



Calendar of Events

- Men’s Group Meeting (6:30 p.m.) – March 2nd
- Women’s Bible Study (9:30 a.m.) – March 4th
- Daylight Savings Time Begins March 8th
- Pancake Breakfast (10:30 a.m.) - March 8th
- Missions Meeting (6:30 p.m.) – March 10th
- Trustees Meeting (6:30 p.m.) – March 11th
- Women’s Bible Study (9:30 a.m.) – March 11th
- UMCOR Sunday - March 15th
- UWIF Meeting (10:00 a.m.) – March 14th
- Epilogue Group (11:30 a.m. Shrine Club) – March 18th
- Women’s Bible Study (9:30 a.m.) – March 18th
- Council Meeting (6:30 p.m.) – March 18th
- SPRC (6:30 p.m.) – March 19th
- Women’s Bible Study (9:30 a.m.) – March 25th
- Palm Sunday Service (9:30 a.m.) - March 29th



Rev. Kathleen Schoeneck

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I had a conversation the other day about “fasting” for Lent. I recommend this article from our UMC website

Beyond fasting: 10 tips for a more meaningful Lent
By Joe Iovino

[Lent is a time for self-reflection](#) and deepening one’s relationship with God in Jesus Christ. For many this season leading up to Easter will be weeks of [giving up something they enjoy](#). Others will spend [extra time in devotions and prayer](#), while a few more will carry a cross or nail in their pocket as a reminder of the sacrifice Jesus made for them and the whole world.

If those practices work for you, wonderful! Others may want to find another way of observing this holy season. Consider adopting one or more of the following creative uses of the days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

1. Apologize to someone

Lent is a season of repentance. Most often we think of asking God for forgiveness from our sin, but that is only half of the story. Most sins include hurting others, which mattered to Jesus. He taught that if during worship if you “remember that your brother or sister has something against you . . . First make things right with your brother or sister and then come back and offer your gift.” (Matthew 5:23-24 CEB). Lent is a great time to seek forgiveness from those we have harmed.

2. Perform random acts of kindness

Express your love for Jesus by loving others. Pay for the order of the person behind you in the drive-through. Give an extravagant tip. Carry gift cards to give away. Ask others how they are doing, then stop and listen to their responses. Share the love of Jesus in any way you can think of each day during Lent.

3. Delve into a book of the Bible

Enhance your devotions by getting to know a book of the Bible well. Read it repeatedly, at least once in a single sitting. Find articles about it. Meditate on it with a commentary. Memorize portions of it. Pray through it.

Our vision is to glorify God by helping people to discover, experience, and know the love and presence of Jesus Christ.

(Continued on page 2)

Google sermons about it. Find hymns based upon it. In the six weeks of Lent, you could develop a deep understanding of a book of the Bible about which you have always been curious.

4. Serve people in need

Identify an organization with which you would like to participate. Find out what is required to become a volunteer, then sign up to serve throughout the season of Lent. When Jesus washed his disciples' feet at the Last Supper, he taught that we are called not to be served, but to serve (John 13:1-17).

5. Visit the lonely

Jesus also taught his disciples to treat others as we would treat him. This included visiting those who are sick and in prison (Matthew 25:31-36). Talk to local nursing homes, children's hospitals, prisons, senior centers or any other place where people need some human contact. Even if you can't visit in person, you can send a card, make a phone call or seek another way to let someone know you care. If a facility allows for in-person visits, find out how you may visit (observing all procedures to keep everyone safe). When together, play games, look at photo albums, tell stories and enjoy those about whom Jesus said, "When you have done it for [them], you have done it for me."

6. Read Wesley's sermons about the Sermon on the Mount

[These 13 sermons \(see Matthew\)](#) are central to the message of John Wesley. They make up a little more than one-quarter of the fifty "Standard Sermons" he gave to his Methodist lay preachers to teach them "the essentials of true religion." Reading these sermons will have you focused on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) and give you a sense of what it means to be a United Methodist in the tradition of John Wesley.

7. Tell others you love them

Some of us struggle to say those three little words. Maybe we assume others already know how we feel. Maybe we think we show our love and don't need to say it. Or maybe we are concerned it won't be reciprocated. Fight the fear and say "I love you" to friends, family members, and everyone else you love at least once during the season.

8. Throw a party for everyone

Jesus often used the image of a party to describe the Kingdom of God. He talked about wedding receptions and banquet feasts, and participated in several large group celebrations. Host your own Kingdom party! You may choose to cook for the neighborhood, friends, people from church who you rarely see or office colleagues. Keep this act of love festive with fun napkins and other decorations.

9. Serve in worship

Your church needs you. Sing in the choir, usher, serve as a liturgist, work with the tech team or find some other way to serve your church. If you worship primarily online, ask your church staff how you might be able to help, including sending out cards or making phone calls to people on the church prayer list. Don't wait for someone to ask you to use your God-given gifts. Offer yourself in service to your church for the season.

10. Say "thank you"

Parents, family members, mentors, coaches, teachers, authors, pastors, Sunday school teachers,

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

and others have shaped you into the person you are. Each week during Lent, send a note of gratitude to one of them. Tell them how much they meant to you and how they inspired you. Consider including a small gift. Even if you do not know that author or speaker personally, draft an email of thanks.

There are many ways to be observant during Lent. Be original. Find yours.

Joe Iovino works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications. He may be reached at jiovino@umcom.org. Please share with him your creative ideas for observing Lent.

This story was originally posted on February 23, 2015, and updated February 6, 2023

- Rev. Kathleen Schoeneck

**“I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.”
Matthew 25:35**



**MARCH SCHEDULE
TRACY AND ASBURY**

DATE	PICKUP DRIVER	PACKING TEAM	DELIVERY DRIVER
MAR 04/05	R. Estes 10:30 a.m.	R. Estes 6:30 p.m.	J. Kot 10:00 a.m.
MAR 11/12	J. Kot 10:30 a.m.	C. Kot 11:30 a.m.	H. Kendall 10:00 a.m.
MAR 18/19	R. Pike 10:30 a.m.	K. Fisher 6:30 p.m.	R. Fisher 10:00 a.m.
MAR 25/26	C. Spicher 10:30 a.m.	J. Goodman 11:30 a.m.	J. Rhone 10:00 a.m.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Jerry Rhone	03/01
Jabin Bull	03/05
Ryan Marsden	03/05
Bob Kostek	03/06
Ed Schoeneck	03/07
Lauri Enterline	03/09
Pat Reinke	03/11
Wendy Platz	03/13
Andrew Spicher	03/14
Mina Xelo	03/14
Robert Killian	03/15
Jenna Bull	03/16
Madyson Rosendahl	03/18
Hilary Sisseem	03/18
Kelly English	03/21
Kathleen Schoeneck	03/21
Carl Seon	03/22
Jessica Delio	03/23
Okey Vogt	03/23
Maria Spicher	03/25
Anne Bortner	03/27
Kate Moore	03/28
David Skellie	03/28
Okey Graham	03/29
Bradley Enterline	03/31
Pam Logan	03/31

Looking to Serve?

The Worship Committee is looking for friendly faces who'd like to help **as ushers, greeters and communion assistants** throughout the year. Ushering is a meaningful way to be part of our worship life—and even more fun if you team up with a friend! We're also in need of greeters who wear a name tag and offer a warm welcome to people as they arrive at our doors. Communion assistants help serve the elements alongside Pastor Kathleen.

If you're interested, please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. This will give our committee leaders a pool of people they can reach out to as needs arise during the year. You're also welcome to contact the following to learn more: Roberta Paul (ushers), Karen Erickson (greeters) or Ann Dill (communion).

EUMA OUR NEIGHBORS' PLACE OVERFLOW SHELTER

Lakewood is collecting clothing items for distribution at the overflow shelter. Items for donation include new underwear (boxer briefs for men), socks (moisture wicking please), emergency thermal blankets (must be able to handle below 30 degree temp), sweatpants, t-shirts, and sweatshirts. If you are interested in donating any of these items, there is a collection box inside the main door to the church. Please feel free to contact Chris Paul if you have any questions or want to help.

Mission Statement:

We will strengthen opportunities for spiritual growth that fosters genuine relationships by serving our church and community.



FEBRUARY 2026 ATTENDANCE:

Average attendance for weekly in-person worship: 59

Average views of weekly livestream (Youtube): 60

Average weekly combined "attendance" for February: 119

Average weekly combined "attendance" to-date: 119

Council Update - March 2026

Online Directory: Thank you for your patience as we had to work through the logistics of creating an online directory that will not only connect you with all the members of the church but also accommodate the mode in which you feel most comfortable including a printable directory with pictures. We have made the first step with the expectation that we will begin connecting you to the picture directory in March.

Ministry Action Plan: In recent meetings, the Church Council has been prayerfully reviewing our current ministries and asking an important question: What does our church need most right now? We are thankful for the strong foundation of ministries already in place, and we are taking time to evaluate which ones should continue as they are, which may need refreshing, and where God may be calling us to begin something new.

As we have listened, prayed, and discussed, several key needs have become clear:

- **Stronger outreach to families** in our church and community
- **Intentional support for our homebound members**, so they remain connected and cared for
- **Growth in our personal prayer** lives as individuals and as a congregation
- **Continued mission work**, making sure basic needs and health needs are being met both within our church family and in the wider community

In the months ahead, we will be exploring new ideas and practical steps to address these areas. Some ministries may be renewed with fresh vision, and new opportunities to serve may be created.

We ask for your prayers as we seek God's direction. If you feel called to be part of any of these focus areas, we would love to hear from you. Together, we trust that the Lord will guide our coming and going as we serve Him and one another.

The next Council meeting will be Wednesday, March 18 at 6:30 pm.

ERIE CITY MISSION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Are you looking for an opportunity to directly serve those in need? Lakewood volunteers are needed on Sunday, March 15 to help with preparing and serving a meal and providing fellowship at the Erie City Mission, 1023 French Street. There is a sign-up sheet in the church lobby. Contact Lisa Medina or Chris Paul if you have additional questions.

Volunteers meet around 9:15 a.m. at the City Mission (entrance behind the building). Volunteers are usually done by 12:30 or 1:00 p.m. We usually need about ten volunteers so please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve. If you are interested in helping with this ministry but are unable to serve on March 15, there will be additional opportunities to serve in 2026 on May 17, July 15, September 20, and November 15.

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith will be meeting March 14 at 10 a.m. in the library. All women, younger or older, of Lakewood are invited to attend! We will be discussing our plans for this year and who will be receiving donations! We would love to see some new faces and new ideas.

Men's Group Update

The Men's Group meeting is March 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the church library. The pancake will be February 8 after church service. All donations will benefit the upcoming Red Bird mission trip.



Lakewood Youth News

Helping youth to discover, experience and know the love and presence of Jesus Christ.

Meeting Schedule

Students in grades 5th – 12th are welcome to join us.

We will now be meeting every week! Come anytime!
Attendance is not mandatory.

March 1: **Youth meeting canceled**

March 8: **Pancake Breakfast 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

March 15: **Youth meeting at Lakewood 10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.**

March 22: **Youth meeting at Lakewood 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

March 28: **Volunteer at Abiding Hope's *The Easter Flock* 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

March 29: **No meeting**

April 5: **No meeting - Happy Easter**

April 12: **Youth meeting at Lakewood 10:30 a.m. - 11:45 .am.**

April 19: **Event TBD**

April 26: **Youth meeting at Lakewood 10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.**

***Dates and events are subject to change as opportunities arise or change.**

Contact Information

For questions and concerns please contact us anytime.

Jackie and Jeremiah Bull

Home: 814-833-4520

Call or Text: 814-323-6805

Email: missjackie77@hotmail.com

LITTLE LESSONS

Updates from Lakewood Preschool

Our second semester is well underway, including our additional 3 year old class. Our cooking and gym classes continue to supplement our curriculum. For St Patrick's Day, we will have an Irish Dance teacher visit. Beginning in April, we will have two mini Toddler and Me classes. Lakewood Preschool Toddler and Me classes are designed for children to attend with a caregiver. Children and their caregiver will participate together in a variety of activities, including circle time, art, songs, sensory play, motor skill activities, and socialization.

This class is designed for children ages 18 months through three years. Siblings under 18 months are welcome to join at no cost. This is a wonderful way to introduce school to children who are not yet enrolled in preschool.

10 Tips for Dementia Caregivers

Effective dementia care requires patience, routine, and self-care to avoid burnout. Key strategies include maintaining a calm environment, simplifying communication, establishing a consistent daily schedule, and proactively seeking support from others. Focus on safety, use gentle non-verbal communication, and prioritize your own health.

1. **Educate Yourself:** Learn about the specific type of dementia to understand behavioral changes and anticipate future needs.
2. **Simplify Communication:** Use short, simple sentences, maintain eye contact, and speak calmly. Avoid quizzing the person or arguing about reality.
3. **Establish Routines:** Create a daily, consistent routine for bathing, meals, and sleeping to reduce confusion and anxiety.
4. **Ensure Safety:** Modify the home environment to minimize risks, such as removing rugs, adding grab bars, and installing rocks.
5. **Practice Patience & Flexibility:** Allow extra time for tasks and adapt to the person's mood or abilities, which may change daily.
6. **Use Positive Non-Verbal Cues:** Smile, use gentle touch, and maintain positive body language to provide reassurance.
7. **Manage Behaviors Gently:** Do not take challenging behaviors personally; try to identify triggers, such as pain or discomfort.
8. **Prioritize Self-Care:** Take regular breaks, maintain your hobbies, and care for your own physical and mental health to avoid burnout.
9. **Ask for and Accept Help:** Build a care team and rely on friends or family for support with errands, meals, or respite care.
10. **Use Technology & Organization:** Use calendars, whiteboards, and safety, or GPS trackers to help with memory and wandering.

Easter Flower Order Form

Again this year we are offering daffodils tulips and lilies. The cost of the flowers is \$8.50 each and the deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 22nd. There are several ways to place your order:

- Mail the order form and payment to the church, attention Marygrace.
- Place in the offering plate on Sunday or place in the locked mailbox outside the 10th Street entrance.
- Email Marygrace at secretary@lakewooderie.org
- Call Marygrace at 814-833-4131 Monday through Thursday 9 am to 1 pm.

Daffodil Quantity: _____

Tulip Quantity: _____

Lily Quantity: _____

Given by: _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Total Quantity _____ @ \$ 8.50 each = Total _____

Make your check payable to Lakewood United Methodist Church and mark your check "Easter Flowers". If you include the cost of the Easter Flowers with your normal giving, please clearly mark "Easter Flowers" on the Designated Offering line of your offering envelope.

PRAYER FOR DISCERNMENT

Please join Council in praying for Lakewood daily.

Take a moment every day to drop everything and pray for discernment, young families, fervent discipleship, and purposeful participation. (Remember PDF: Participation, Discipleship, and Families)

God, Our Father, You have a plan for each one of us, You hold out to us a future full of hope. Give us the wisdom of your Spirit so that we can see the shape of your plan in the gifts you have given us, and in the circumstances of our daily lives. Give us the freedom of your Spirit, to seek you with all our hearts, and to choose your will above all else. Amen.

THE WEST MILLCREEK FOOD PANTRY

We thank you for your donations to our food pantry. In spite of the cold temperatures, 103 families came to pick up their food this past Tuesday. The shelves are bare of canned vegetables, which we hope you will be able to help us provide this month. Thank you as always for your continued generosity!

An Update from New Horizons School in Paraguay:

Dear godparents

Today i took a moment to write to you because I want the

to thank you for all the support you given me. Your help has

been essential in helping me continue my studies and has

motivated me to strive harder every day. I'm inspired by your

dedication and your way of seeing life.

Bye godparents, Att: Alan Benitez

