

PHOTO BY ALAN BARBOUR

# Rectortown Reporter

April 2019

## From the Pastor

### Grace Upon Grace

*Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ!*



The Gospel of John says that John the Baptist testified about the “Word who became flesh” saying, “This is the one of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.’” The Gospel then says, “from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace...” (from John 1:14-16).

In our Wesleyan tradition, grace is defined as “the undeserved, unmerited, and loving action of God in human existence through the ever-present Holy Spirit.” (www.umc.org) The Merriam-Webster dictionary adds that the purpose of God’s “loving action” is our *regeneration or sanctification*. Putting the two together, I believe grace is God’s love at work in us to restore us to the full image of God in which, and for which, we are created. Essentially, while sin harms our relationships with God and with others; it is grace that heals those relationships and allows love to flourish.

United Methodists understand grace to be God’s active presence in our lives whether or not we know or respond to it. God’s grace is a divine gift that is always available to us, but never forced upon us. While there is only one grace, we understand grace at work in our lives in three distinctive ways. First, there is prevenient grace — the grace that comes before we’re aware of God. God extends grace into our unknowing so that we can come to know. I like to think of this as a divine invitation into relationship! Then there is justifying grace — the grace that redeems us and restores our relationship with God. In this grace we’re regenerated in new life in Christ and made “just-as-if” we’d never sinned. Finally, there is sanctifying grace — the grace in which we grow and mature as we learn to live and to love more like Christ lived and loved. In the perfection of our love we become fully whole.

We cannot earn or buy grace — but we are expected to accept and respond to it. These forty days of Lent are an appropriate time to reflect on the obstacles (anything that prioritizes people or things higher than God) in our spiritual lives that keep us from the fullness of God’s grace. What are the obstacles in your spiritual life? Why not ask God to help you overcome your obstacles so you can live more *grace*-fully!

Grace and peace to each and everyone of you!

*Pastor Steve*

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## Psalm of the Month

### Psalm 121 A Pilgrimage Song

<sup>121</sup> I raise my eyes toward the mountains. Where will my help come from?

<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

<sup>3</sup> God won’t let your foot slip. Your protector won’t fall asleep on the job.

<sup>4</sup> No! Israel’s protector never sleeps or rests!

<sup>5</sup> The Lord is your protector; the Lord is your shade right beside you.

<sup>6</sup> The sun won’t strike you during the day; neither will the moon at night.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord will protect you from all evil;

<sup>8</sup> The Lord will protect you on your journeys—whether going or coming—from now until forever from now.

## Annual Pancake Dinner, Served by the Fellowship Committee



On March 5, the Fellowship Committee once again planned, made and served a wonderful pancake dinner. Sometimes we forget how much it takes to make even a pancake dinner. The Fellowship Committee Chair, Judy Scheuble offered thanks to the Fellowship Team during Worship Service on March 10. Each gift related to the particular services during the dinner provided by each recipient. These gifts were presented to Nancy, Linda, Shirley and Muggie. Linda, Jane and Eileen were not present, but received their gifts. Thanks Fellowship Committee for the wonderful effort.



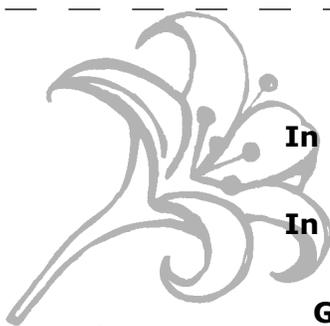
**Order Easter Lilies \$8 each**

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Please put order form in the collection plate.



## The Way Ahead Review

On March 12, 2019, Pastor Steve Weedling led a review and discussion on "The Way Ahead." Documents about the results and specific actions from the February 23-26 General Conference held in Saint Louis, MO, were used to update the participants. The session included the history



Pastor Steve, Roxie, Muggie, Debbie, Dave, and Judy

leading to "The Way Forward" action, "The

Traditional Plan" (voted as the plan to be used—see photo above from the conference), the petitions that need to be reviewed by the Judiciary Committee, pension and benefit payment requirements IF disaffiliation is selected as an alternative, and related topics. Copies of the information discussed are available in the Social Hall for review. More sessions will be planned as the Judiciary decisions are completed during their April 22-23 meetings. Please contact Pastor Steve, Larry Scheuble or any of those pictured if you have questions.



General Conference votes are in.

## Forty Days — Forty Items

At the end of RUMC Worship Service on March 10, Pastor Steve introduced the congregation to a new Lenten challenge. The challenge to participants is: Each day of Lent, remove one item from one of your closets that you no longer wear or use or need, and put it into a trash bag. At the end of Lent, donate these items to a place that can share them with someone who can really use them. Even if you didn't get in at the start of Lent, you can still, take the challenge. All of us have these items, that would be a blessing to those in need. Try it, you'll like it!!!



Pastor Steve dressed for the Ash Wednesday Service at Middleburg United Methodist. Photo by Muggie..

## From the Board of Trustees

### HELP NEEDED

### Easter/Homecoming CleanUp Tasks

The Board of Trustees continues to work to make, and keep, our facilities in safe, welcoming and mission-supporting condition. If you read the recent Homecoming letter, you are aware of some of the larger projects that need physical and financial support. As these projects take a majority of the Trustees' time and funding, there is a need for assistance with some of the smaller, spring cleanup items. So, if you have an hour or two over the next weeks, here are some of the items that need to be worked on:

- remove small piles of gravel left on the grass during snow plowing
- weed flower gardens
- touch up painting on wrought iron fence and hand rails
- paint the frames on the social hall basement windows
- plant new flowers/shrubs
- pick up sticks and branches around the yard
- rakeup leaves
- and depending on your available time and capabilities, other areas

If you have the time, please contact any of the Trustees for more information.

Thanks for you prayerful consideration.

*RUMC Board of Trustees*

## Training Classes Offered/ at RUMC

The United Methodist Church Lay Servant Ministry program works hard to provide training and support to laity. All are invited to participate in the training offered, and some are required to complete the classes for certification in the program. On March 7, 2019, *Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition* classes were started at RUMC. Two separate, eight week, classes, one on Tuesday mornings and one on Wednesday evenings, kicked off with 12 class members. The class was approved by the District Lay Servant Ministries Board and facilitated by Larry Scheuble.

## RUMC Homecoming May 19, 2019

Guest Speaker:

**Reverend Jerry Bishop** (retired)

Musical Guests:

**Fresta Valley Singers**

Special slideshow. We need your photos. Email your photos with the subject **RUMC Homecoming 2019** to: [rumchomecoming2019@sfly.com](mailto:rumchomecoming2019@sfly.com)

## April Birthdays



Ben Pisarcik . . . . . 4/12  
 Henry Symanski. . . . . 4/17  
 Eileen Miller . . . . . 4/18  
 Linda Rose. . . . . 4/20  
 Judy Scheuble . . . . . 4/25

## Anniversary

Gary & Joann Garrett . . 4/10



*Thanks to Muggie for sharing this.*

# RUMC Upcoming Meetings & Events

*Tue – April 2	11:30am	Bible Study
*Wed – April 3	6:30pm	Bible Study
Thur – April 4	7:00pm	Admin Council
<b>*Sun – April 7</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>	<b>Confirmation Class</b>
Tue – April 9	7:00pm	Worship Meets
<b>Thur – April 18</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> <i>Worship Service RUMC</i>
<b>Fri – April 19</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>Good Friday Service</b> <i>Middleburg UMC</i>
<b>Sun – April 21</b>	<b>6:26am</b>	<b>Sunrise Service</b> <b>RUMC Breakfast</b>

## Every Week at RUMC

### **Sunday Worship**

10:00 a.m.

Worship for Adults and Children.  
Nursery provided.

### **Sunday School**

Adults: 8:45-9:45 a.m.

Children: 9-9:45 a.m.

### **RUMC Wants to know...**

If you have any photos from our events, news or recipes you'd like to share, please e-mail [Laura@NatsukoGraphicDesign.com](mailto:Laura@NatsukoGraphicDesign.com). Article submissions are due by the 15th of the month.



### **Our Mission Statement**

Serving God through Prayer, Action, and Love through Service.