



Upcoming Services and Events

March 3

9:30 Combined
Worship Service
Brunch
Fellowship
Following Service

March 6

7:00 pm Ash
Wednesday
Service

March 10

8:30 Communion
Worship
10:45 Blended
Worship

March 17

8:30 Communion
Worship
10:45 Blended
Worship
Coffee Fellowship

March 24

8:30 Communion
Worship
10:45 Blended
Worship
Loose Change
Sunday

March 31

8:30 Communion
Worship
10:45 Blended
Worship

Special Session of General Conference wrap up

From Northern Illinois Conference

ST. LOUIS – After four days of prayers, debates, and voting, delegates at the Special Session to General Conference, the United Methodist Church's top lawmaking assembly, approved the Traditional Plan that affirms church policies on homosexuality and strengthens enforcement. The vote was 438 to 384.

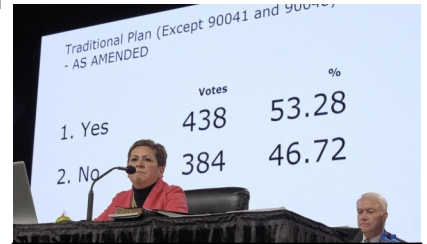
The Council of Bishops' recommended One Church Plan, which would have left questions of marriage up to individual churches and clergy, and ordination up to conferences failed in the Legislative Committee on Feb. 25. The vote was 53 to almost 47 percent.

More than 820 clergy and lay delegates from all over the world met from Feb. 24-26 in St. Louis to discuss and act on the report of the Commission on a Way Forward, over the issue of human sexuality. Late in the afternoon on Feb. 26, the delegates approved a motion to ask the Judicial Council, the highest court in the denomination, to review the constitutionality of the approved legislation. The Judicial Council will address the request at its next scheduled meeting April 23-25 in Evanston, Ill.

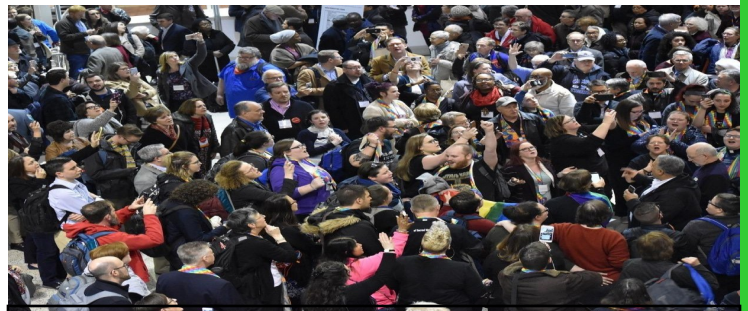
Near the end of the day, delegates voted to adopt the minority report for one of the petitions on disaffiliation, which then passed. When the Traditional Plan vote was announced and flashed on the screen, some in the room erupted with observers singing "Blessed Assurance." A group of delegates gathered in a circle and joined in with the singing. LGTBQ supporters in the bleachers went into a call and response, some chanting, "no, no, no", in protest of the vote.

A handful of observers unhappy with the day's legislative results tried to gain entrance to the plenary floor, but security officers blocked them and eventually moved them through turnstiles farther away from the doors. The protesters continued to chant their demand to be admitted. "I'm going back and forth between being heartbroken and crying to total disbelief," said NIC Delegation Chair Elisa Gatz. "It seems so surreal. It seems like we were there talking about something completely different. That wasn't what we were called to do and that isn't how you treat people."

NIC Clergy delegate Rev. Gregory Gross, who is an openly gay deacon, expressed pain and grief over the General Conference's decision. "What's going through my mind is that people made it very clear they don't want me in their church," said Gross who added it may be time to talk about a new expression of Methodism. "What happened this week is not the grace of the United Methodist Church and it's not the grace that John Wesley taught us. We need to find a place where we can really live that out."



Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey observes the results from a Feb. 26th vote for the Traditional Plan, which affirms the churches current bans on ordaining LGBTQ clergy and officiating at or hosting a same sex marriage. The vote came on the last day of the 2019 General Conference in St. Louis.



LGBTQ supporters rally and sing in the entry of the dome at America's Center in St. Louis Tuesday evening after the vote by the General Conference to approve the amended Traditional plan.

Aurora District Superintendent Rev. Jeffrey Bross and his 81-year-old father Rev. Bill Bross, a retired United Methodist clergy from the Wisconsin Conference, were among the 3,000 observers at this historic Special Session. The father-son pair offered prayers to all those who may be hurting from the decisions made. "To the LGBTQI community, know that your sacred worth is not affected by the votes of people, hear that strongly," said Bross. "God's love is bigger than this General Conference."

The Rev. Billy Bross, who first preached from the pulpit at age 18, expressed his disappointment in the decisions of this General Conference. "It feels like we are going backward rather than forward and I always want the church to go forward," said Bross who added he also remains hopeful. "We will always be people of God and we will find a way to make it work. We may not make it together with all the people we've been marching with together, but somehow or another, there will be a continuation of who we are and what we stand for." At the end of a brief closing worship, Council of Bishops President Kenneth H. Carter wished everyone in attendance "the peace of the Lord in the midst of all you have experienced." Bishop Carter later said that bishops will have to do a lot of outreach after this General Conference, especially to progressives who feel hurt by what transpired.



Bishop Dyck speaks to NIC delegates, clergy and observers during the lunch break at the special session to offer prayers and words of assurance, "I think, for the time being, we need to take care of ourselves, take care of each other, and stay in love with God as we begin to let some clarity come."

"We are going to do a lot of outreach to progressives to say 'we see you'," he said during a press conference after General Conference adjourned. Carter is also the leader of the Florida Conference, which has congregations across the theological spectrum. The General Conference is the highest legislative body in the church and the only group who can decide church law and speak officially for the global denomination. "What do we do the day after? First, we grieve. Then we go and make disciples of Jesus Christ," wrote Bishop Sally Dyck on Facebook on Feb. 27. "Making disciples means becoming incarnate love and grace to each other and our communities." The Bishop will release her post-General Conference statement on Friday, March 1. It will be posted on the NIC website and sent in a special eNews.

What is the Traditional Plan?

The Traditional Plan keeps the current language around sexuality and increases accountability by streamlining the processes to enforce penalties for violations of The Book of Discipline related to marriage and ordination of LGBTQI persons. Some parts of the Traditional Plan were ruled unconstitutional, and it will take some time to clarify which parts will become part of our church law and which parts will not. "We continue to teach and believe that all persons are welcomed in the church, all persons are persons of sacred worth and we welcome all to receive the ministry of Jesus. Human sexuality is a topic on which people of faith have differing views," said Bishop Ken Carter, president of the Council of Bishops, after the conference ended. "Despite our differences, we will continue to work together to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and share God's love with all people."

Many churches across the Northern Illinois Conference displayed signs of welcome to the LGBTQ community. Bethany of Fox Valley UMC signage was changed to read, "We are not changed at all! No matter who you are, you are all masterpieces of God." In Rockford, several clergy stood outside near a busy intersection with signs that read, "God loves LGBTQ people and so do we."

What is the next step for the UMC?

Since the legislation is not the official church law until January 1, 2020, the bishops are urging all United Methodists to stay focused on the mission that glorifies God and reaches new people with the gospel. Bishops will be holding meetings with clergy and laity in their annual conferences on how details will be handled in each area.

Post-General Conference Debriefings will be held in three locations on two days in the Northern Illinois Conference on March 30 and March 31.

Saturday, March 30 at 9:30 a.m. - Location: Orland Park: Faith UMC, 15101 S 80th Ave., Orland Park.

Saturday, March 30 at 2 p.m. - Location: Barrington UMC, 98 Algonquin Rd., Barrington.

Sunday, March 31 at 3 p.m. - Location: Oregon UMC, 200 S. 4th St., Oregon.



Rockford Area Clergy stand in solidarity With the LGBTQ community

Homosexuality and the Bible

By Dale Janssen, a Lay Leader of Lemont UMC

For many Christians, the subject of homosexuality is very difficult to discuss. For their entire lives they have believed the Bible, and therefore God has condemned homosexuality. They believe that to fully accept homosexuals is a betrayal of God and their religion. On the other hand, condemnation of gay people has also made many other Christians uncomfortable. Those Christians say our modern understanding of a loving God seems to be incompatible with those teachings. Not being a Biblical scholar myself, I wanted to find out what the Bible really says about homosexuality, not what I assume it says. When I announced that I wanted to do a Sunday School study about this topic, I'm sure that many people avoided the class because of the subject matter. Others joined the class for the first time. I want to thank everyone who did attend for allowing me to explore this topic, even though some of them had opinions in opposition to mine. Everyone was allowed to express their opinions without fear of embarrassment or ridicule. I think we all gained new perspectives, regardless of which side of the argument we were on. We of course could not agree on one definitive answer to the question. There are many respected theologians and Biblical scholars who can't agree. Only God knows, but I prefer to believe in a God who created and loves us all.

Depending on where you research the statistics, there are about eleven million people in the United States that identify as LGBTQ. Various studies have said that anywhere from four to eleven percent of the population in the United States are LGBTQ. Part of the problem in that variance may be the unwillingness of many to admit their sexual orientation because of the severe consequences attached to that admission. For the rest of this talk, I'll probably be using the terms gay or homosexual as all inclusive, even though they really aren't. Many of those eleven million gay people believe that God and the Church doesn't love them, so they reject the church that they believe has rejected them. Gay people are discriminated against in adoption, parental rights, housing, marriage, and in many other arenas of life. LGBTQ youth are four times more likely to commit suicide. Conservative Christian pastors have even spoken out, claiming that natural disasters are caused by God's displeasure with homosexuality. Many heterosexual Christians see the words and actions of the Church and no longer want to be part of organized religion because of our treatment of homosexuals. At a time when mainline Christian Churches are declining, there are so many people who need God. Why are we excluding them?

Everyone knows the Bible says homosexuality is a sin, or does it? There are about 31,000 verses in the Bible. Only six verses deal with same sex relations in any way. Many Christians believe in the inerrancy of the Bible. That means that every word in the Bible was given to its writers by God. Every single verse and every subsequent translation are the written Word of God. They believe the Bible to be a literal history, science and rule book by which we should live our lives. For those Christians, that is enough evidence to say that homosexuality is forbidden by the Bible and the discussion ends there. People who believe in the inerrancy of the Bible then have a very hard time reconciling the many contradictions and so many examples of a loving God that has somehow committed many acts of revenge, destruction, and killing.

Other Christians point out those six verses are far outnumbered by the mentions of God's love and how we are to love our fellow man. They further point out that while the many people involved in writing and compiling the Bible had a love of God, their writing was also tempered by the culture and events of the day, as well as their own personal views. Since many of the people in Biblical times did not know how to read or write, much of the Bible is composed of stories that were passed down verbally for centuries. Like a game of telephone, the original story probably changed as it was told and retold, until it was finally written down. After that, there is also the problem of translation. There are often no equivalent words between modern and ancient languages. Translators are then left to make their best approximation of the meaning of any given phrase or word. There isn't even an ancient word for homosexual. Progressive Christians also point to the fact that Jesus came to earth to be the Living Word. He never said a word for or against homosexuality.

The six passages that supposedly condemn homosexuality are often called the clobber passages. The book we used in this study was Unclobber, by Colby Martin, an Evangelical pastor. I chose this book because Evangelicals are often the loudest voices condemning homosexuality. Pastor Martin believes in the inerrancy of the Bible, but not in the inerrancy of our understanding of these particular passages. I also researched

several other books, both pro and con on the subject, as well as watching two excellent videos and a power point presentation from an eight week study done at the St. Charles United Methodist Church. We used these additional materials to supplement our class. If anyone is interested in learning more about what the Bible says on this subject, see me and I would be happy to let you borrow any of the materials.

Because of the time limitations, I won't be able cover everything that was discussed in our class, but I will talk about a few of the highlights. The first Clobber passage we discussed was the story of Sodom and Gomorrah. God supposedly destroyed the two cities because of homosexuality. Actually, when you read the whole story, two strangers entered Sodom and Lot invited them to stay at his home. Every other man in the town came to Lot's house and demanded he send them outside. They wanted rape the strangers. Rape is not about sex. It is about intimidation and domination. It would also be ludicrous to say that every man in the city except Lot was a homosexual. Lot even offered his two virgin daughters to the men, but they were only interested in raping the strangers. It just so happens that the strangers were angels that God had sent to destroy the two cities.

The angels blinded the men of Sodom so Lot and his family could escape before the cities were destroyed. Many Biblical scholars say this story is about hospitality and the way to treat others, rather than homosexuality. If you read the entire story, it seems to have many exaggerations of hospitality and inhospitable behavior. I personally don't believe the details are accurate, and I don't believe that is important. Like Jesus' parables, this is a story meant to illustrate a point in an interesting way, not to provide an accurate account of events.

Leviticus says "You shall not lie down with a man as with a woman." Leviticus also says that this is an abomination. It does seem to be pretty straightforward. The confusing part comes in the translation of the words used in the Hebrew text that leave some doubt as to the original meaning. The reason for this doubt is too confusing for me to give you a competent explanation in the time I have here, just know there are many people who question the actual meaning of the original Hebrew texts. These two verses in Leviticus are in a section known as the Holiness Codes. We commonly think of holy as meaning religious or closer to God, but to the Jews it meant apart from or separate from the Egyptians, the Canaanites, and all other Gentiles. The Jews were instructed to be apart from them by living their lives differently. Leviticus gave them restrictions on how they could eat, dress, and groom themselves It gave rules on how to treat their slaves. It's where they learned an eye for an eye. It told them the penalty for a child who disrespects their parent is death. Leviticus gave the Israelites rules about business ethics, tattoos, menstruation, circumcision, and every other aspect of Jewish life among the many cleanliness rules. Abomination is a word that to us would represent something that is sickening or disgusting. To a Jew, it simply means contrary to nature. It was not about morality. It was about identity. As modern day Christians, we break many of Leviticus' cleanliness rules every day. To the ancient Jews, we are committing an abomination.

Paul wrote in Romans about how the people knew God, but they had turned away from Him and had committed many horrible acts, including men having sex with men and women committing unnatural acts.

Because of their actions, God abandoned them. What was happening at the time Paul was writing this letter? The Christian Jews had been driven out of Rome by Emperor Claudius in 49 A.D. The only Christians in Rome were the Gentiles. When Claudius died five years later, the Christian Jews returned and there was a power struggle between the Jewish and Gentile Christians. As each group of Christians read this letter, they naturally believed that Paul was writing about the other group turning away from God. After they assume that Paul is on their side, Paul wrote that *they were doing the same things and were no better than the other group. We are all saved only by God's Grace.*

There is also a question as to why Paul specifically mentions these so called homosexual acts. It is believed by many that he could have been referring to the exploitative acts that were common in that time such as rape, temple prostitution, and pederasty, in which a rich nobleman would take a young slave into his household for sexual purposes as kind of a status symbol. Interestingly, the Bible does not mention anything about women having sex with women. Paul mentions women doing unnatural acts in these verses, but even that may not refer to lesbian sex. The early Christian church did not believe that passage had to do with women having sexual relations with women. Well into the fourth century, that particular verse was commonly believed to refer to any sex between a man and a woman that was not vaginal intercourse. Those acts were contrary to nature or an abomination. It should also be pointed out that in his letters, Paul tells Christians that it would be best to remain celibate like him, but if they are tempted by lust, then they should marry rather than to be

overcome with sin. Paul also said if you are already married and your spouse dies, it is best not to remarry. Paul didn't seem to have a healthy view of sex anyway.

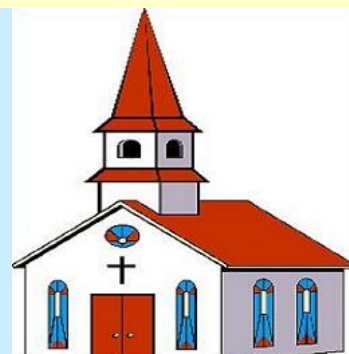
Many Christians say they are against homosexual marriage because they only support the Biblical view of marriage. So, what is the Biblical view of marriage? While the Bible mentions weddings, it doesn't mention any type of marriage ceremony in a temple or church. There is also no mention of a ceremony being performed by any type of priest. Marriage was a business arrangement. I'll give you three sheep and you give me your daughter. Wives were considered property. Many of the heroes of the Old Testament practiced polygamy and had concubines. There are two creation stories in Genesis. In the first, God created man and woman equally at the same time. In the second, God took Adam's rib to create Eve. Those who prefer that version say that a man and a woman need to join together in marriage to achieve "oneness." What does that say to all the people who remain single either by choice or circumstances? Other Christians say that God created man and woman for procreation. Does that mean a married couple can only have sex for the purpose of having children? Is a healthy sex life therefore unacceptable in a Biblical marriage?

Many times during our class we heard the comment "I don't understand how a person could be attracted to someone of the same sex". Just because we don't understand, doesn't mean someone else's feelings aren't legitimate. While there is no current scientific proof of the cause of homosexuality, it should be apparent that it is not a lifestyle choice. To think homosexuals would subject themselves to abuse and ridicule just because they choose to is a ridiculous idea. To deny homosexuals the opportunity to have a loving relationship and all the rights, worth, and dignity of every other human being seems to oppose everything Jesus taught us.

Last Sunday, Pastor Oh's sermon was on the four plans the United Methodist Church is considering at a special General Conference being held this week in St. Louis. That Conference will determine our denomination's position on this subject. By the end of the conference they will vote on one of the four plans that Pastor Oh explained last week. It is also possible that the vote will be postponed to allow further study and discussion. Since the plans were described last week, I won't discuss them any further, except to point out that the Simple Plan is actually a return to the language in The Book of Discipline, pre 1971. From the days of John Wesley forward, our church had not felt the need to put any written restrictions regarding homosexuality into the discipline until 1971. The early Methodists evidently were more inclusive than we are today. It is difficult to challenge long held beliefs. The purpose of my talk today was not to offend or upset anyone, but to inform you and hopefully clear up some misconceptions that challenge us as Christians and specifically United Methodists. Thank-you!

Happy Hands Preschool is donating money from their fashion show proceeds for new flooring in the downstairs area!! If you know of or have any connections to a flooring company, please let the trustees know. We always try to be conscientious when spending money and look for the best deal available. Thank you for your help.

The Trustees



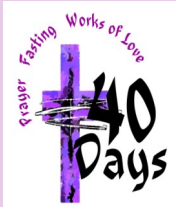
Joyful Again Ministry

Widowed? Wondering: How long it takes before things begin to look better? How to move forward with your life? Then consider attending one of the retreat/workshops being offered for widowed men and women.

March 9th & 10th (Including overnight) at the Mt. Assisi Center, Lemont
(708) 354-7211, joyfulagain7211@gmail.com, www.joyfulagain.org

Thank you to Mark Huegelmann and our Scout Troops who joined us on February 10th. We raised \$743.00 for our Scouts!





Don't give UP things for Lent but give TO for Lent!

Each day add an item in a box or bag and bring to church on Easter Sunday.

- March 13-box of cereal
- March 14-peanut butter
- March 15-pasta sauce
- March 16-pasta noodles
- March 17-canned tuna
- March 18-hamburger helper
- March 19-chips
- March 20-crackers
- March 21-granola bars
- March 22-paper towels
- March 23-fruit snacks
- March 24-ramen
- March 25-macaroni and cheese
- March 26-canned fruit
- March 27-pasta sides
- March 28-box potatoes
- March 29-canned tomatoes
- March 30-corned beef hash
- March 31-dessert mixes
- April 1-shampoo/conditioner

- April 2-femine products
- April 3-soap
- April 4-body wash
- April 5-toothbrushes
- April 6-toothpaste
- April 7-oatmeal
- April 8-applesauce
- April 9-pancake mix
- April 10-lunchbox snacks
- April 11-toilet paper
- April 12-chunky soup
- April 13-canned soup
- April 14-garbage bags
- April 15-canned dog food
- April 16-canned cat food
- April 17-jelly
- April 18-kleenex
- April 19-aluminum foil
- April 20-sandwich baggies
- April 21-coffee

Please help contribute to the Open Pantry for the Lenten season.

40 Days of giving Food Items to Open Pantry~



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 10, 2018-June 14, 2018

Are you ready for an African adventure that engages the whole herd? Lemont United Methodist Church invites children on a 5 day VBS experience where kids discover they are created by God and are built for a purpose. Kids learn: when life is unfair, scary, changes, sad, and good, God is good! VBS is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! And our activities help faith flow into real life. Kids discover that when life is wild, God is good! Church member sign up is Sunday, April 21st and Happy Hands sign up dates are April 23rd & 24th during school hours. The cost is \$30.00 per child. Please let Jodi or Amy know if you are willing to volunteer.



Roar Vacation Bible School transforms our church into a place buzzing with excitement!

Thank you all for your prayers and cards during my surgery and recovery. I don't know what I would do without my church family.

God bless,
Bettye Curry



March 9th 4:30-6:30 pm Feed My Starving Children

GleeAnn was lucky enough to secure 40 spots at Feed My Starving Children for Saturday, March 9th 4:30-6:30 packing session! Please email GleeAnn with the names and ages (if they are kids) of who will be attending.



The spots fill up fast so please let her let her know asap.

Upcoming Worship Services & Events

March 2nd-12:30 pm Senior High Youth Group, Project C.U.R.E.

March 3rd-9:30 am Combined Service, Brunch Fellowship, Worship Committee Meeting

March 6th-6:00 pm Daybreak Shelter/7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

March 9th-8:00 am United Methodist Men/Feed My starving Children 4:30-6:30 pm

March 10th-Girl Scout Sunday

March 13th-7:00 pm Trustees Meeting

March 16th-12:00 pm Primetimers

March 17th-Coffee Fellowship following the 10:45 am service

March 24th-**NO** Youth Sunday School/Loose Change Sunday

March 27th-7:00 pm Ad council Meeting

March 31st-**NO** Youth Sunday School

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 6th at 7 P.M.

The season of Lent begins with a call to repent, which means to “turn around” and is a time of reminding ourselves who we are called to be in the world. Come and receive the mark of ashes on your forehead as a sign that from dust you came and to dust you will return.



FUN OPPORTUNITY

Looking for a fun way to participate and serve our church?
Then think about joining our Activities Committee. We will be planning activities that include everyone for the year.

Some suggestions have been a talent show, a ladies luncheon, a game night, a campfire and movies. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

Come help us make our church a joy filled church.



Breakthrough Prayer

Breakthrough Prayer is asking God to breakthrough (open the floodgates of heaven) with God sized possibilities here on earth. So many times, when we pray we forget how powerful our God is. Use the prayer at the back everyday at 3:05 PM during Lent using the 5 minute Sand Timer.



**“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”
Jeremiah 33:3**

Breakthrough Prayer During Lent

As the waves break on the banks of Des Plain River, so breakthrough our lives, our church, our denomination, our community with new ideas, new hope, and your new possibilities, O God.

We pray with the confidence of Scripture which promises that you will do exceedingly more than we can ask or imagine. Amen.

Lemont United Methodist Church
Lemont, Illinois (3:23 PM)

A Super Collection on “Souper Bowl” Sunday

Coinciding with the football Super Bowl on Sunday, **February 3rd**, our Sunday School Children took a special collection. Thank you to all who reached into your pockets to drop a coin or bill into the soup pots. It might not have seemed like much but we collected a total of **\$91.00**. Together we make a difference! All contributions have been donated to our Open Pantry to help provide food for local families in need.

Thank you for helping us put a bowl of soup on every table!



#ELLIESTRONG

On February 17th our church raised \$939.00 to help Ellie and her family.

If you would like to help, please contact the church office.

Thank You.

\$2 BRACELET TO SUPPORT LEMONT FAMILY

Additional donations welcome. Thank you for your support!

ELLIE'S STORY:

Ellie is a 14 year old freshman at Lemont High School who loves to sing and share her story with the world. She is also a girl who just started off her 8th year of battling an aggressive brain tumor with her FOURTH and most devastating surgery. The family has received much love and support from the community but much more is needed. Ellie has endured over 6 years of Chemotherapy straight. Unfortunately Ellie's tumor grew 40% this past chemo break. Ellie had her most recent brain surgery on January 22 to remove as much tumor as possible. Ellie has a long road of recovery in front of her, as she learns to eat, drink, walk, and regain function so any support is much appreciated!

LUMC Women's Book Club

No meetings January to April

May 13, 2019 "The River of Doubt"
by Candice Millard



Open Pantry

Starting in March we began collecting food donations from our own church family for the Open Pantry. We will continuously do this the 1st **Sunday** of every month.
Thank You!

RED BIRD MISSION YARD SALE/TREASURE HUNT

This summer **THE RED BIRD MISSION COMMITTEE** will be sponsoring a Yard Sale/Treasure Hunt at the Lemont United Methodist Church to raise money for the 2020 mission trip.

We are asking for slightly used items for the sale.
All items will be welcome except for clothing.

Dates of the Yard Sale/Treasure Hunt to be announced.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 A.M.

CHILDREN'S CLASSES: Ages pre-k-5/6
JUNIOR HIGH : Grades 6th-8th
BREAKFAST CLUB: High School Freshman-Senior
ADULT CLASSES: In the Conference Room/Pastor's Office

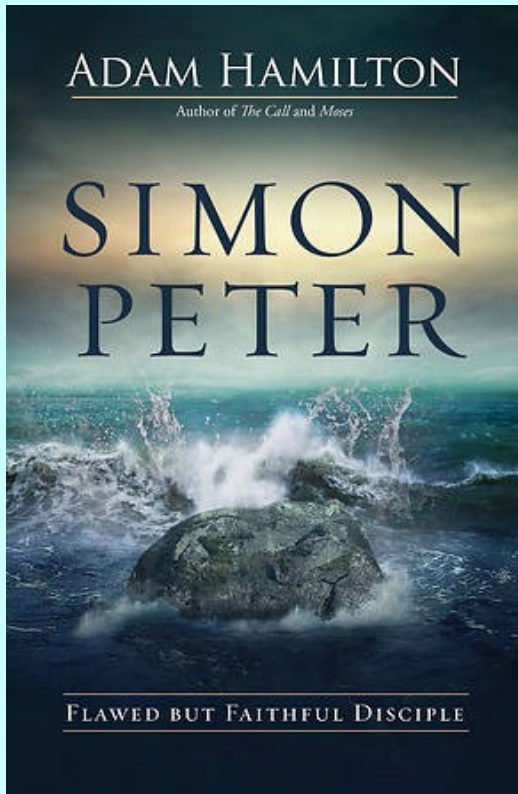
Labor Day-Memorial Day

***We will not be teaching youth Sunday School when the children have a three day weekend.**

Please join us! All are welcome!



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

He was not rich or educated, but was familiar with hard work. He was quick-tempered and impetuous, but possessed a passion that would change the world. He left everything to follow his teacher, yet struggled with doubt and fear.

Join six-week Lenten journey, and take an in-depth dive into the life, faith, and character of Simon Peter.

Dale Janssen will be teaching on every Sunday at the 9:30 am Adult Sunday School.

Pastor will offer a Bible study class. Please let her know if you are interested.

Looking Ahead The Last Supper

Though it seems far in the future, it isn't. The first Last Supper rehearsal will occur on Wednesday, April 3rd. The second rehearsal will be on Wednesday, April 10th. The final, and mandatory rehearsal will be on Saturday, April 13th. All rehearsals will be at 7pm.

The Last Supper performance will be on April 14th, Palm Sunday evening at 7pm. I will be contacting all of the people involved. Arlene Knott, director.



Loose Change Sunday & Rainbow Covenant

March 2019 Rainbow Covenant

In addition to our annual apportionment, LUMC makes monetary donations through the Rainbow Covenant in order to support specific causes. All loose change collected on the fourth Sunday of each month goes to support the Rainbow Covenant. Each month we highlight a charity from one of the bands of the Rainbow Covenant. For March, we are highlighting the **yellow band charity, Tree of Life Ministry, Pierre South Dakota**. This ministry with Lakota Native Americans addresses needs on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge reservations in South Dakota. They provide groceries and meals to the hungry; repairs to sub-standard homes; and supports local teachers as they reclaim native culture and language. Please bring in plenty of change on **March 24th** (Loose Change Sunday) to contribute to the Rainbow Covenant. If you would like to make a larger offering to this specific charity, write **“Tree of Life”** on a pew envelope. Thank you for your support of the special ministries in the Rainbow Covenant.

Combined Service and Brunch, Sunday, March 3rd

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, March 3rd. As we head into Spring, we will fellowship together at our Brunch. On the 3rd we will have only one service starting at 9:30 a.m. Fellowship and Brunch will follow at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We are hoping for a great turn out. If you are able to attend please sign up on the sheet on the back table in the Sanctuary. We will need to know numbers for food preparation. You can also sign up to bring something if you are able. The menu will be breakfast casseroles with fruit and other delicious sides. **Come and break bread with us.**

Pizza Sale Thank You

Thank you to all our members who purchased our homemade pizzas. Thank you to Steve & Gina Walter who planned, measured and bagged the ingredients; and everyone who helped make them! We raised

\$656.42 for Red Bird Mission and sold **119** pizzas!

The pizzas were delivered on Super Bowl Sunday, so mark the date for next year!



Ed & Brenda
Almonellis

Ed & Aurora
Zapata

Bill Shelby

Pastor Oh,
Thank you so much for
your spiritual and
emotional support during
my mother's time in the
hospital and nursing rehab.
My mother thought you were
so kind to visit her and
and say prayers.

Please accept our
donations to your
wonderful church in
memory of Florence Shelby
our beloved mother.

Thank you to the Praise Band for sharing their love of God with us
through music!



READ YOUR BIBLE

Phil Ramos

This is a mandatory voluntary 'Open Book' quiz for you to take. Match the passages (1 through 5) with the correct chapter and verse (a-e). The intent is to get you to open your bible, read the chapters in which these passages are found, and reflect. Enjoy!

1 In your anger, do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.

2 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of becoming content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all of this through Him who gives me strength.

3 The Lord is slow to anger but great in power; the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished. His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of His feet.

4 Create in me a clean heart, oh God, and renew a steadfast spirit in me.

5 Let the heavens rejoice, let the Earth be glad; let them say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!"

- a) Nahum 1:3
- b) 1 Chronicles 16:31
- c) Philippians 4: 12-13
- d) Psalm 51:10
- e) Ephesians 4: 26-27

Remember to set your clocks
forward.

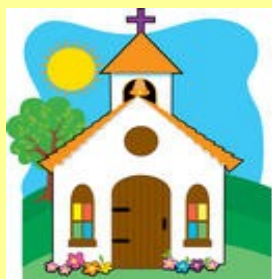
Daylight Savings Time begins
March 10th.



Handyman Help

If there is anyone in our church who may occasionally need help with household repairs, basic maintenance, or grass cutting, Tom Gebel has offered to help. His number is 312-438-5605.

Thank You Tom!



ESL Tutoring

Kay Norfleet has graciously offered to teach English as a second language to anyone in need.

If you are interested, you can contact her at 630-257-6699.

Books Available in the Library By Kay Norfleet

March 2019 Book Reviews

Again I ask you to read "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett. The book describes one example of extreme prejudice-racism. The Bible tells us clearly how to treat others by focusing on the negative and positive: You are aware of the passage that begins "Love your neighbor as yourself." And who is your neighbor? You know. You also know your feelings could apply to the Jewish, the Mexicans, the East Europeans etc. February was Black history month...we honored Martin Luther King. Well, at least we were happy to celebrate his birthday by not going to school, not having mail, having some businesses close. However, in the words of Martin "some day little children...and our people will be FREE AT LAST." I think he meant, Free as it applies to Racism, Jim Crow laws, racial division. "The Help" describes one type of life that Pastor King knew about: Some people in the sixties south experienced that racial division. But, in the book, they discovered HOPE. Hope that they may be Free from racial division, free to pursue equality with whites -what the whites can do.

"The Defender's Guide for Life's Toughest Questions" is an interesting book. It provides answers to questions that might be asked by atheists, and let's face it, some of us are "in the dark" about answers that should be given, answers that appear in the Bible that acknowledge our fallen world...and we fallen people who inhabit and make up this fallen world. Answers to the question about "why did God let Hitler exist." Why doesn't God step in as soon as He sees something happening that shouldn't, according to Him. God is merciful. God is the God of second chances. Men are sinners. In the end, Hitler and the Nazis were punished. But as someone whose relatives suffered under Hitler, I still don't understand. After all, I'm imperfect. The book does quote from the Bible and answer pertinent questions. Such as "why did God drown all those guys who were chasing his people." They'd been warned, says the Bible. Yes, I believe that's so. But could they understand the warning? Obviously not.

"Switch on Your Brain Every Day" are 365 readings for a thoughtful life. I especially appreciate Day 69's offering. Basically, it is that we don't know what we don't know- but God means whatever happens for good. That is so reassuring. Or Day 1 and Day 6, which exhort us to make choices. Make choices on what God says is right, do not be conformed to the world. Day 176 urges "thinker time." I guess that's a way to make long range choices, but for immediate choices it seems as if we must acknowledge the Bible, and that God's mind which is so much more complex than ours.

"The Prince of Egypt" (for the younger) is based on the Biblical non-fiction account of Moses. Disney thought it was worth a motion picture with some imagination events thrown in. Of course you need to read the Bible so you can discern where imagination prevailed. Being able to tell younger one the real story, then allowing him to read Disney's adaptation is necessary. So read and tell Exodus 2. You might allow how God turns events that look negative into positive...even though it might take a while.

SUGGESTED NEW MINISTRY

In a recent Upper Room devotional, the author talked about visiting a retirement center for fellowship and sharing with the residents. After reading this article, I was so moved. Maybe we could form a group to have this kind of ministry! In the Lemont area, there are many centers. Please call me if you are interested. My number is: 815 838 6318.

Looking forward to hear from you.

Paulette Fries

Liturgist Schedule

Mar. 3 –9:30-Mark
Huegelmann

Feb. 10-8:30-
10:45-Dale
Janssen

Mar. 17 -8:30-
10:45-Cris Kerins

Mar. 24 –8:30-
10:45-Marty Knott

Mar. 31-8:30-
10:45-Ryan
Peraino

Aliens 2

By Richard H. Lee

There's a program on TV science channel I watch occasionally about places and technology that is equal to or greater than today's best. Experts examine the evidence and decide this could not possibly been done a thousand years or more ago by mere humans and primitive tools. This should get us wondering about superior beings that came to earth to have some fun and maybe build places of worship.

I think when humans could not worship or honor the superiority of divine beings they were left to die or leave a legacy of wonder and how it could have been done. I have studied the temples in Mexico and Central America and done analysis on murals painted hundreds of years ago and found various levels of technology and civilizations but we're still not sure what happened to those civilizations. But we do see images of gods they believed in and even sacrificed to. I think my next children's talk will be about angels.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mar. 1-Anthony Havemann

Mar. 5-Bill Hill

Mar. 5-Kristin Nelson

Mar. 7-Jantha Laemmer

Mar. 9-Ryan Peraino

Mar. 12-Julie Rainaldi

Mar. 12-Tiffani Cheehy

Mar. 16-Rybecca Janovyak

Mar. 23-Mike Pelikan

Mar. 25-Don Fisher

Mar. 29-Linda Lubben

Happy Anniversary

March 11-Teague & Kathy Cliff



****Scrip Cards****

I encourage you to look at the 2 folders I recently placed in the back of the church marked: **SCRIP by Category** and **SCRIP Alphabetical**. Feel free to take the list and browse through the many many retailers that participate in this program.



Scrip fundraising is a no-selling program that enables families to raise money for their non-profit organization (NPO). Scrip is just another way to pay for everyday purchases using gift cards in place of cash, checks, and credit cards.

You purchase gift cards from your organization at face value, and your coordinator orders those cards from Great Lakes Scrip Center at a reduced price. The difference is an instant rebate for your organization. It's really that simple!

Great Lakes Scrip Center offers over 300 of the country's biggest brands, including grocery, department stores, gas stations, restaurants, hotels, home improvement, and more. Just by using scrip to pay for your normal weekly purchases, you can easily raise \$500 or more per year. It's time to put your shopping dollars to work!

Customize this field with coordinator contact info, enrollment code, and/or sign-up information.

shopwithscrip.com
© 2013 Great Lakes Scrip Center LLC

Also please know that **VISA** cards are available in increments of \$50, \$100, and \$250.

There are many retailers that offer "**Visa five back**" which means if you go to a participating retailer, they will put 5% of your purchase back on your card.

Red Lobster, Outback, Panera, Sephora, Red Robin, Old Navy and Bakers Square are just a few. For many more please visit www.fivebackgift.com for a complete list.

Again, I Thank You for your participation in this program!

OPEN PANTRY NEWS

Volunteers are needed to stock shelves for the Open Pantry. Hours are on Monday mornings from 9:30-11:00, this is light work and helpful to families that work during the day. **The Open Pantry is in need of canned fruit, cereal, mac and cheese, pasta sauce, paper towels and snacks.**



Sanctuary Volunteers Are Needed!

As you have seen, the video and audio are up and running. What we need now are volunteers! We do not want to have one person stuck in the booth every Sunday. Plus we need to spread the knowledge around so when someone goes on vacation, there will be someone to fill in. Our goal is to have 4-6 people who are comfortable flipping through the computer presentation slides and 4-6 people who are comfortable raising and lower the sound on a mic so we do not have feedback. You do not have to worry. We will walk you through the programs and train you so you feel comfortable with the devices! We just need volunteers!

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary for both sound volunteers. We need people for both the 8:30 and 10:45 services. The more we have the better. That means that everyone will be able to sit with their family most Sundays. So, please put your name on the sign up sheet or stop by the booth and let Jana Stelter or someone on the Worship committee know. We will get you familiar with the program so you can get in the rotation to volunteer for a service.

DAYBREAK SHELTER NEEDS YOU!

Our church has had very consistent, dedicated cooks for the last 10 plus years, lets give them a well deserved reprieve. There are so many able bodied cooks in or congregation....how bout sharing your talents and a little of your time? Remember it's only once a month, and if you double it, you have your personal dinner as well :) Marge

Calling All Musicians

We are encouraging all musicians and singers who are interested in joining the Praise Band to contact Leslie, Bob, or Jana.

Come join us!



MEANINGFUL MOMENTS WITH GOD

*"Pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
1 Thessalonians 2:17-18*

*Dawn Ferrazzi, kidney issues/testing
*Christine Miller, recovering
*Marty Knott, healing
Anna (Fries), bladder cancer
June (Havemann), stomach cancer
*Neil Janssen, strength
Kristin & Evelyn (Havemann), strength
Ron, cancer treatment
Teri Janovyak, ALS
Mary (Havemann), cancer
Lori Bartwick, breast cancer
*Sheila Farrer, health issues
Joe Sigety, ALS
*Jason Kehr, cystic fibrosis
Lou Gunder, lymphoma/chemo
Madeline Hamelen, biopsy
Maureen Robinson, health issues
Rich & Colette, healing from surgery
Anna (Brockner), ovarian cancer
Sandy (McAdams), kidney removed
Katie (Norfleet), kidney disease
Dana Patterson, brain tumor & MS
Marty Rolin, nerve damage
Harper (Norfleet), infant/leukemia
Jamie, brain aneurysm, surgery
Aurora Shooting Victims
Linda, dementia
Florian Talos, parkinson's
Lois, stage 3 cancer
Chuck (Lubben) Anderson, c-diff
Kathy Parcell, leg surgery
*Sandra, autoimmune disease

Cindy Hudon, cancer/chemo
Mary, stage 4 cancer
Suebea Wright, radiation
Ron Hamelen, Alzheimer's
*Dave Mlady, lingering illness
Judy Bramill, cancer
Michelle, lost her mother
E.D. McCormick, cancer
Amy Makinney, seeing a rheumatologist
Gabrielle Blunt, Alzheimer's
Jim Kratochvil, eye stroke
Betty Broderick, rehab
Debbie Turner, kidney transplant
*Alberta Harden, eye problems
Jodi Rigoni, cancer treatments
Ellie Cuiching, radiation
Andrew (Pecher), cancer
Jim Durham, cong. heart failure
Jackie (Stout), flare up
Valerie O., ovarian cancer
*Roland Tasker, healing
Robert Piersma, breathing difficulty
Melanie Foster, ovarian cancer
Brian (Norfleet), 46, brain cancer
*Dave Kennedy, at Lemont Center
*Phyllis Gidlund (Janovyak), therapy
Don Braden (Pelikan), heart valve surgery
Grieving:
The family of Florence Shelby
The family of Trevor Wehner
The family of Greg Dold
The family of Nancy Ludwig

MONTHLY BLESSINGS AND JOYS

*Scout Sunday Celebration
*The birth of Leila Ann Marie
(Anderson)
*D.S. Jeffery Bross visiting
*Jackson Nelson at school in
Florida
*Our Church Supporting Ellie in
her fight against cancer
*GleeAnn's mom's 88th birthday!
*Amanda (Flondor) giving birth to
healthy twins!
*Enzo (Baxter) improving.
Praise God!

Coffee Fellowship March 17

Carol Walter
Alice Lange
Barbara Lee
Linda Lubben
Priscilla Ludwig
Gina Walter
Pat Farrer



Coffee Fellowship

Expanding Care Bearers Ministry

The Care Bearers have nine new people to help provide an occasional meal (home cooked or purchased) for members of our congregation who are recovering from a serious illness, birth of a baby, or the loss of a family member. Meals are **only occasionally** needed in our church, and it is a wonderful mission!

Alice Lange: 815-838-5158
Wendy Myers: 630-257-7689

March 2019

Children's Message Schedule

Mar. 3

Ron Walter

Mar. 10

Megan Cheehy

Mar. 17

Marty Knott

Mar. 24

Cris Kerins

Mar. 31

Sean Clark



Greeters

Mar. 3–9:30–

Bev Svoboda

Mar. 10-8:30–

Tasker Family
10:45-Girl Scout
Sunday

Mar. 17-8:30-Bruce

Ende
10:45-Janovyak
Family

Mar. 24-8:30-Stelter

Family
10:45-Steve & Gina
Walter

Mar. 31-8:30-

Wendy Myers
10:45-Stood Family

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

For More information please contact the church office at
(630) 257-5210 or ministry leaders.

SMALL GROUPS

Bible Study:	Dale Janssen & Pastor Hyo Sun Oh
Prayer Meeting:	TBA
ALPHA:	Craig Baxter 815-685-1900
Methodist Essential:	Bill Price 630-754-7667
VBS:	Jodi Stood 630-243-9366
The Last Supper:	Arlene Knott 708-301-2023
Adult Sunday School:	Dale Janssen 815-485-4929
Sr. High Youth:	Kristin Nelson 630-257-8072
Jr. High Youth:	TBA
Breakfast Club:	Mark Huegelmann 630-257-3181
Jr. High Sunday School:	Mark Huegelmann 630-257-3181
Children's Sunday Sch:	Mark Huegelmann 630-257-3181
Prime Timers:	Kay Norfleet 630-257-6699
	Joanne Goszczycki 630-257-6790
Men's Group:	Tony Ferrazzi 815-886-4177
Couples:	Tim and Karin Peraino 630-846-1415

MINISTRIES WITHIN OUR CHURCH

Prayer Warrior:	Pastor Oh 847-769-1125
Care Bear:	Alice Lange 815-838-5158
Coffee Social:	Amy Cheehy 815-834-1097
Script Fundraising:	Marge Fox 630-243-8166
CAP:	Cris Kerins/Dawn Ferrazzi
Audio and Visual:	Jana Stelter 630-243-9122
Handyman:	Amy Cheehy 815-834-1097
Landscape Team:	Bill Stelter 630-243-9122
Hospitality Team:	Amy Cheehy 815-834-1097
Widows Group:	Richard Lee 630-257-7339
Usher Team:	Mark Olinger 815-838-0660
Welcoming Team:	Sue Hinks 630-257-6743
Worship Choir	Sue Gergescz 815-483-7282
Praise Band	Phil & Leslie Ramos
Junior Choir	Cris Kerins 630-257-5660

****Any Other Ministry You Would Like to Start**

OUT-REACH MINISTRIES

Pantry Workday:	Church Office 630-257-5210
Panera Bread:	Church Office 630-257-5210
Daybreak Shelter:	Vickie Olinger 815-838-0660
Worthy Treasures:	Paulette Fries 815-838-6318
ESL:	Kay Norfleet 630-257-6699
Red Bird:	Steve Walter 630-783-1621

****Any Other Ministry You Would Like To Start**

UPCOMING HOPE AND FRIENDSHIP ACTIVITIES

In the 14 years of being your conduit, via Hope and Friendship Foundation, I have been witness to you making many amazing acts of wonder, love, compassion and assistance beautifully and purposely happen. I share a need.....you have consistently stepped up to do what a community can to meet it.

We have rallied around many families in our community who have been in, suffered from, or lost a loved one in "the battle". Understanding the pain of watching a loved one battle cancer, I had formed an arm of Hope and Friendship- Team Compassion- to meet those physical, emotional and when possible, financial needs. Yearly I form a team to uniting some of my Lemont Police Dept Officers and other friends, to join hearts and heads to shave, with our Lemont Fire Dept at the Bolingbrook St. Baldrick's Event <https://www.stbaldricks.org/teams/TeamHope2019>

We have created the amazing fundraisers, events, and outreaches to meet needs to circle around those who have felt the pressures, weakness and darkness of cancer. We have tried to do what we can do to bring the light, hope and love into their storm.

Knowing we have done all of this, I know we can do more. Following are a few opportunities to join in offering this love and support for a couple of families here within our arm's reach who truly need to feel the love, warmth and strength from the community they call home.

Please mark Wed March 13th, at Next Mex in Downtown Lemont on your calendar and plan to go out to lunch, afternoon snack, dinner and/or dessert because they are offering 15% of ALL sales that day to benefit our friends. We'll have donation bins, hearts/notes to write out, form a paper chain of compassion, and have tee shirt sales/orders for two families!

*Tee Shirt Sales begin immediately and will be filled by March 8th benefiting Ellie and Brian. Ironically Ellie chose green as her color back when we worked together on The Will Power Challenge, and today when I asked Brian's family what color they may have used in the past for shirts for him I was told....wait for it.....green!!! How does that happen? I saw this "coincidence" as a reminder that we are all one team uniting to support not one but *all* we can.

Following are links to order shirts rallying for Ellie and/or Brian.

Support 4 Sladek Shirts: https://briansladek.itemorder.com/sale?read_message=true

#EllieStrong Shirts: <https://elliestrong2019.itemorder.com/sale>

*Youth Open Mic Competition begins once again at Gelsosomo's Pizzeria Friday April 26th 6pm with #EllieStrong Night. There will be food specials, 50/50 Raffle, tee shirt sales/orders, and more...For the 21 and under wanting to join in the competition, registration will begin March 1st. All singers, musicians, comedians 21 and under are welcome to join in the competition.

I look forward to continuing to do what we can as we are able to meet our neighbor in their most difficult chapters of life and walking through those with them. Lemont is a very special place to live, and I have been blessed to walk with an amazing army of angels.

Wishing you peace and love,
Terri

terri@hopeandfriendshipfoundation.com
www.hopeandfriendshipfoundation.com

Lemont United Methodist Church

25 West Custer
Lemont, Illinois 60439
Phone: 630-257-5210

Return Service Requested

NEW WINE March 2019

The Hindu Clinic

The Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago has offered the use of their clinic to anyone in need of medical help. The clinic is open the first Sunday of the month from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Their address is 10915 Lemont Road, Lemont and their phone number is 630-972-0300.

AA Meetings

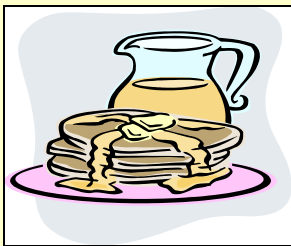
AA Meetings are held in our church Fellowship Hall on Saturday evenings at 7:30 pm. If you would like further information.

**Please contact:
Pat at (815) 274-4244**

WEBSITE

Services are being recorded almost every week thanks to Erik and volunteers. If you would like a video of a part of the service, like a baptism or someone playing a song, please contact Paul Froehle. He can copy it to a DVD or flash drive as a computer or phone readable video file.

United Methodist Men



March 9th

Come and join us! The Lemont United Methodist Men (UMM) will meet in Fellowship Hall at 8:00 am. Lemont UMM meets on the second Saturday of each month for breakfast.

This group is made available for the fellowship of all the men of the church and all are welcome to attend. Information about meeting dates and times are posted in the church calendar and bulletins.



Like us on Facebook

For those of you that might not be aware, we DO have a FB page. Please try and visit it regularly. As time goes on we will be posting more and more.

We have reached 1,440 people through Vacation Bible School video clips and pictures! If you have not seen them please go to facebook and click LIKE.

<https://www.facebook.com/Lemont-United-Methodist-Church>

Primetimers



March 16th

This is a group made up of adults 50 years and older. Primetimers meet monthly on the 3rd Saturday of each month with a potluck lunch at the church fellowship hall. Everyone brings a favorite dish to share for an enjoyable afternoon.

If you have any questions, please call:

Kay Norfleet
630-257-6699
or call the church office.