



The Activator

March 2019

A monthly newsletter from the United Methodist Church of Hudson

Mission Statement of the Church:

As followers of Jesus Christ we want to lead our community to a growing faith.

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PASTOR OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Mike's Musings

SUFFERING

This has been a tough winter. It reminds me of a newspaper columnist for the St. Paul Pioneer Press from a few years ago, Joe Soucheray. He contended (correctly, I believe) that nothing caused more pain and suffering than a Minnesota winter and he came up with a way to measure the level of pain a winter was causing. Using the amount of snow, overcast days, days below zero, consecutive days below zero and how far below zero it was, he developed a pain chart that started at painful and went to unbelievable pain, tear evoking pain, unbearable pain, soul sucking pain, and so on. You get the idea. Nothing takes it out of you like a tough winter. I'm not sure where we would fit on Soucheray's chart, but I believe we are at least at unbelievable pain.

The idea of dealing with pain, suffering and adversity is something I meditated on during renewal leave. Scot Peck calls pain, "The road less traveled." C. S. Lewis calls it, "God's megaphone." Contemporary author Phil Yancy calls it, "the gift no one wants." I am referring to the things in life that create tension. You go to the doctor for an odd pain and you are told it is cancer. That is tension. Part of you says, "Ok, I will travel this road and see what God has for me." There are lessons to be learned along the road of affliction, hardship and pain.

1. Suffering is inevitable. Your parents didn't escape it, neither have you and neither will your children. Some people suggest that suffering is wrong. If you suffer it is because you are out of the will of God. That is garbage. Scripture does not support that thinking at all. 2 Corinthians 4:7-10 and 1 Peter 4:12-16 make it plain. Suffering is inevitable.
2. Suffering is essential. Check out Psalm 119:67, 71 and 75. One stubborn old guy told me from a hospital bed once, "God never had my attention until he knocked me flat on my back. Since then, I have been listening." Suffering is essential, not only because it softens our spirits, making us sensitive to the voice of God, but it also shows us who and what we really are.

Some practical thoughts to consider during suffering and affliction.

1. As Christians, having our comfort zone invaded is essential, not unfair. It's called life, it happens. There is a great cartoon on the bulletin board at Janesville in the East entry way. Jesus is talking to a young man on a park bench. The young man asks, "I was wondering why you allow war and suffering." Jesus replies, "Funny, I was going to ask you the same thing." Could God arbitrarily stop all suffering and wrong doing? Sure, but only at the cost of free will. You want freedom? Then there will be suffering. Get used to it.

2. As soldiers of the cross, and that is what Christians are, suffering in battle is expected, not unusual. Those who follow Jesus need to understand there is a war going on against the forces of darkness. There are those who oppose us, not just in the physical realm, but in the Spiritual realm as well. If you are going to stand for what is right, you are going to take some heat.

Here is the deal, God may be trying to get your attention and perhaps He has not succeeded yet. He will not stop until He does. He wants you to see the truth and He will invade your comfort zone to do it. But the good news is when He does, He will walk the road less traveled with you.

I would invite you to turn to the Lord now. Quit putting it off. There is no better time than right now. It will never get any easier and the results will be better than anything you can imagine. Let today be the day.

Your Pastor,
Mike Carey



Birthdays & Anniversaries in March

BIRTHDAYS

- 10 - Annette Tolander
- 21 - Julie Douglas
- 21 - William Munchoff III
- 26 - Nancy Patterson

ANNIVERSARIES

- 29 - David & Jan Petry



- Sue Roberts**
- Carolyn Mumm**
- Diane Roberts**
- Ed Smith**
- Melissa Boeschen**
- Pennie Lundberg**



Remember These Shut-Ins

- Mel Bartels**
- Margaret Mumm**
- Barb Doughty**
- Richard & Dee Vandenberg**
- Lila Epling**



MEDIA OPERATORS FOR MARCH

- March 3 – Jean Clausen
- March 10 – Nancy Patterson
- March 17 – Dave Tolander
- March 24 – Dave Tolander
- March 31 – Nancy Patterson



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 3rd. Pancakes, sausage, and fruit will be served before church from 7:45 – 8:45 a.m. and following church during our regular fellowship time. Come hungry!



Don't forget to check out the Church Library





Weekly Offering for February 2019

Offering:

February	3	1,790.00
	10	530.00
Snow	17	0
Snow	24	0
		\$ 2,320.00

Also received:

Apportionment:	\$	30.00
Matthew 25 Grant		135.08
Food Bank		25.00
Rent		1,000.00
TOTAL	\$	1,190.08



Approved 2019 budget:	\$85,866.00
Approved budget through February:	\$14,311.00
Apportionments due for 2019:	\$11,912.00
Apportionment payment per month:	\$ 993.00

	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Giving towards budget:	\$ 2,320.00	\$ 5,400.00
Budget Expenses:	\$ 5,427.00	\$11,114.00
Giving Apportionments:	\$ 30.00	\$ 160.00
Apportionment Payments:	\$ 0	\$ 0



March Preaching Schedule

3	The Suffering Cup	Matthew 20:17-28
10	Pick up Your Cross	Matthew 16:21-27
17	Unless a Grain Falls	John 12:20-33
24	The Dress Rehearsal	John 11:1-44
31	Surviving Crucifixion	1 Corinthians 15:12-20



Wednesday morning Bible study of Mark meets at 10:00 a.m. each week. It's never too late to get started!



Join us on Wednesday, March 6th, at 11:00 a.m. for cards, dominos, or just good conversation. Chicken Alfredo Pasta Casserole, tossed salad, and garlic bread will be served at noon. Everyone is welcome.

Ash Wednesday service, will be Wednesday, March 6th, at 5:30 p.m. in place of regular Wednesday Family Night activities. We will impose ashes. Come and begin the Lenten Season with your church family.



Time changes at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 10th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead before bed on Saturday.



Regular Family Night Activities resume on Wednesday, March 13th, with Adult Bible Study and children's programming at 6:15 p.m. Plan to join us.



The men will meet for breakfast on Saturday, March 23rd, at 8:00 a.m.



will meet Wednesday, March 27th, at 5:45 p.m.



Join us after Church Council meeting on Wednesday, March 27th, for walking tacos, brownies and ice cream and a fun night of trivia.



