

Epworth United Methodist Church  
680 8th Avenue SW  
Valley City, ND 58072  
www.epworthvalleycity.com

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# Epworth Events

*Living, Sharing, and Growing in God's Love*

March 2024

## From the Pastor's Pen

Have you ever had to renew anything? Recently, I renewed my vehicle license and registration. That process didn't change the look of my license plate much, but it made it new again, as though no time had passed since I got new plates.

We are now in the midst of a spiritual renewal season we call Lent. This is the season that commemorates Jesus' 40-day fast in the desert being tempted by Satan right after His baptism. The season of Lent leads up to Easter. So, during the six and one-half weeks before Easter, we observe 40 days of reflection, renewal, and refreshment. (Those 40 days do not count the six Sundays during the season because every Sunday, even in Lent, is a little Easter.)

Lent is a time in which we renew our faith. When that happens, we might not change appearances, but we might restore that feeling we had when our faith was new. Lent brings us an opportunity to renew and refresh how we practice our faith. Our church might even challenge itself during Lent to review our practices through the lens of others and ask whether we are truly attracting the people who really need to hear our messages.

Individually, such renewal, like a new year, gives us a new opportunity to try again. We can try again at faithful devotion. We can try again to bear witness to Jesus Christ in all that we do. We can try again at refreshing our approach to leading others to Christ.

"Multiplying Love," our Lenten book study reminds us to renew our commitment to the Great Commission, the Great Commandment, and the Great Requirement. The Great Commission is the charge that Jesus gave to His apostles to go into all the world and make disciples of all people groups and to baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Great Commandment is to love God and love others. The Great Requirement is that we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

Lent is a great time to renew our commitment to God and to these Scriptural imperatives. As such, renewal provides an opportunity to explore fresh expressions of our faith.

So, I invite you to renew your commitment to God this Lent. Perhaps you give something up, but perhaps you renew your commitment to worship, Bible reading, prayer, etc. Perhaps you find some fresh expression of love and faith that is consistent with the whole tenor of Scripture read through the loving eyes of Jesus Christ. Whatever the practice, may Lent be for you a time of renewal and refreshment. May our personal renewal and refreshment then make a difference in the lives of people who really need Good News.

Pastor Duane Coates



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED  
DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY



**OPEN: Monday– Friday**  
6 am-6 pm  
**Saturday**  
8 am-4 pm



# March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 5:30pm Girl Scouts	2
3 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	4 Pastor's Day Off 2pm Prayer Vigil 7pm Troubadours	5 9am Ministerial Association 1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study	6 4:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Lenten Meal 6:15pm Lenten Service 7pm Youth	7 10am Pastor's Bible Study 1-3pm Great Plains Food Bank 7pm Cub Scouts	8	9
10 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	11 2pm Prayer Vigil 3pm Staff Meeting 5:15pm SLT 7pm Troubadours	12 1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study	13 4:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Lenten Meal 6:15pm Lenten Service 7pm Youth 7:15pm Choir	14 10am Pastor's Bible Study 7pm Cub Scouts	15	16
17 St. Patrick's Day 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	18 Pastor's Day Off 2pm Prayer Vigil 7pm Troubadours	19 1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study	20 4:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Lenten Meal 6:15pm Lenten Service 7pm Youth 7:15pm Choir	21 10am Pastor's Bible Study 7pm Cub Scouts	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	25 Pastor's Day Off 2pm Prayer Vigil 7pm Troubadours	26 1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study	27 4:30pm Confirmation 7pm Youth	28 Maundy Thursday 10am Pastor's Bible Study 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service 7pm Cub Scouts	29 Good Friday <b>Office Closed @ Noon</b> 6:30pm Good Friday Service	30
31 Easter 8am Worship 9am Breakfast 9:30am Egg Hunt 10:30am Worship						



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Dwayne Richter  
Justin Horsager  
Steve Myers  
Calleigh Rangeloff  
Derek Woehl  
Craig Ranum  
Dick Hanson  
Joel Owen  
Bill Noeske  
Marie Leadbetter  
Jon Jury  
Don Baasch  
Nikki Grebel  
Wyatt Tulp  
Jack Bruns  
Margie Jansen  
Wade Hesch  
Melissa Cook  
Kailee Nielson  
Sheryl Hanson  
Gideon Lint  
Aimee Zachrison  
Gabrielle (Cummings) Wavra  
Journey Cruff  
Pearl Pritchert  
Liam Bruns  
Jenny Mueller  
Neil Pederson  
Tonya (Van Dyke) Hovland



## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

4<sup>th</sup> Jerry & Amy Noeske  
24<sup>th</sup> Jordon & Allison Ranum



Your serving group provides fellowship for Sunday mornings and the comforting presence that all need following a funeral or memorial service. These are important ministries that we provide for one another within the community. It is a way to reach out to those who have not found that gift of the Holy Spirit as being real in their own lives. If the month is not a fit for you, please contact VirLyn Hoff, or leave a note in the office.

The next funeral will be served by the October serving group.

Kitchen Care—Please refer to the poster in the kitchen for care and cleanup after kitchen use.

## Serving Groups

### Serving for March

**CO-CHAIRS—**  
**Mike & Randi Watterson**  
Margie Jansen  
Annette & Matt Nielson  
Diana Vagle  
Cindy & Kevin Zahn

### Serving for April

**CO-CHAIRS—**  
**Barb & Grant Young**  
**Darlene Mueller**  
Lori Glaser  
Sherri & Justin Horsager  
Holly & Mike Olauson  
Kelly & Neil Pederson  
Wyatt & Sarah Tulp  
Jenny Mueller

### Epworth's 2024 Leadership Team

Class of 2024  
Holly Neuberger—Trustees  
Bill Bertram—Staff-Parish  
Phil Mueller—Finance  
Class of 2025  
Bruce Larson—Trustees  
Jan McCarthy—Trustees  
Bev Enger—Staff-Parish  
Katy Van Dyke—Finance  
Class of 2026  
Justin Horsager— Finance  
Alyssa Thomsen— Staff-Parish  
Gail Pederson—Staff-Parish  
  
Pastor Duane Coates  
Barb Owen—Lay Leader  
Anita Tulp—Lay Member to AC  
Avis Richter—Treasurer  
Recording Secretary—Randi Watterson

# Ministry in Review

## January 23, 2024—February 24, 2024

General Fund Giving	\$15,011.60
Glory of God’s House Campaign	\$1,467.00
Ministerial Association	\$200.00
Building & Maintenance	\$192.00
Parking Lot	\$50.00
Study Books	\$36.00
Youth	\$20.00
Matthew 25	\$12.00
Sunday School	\$11.34

## Sunday Worship Attendance

January 28— 72	Online— 23
February 4— 68	Online— 26
February 11— 77	Online— 19
February 18— 74	Online— 24
February 25—74	Online— 21

## Wednesday Lent Attendance

Ash Wednesday— 40
February 21— 26

## Youth Attendance

January 31— 14
February 7— 14
February 14— 14
February 21— 15



## Juleen “Jeanie” Cink

**Oct. 18, 1942-Feb. 5, 2024**

Juleen “Jeanie” Cink died Feb. 5, 2024 at SMP Health St. Raphael under hospice care. She had grown up in this church before moving to Michigan to pursue a career as a school social worker. In retirement, she moved back to Valley City to be close to family, including her one surviving sibling, Bonnie Ness. Jeanie was memorialized in a service officiated by Pastor Duane Coates on Feb. 20, in the Sunrise Room. For a full obituary, go to: <https://www.lerudschuldt.com/obituary/juleen-jeanie-cink>

## Chuck Jacobson

**May 19, 1943-Feb. 18, 2024**

Chuck Jacobson, a longtime member of Epworth, died suddenly on Feb. 18, 2024. Chuck had been a well-known Valley City business owner. He was memorialized in a service officiated by Pastor Duane Coates on Feb. 24, in the sanctuary. For a full obituary, go to: <https://www.olivernathanchapel.com/obituaries/Charles-Jacobson-3/#!/Obituary>

## Mental Health Matters Event in Fargo on April 6

Mental health, at any age, is as important as physical health. Now more than ever, teens are struggling with stress, anxiety, and fear. Brock Morgan, a youth worker with 30 years of experience and author of 20 books, has written about this problem. He will be conducting a training at Fargo First United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 6 at 1-3 p.m. CDT. Morgan will train using the concepts in his latest book “Anxious Teens,” which seeks to provide a context to help adults understand today’s anxiety-ridden reality. Parents of teens are especially invited.

## Builder’s Club Call for Prairie View Church

This winter’s Dakotas Annual Conference Builders Club request is for Prairie View United Methodist Church. Prairie View is a small, rural church in the southwest corner of South Dakota. It opened in 2010 under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Ed Coates, (Pastor Duane’s father). Prairie View is a vital merger of four struggling rural congregations (Oral, Smithwick, Oelrichs, and Buffalo Gap). They dared to dream big and take a huge risk in the hopes they could continue to live out their calling to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and offer hope and healing to a broken world.

The people at Prairie View UMC see themselves as more than just a congregation. They are family who play together, work together, laugh together, cry together, and most importantly walk in faith together.

The congregation was able to pay for both the new church building and parsonage with no mortgage needed. But with any structure, maintenance and repairs are needed. The parsonage is in need of many updates to ensure its safety and comfort for the pastor. Among the projects to be done are replacing the windows, flooring, smoke alarms, base covers, bathroom faucet, and painting. Plans are also in place to fix the fireplace, repair the driveway, paint the garage and trim, and repair the deck in the future.

In the past few years, the church took a hit on both attendance and financial stability. They have had to make cuts to their budget and had to go from a full-time pastor to a part-time pastor. Despite the difficulties, the congregation has been faithful in contributing hours of labor, extra financial assistance and organizing fundraisers to help fund these projects. By assisting with the cost of updates to the parsonage, Prairie View UMC can continue to teach and reach many who need to know the love of Christ.

We are so grateful for your continued support of the Builders Club and ask that you prayerfully consider a gift to support Prairie View UMC. The gifts for this call will be received until March 31, 2024. To give, go to <https://www.dakotasumc.org/foundation/donate> or write a check to Dakotas Methodist Foundation, PO Box 460, Mitchell, SD 57301.

## Annual Conference Award Nominations Due March 22

Several awards will be announced at annual conference. Some are chosen by the cabinet, some by the Conference Council on Youth Ministry, and some via open nominations. Nominations are now being accepted for the following awards: Denman Award for Evangelism, Francis Asbury Award, Streams of Justice, Youthworker Hall of Fame Award, and Youthworker of the Year. Nominations are due by 5 p.m. CDT, March 22, 2024. To learn more about the awards, go to <https://www.dakotasumc.org/annual-conference/award-nominations>

## Annual Conference Legislation Due March 22

All proposals for petitions and resolutions for the Dakotas Annual Conference 31st Session must be submitted electronically, by 5:00 p.m. CDT, on March 22, 2024. Items should be created using the form found at <https://www.dakotasumc.org/annual-conference/legislation>. If you have questions about resolutions and petitions, you may contact Rev. Rebecca Trefz by email at [rebec](mailto:rebec)



Christian Education, Hayley Winkler, Director

Hello Everyone,

Well we've been pretty busy in Sunday School this past month with lots of exciting things. Our children made cards to spread kindness, Valentines that we hung around the church, and even got to have some fun with slime and clay this past month.

Looking to this next month, we have Easter approaching quickly! We are asking for donations for candy, tattoos, stickers, etc. to put in our Easter eggs for our Easter Egg Hunt that will take place on Easter Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. We will also be walking with Palms on Palm Sunday on March 24<sup>th</sup> during the worship service, so we invite everyone to join us on those dates.

We are still in need of volunteers for VBS this summer, so if you are interested please let me know! We have a sign-up sheet on my office door as well as in the back of the sanctuary.

Also, camp brochures are here! If you have a child/ren or your whole family would like to sign up for camp this summer, please do so. This is a great opportunity for children to meet new people and make lasting friendships. Camp Code is **332301CA**.

If you have any questions about anything, please feel free to get ahold of me.

Blessings,

Hayley Winkler  
Director of Christian Education  
[christianed@epworthvalleycity.com](mailto:christianed@epworthvalleycity.com)



### 2024 Purse Drive

We will collect personal care items for the FM Purse Lady in March. Marcie Pfeifer grew up in Valley City (Hank Middlestad's granddaughter) and because of her own circumstances, started collecting and giving purses to organizations and individuals. She has donated more than 2,000 purses regionally.

Lightly used purses are welcomed, as are feminine hygiene products, travel-sized toiletries and socks. Look for her Amazon wish list page 2024 Purse Drive, which has mostly bulk items, but it can give you ideas: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1JKJ93FEBV853?ref=wl\\_share&fbclid=IwAR1VOGPiKvOmZTAJjObUrsblgEGXjCTn3KvoujP\\_wgigx9700-UlIUtmifk](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1JKJ93FEBV853?ref=wl_share&fbclid=IwAR1VOGPiKvOmZTAJjObUrsblgEGXjCTn3KvoujP_wgigx9700-UlIUtmifk)

### Great Plains Food Bank Coming March 7

Great Plains Food Bank (GPFB) will be distributing food in Epworth's parking lot on Thursday, March 7 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. We need volunteers to direct traffic and to line up cars in the stadium parking lot. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact the office or Pastor Duane.

This mobile food pantry provides fresh vegetables, fruits, shelf-stable items, boxed goods, and more. Items are distributed out of crates and delivered directly to people in need. Distributions are set up as a drive-through where clients are able to stay in their cars and items are placed directly inside their vehicles. All in need of food assistance are welcome to come and receive food at no cost! A short intake form is filled out onsite; no pre-registration or referrals required.

Started 40 years ago, GPFB is North Dakota's only food bank that recovers food that otherwise would go to waste from a range of food-industry partners. Through its programs and services, GPFB distributes food to those in need throughout North Dakota and Clay County, Minn.

### UMCOR Sunday Offering Set for March 10 *(With help from United Methodist News Service)*

When disaster strikes around the globe, so many outside the disaster zone feel helpless as they watch the drama unfold on television. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is prepared to act, and they multiply the efforts of each person who contributes. So, don't be fooled by the word "committee." This isn't just a group that talks. It's an agency that acts. Since 1940, when UMCOR's forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, UMCOR has continued to respond to those in desperate need – today in more than 80 countries around the world. We will take a special offering on March 10 to help support the administration of the work that is so vital in restoring hope for people and their communities all around the world.

In 2023, United Methodists gave \$1.5 million, which provided hope and safety for communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement, and climate change. The special offering underwrites UMCOR's "cost of doing business" making it possible for UMCOR to focus on responding to communities and individuals when they need immediate assistance. It allows UMCOR to preserve the promise that 100 percent of any donation to a specific UMCOR project or missionary will go towards that project and not administrative costs.

So, to grease the skids of our work throughout the year, we will take this special offering, one of the eight we take during the year set by the United Methodist connectional system.

Because you give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today. So, please come to worship March 10 prepared to give generously.

**Camp Registration Open**

The Dakotas-Minnesota Area United Methodist camp brochures have been published, and are available in the Gathering Space. While camp registration costs at our fully accredited campsites have increased through the years to replace the loss of conference apportionments and to ensure the health and safety of all who attend, Epworth's men's and women's groups combine to pay half the cost of any summer Dakotas or Minnesota United Methodist camp registration from people connected to this church. Furthermore, there are a limited number of camp scholarships available from the conference.

Camp is a dedicated place and time apart for enjoying God and nature in specialized settings with relevant themes and impactful worship. Many made their first real commitment to Christ at United Methodist camps. Therefore, this is a vital ministry in our disciple-making mission.

There are camps for children (as young as kindergarten) and youth interested in a variety of activities from archery, canoeing and other water craft to hiking, fishing, Minecraft, missions, and arts and crafts. But there are also camps for adults, families, and individuals with special needs.

Employment opportunities are also available at each of our three campsites in the Dakotas and three in Minnesota. You may check it out in the brochures in the Gathering Space, at [www.dakcamps.org](http://www.dakcamps.org) (for Dakotas camps), or [www.campminnesota.org](http://www.campminnesota.org) (for Minnesota camps).

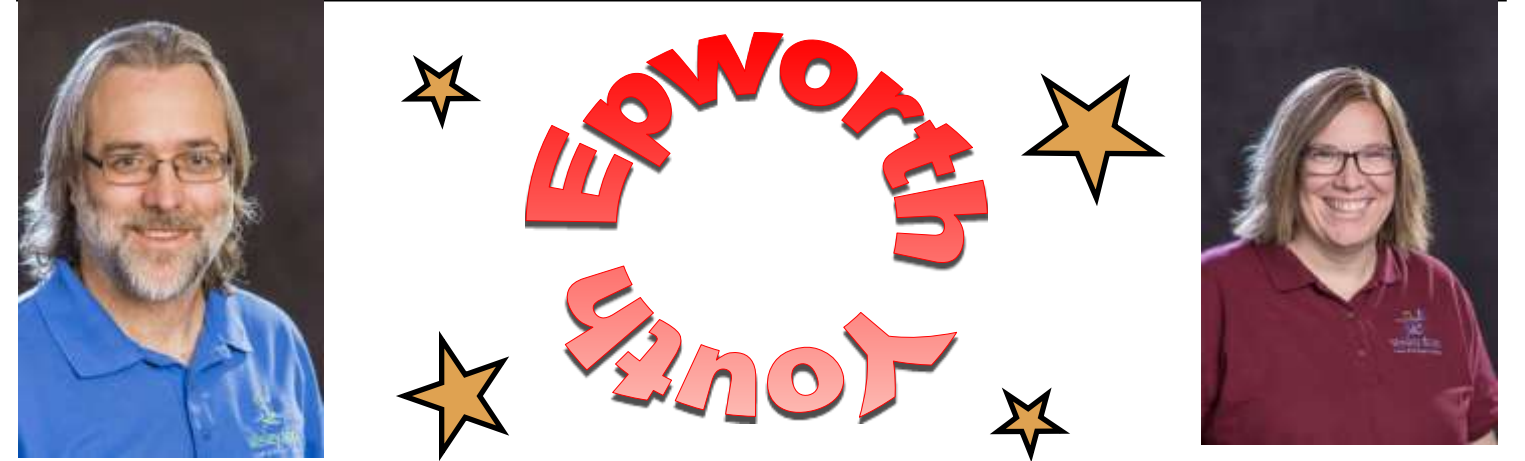


**Pre-General Conference Webinar Scheduled**

The Dakotas Conference of The United Methodist Church is planning a webinar on Zoom for April 4 and April 7. to discuss the United Methodist General Conference. The webinar will run that Thursday, April 4 at 6 p.m. CDT; and on Sunday, April 7 at 2 p.m. CDT.

The webinar will involve the Dakotas delegation discussing the process and updated legislation. The delegation is Beata Ferris, Kara Heagel, the Rev. Sara Nelson, and the Rev. Rebecca Trefz.

General Conference itself runs April 23 to May 4, 2024 in Charlotte, North Carolina. To register for the webinar, go to <https://www.dakotasumc.org/calendar/gc-webinar>.



For the month of March, we will be learning about the church and church history and playing games. The seventh and eighth graders have confirmation class at 4:30 pm. This time before Easter, known as Lent, has a worship service at 6:15 on Wednesdays. The service should be done by 7:15. The youth can gather at 7:00 or after service. We will wrap up at 8:00 pm each evening.

The biggest news that led to a discussion on the organization of The United Methodist Church was that the Cabinet has announced a change for the Lint family. There is some great opportunity for Epworth Youth as the future unfolds. It has been announced that Paul and Brenda Lint will soon(ish) be moving to Spearfish, SD to serve the community and Spearfish UMC. This is difficult news, yet it is also a fresh opportunity for ministry with and through the youth of Epworth UMC. As the next leader(s) are hired, there is opportunity for parents, college-aged "Big Siblings," and so many others to pour their expertise, passion, energy, and resources into this fine group of leaders. The more leadership support the next hired leader(s) receive(s), the greater the impact and variety this diverse and open group can have on each individual and the world.

Advertisement for Epworth Youth Group featuring a photo of a person on a beach and the text: **Youth Group** Wednesdays @ 7pm



# United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith – VirLyn Hoff, Unit President

March 23 is United Women in Faith Day of Giving. The date is when the first group of eight women met in Boston 1863. The Legacy Endowment Fund has a goal of \$60 million. The Endowment will ensure UWF can carry out its programs for years to come. It has

been growing steadily. I could not find a current total. You can be a member of the 1886 Society by making a planned gift at your death. You can be a Legacy Builder by giving \$18.86 cents a month. To give individually online, visit website [uwf.org/give](http://uwf.org/give).

Our Epworth unit celebrated our mission giving and service Sunday, February 18 during worship. Thank you Barb Owen, Mary Lee Nielson, Randi Watterson, and Anita Tulp for speaking.

When we give we need to consider whether what we are giving is helpful or not to those receiving. Sometimes we assume what others need without asking first. To love our neighbors we must consider who is receiving what we give.

We bring our different gifts and abilities to build God’s Kin-dom for ourselves and for others. How we interact in our community / world is just as important as what we do for our community / world. Then, we give the “Living Water” as Jesus gave to the woman at the well in Samaria.

The program lessons for this year deal with food, faith, and fellowship. How do we have enough for all? Food, acceptance, love, and grace, also opportunity for all?

Join us at the table – **Thursday, March 21 at 1:30 pm.**

Our Epworth Unit with host the area Focus meeting in April. Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Are you shopping for basket fillers? Faith – Hope – Love in Action!

*“The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water that bubbles up to eternal life.” (John 4: 14b)*



Barb Owen gave the message “Living Water”



Mary Lee Nielson presented the Recognition of Mission Giving

## Congregational Care

Church family suppers are still suspended for the winter months. However, Lent services will be preceded by Lenten suppers at 5:30pm on Wednesdays. Lent Services will be held at 6:15pm.

The next Lenten meal will be on Wednesday, March 6th , sponsored by Congregational Care.

VirLyn Hoff,  
Congregational Care Coordinator

### Easter and Holy Week Services Scheduled

On Easter Sunday, March 31, Epworth will offer two worship choices – 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The services will feature basically the same content. Then after worship, there will be a 9 a.m. breakfast in the fellowship hall, followed by the Easter Egg hunt at 9:30 a.m. There will be no organized Sunday school, per se.

During Holy Week, there will be no Wednesday meal or service. Rather, worshippers are invited to the Maundy Thursday service at 6:30 p.m. on March 28 and the Good Friday service at 6:30 p.m., on March 29. Holy Week offerings received will be donated to the Barnes County Ministerial Association’s assistance fund.

If you are interested in offering special music during any of these services, please inform the office or Pastor Duane.

**Address Change?**

If your address has changed, please notify the church office @ 845-0340 or e-mail: [office@epworthvalleycity.com](mailto:office@epworthvalleycity.com)

Please help us keep our postage costs down by notifying the church of your address

### Lenten Prayer Vigils Continue on Mondays, 2:00 pm

Monday Lenten prayer vigils for Epworth and our community will be continued in March. You are invited to join in these vigils at the church or keep in your own home. You may come and go during the hour at the church or keep the entire hour in prayer. A guide will be available for each week. Prayers will be for our church families and church ministries.

John Wesley, founder of Methodism, taught that those who desire the grace of God are to wait for it in the way of prayer. Wesley believed that prayer is not so much to move God (who is always more ready to give than we are to ask) as to move ourselves, that we may be willing and ready to receive the good things God has prepared for us.

Prayers will be offered for the congregation’s ongoing spiritual growth and physical wellness, for the church’s financial security to meet expenses and building maintenance, for the safety of property and our buildings, for vision and discernment of ministry, for “Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors,” specific requests or concerns given to pastor, for Pastor Duane, and for our church families grouped by the first letter of each family’s last name as follows:

March 4 - J,K,L,M

March 11 - N,O,P,Q

March 18 – R,S,T,U

March 25 – V,W,X,Y,Z

The focus will not be on “how to pray” but on “to whom” we pray.

**Church Offices will close at noon on March 29th for Good Friday. Church Offices are closed on April 1 for Easter Monday.**