

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
MARCH ACTIVITIES 2018				1	2	
4 COMM. 8:30 am Christ.101 9:30 Worship Coffee Hour 11 Worship 12 Worship	5 6 p.m. Men's Bible	6 12 - 6 Bloodmo- bile	7 4:10 Hymnol. 5:15 Disc. Dinner 5:30 Boy Scouts 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30 Wor- ship	8 6:30 p.m. Consistory	9	10
11 8:30 am Christ.101 9:30 Worship Coffee Hour 11 & 12 Wor- ship <i>(Daylight Savings Time)</i>	12 6 p.m. Men's Bible	13	14 4:10 Hymnol. 5:15 Disc. Dinner 5:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Wor- ship	15 12:30 p.m. Women's Guild 1:00 pm Rit- tenhouse Ministry	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 
18 8:30 am Christ.101 9:30 Worship Coffee Hour 11 Worship 12 Worship	19 6 p.m. Men's Bible	20	21 4:10 Hymnol. 5:15 Disc. Dinner 5:30 Boy Scouts 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30 Wor- ship	22	23	
25 PALM SUNDAY FOOD BANK 8:30 am Christ.101 9:30 Worship Coffee Hour 11 & 12 Wor- ship	26 6 p.m. Men's Bible 7 p.m. Monday Musical	27	28 4:10 Hymnol. 5:15 Disc. Dinner 5:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Wor- ship	29	30 GOOD FRIDAY ~Office Closed~ 6:30 p.m. Worship (chapel)	31

St. John's Messenger

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SIN REQUIRES A SACRIFICE

Early in life each one of us confronts an unwavering truth. The truth is that our actions create consequences. Our words, thoughts and deeds either

promote that which is pleasing to God or that which is displeasing to God.

Scripture reveals to us that God is the Lord of life and love. It is God's desire to save all people from sin and eternal death through grace in Christ.

1 Timothy 2:3-6

This is good and pleases God our Savior, ⁴who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. ⁵For, there is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. ⁶He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone.

This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time.

During Lent we trust the grace of Jesus to help us honestly and humbly address those things we do and say and think which displease God. We desire to come close to God and dwell in His presence but we need a sacrifice to cover our sin.

A sacrifice is needed to pay the debt of sin. We can try to pay the debt of sin ourselves through personal sacrifice but the truth is we will die trying. We will never break the cycle of sin and death on our own because we can't produce a

perfect sacrifice.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who came to take away the sin of the world (John 1:29). Jesus is the perfect sacrifice to overcome our sin. It is essential to have a personal relationship with Christ. He is our personal mediator to God.

The full power of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is displayed through the empty tomb. Resurrection is the life-giving gift of Christ.

What joy to know that the magnitude of our sin is expunged by the magnitude of the Risen Lord!

Give God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit the Lordship of your life with praise and worship! *Pastor Bill*

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

On Wednesdays during Lent we meet in the Chapel at 6:30 p.m. for a 30-minute service. The theme for these Chapel services is "Art and Faith." Great artists were inspired to express faith in Christ through paintings. We are introduced to art that depicts various accounts of Jesus. A short video with narration guides our reflection.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

The Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group that meets on the Second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. here at St. John's is CANCELLED indefinitely. For more information, contact their 24/7 Helpline: 1-800-272-3900



NEW MESSENGER FORMAT

This month is the debut of the new format of our monthly Messenger! Due to decreased numbers, we no longer meet the required 200 to qualify for bulk mailing. To still offer a monthly publication, the Messenger will now be available for pick up in the narthex at the end of each month. Of course you may always access both current and past Messengers on the St. John's website, www.stjohnsmc.org.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Please note, the monthly Treasurer's Report (actual vs. budget) is now available in the office. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please call the office (872-9121). Or, you may stop in and we will be happy to print a copy for you.

2018 SOUP KITCHEN CALENDAR

At 1st Presbyterian, St. John's will serve on second Mondays into April: March 12th and April 9th. At St. Paul's, we will serve on the following Sundays: Mar. 18th, July 1st, Aug. 26th, Sep. 30th, and Dec. 23rd.

GOODTIMERS FELLOWSHIP

The Goodtimer's will meet on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at Swingbelly's, 3101 E. US Hwy. 12, at 6:00 p.m. Please contact Jerre Applegate (879-7934) **by March 1st** if you will be able to attend. Thank you!

LENTEN BOOK OPPORTUNITY

We invite you to participate in a UCC denomination-wide Love of Neighbor Lenten Book read of *The Third Reconstruction*, by Rev. Dr. William Barber and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. Please see Don Briggs (219.324.6117) to participate. We may choose to meet a few times at St. John's, a public space, or at a home. The book is widely available online.

FOOD BANK NEEDS

Especially needed are soaps (body soap, laundry detergent, dish soap, etc.), soups, and saltines! Thank you for always being so generous in your donations to our Food Bank!

LECTIONARIES

Did you know? The Lectionary is online at the IKC-UCC website: <http://www.ikcucc.org> Daily readings are listed through the year 2020! The Lectionary for March through April, 2018, is available on the bulletin board and in the Narthex.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

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Good Friday,

March 30th:

Worship, 6:30 p.m. (chapel)

Easter Sunday, April 1:st

Worship, 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. (Sanc.)

Continental breakfast available in Fellowship Hall, beginning 9:30 a.m.



REMEMBER TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS-- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH

EASTER BREAKFAST

You are invited to join in St. John's Easter continental breakfast April 1st, Easter Sunday morning. Help is needed in the kitchen, with set-up, serving, and clean up. We also need your delicious coffee cakes! Please watch the upcoming News Notes for further information.

Prayer

By Thomas Merton

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone." Amen.

—taken from the IK Conference UCC

Epistle, 5.18.15

