



Tanner Valley Voice



Tanner Valley United Methodist Church

March 2019

Lent and the Coming of Easter

The season of Lent is upon us. It is the 40 days (not including Sundays) that prepare our hearts for Easter. Usually when we talk about spiritual disciplines during Lent, we talk about personal disciplines like individual prayer time, fasting, or reading the Bible alone. We often don't think about the things we do with and for each other. This year, we are going to be reflecting on the vows we take during baptism and membership and how we practice them. These are a kind of a communal discipline that not only adds meaning to our lives, but empowers others to follow Christ. They are a way to say that God doesn't just love me, but he loves us, his Beloved Community.

In our liturgy we say we will faithfully participate in the congregation's ministries by our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Each week we will be looking at one of these communal disciplines. Part of the power of spiritual disciplines is their habitual nature. As we reflect on these disciplines, set a goal for each one. Your goal could be to pray every day for the church and the people who make her. Perhaps you could work towards being present each week for worship. Maybe you could challenge yourself to serve in the community once a month. Whether it's every day, once a week, or once a month, set a goal to form a habit that stretches you with each discipline.

Most of all, I am praying that this Lent season, God draws us nearer to him. I pray that as we prepare for Easter, God will ignite the Holy Spirit among us. May God surprise us through our habits and disciplines. May we find him in unexpected places, hear him say unexpected things, and discover life where there was only death before.

May we experience resurrection!

Lent and Holy Week Schedule

Ash Wednesday Service-3/6/2019 at 7:00 pm

Palm Sunday Worship Service-4/14/2019 at 10:00 am

Maunday Thursday Service-4/18/2019 at 7:00 pm

Good Friday Service-4/19/2019 at 7:00 pm

Easter Breakfast-4/21/2019 at 8:30 am

Easter Worship Service-4/21/2019 at 10:00 am



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tannervalleychurch.com

**Crystal Jacobson,
Pastor**

Church Building:
812.537.4111

Parsonage:
812.290.2150

Office Hours:
Mon.-Thur. 9-12

Adult Sunday School
Sundays—9am

Worship
Sundays—10am

UMW
2nd Thursdays—
7 or 12 pm
Check Calendars

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Rev. Crystal Jacobson

Biblical Tales of Love and Marriage

We just celebrated Valentine's Day, the month of Love. I am going to share with you my research from our UMW meeting.

People might not think that Scripture is especially romantic, but the Bible's got plenty of heart-warming tales about love and marriage. So, we will take a look at the best-selling book of all time...the Bible. I will tell you about the six most memorable couples from the Good Book.

Couple #1: Adam and Eve. The first couple had it all: peace, love, and excellent real estate. But it's only human nature to get a little bored with Eden, so Eve had to go poking around the tree of knowledge where the serpent convinced her to eat the forbidden fruit. Adam also tried the fruit. God was not impressed, and all of humankind has suffered because of it ever since then. Thanks a lot guys!

Couple #2: Abraham and Sarah. Here is a very down-to-earth couple. They're an old married couple desperate for a child. Finally, Sarah offers to let Abraham resort to surrogate motherhood by offering him her maid Hagar, which ends up making Sarah very jealous. In the end, God tells Abraham that Sarah, too, will conceive in her old age. She literally laughs at God, but it happens and she gives birth to Isaac.

Couple #3: Jacob and Rachel. This is a story of love at first sight, so to speak. Jacob first spotted Rachel at a well after arriving in Haran as a young man; she was a shepherdess. Jacob agreed to work for seven years for her father Laban, so that he could eventually marry her. That is devotion! When the time came, her father pulled a switcheroo and sent a veiled Leah, Rachel's sister, to marry Jacob. When Jacob learned of the trick he agreed to work another seven years so he could marry Rachel. Now how many modern men would do that?

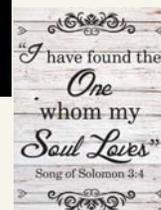
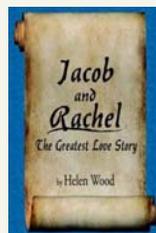
Couple #4: Ruth and Boaz. After the death of Ruth's husband, Ruth traveled with Naomi to Bethlehem. Ruth gathered food by gleaning in the barley fields of Naomi's relative. Boaz, noticing Ruth's loyalty, asked his workers to leave behind extra grain for her, and then he fell in love with her.

Couple #5. The bride and groom in the Song of Solomon. If you are looking for love, read the love songs in the Song of Solomon. This is the book to turn to if you're interested in the lustful side of romance, because it is an erotic poem that traces one relationship from meeting to courtship to consummation.

Couple #6. Mary and Joseph. Joseph, the humble carpenter, trusted in God and in Mary enough to marry and travel with her to Bethlehem. Mary was, of course, pregnant via the Holy Spirit already. The love of Joseph and Mary displays not only deep devotion, but also extraordinary courage. In spite of all the difficulties they encountered, their love transcended their fear.

Our next UMW meeting will be March 14, at 1:00 p.m. at the church. We are planning to start making some lap blankets to be given out at the nursing home. Hope you will be able to come and help us and enjoy some good fellowship.

Nancy



Treasurer's Report

The following information is from the subject report for the month of January.

- ◆ The General Account opened the month with a balance of \$7,933.31. There were deposits of \$8,054.00 and withdrawals of \$9,176.15 leaving a month end balance of \$6,811.16. The weekly average offering (two weeks due to weather) was \$4027.00. The weekly average budget requirement is \$2,399.00 leaving a weekly surplus of \$1,628.00.
- ◆ The Special Account opened the month with a balance of \$16,060.17. There were deposits of \$378.05 and withdrawals of \$393.80 leaving a month end balance of \$16,044.42.
 - ◆ The Capital Improvement fund began the month with a balance of \$2,295.06. There were deposits of \$310.00 and no withdrawals leaving a month end balance of \$2,605.06.
 - ◆ The Faith Promise fund began the month with a balance of \$5,180.77. There were deposits of \$45.00 leaving a month end balance of \$5,225.77.

A copy of this month's treasurer's report is posted in the church office.

The donation from **Kroger Community Rewards** for the period Nov 1, 2018 to 31 Jan, 2019 is **\$92.01 with 18 households** from our church participating.

"The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up"

A few years ago I read a book by Marie Kondo called "The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up." The author's purpose is to teach the reader how to de-clutter and organize. Readers are asked to purge items and to only hold onto items that "spark joy." She talks about the mental and physical toll of keeping many unused items around and how things may seem valuable, simply because they belong to us. I used the guidance from this book to purge many items from my closet, my drawers, and my bookshelves. What seemed like a weird concept at first - "Does this green sweater spark joy?" - actually turned out to be quite beneficial and freeing. This thought about sparking joy made me think about my spiritual practices and what sparks joy. For me, it is practicing gratitude. It isn't always easy, but when I acknowledge my thanks to God, I feel a spiritual de-cluttering, if you will. What "sparks joy" for you?

The Christian Education committee met on January 22nd and we added some activities to the calendar. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt at Schnebelt Pond will be held on Saturday, April 13th. Vacation Bible School will be June 9-12 from 6-8:30 each evening. Please watch and listen for ways you can help with both events!

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 19th, at 7:00 p.m. We would love for you to come and share your thoughts and ideas with us.

--Amy Delp

WORSHIP SERVANTS

March 3

Greeter

Lois Blodgett

Acolyte

Christopher Delp

Reader

Tracy Meyer

March 10

Greeter

Harriett Mellott

Acolyte

Bella Huffman

Reader

Larry Delp

Ushers

Paul & Nella Hoffbauer,
Kim & Jeanmaire Schmeltzer

GIC

Nancy Hesse, Billie Stockum

March 17

Greeter

John & Barb Vandermuellen

Acolyte

Lydia Jacobson

Reader

Kim Schmeltzer

Ushers

Paul Titkemeyer, Paul Meyer,
Dave Chapman, Rich Hesse

GIC

Donna Morgan, RuthAnn Hoyt

March 24

Greeter

Connie Fox

Acolyte

Christopher Delp

Reader

Dorothy McCool

Ushers

Bill & Debbie Robertson,
Steve & Candy Feller

GIC

Jean Schmeltzer, Pam VanDyke

March 31

Greeter

Norma Dean Fox

Acolyte

Bella Huffman

Reader

Barb Branigan

Ushers

Peg & Larry Delp,
Bryan & Amy Delp

NOTE: Assigned Worship Servants are requested to find a replacement if they will not be able to fulfill their duties on the date indicated.

Thank you for volunteering and for serving.

We're on the web:
tannervalleychurch.com

...MAKING DISCIPLES OF
JESUS CHRIST...

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Lawrenceburg, Indiana 47025-8606

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**Tanner Valley United
Methodist Church**



Mission Work—A Church Wide Activity

Through our Souper Bowl of Caring lunch, we were able to provide can goods and \$150 to the North Dearborn Food Pantry.

Thirty five (35) baby blankets for the Pregnancy Center of Southeast Indiana were made in a team effort of 22 people, which included adults, Junior Group kids, and YES home teams.

Each month, we bring a dessert and simple craft to Heart House and spend the evening with the kids in this temporary housing ministry. Also, each month, we visit the YES Home and provide pizza or other food and visit with the children there. *Is God calling you to be part of this ministry of hope?* If so, see Jean Schmeltzer or Pastor Crystal and we will get you connected.

Cards to Jail continues to be well received by the women who get them. Cards can be picked up in the foyer/narthex/entrance area on which you may write a note. Return them in the box, and Candy Feller will mail them for you.



**“..I urge you to live a life
worthy of the calling you
have received.”
Ephesians 4:1**

