

The Web News

of West Bloomfield UMC

March 2017

From Pastor Brian

When I was a kid, our family went to a Congregational Church that celebrated "Shrove Tuesday" with a pancake supper. Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, the last day before the season of Lent begins, the weeks leading up to Easter Sunday.

So what in the world is a "shrove"?! (I'll admit it, I had to look this one up.) The Old English word 'shriven' meant to be forgiven of sins, so Shrove Tuesday was the day on which Christians would offer confession for their sins and be 'shriven' or forgiven. I think the idea was that you'd start Lent with a spiritual clean slate. As a kid, I don't remember anything about confession, but I do remember the pancakes. Now why we ate pancakes to be forgiven of sins, I have no idea. Maybe it's similar to the paczki tradition - a way to use up 'decadent' foods like fat and sugar and eggs before the austerity of Lent begins.

It's been many years since I've eaten pancakes to mark the beginning of Lent, but the idea of letting go of sins and preparing for Easter with a spiritual clean slate still has a great deal of appeal for me! That's why we're doing a sermon series entitled "Let Go" during Lent this year. Instead of letting go of chocolate this Lent or letting go of meat or letting go of alcohol (or maybe in addition to those!), we'll consider what it would mean to let go of anger... or let go of guilt... or let go of a grudge... or letting go of whatever it is in your life that is holding you back.

But when our recovery friends talk about letting go, they always follow up by adding "and let God." It's not enough to simply let go of things that are holding us back. We need to also replace them with trust in God to lead us forward, to strengthen us to live more courageously, and to inspire us to live more fully. We'll let go and we'll let God!

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Brian
Pastor Brian

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West Bloomfield United Methodist Church seeks to show the love of God through worship, prayer, discipleship, and commitment.



Needed: Second Sunday Counter

We still need a second Sunday counter. If interested, please contact Kathy Chewing or Dan Langford.

- March 5** Indoor Miniature Golf
- March 12** Study with Pastor Brian
- March 19** Easter Service Planning
- March 26** Study with Pastor Brian

Exercise Class

The women's exercise group is on temporary hiatus. You will be notified when it will resume. The men will meet at 7:00 PM on Wednesday nights at the church. Bill Beach leads the men's group.

Women of West Bloomfield

The next regular meeting of the Women of WBUMC will be held on Sunday, March 26 at Noon. All women are cordially invited to join.

Bingo

Bingo at West Bloomfield Nursing and Convalescent Center on Maple Road has begun again. The March session is on the 6th at 2:15 PM. Bingo is fun and the residents love it. Come join us. Look for the 2017 schedule on the bulletin board soon. Please sign up or contact Pam Melton at 248-676-9243.

Monday Night Women's Bible Study

The women's Bible study group will meet on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM at Jackie Beach's home. If you enjoy learning about the power and meaning of the scriptures and sharing how they impact your life, please plan to attend. All women are welcome! Contact Jackie for directions.

Kroger Community Rewards Program

There is still time to enroll in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. To do this you can go to your nearest Kroger Store and sign up at the customer service desk, or you can visit the website at: www.krogercommunityrewards.com. You will be asked to enter your Kroger Plus card number. If you don't have one, you can get them from the Customer Service desk at any Kroger store. Click on SIGN UP TODAY, and go from there. Our church NPO (non-profit organization) number is 82773. During the last cycle our church received a small contribution from Kroger thanks to the enrollment of two households from our congregation. A percentage of each total purchase made at a Kroger store is given to the church on a yearly basis.

From the Memorial Committee

We welcome gifts as memorials for those who have been a special part of your life and have now made the journey to the kingdom of God. When possible, memorial gifts will be used according to the wishes of the family. When it is not possible to receive input from the family, the memorial committee will recommend to the Church Council appropriate use of the memorial gifts.

In addition to memorials, we welcome gifts to be made in honor of someone who has touched your life or for any blessing in your life. When you are giving such a gift, please feel free to designate a special area that is in need of additional support (Penzien Parlor, Christian Education, etc).

We invite you to take a look at the Memorial Book. If you find something that needs to be corrected (added, deleted or changed) please contact the church office. They will attempt to make the necessary corrections.

We thank you for your loving support of the West Bloomfield United Methodist Church.

The Memorial Committee

Dinah L. Worley Endowment Fund

For over 40 years the West Bloomfield United Methodist Church has been a central part of my life and my life with Dinah. The WBUMC has been a loving, caring congregation and is a special church. Therefore, I have established the Dinah L. Worley Endowment Fund with the purpose of supporting the ongoing mission of the WBUMC by providing financial support during years when the function of the church is limited by financial support from the congregation.

The endowment fund initially consists of \$50,000 gift from me and \$2,400 of memorial donations in Dinah's memory. Income from the fund is intended to be used only during years when the church is in serious financial stress. Serious financial stress is defined as a time when the church is not paying all apportionments due to a low cash balance. Since its inception, the WBUMC has never failed to pay 100% of apportionments. My concern is not for the near term. Our church is doing very well, and we are supporting our programs, not with any great excess, but we are doing good works. My concern is for potential issues 10 or 15 years from now when many of those in my age group are gone.

Sometimes an action causes unintended consequences. The last thing I would want to have happen is for anyone to think that support of the church is not critical because the church

has this money. This fund is for a time when our membership is low and to help the church bridge that time as it builds membership.

Ralph Worley

Needed: G3 Kids Sunday School Teacher

The G3 Kids Sunday School program is in need of a teacher for the first Sunday of each month. Please consider prayerfully whether or not you would be willing to provide the children of our church with the wonderful stories that help them develop their faith! If you are interested, please notify Dorothy Maman.

Mission Report UMCOR Sunday March 26, 2017

The major Mission Project for March this year will be the One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, March 26, 2017. This offering supports critical relief work all over the world and in our own country. Since 1940, when UMCOR's (The United Methodist Committee on Relief) forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II. UMCOR's work reaches people in more than 80 countries, including the United States. UMCOR provides humanitarian relief when war, conflict or natural disaster disrupts life to such an extent that communities cannot recover on their own. Learn more at www.umcor.org.

When you give you equip Christ's Body to serve in His name. That's because your generous giving to UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need. Because you give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today:

- When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, they responded.

- When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, they responded.
- When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded.
- As thousands flee Sudan, UMCOR is responding.
- As refugees all over the world seek to escape violent and repressive regimes, UMCOR is there.
- As flood relief efforts in Detroit are ongoing, UMCOR is there.
- And when the next mass crisis occurs, they will be prepared to respond.



March Madness for Missions

March is almost here and that means it's time for the college basketball National Tournament. The tournament is known as 'March Madness' because many of the games are exciting and the tournament has some very unpredictable and unusual outcomes.

2017 is the fourth year WBUMC has held its "March Madness for Missions." All the money raised goes directly to the Baldwin Center in Pontiac. There's no 'gambling' involved since Baldwin receives 100% of the entry fees!

To enter the contest we just ask that you make a contribution. How much is up to you—\$5 or \$500, it all goes to missions! It's all on the honor system, so you can:

- Donate cash (with a note attached 'For March Madness for Missions')
- Write a check (to WBUMC with "March Madness for Missions" on the Memo Line)
- Use the E-Giving option on the website westbloomfieldumc.org and choose "March Madness" from the menu

For the entry contribution you will attempt to pick the winner of each of the 63 games played during the tournament. Pastor Brian will send the website address where WBUMC has been registered for the tournament. After the announcement of the teams on March 12th visit the web address and make your selections. These selections will need to be completed by March 14th before the first game. At the time of

100 % of the gifts given for specific projects goes directly to that project. None of it is used for administrative purposes. When we give to unspecified projects, 90 % of the gifts are used for projects all over the world.

On Sunday March 19 envelopes will be available to the congregation for this special offering. There will be more information provided during worship that highlights some of UMCOR's most recent work. Please prayerfully consider giving to help people who are suffering disasters, famine, floods, and disease all over the world. The Missions Committee asks that you prayerfully consider giving generously to this very special offering.

CROP HUNGER WALK 2017

The **2017 CROP HUNGER WALK** will be on Sunday, May 7th. Please put that very important date on your calendars. By participating in the CROP WALK you will make a huge difference in the lives of many in the United States and around the world. In April we will post a sign up sheet for our WBUMC teams. We will also include information for you to sign up online for your donations. **Please join us as we all make a difference!!**

Adult Fellowship

The adult activity for March will be dinner and a movie on Saturday, March 11, 2017. Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

picking the teams you will be able to register under a 'nickname' of your choice. However, we do have good detectives in our congregation and we will unravel any mystery names.

Throughout the tournament, the website will tally your score and well as all of the others from WBUMC. You can anticipate some good-natured ribbing going in all directions.

Last year we had about 16 people participate and hope to add to that number this year. Here are some reasons to join the fun:

- 1) It supports our church's missions outreach and goes to a worthy cause.
- 2) It's fun!
- 3) There's a traveling trophy which the winner will be able to proudly keep and display until next years' tournament.
- 4) The winner will have their name permanently engraved on a plaque on the trophy.
- 5) The winner has bragging rights. The trophy is available for viewing on the table at the church's main entrance.



Ash Wednesday Service

There will be a service to celebrate the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 1st at 7:00 PM.



Wednesday, March 8
Holy Spirit Lutheran
4800 Orchard Lake Road

Wednesday, March 15
Pine Hill Congregational
4160 Middlebelt Road

Wednesday, March 22
West Bloomfield United Methodist
4100 Walnut Lake Road

Wednesday, March 29
Spirit of Grace
2399 Figa Avenue

Wednesday, April 5
The Lutheran Church of the Shepherd King
5300 W. Maple Rd.



- 1 Scott Kammerzell
- 1 Gary Langner
- 2 Bill Maman
- 5 Bea Scaglione
- 10 William Kozlowski
- 13 Jim White
- 15 Steve Mazurek
- 20 Warren Johnson, Jr
- 23 Paige Sutherlin
- 26 David Carlson
- 26 Raina Pintamo



- 2 Jim & Glenda White
- 7 Bill & Dorothy Maman
- 30 John & Judy Mars



March

Liturgists

- March 5 Jo Anna Risk
- March 12 Butch Johnson
- March 19 Pam Melton
- March 26 Dan Ducu

Greeters

- March 5 Bob Brewster
- March 12 Dave & Barb Carlson
- March 19 Ivy Nuamah
- March 26 John & Tracie Hoover

Trustee on Duty

- March 5 Ann Sutschek
- March 12 Fritz McMullen
- March 19 Kay Reese
- March 26 Bill Beach

Counters

- March 5 Joe Sutschek & Ralph Worley
- March 12 Kathy Chewning & Sulaiman Kamara
- March 19 Tim McCabe & Gary Langner
- March 26 Vicki Hernandez & Dan Langford

Administrative Meetings

- March 12 8:30 AM Board of Trustees
- March 14 7:00 PM Finance Meeting
- March 14 7:45 PM Church Council

Ushers

- March 5 Ralph Worley
Mark Borns
Melodie Langford
Joe Sutschek
- March 12 Brent Webster
Wisam Jirjis
Barbara Shoger
Vance Shoger
- March 19 Darwin Wayne
Gary Langner
Butch Johnson
Dora Wayne

March 26 Vicki Hernandez
Marty Bopp
Dorinda McMullen
Fritz McMullen

Coffee Hour Hosts

March 5 Wendy & Simon Kissonergis
Jennifer Joseph
Jackie & Bill Beach

March 12 Fritz & Dorinda McMullen
Pam Melton

Dora & Darwin Wayne

March 19 Barb Carlson
Barb & Butch Johnson
Libby Beck

March 26 Kay Reese
Mirella & Dan Ducu

Ways to Connect

Office hours:
Tuesday, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Wednesday, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Friday, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Pastor's office hours:
Tuesday, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Wednesday, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Or call any time with emergencies or to schedule an appointment.

Church contact info:
Telephone: 248.851.2330
Email: church@westbloomfieldumc.org
Website: westbloomfieldumc.org

Newsletter submissions:
newsletter@westbloomfieldumc.org

Pastor Brian contact info:
Home Telephone: 248.851.0149
Cell Phone: 248.672.7481
Email: pastor@westbloomfieldumc.org

Staff:
Rev. Brian William, Pastor
Jo Anna Risk, Administrative Secretary
Warren Johnson, Youth Director
David Carlson, Custodian

Broader Church Connections:
Bishop David Bard, Michigan Area Bishop
Rev. Charles Boayue, Detroit Renaissance District Superintendent

West Bloomfield UMC

March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes 12:00 pm Pancake Brunch 12:00 pm Women of West Bloomfield	27 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	28 9:00 am Office Hours	1 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Prayer Team 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	2 7:00 pm Men's Exercise Group	3 9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	4
5 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes 12:00 pm Youth Indoor Miniature Golf 12:00 pm Women of West Bloomfield	6 2:00 pm Bingo at West Bloomfield Nursing & Convalescent Center 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	7 9:00 am Office Hours	8 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Prayer Team 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Soup Supper at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church	9 7:00 pm Men's Exercise Group	10 9:00 am Office Hours 7:00 pm Bridge 8:30 pm AA Meeting	11 6:00 pm Adult Fellowship Activity - Dinner & Movie
12 8:30 am Trustees 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes 12:00 pm Impact Youth Discussions with Pastor Brian	13 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	14 9:00 am Office Hours 7:00 pm Finance Meeting 7:45 pm Church Council	15 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Prayer Team 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Soup Supper at Pine Hill Congregational Church	16 7:00 pm Men's Exercise Group	17 9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	18
19 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes 12:00 pm Impact Youth Planning Easter Service 12:00 pm Church Membership Lunch	20 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	21 9:00 am Office Hours	22 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Prayer Team 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Soup & Bread Supper at WBUMC 6:30 pm Soup & Bread	23 3:00 pm Missions Meeting 7:00 pm Men's Exercise Group	24 9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	25
26 10:30 am UMCOR Sunday 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes 12:00 pm Impact Youth Discussion with Pastor Brian 12:00 pm Women of West Bloomfield	27 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	28 9:00 am Office Hours	29 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Prayer Team 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Soup Supper at Spirit of Grace	30 7:00 pm Men's Exercise Group	31 9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	1

MARCH

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