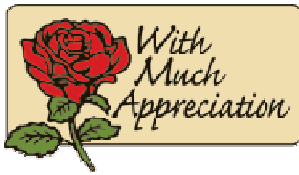
- ⇒ Session 1: Seven Seasons of Church Planting, Overview
- ⇒ Session 2: Season of Discerning—Articulating Your Call

- ⇒ Session 3: Season of Visioning—Imagining What's Possible
- ⇒ Session 4: Leadership Dynamics—this also includes a field trip to St. Louis: The Gathering UMC
- ⇒ Session 5: Season of Gathering—Multi-cultural—Bringing People Together
- ⇒ Session 6: Season of Discipling—Culture—What is Discipleship?
- ⇒ Session 7: Season of Discipling—Process—What is Your Process?
- ⇒ Session 8: Season of Worshiping—Your Worship Service
- ⇒ Session 9: Field Trip to the Church of the Resurrection—Adam Hamilton, Lead Pastor. Participation in the Leadership Institute
- ⇒ Session 10: Season of Maturing—Church Systems
- ⇒ Session 11: Season of Multiplying—Moving Forward
- ⇒ Session 12: Graduation & Sending



As a result of the first session, I have asked members of the Church Council to engage *A Missionary Mindset: What Church Leaders Need to Know To Reach Their Communities: Lessons from E. Stanley Jones*. If you are interested in reading this book and engage a dialogue, please let me or John Grisson know. We'll gladly get you a book!





ON-GOING PRAYERS-

Thank You So Much

Thanks for continuing to supply our food cart with bagged and canned foods. Donations are taken to Northcott where you have helped meet the needs of those who rely on pantries to feed their families.

Thank You/Opportunities

Thank you to everyone who serves as a ministry assistant at worship times!

For those who aren't already connected there are opportunities for liturgists, ushers, projectionists, and special music. Please call the church office to get connected..

and
Caregivers of those with on-
-going concerns

HEALTH CONCERNS

and
Friends or Family Members
in hospice care
Friends or their family
members

OTHER CONCERNS

Grieving friends
Friends traveling

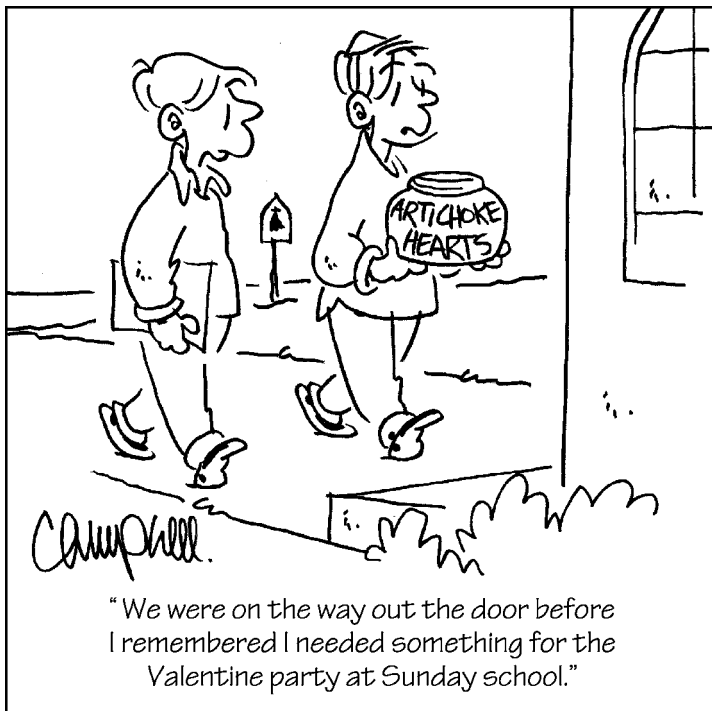
SYMPATHIES TO..

This list is compiled from the Sunday morning joys and concerns. Prayer requests for the newsletter may also be submitted, Attn: Barb, with the subject line: "News-prayers" (by the 15th of the month.)
Note: We do not print names of relatives without permission.

To B.D.U.M.C. members & friends,

*Thank you for your amazing generosity at Christmas time!
We are truly appreciative and honored to serve God in this congregation.*

- BDUMC staff

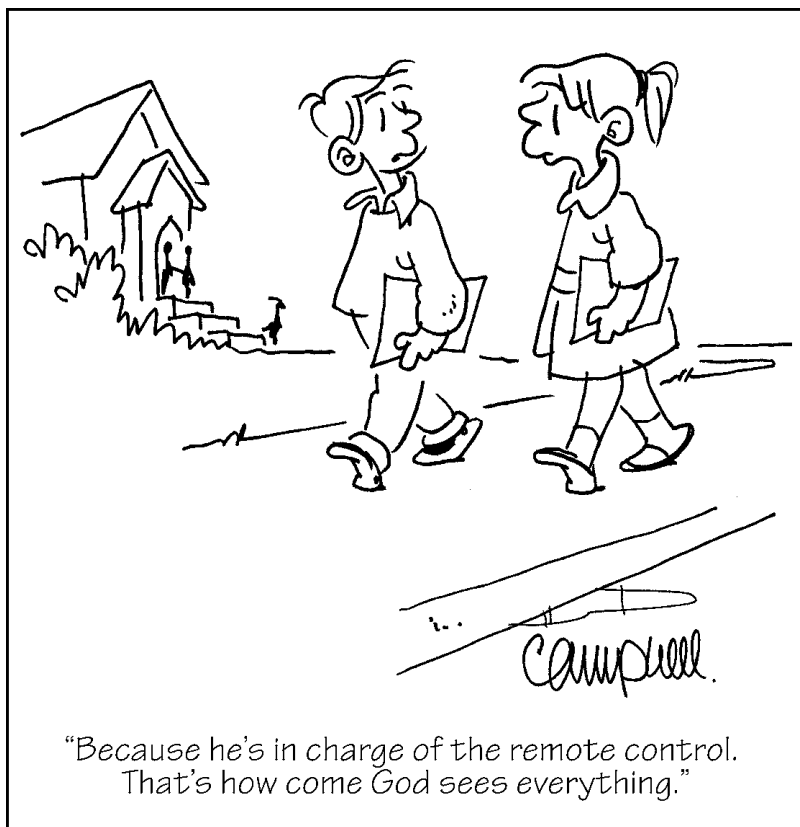


February 2018 NEWSLETTER — mailed 1/23/18

Brown Deer United Methodist Church
5736 W. Brown Deer Rd.
Brown Deer, WI 53223-2308

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



New Email Address?

New Cell Phone Number?

Moving?

Home Phone Status?

**Please call the church office
414/354-4477
with updates
as soon as possible.**