

The Parkview Epistle

Parkview United Methodist Church

236 Maple Street North, Turtle Lake, WI 54889

February 2021

Worship Hours

Sunday School -
9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship -
10:00 a.m.

parkviewumcturtlelake.com

Contact Information

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"Glory to God in the highest
heaven, and on earth
peace to those on whom
his favor rests."
Luke 2:14

Reflections from Pastor Adam

I had always assumed Ash Wednesday 2019 would be the most memorable beginning of Lent I will ever experience. Back then, I was well into my one year Clinical Pastoral Education Residency at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. My assigned units were the two cancer units and the in-patient hospice floor. So on Ash Wednesday two years ago I walked among those doctors and nurses, family members and patients who were all acutely aware of mortality and offered the traditional words spoken as the ashes are smeared on the forehead: *Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.* Some of those patients died over the remainder of my residency year. Talk about an intense, memorable and impactful day!

Then came the global pandemic and soon it will be Ash Wednesday 2021. This year will be equally intense because it falls in what we have heard over and over again are the "dark days of winter in the pandemic." It will be memorable since we will be offering "Drive Up Ashes" instead of a traditional full Ash Wednesday worship service with the Impartation (let's be honest, smearing) of Ashes. And it will be impactful since at its heart, Ash Wednesday is not a day in the church year that's meant to scare us or bum us out. Instead, Ash Wednesday is really an invitational and preparational day.

The Scriptures we read, the prayers we lift up, the confessions we say and the ashes we receive help us to confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. Throughout this past year the global pandemic has made us all acutely aware of human mortality and has brought to light the incredible inequalities and injustices in our society. Ash Wednesday 2021 is going to be intense, memorable and impactful as it ushers us into the season of Lent and we pray into a transition time out of the "dark days of winter" in the Covid, economic inequality, racial injustice and social loneliness pandemics.

In this newsletter you will read more about the ways we as the people of Parkview UMC are going to be embracing and embodying the invitation Ash Wednesday extends and prepares us for. In the following pages you will read about the logistical details on Ash Wednesday, how you can be in daily prayer and devotion, ways to engage in faith-based streaming shows and entertainment, information about a Lenten Bible study opportunity and an update on the plan to begin resuming in-person worship services.

Lent this year will be a time of transition, a true changing of the seasons. But first we will go through the day of invitation and preparation. While the most memorable, intense and impactful line is going to be for most of you: *"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."* I pray that you will receive the traditional follow up phrase: *"Repent, and believe the Good News."*

May Lent 2021 be a time of repentance, deepening of belief and joyful reception of the Good News of God's love, grace and forgiveness through Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen!

Parkview United Methodist Church Continues to Shine During Covid-19

The past year has offered both our church and ourselves many challenges. The Covid-19 respiratory illness has caused financial hardships, mental anguish and unfortunately in some cases even worse. Our prayers continue to go out each and every day to those who have been affected in a negative way.

Despite our movement away from in-person worship to our parking lot and zooms, Parkview has continued to serve our congregation well. We still look forward to each Sunday's service, where members of our church read scriptures, teach Sunday School, provide piano players, offer singers and lead worship, working side-by-side with our wonderful Pastor Adam. These contributions, along with the work of our Methodist Women and other individuals, have provided many bright spots during a time of less personal contact.

If you have not yet been a part of our Sunday services, please begin. We miss you and with Lent and spring coming soon, there is no better time to return to your friends at Parkview.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 has not only caused damage to the economy and our families, but approximately two-thirds of churches indicate they have been affected by reduced giving. Like others, our January income was down almost \$4,000 from January 2020 and the church spent more than we took in. This is our Parkview challenge, as we all work to perpetuate the church which is such an important part of our lives.

February has begun with a few positive signs in our fight to return to a more normal way of life. As we move toward this, please remember to pray for both the families and the churches that continue to face the challenges of recovery.

Sincerely, Mark R. Fuller, Ad Council Chair

Ash Wednesday Logistics

On February 17 from 7:30am-9:00am and 4:00pm to 5:15pm Pastor Adam will be at the front entrance of the church to offer "Drive Up Ashes." As you are out and about that day please drive up to the front of the church and roll down your window. Pastor Adam will use a q-tip to spread ashes on either your forehead or the back of your hand. You will also receive a Pocket Prayer Quilt (more information on this later in the newsletter) and the Holy Communion packs blessed during worship on February 14.

If you would then like to come inside the church you are invited to spend some time in silent prayer and devotion in the Sanctuary. In the fellowship hall will be a television playing the Ash Wednesday worship service which is a joint worship service with Barron, Chetek and Cumberland United Methodist Churches. The worship service will be on a continual loop all day. This worship service will also be posted to our church Facebook page and website.

Please wear a mask or cloth face covering if you do come inside the church for prayer and to view the worship service. Be sure to sanitize your hands as you enter and exit the church and maintain physical distance from other folks while inside.

Daily Prayer and Devotion During Lent

On behalf of the Hospitality Committee (led by our very own Sheila Dipprey), all are invited to join in a daily time of prayer and devotion during Lent. On Ash Wednesday everyone will be offered a Pocket Prayer Quilt that contains a small cross sewn inside and a way to attach a daily prayer card. The Pocket Prayer Quilt idea was formulated by Lori Glinski and the actual prayer quilts were made by Kay Harr, Ruby Nykanen, and Addie Freer with Beverly Becker playing a big part in the coordination of the project (thank you all!)

You will find on the final page of this newsletter a sheet with squares for each day of Lent. Each morning from Ash Wednesday until Easter weekend you will receive a brief phone message through our church Phone Tree system that will have the voice of Sheila Dipprey or Pastor Adam offering a scripture reading and prayer for that day. We invite you to cut out the squares on the last page and each day attach them to your Pocket Prayer Quilt so you can remain in prayer and devotion each and every day.

Parkview's Version of Netflix

At the end of 2020 Parkview UMC received another grant from the Wisconsin Annual Conference Foundation Office. This grant is in addition to and totally separate from the \$1,500 New Way Grant we received in the summer to upgrade and incorporate new technologies. This separate and most recent grant, which we'll call the 2021 New Ministries grant, will help cover new ministries at Parkview.

A new and exciting ministry we can offer because of the grant is a church-wide subscription to Amplify Media. Similar to Netflix, Hulu, and Disney+, Amplify Media is a website and a streaming service. What sets Amplify Media apart, however, is that it is meant primarily for Methodist and Wesleyan-based churches when it comes to content. Amplify Media contains dozens of Bible studies, children's programs, personal devotional resources, interviews with authors and pastors and even our own content such as past worship services and the daily readings from the Spark Story Bible.

To be a part of our church's Amplify Media account, you will have to create an account with Amplify Media by first going to <https://my.amplifymedia.com/parkviewumcturtlelakewi>, entering the Congregation Access Code: **VXFNYM**, and then filling out the rest of the new user information.

Together In Christ - Lent 2021 Bible Study

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung of the Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church has prepared a Bible study for Lent this year called *Together in Christ*. Pastor Adam will be offering this Bible study as a group study each week. Starting each Sunday during Lent you will have an opportunity to watch a video recording of the Scripture, the Bishop's reflection, and the reflection and discussion questions. The video will be available on our Amplify Media channel, Facebook page, and church website (<https://www.parkviewumcturtlelake.com/>). You are invited to take some time to reflect on the study on your own during the first half of the week and then on Wednesdays from 4:30pm-5:00pm you are invited to join a Zoom discussion group about that week's lesson (Meeting ID 715 986 2467 and Passcode 54889).



The How and Planned (When) of Resuming In-Person Worship

As the pandemic continues, yet the distribution of vaccines increases and case numbers begin to trend downward, now is the time to begin to prepare for in-person worship. As a reminder, Parkview UMC has not been meeting in person for the past few months for several reasons. A major reason is that it is against the recommendation of our Annual Conference leadership. Another major reason is that local, national and international health leaders and experts strongly advise against any in person gatherings outside of the household. But most importantly, it was in response to the reality that we could very tangibly and sacrificially love our neighbors by doing our part in reducing the spread of the virus in our community.

Our personal health matters as does the health and well-being of our families. But in the midst of a global pandemic, there is a need to make major changes in our routines, lifestyles, and personal lives in order to reduce the spread of Covid. Of course we will never actually know how not meeting for in-person worship affected the health of vulnerable and immune compromised folks in Barron and Polk County, we will never know what impact we had on reducing hospitalizations and the strain on our health care workers, and we will never know if the drastic measure of not meeting in person really changed the course of the pandemic in our area. But even though we will never know, we can rest on the assurance that we did our small part to love our neighbors while finding new ways to stay connected with one another and stay in love with God.

Through the recommendation of Pastor Adam, the approval of the Worship Committee, and after the consideration by the Ad Council, we are planning for a return to in-person worship on Sunday, March 21. This date is based on projections that by then the frontline healthcare workers and the older and more at-risk populations in Barron and Polk Counties will have had the chance to receive both doses of the Covid vaccine. While Covid will still be present in our community, the hope is that by late March the most vulnerable and immune compromised people in our community will no longer be at very high risk of complications and harm from Covid.

The Worship Committee will continue to meet during March to plan through logistics, so be sure to be on the lookout for more information later in March through the Phone Tree, our Facebook page, and our website. One of the major areas of planning and preparation is how to still offer worship online for folks who are not yet comfortable coming back, have not been through the vaccine doses or decide they are still too at risk. Rest assured that on March 21 there will still be a way to be connected during worship to the congregation even if you are remaining to stay home.

As a final note, March 21 is the planned date. Obviously, if there is a huge local outbreak or obvious upward trend in Covid cases in Polk and Barron County we will have to postpone resuming in person worship for a bit longer. But at this point, the Worship Committee and Pastor Adam are eager to continue to prepare for the “new normal” of in-person worship once we are confident that older adults and immune compromised folks in our area are as protected as possible from community transmission and spread of Covid.

Abbreviated Administrative Council Minutes - February 10, 2021

Chairperson Mark Fuller called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Harvey opened with prayer. Present: LuAnn Outcalt, Georgeina O'Connell, Dennis Zemke, Harvey Becker, Kathi Zemke, Tom Becker, Lynn Steinmetz, Leon Glinski, Pastor Adam Woods, Gary Solum, Mark Fuller, Diane Hoffman, Jeff Hoffman, Sarah Heintz.

The January secretary's report was shared (also shared electronically prior to this meeting). Motion by Sarah, seconded by Georgeina to approve the secretary's report. Motion carried.

Dennis shared the treasurer's report (also shared electronically prior to this meeting). It was noted that income for the month of January was down significantly. All bills have been paid. Motion was made by Harvey, seconded by Gary, to approve the treasurer's report and payment of all checks as presented; motion carried.

Pastor's Report

- The daily readings from the Spark Story Bible that are posted on Facebook and our website are going well. Pastor encouraged anyone interested in reading a story to contact him.
- Ash Wednesday is February 17th. Circuit pastors have created a service that will be available on Facebook and our website. More information will be coming regarding future Lenten services.

- The New Ministries Grant has allowed Parkview to purchase a subscription to Amplify Media (a streaming service similar to Netflix). Possibilities would include outdoor movies to be offered during the summer. It will also be used to show movie clips at the Valentine drive through on February 13th.

Committee Reports

- *Finance Secretary:* Diane reported that the PayPal option of giving on our website is up and running with a fair amount of activity. There is a small processing fee associated with this that amounts to 2.2%. Parkview is receiving contributions through automatic transfer, direct deposit, Zelle and PayPal.
- *Finance:* Lynn reported that she will be meeting with Pastor Adam on February 12th to complete the statistical reports required by the Conference.
- *Memorial:* Diane reported that the swinging panel display has arrived.
- *Worship:* Sarah shared information from a webinar that she had attended. We should be careful how we use abbreviations ie: UWM, SPRC. A visitor or someone new to our church may not know what they mean. It was also important to have our website address visible. The worship committee will meet on March 9th to further discuss dates for in person church and plans for Easter. They will also be discussing various worship opportunities to meet the needs of all during the Covid pandemic.
- *Sunday School:* Lori reported there are on average 5-6 students via Zoom each week for Sunday School. Diane Hoffman will be the craft/project coordinator for the time being.
- *Youth:* Georgeina reported due to COVID, youth activities have been suspended. Confirmation class is being held in person which is going well.
- *United Methodist Women:* Georgeina shared information about the Valentine Sweetheart Drive Thru to be held Saturday, February 13th. The UMW has been discussing local mission opportunities.
- *Hospitality:* Prayer quilts will be distributed on Ash Wednesday at the two drive through opportunities to receive ashes.
- *Membership:* Kathi and Pastor Adam have been coordinating contact information such as addresses, emails and telephone number to assure that it is correct. Our membership total stands at 100. Kathi shared the importance of the information in the membership book and felt that we should look at a more secure way to store it considering the historical information it contains. Jeff Hoffman will look into safe options. Gary Solum will take an inventory of the contents of the safe deposit box. A suggestion was to possibly purchase a safe and put the contents of the safe deposit box in the safe along with other historical records.
- *Staff Parish Relations Committee:* Tom reported from Florida. Most members of the committee have attended an online training session.
- *Volunteers in Missions:* Doug Ferris would be available for the annual auction held on Labor Day. More discussion and information to be held at future meetings.

Old Business

PPP Loan: Dennis reported that we would not be eligible for a new PPP loan.

Church Accounting Software: The current software for our church accounting is obsolete. Dennis provided information from Software4nonprofits. Purchase of the software for the first year would be \$130.00 with an annual renewal rate of \$65.00. This is the same company used for the contribution recording and reporting. Motion by Tom, seconded by Harvey to purchase the accounting software from Software4nonprofits, motion carried.

Resuming in person worship: Pastor Adam presented information regarding returning to in person worship. At this time, March 21, 2021 has been set for a return date.

Use of church: Pastor Adam had received an inquiry about the use of our church from Pastor Molina from the Cumberland area. He is the pastor of an unaffiliated Spanish speaking congregation. Discussion was held and the consensus of the council was to table this unless another inquiry was made by Pastor Molina.

A Peek Into Parkview's Past

This month's pictures remind us to keep the spirit of Christmas alive in our hearts year 'round! Here is the dinner theater cast from 2008



All About LENT

Color each palm leaf as you count each day of Lent. Color Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday and all other special days of Lent violet.

Violet
This color reminds us that Lent is a sabbath season and we are to remember Jesus's passion. Draw a picture of your favorite thing that is purple.

Praying Hands
Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. We, too, must remember to pray during Lent. I will pray for ...

Lent prepares your heart and mind for Easter.

Fish
This Lenten sign tells us that we must remember to fast. Draw a fish.

Butterfly
An important sign! Showing the whole life cycle of Jesus. Draw a picture of a butterfly.

Heart
Lent is a special time for us to prepare for Jesus by fasting and giving our life more fully to God for 40 days and nights. It is a "spring cleaning" of our lives spiritually.

40 Days

SPECIAL OFFERING
I WILL OFFER THE LORD

Christians practice almsgiving during Lent to show they are grateful for the gifts God has given them.

Thank you Jesus for saving me!

Daily Prayers and Scriptures for Lent

<u>Feb 17</u> Psalm 51	<u>Feb 24</u> Ephesians 6:18	<u>March 3</u> James 1:2-3	<u>March 10</u> Leviticus 19:11	<u>March 17</u> Psalm 119:9	<u>March 24</u> Isaiah 40:31	<u>March 31</u> John 13:21-32
<u>Feb 18</u> Psalm 46:1	<u>Feb 25</u> Romans 12:2	<u>March 4</u> Psalm 1:2-3	<u>March 11</u> Joshua 1:8	<u>March 18</u> Psalm 119:11	<u>March 25</u> Isaiah 41:10	<u>April 1</u> John 13:1-17, 31b-35
<u>Feb 19</u> Isaiah 41:10	<u>Feb 26</u> Luke 11:2-4	<u>March 5</u> Matthew 5:44	<u>March 12</u> Psalm 23	<u>March 19</u> Psalm 147:5	<u>March 26</u> Isaiah 53:6	<u>April 2</u> Psalm 22
<u>Feb 20</u> Nehemiah 8:10	<u>Feb 27</u> Romans 15:13	<u>March 6</u> Matthew 26:41	<u>March 13</u> Psalm 56:3	<u>March 20</u> Proverbs 3:5-6	<u>March 27</u> Lamentations 3:22-23	<u>April 3</u> Job 14:1-14
<u>Feb 21</u> Mark 1:9-15	<u>Feb 28</u> Mark 8:31-38	<u>March 7</u> Exodus 20:1-17	<u>March 14</u> Numbers 21:4-9	<u>March 21</u> Hebrews 5:5-10	<u>March 28</u> Mark 11:1-11	<u>April 4</u> Mark 16:1-8
<u>Feb 22</u> John 5:14	<u>March 1</u> Psalm 37:4	<u>March 8</u> James 4:3	<u>March 15</u> Psalm 96:2	<u>March 22</u> Proverbs 3:9-10	<u>March 29</u> John 12:1-11	
<u>Feb 23</u> 2 Chronicles 7:15	<u>March 2</u> Psalm 16:11	<u>March 9</u> Genesis 1:1	<u>March 16</u> Psalm 100	<u>March 23</u> Isaiah 26:3	<u>March 30</u> John 12:20-36	

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