

# THE LEAFLINES

## River Forest United Methodist Church



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### MARCH 2010

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Lent has arrived. Can spring be far behind?

As most of us know, Lent is the season in the church year which precedes the celebration of the Easter resurrection. It begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts until sunset on Easter Eve. The 40 days of Lent do not count the Sundays in between as these are considered “little Easters.” Some have pointed out that 40 days is approximately 10% of the year, therefore, Lent could be considered a “tithe of the year.”

Spring is the season which falls between winter and summer and its beginning, in this hemisphere, and in our country, is usually around March 20, the time of the vernal equinox, when days and nights seem to be equally long. (I never knew how many variables went into the dating of the beginning of spring until I started researching it.)

Traditionally, Lent has been a time of preparation. For early converts to the faith, it was a time of learning about all of what Christianity believed and entailed and beginning to put one’s faith into practice. One was baptized into the faith and officially recognized as part of the body of Christ, the Church, at Easter. For believers, Lent has become a time in which we examine our hearts and our lives to discover the place of God in them. Is God at the center of our lives, or is something else? Just where is our focus?

Traditionally, spring has been a time when persons have engaged in the ritual of “spring cleaning,” divesting their homes of all the detritus that built up over the winter – getting rid of the old straw, airing out the vermin-infested bedding, sweeping the hearth, and washing the soot off the windows.

Nowadays we clean out closets, rearrange the pantry, send the draperies to the cleaners, and get the carpets cleaned.

Now, I don’t know about you, but I am exceptionally prone to letting all sorts of little things creep into my house – magazines that I think I will get around to reading, vases from flower arrangements that I think I will use again, little trinkets that people have given me, ... until, when I look around, I realize that, should I have to move, I’ll never be able to get it all in boxes. Stuff has taken over my home.

And, when I look at my life, I realize that stuff has taken that over, too. I can find all sorts of things (meetings, lesson plans, *Leaflines* articles) to keep me from taking time to pray and meditate. I say all sorts of things (gossiping, boasting, criticizing, teasing) to keep me from listening and speaking God’s Word. I often rationalize away my feeling of right and wrong in order to do (or not) things that I feel God calling me to do. Stuff sort of creeps in and takes over my heart.

Just as spring is a time to get rid of the junk in our homes to make room for fresh air and light, Lent is a time to rid ourselves of the stuff that is standing in the way of making God the center of our lives, of letting the light of God’s love and the fresh wind of God’s Spirit bring us new to new life.

Praying for clean hearts and clean hearths this Lenten season,

(And, don’t forget – one person’s junk is another person’s treasure. Rummage Sale, April 24<sup>th</sup>)



***Times of Transformation***  
**Lenten Soup Suppers**  
**Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.**

March 2—Elmwood Park UMC

March 9— First UMC, Oak Park

March 16—First UMC, Franklin Park

March 23—St. John's UMC and  
Cornerstone UMC at Cornerstone

March 30—River Forest UMC



**HOLY WEEK**

**Palm Sunday**

March 28, 10:00 A.M.

*"Thy Will Be Done"* Holy Week Cantata

**Maundy Thursday**

April 1—River Forest UMC, 7:00 P.M.

**Good Friday**

April 2—First UMC, Oak Park, 7:00 P.M.

*"The Seven Last Words"* by Theodore Dubois

Rehearsals on Wednesdays beginning  
March 17 at 7:00 P.M. at First UMC, Oak Park

**Easter Sunday**

April 4

*Service of Celebration*, 10:00 A.M.

Egg Hunt and Continental Breakfast

***Church Women United***  
***WORLD DAY OF PRAYER***  
***Friday, March 5, 1 p.m.***  
***First UMC, Franklin Park***

Join the world-wide celebration of World Day of Prayer, written by the women of Cameroon. Franklin Park United Methodist Women are hosting the service at 1 P.M. Friday the 5<sup>th</sup>. All, women, men, and families, are invited to join in joyful song and learn about the Christian people of Cameroon. Plan to stay on for refreshments and a time of fellowship following the service. Car pools are suggested. Call Jean at 344-8405.

***One Great Hour of Sharing***  
***Sunday, March 14***

Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation of all of UMCOR's work by covering the costs of doing business. For example, donations to this Special Sunday cover all administrative costs for UMCOR for Haiti and Chile in 2010. This means that 100% of all gifts designated to specific relief programs can go directly to helping people because UMCOR's basic expenses are covered. Donations for Chile Earthquake (Feb. 27, 2010) Relief can be given to RFUMC (Advance #3021178). Thank you.

# MARCH 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Soup Supper 6:30 p.m. Elmwood Park UMC	3 Market Day order deadline	4	5	6 Proviso Pantry 8-10 a.m.
7 	8	9 Soup Supper 6:30 p.m. First UMC Oak Park	10 Susanna Wesley 7 p.m.	11 UMW 1 p.m.	12	13 Proviso Pantry 8-10 a.m.
14 One Great Hour Sharing — Daylight Saving Time	15	16 Soup Supper 6:30 p.m. Franklin Park UMC	17	18	19	20 Proviso Pantry 8-10 a.m.
21 Church Council	22	23 Soup Supper 6:30 p.m. St. John's Cornerstone UMC	24	25	26	27 Proviso Pantry 8-10 a.m.
28 Brunch	29	30 Soup Supper 6:30 p.m. RFUMC	31	APRIL 1 Maundy Thursday RFUMC 7 p.m.	APRIL 2 Good Friday First UMC, Oak Park 7 p.m.	

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 Jack Stout

2 Joshua Dix

3 Guynell Wiegel

4 Florence Birchard

4 Judy Sora

5 Clement Grygiel

5 Jeanette Scott

7 Hannah Hills

9 Char Hoffmann

10 Diana Maginnis

10 Lee Majkrzak

14 Emily Young

15 Clarisse Lenhoff

16 Jessica Jasper

18 Paul von Ebers

19 Beth Velatini

19 Jennifer von Ebers

20 Doris Ashton

20 Amanda O'Connor

22 Ann O'Connor

27 Ashley Grapenthien

27 Grace Grapenthien



# For Your Information

## DEEPEST SYMPATHIES ...

To Nancy, Jane, Carl, and Jim and families on the death of their mother *Jeanne Erickson* who passed away February 6.

To Karen and the family of *Robert Sanders* who passed away February 11.

*Richard Mowen* died on February 23. Our sympathy to his daughters Diane, Donna, and Darlene, and their families. A service of celebration for Dick's life will be held at River Forest UMC on May 1, 2010. Donations to the American Lung Association or Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research appreciated.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Katie Young graduated from Elmhurst College on February 7, 2010. In addition, she reported that the doctors are pleased that her tumor is continuing to shrink.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please sign up to be Liturgist, Donate Flowers or Fellowship Host on the schedules provided.

## NEWS AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Annual Empty Bowls Community Dinner, Friday, March 19, 6-8 p.m., OPRF H.S. Bowls made by students and local Potters will be sold for \$15 (\$10 for children) and will be filled with soup donated from local restaurants and businesses'. Empty Bowls raises money for Global alliance for Africa, PADS, and the OPRF Food Pantry.

Paper shredding, Saturday, March 6, 9-11 a.m., Community Bank, 1001 Lake Street, Oak Park, and Saturday, March 13, 9-11 a.m. Community Bank, 7777 Lake Street, River Forest.

## NEW ADDRESSES

A02 Jeffrey Dillner  
US Navy  
VFA 131 Unit 60145  
FPO AE 09504-6229

John Dunnell  
1111 Ontario St. Apt. 1105  
Oak Park, Il. 60302

## WORSHIP LEADERS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LITURGISTS</u>	<u>FLOWERS DONATED BY</u>	<u>FELLOWSHIP HOSTS</u>	<u>USHERS</u>
March 7	Gordon Hanson	Ed Rausch in memory of my Mother	Judy Sora	Pat Nutter Anthony Palermo Ed Rausch
March 14	Jean Dillner	Pat Nutter for the family	Jerry Hills	Pat Nutter Anthony Palermo Ed Rausch
March 21	Jerry Hills	Jerry Hills in honor of Beth, Hannah, Jennifer, Sarah, & Paul's Birthdays	TBD	Pat Nutter Anthony Palermo Ed Rausch
March 28	Becky Eanet	Vicki Bartlett in memory of Lydia Bartlett	Brunch	Pat Nutter Anthony Palermo Ed Rausch

**COMMUNION STEWARDS FOR:** Sunday, March 7, 2010 — Marian Brennen and Jerry Hills

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Our cancelled and rescheduled February meeting will finally be held in March. We will discuss what gifts we, as United Methodist women, have and how we use them. Our Pledge Service was prepared by a woman for the Annual Meeting of the Utah/Western Colorado District. Join us for learning "What Gifts We Can Bring".

Saturday, March 20, Chicago Northwestern District Mission Team will lead us to "Rekindle the Spirit of United Methodist Women" with a "Morning Together" and "Officers Training/Update". Beginning at 8:30 a.m. with registration and a continental breakfast, we will be refreshed and energized for the coming year. The meeting will be at Central UMC, Skokie. Donation, \$5. Car pooling will be arranged. Reservations due by March 13 contact Jean Dillner or Margaret Hamilton.

### *Spring Rummage Sale* *Saturday, April 24*

Time to go through your closets, drawers, attic, garage and basement for the United Methodist Women's Spring Rummage Sale. Let's clean house and help the UMW raise money for women and children's mission projects.

### SILENT AUCTION

Mike Mayer's grandmother, Lorine Castillo, knitted an afghan and donated it to our church. A silent auction is planned for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, money received to be used for our church's music ministry. The afghan will be on display in advance of this time.

**MARCH** donation for the Food Pantry is: **CANNED SPAGHETTI SAUCE**  
Place your donation in the basket on Sunday morning.

## LET'S GO GREEN-ER!

Paper and printing costs are a significant portion of the RFUMC office supply budget. Much of what is printed and distributed within the building is only used or viewed for a very short period of time. Many of our members and friends have access to computers and other technology. So, in keeping with our commitment to be good stewards of God's creation, to eliminate some of the visual clutter in our space, and to get the word OUT to the community, the following suggestions have been made:

\**The Leaflines* and other correspondence will be distributed electronically to as many persons on our contact list as possible. Those who do not have access to a computer will continue to receive paper copies.

\*Flyers for special events to be held at RFUMC will no longer be placed in the Sunday bulletin. You may request a one line "blurb" in the bulletin, an e mail "blast" to our contact list, and/or a Power Point slide during the gathering time on Sunday morning. Exceptions will be made for things which require registration or fees (ie VBS registration, holiday flower orders)

\*You may place 2 flyers or large, attractive posters inside of the RFUMC building (choose wisely) .

We will continue to print flyers to take for delivery to friends, neighbors, and associates, and/or post in local businesses.

Personal invitation and word-of-mouth continues to be the best form of advertising, makes a less significant impact upon the environment, and ... it's FREE!

### MARCH MARKET DAY

Order forms due by Sunday, Feb. 28, or internet orders due by Wed., March 3 at 11 p.m. (contact Jean, 708-344-8405 or Laura 708-547-5650) This is the Easter menu ordering time. Next order is due to be turned in on Easter Sunday, April 4! Look for spiral sliced ham on pages 1 and 8. Items to go with the ham are on the same page. Check out the new MIC-ROASTED kits for meal preparation on page 7 —3 savory flavors, quick and easy in the microwave; sealable bags and seasoning included. Finish your meal with luscious-looking pies or cheesecakes from page 4.



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**March 14, 2010**



***Return Service Requested  
Dated Material Enclosed***

***PALM SUNDAY***

***March 28, 10:00 A.M.***

***“Thy Will Be Done” Holy Week Cantata***

***MAUNDY THURSDAY***

***April 1—River Forest UMC, 7:00 P.M.***



***GOOD FRIDAY***

***April 2—First UMC, Oak Park , 7:00 P.M.***

***“The Seven Last Words” by Theodore Dubois***

***Rehearsals on Wednesdays beginning March 17 at 7:00 P.M.  
at First UMC, Oak Park.***

***EASTER SUNDAY***

***April 4, 10:00 A.M.***

***Service of Celebration***

***Egg Hunt and Continental Breakfast***