



The Wellspring

News and Encouragement for the RSUMC Family

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Corner	1
Worship synopsis	1
Worship Synopsis continued	2
Pastor's Corner continued	2
Calendar of Events	3
A Note from our Choir Director	4
Prayer Requests	4
Birthday's & Anniversaries	4
Servers this month	4
Food Pantry Update	4

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 7

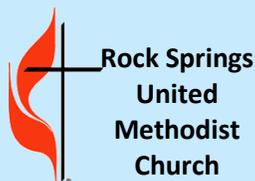
MARCH 2020

Pastor's Corner *Wilderness*

Have you ever been lost? Really lost and not knowing where to turn? Sometimes that happens even when we know exactly where we are. But something unexpected has happened that made everything familiar become strange and foreign. Being in the wilderness is not a bad thing, necessarily. It can be a time apart for reflection, for prayer and fasting, for letting go of things that are holding us back. It can be a time to try on something new in the isolation of wilderness, when we are freed from the critical eye of others. But it is typically not a comfortable place for us to find ourselves.



continued on page 2



Worship in March 2020

During the season of Lent this year, we will be using the theme of Wilderness, and weaving resources into worship on this theme with materials from A Sanctified Art, LLC. They describe the journey this way:

“Lent begins in the wilderness. The Spirit guides Jesus into the wilderness where he comes face to face with temptation and struggle. Yet, in his forty days of fasting, resisting, and wandering, Jesus is shaped and formed for ministry. Similarly, through the wilderness of Lent, we are invited to surrender to the wild leadings of the Spirit. We rarely enter the wilderness willingly, but hopefully through our wandering we remember who we are and whose we are. The wilderness can become sacred even if it remains dangerous. There is no wilderness space too harsh or threatening for God’s love. This Lent, we welcome you to the journey.”

The weekly themes, starting with the 1st Sunday in Lent, are from the work of A Sanctified Art group as well (used by permission copyright A Sanctified Art LLC):

March 1 – 1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon – Temptation

Much of who we are is shaped by the wilderness. Made in the image of God, Adam and Eve discover how easy it is to get stuck in human brokenness. Jesus finds his sense of call in the wilderness, as his ministry becomes defined by what he resists: hunger (feeding the hungry) and power (finding power in servanthood).

continued on page 2

Sunday	
Sunday School	10:00 am
Worship	11:00 am
Youth	6:30 pm

Tuesday	
Bible Study	7:00 pm

Wednesday	
Adult Choir	6:00 pm
Youth	6:30 pm
Children's Choir	7:00 pm
Adult Bible Study	7:00 pm

For an up-to-the-minute calendar of events go to www.RockSpringsUMC.com

Rev. Carole Martin
(423) 534.1027
revcmartin23@gmail.com

Youth Minister: Mark Adcox
Music Director: Martha Hawk
Organist: Dr. Sandra Ramsey
Pianist: Ellen Painter
Sound Tech: Kip & Susie Larson

Administrative Assistant
Kathi Kost
Office: (423) 349.7531
Cell: (423) 398.1098

Office Hours:
Tuesday—Friday 9 am—1:00 pm
WWW. RockSpringsUMC.com
E-mail: office@rockspringsumc.com

Worship in March 2020

continued from page 1

March 8 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

John 3:1-17

Psalm 121 (UMH 844)

Sermon – Born Anew

Sometimes the wilderness mystifies and scares us. Nicodemus comes to Jesus by night, desperate for concrete answers to swallow up his doubt. Instead, Jesus offers him poetry and mystery, pointing him to the wilderness of the Spirit. Psalm 121 reminds us of the power of song when trudging through difficult or perilous wilderness spaces. In the wilderness of seeking justice, our songs give us courage and strength to climb even the highest of hills.

March 15 – 3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7

John 4:4-42

Sermon – Living Water

The Israelites experience the full spectrum of emotions the wilderness incites – doubt and disillusionment, disorientation and disconnection. Memories of their liberation face as their thirst deepens and they ask, “Is the Lord among us or not?” In John’s gospel, Jesus greets a woman of Samaria—a foreign land Jesus chooses to go through, not around—and transforms her personal wilderness into living waters.

March 22 – 4th Sunday in Lent

Psalm 23

John 9:1-41

Sermon – Here’s Mud in Your Eye!

Healing is a wilderness journey. The story of the man born blind shows us that sometimes we get worse before we get better, as his healing journey requires mud across his eyes

and plunging into a pool he is forbidden to touch. In the familiar words of Psalm 23, we find comfort in God’s loving guidance even through the valley of the shadow of death.

March 29 – 5th Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14

John 11:1-45

Sermon – From Death to Life

Feeling stuck or depressed, navigating a failing marriage or working a job you hate, living with illness or chronic pain—these are all valleys of dry bones. In these spaces, we pray for God’s breath to rattle us toward becoming whole. The story of Lazarus reminds us in the wilderness of grief, as Martha’s response to her brother’s death captures the way we, too, might protest death, “Lord, if you had been her, my brother would not have died.”



Pastor’s Corner... continued from page 1

For me, the state of The United Methodist Church feels like wilderness territory. This church that I was born into, baptized and confirmed and have been an active participant in worship and the life of the church. It is the church that affirmed my call to ministry, who supported me in seminary, who mentored me, interviewed (read grilled) me for both commissioning and ordination, and who ultimately ordained me. It is the denomination of the churches I have been appointed to serve. And now, it is evident that we are severely divided, and have been for some time. General Conference 2020 starts in early May. I do not know what the outcome will be. What I can do, and invite all of us to do is to fast and pray for the witness that we are making to the world.

Never forget, the local church is still the primary place where people come to faith in Christ and learn to walk together as disciples. May this season of Lent be a time for us to repent, and attend to the spiritual disciplines as outlined by John Wesley, our founder. Let us do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God as we worship together, share the Lord’s Supper, search the scriptures, have family and private prayer, and fast from food and other things that hinder our relationship with God. And may we also be attentive to the needs of those around us, aware that we do not know the burdens others carry.

My prayer is that this will be a Holy Lent for all of us.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Carole

Calendar

Prayer Requests

Jon Light	Mykah Harris	C.M. Jinkerson
Charlie Fischer	Eric Harris	Forbes family
Judy Bradley	Bert Carter	Creech Family
Richard Smith	Charlene Osborne	Dean & Donna Woodruff
Bo Compton	Pat Lyons	Sonny Forbes Family
Lotus Jean Compton	Bob & Nell Reidmeyer	Peggy Hughes
Patti Jones	Virginia Berry	Mary Emma
Carl Painter	Trinity Watlington	Paul Rutledge
Mary Ruth Gott & Family	Harlee & Theresa Harlan	Branson Helvey



We are working on wonderful music for the Lenten and Easter season. We are ALL missing YOU !

A Musicology Note

In London there is an old graveyard full of "dissenters" known as Dunhill Fields. This cemetery became the final resting place of a host of individuals who differed from the State Church and were not allowed to be buried on "consecrated ground." Among the graves are authors John Bunyan and Daniel Defoe, as well as great hymn writers such as Isaac Watts, Samuel Sennett, John Rippon, and also the author of "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy," or "I Will Arise and Go to Jesus." This hymn was written by Joseph Hart (1712-1768), a Congregational minister in England. In his early life, Hart was brought up in the church but fell away from it after a while. One of his early publications was a tract denouncing Christianity called *The Unreasonableness of Religion, Being Remarks and Animadversions on the Rev. John Wesley's Sermon on Romans 8:32*. He was attempting to convince Wesley that good works were not necessary, only belief in God. Later, after his conversion, Hart repented of writing the pamphlet, issuing an apology to Wesley.

In the year 1757, Hart was converted after hearing a sermon by George Whitefield at a Moravian church. Following this he preached regularly at Jewin Street Chapel in London, where he gathered a large congregation. He was known for his collection of *Hymns Composed on Various Subjects*, also known as "Hart's Hymns." "I Will Arise..." is partly based on the scripture Matthew 11:25-30. By the time of Hart's death he was so beloved that 20,000 people attended his funeral at Bunhill Fields.

Sources: Beth Spalding and Jackson W. Henry at www.umcdiscipleship.org and Robert J. Morgan, *Then Sings My Soul*, Book 2. Martha

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Last month we were privileged to serve 74 needy families God is Good...

FOOD pantry

Shopping
Friday 3/20
1:00pm

Food Pantry
OPEN
3/24
from 5-7 pm

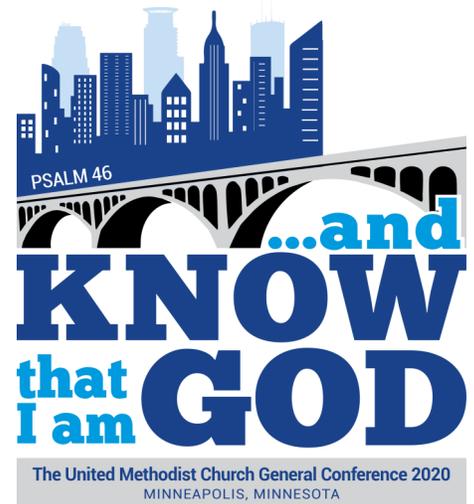
February Birthdays

3/2	Lotus Jean Compton
3/3	Ginger Light
3/3	Matt Martin
3/5	Presley Dishner
3/10	Kay Chapman
3/24	Martha Helvey
3/25	Marilyn Hall
3/26	Rusty Brooks

February Anniversaries

3/20	Stanley & Bea Hite
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Serving this Month	
Acolytes	Date
Nash Dishner & Cruz Weber	3/1
Archer & Jakkcee Compton	3/8
Scarlett & Victor Hite	3/15
Lily Carroll	3/22
Arabella Laughlin	3/29
Children's Chat	Date
Chuck Helvey	3/1
Debbie Wilson	3/8
Tracy Dishner	3/15
Pastor Carole	3/22
Christine Carroll	3/29



Tue, May 5 – Fri, May 15, 2020

**The United Methodist Church
General Conference 2020**

Please be in prayer for The United Methodist Church, its delegates and the work of the General Conference beginning May 5th through the 15th in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



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March 2020

*The season of Lent began
Ash Wednesday
February 26th
and ends on
Easter Sunday
April 12, 2020*

*Our focus for the Season of
Lent this year is
"Wilderness."*

*Join us each Sunday at 11
as we journey together
through the wilderness
on our way to Easter.*



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