

THE HERALD
First United Methodist Church
Dixon, Illinois

Greetings to the faithful of Dixon First UMC,

Upcoming Events:

- March 1-31 2021 Prayer
- G2 Groups Please see attached calendar
- Mar 1, Online Devotion
- Mar 3, 6:30 Lenten Prayer
- Mar 6, 8:00 UMM
- Mar 8, Online Devotion
- Mar 9, 4:00 Prayer Team
- Mar 9, 6:30 Trustees
- Mar 10, 6:30 Lenten Prayer
- Mar 11, 6:30 Finance
- Mar 15, Online Devotion
- Mar 16, **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
- Mar 16, 7:00 Leadership Council
- Mar 17, 6:30 Lenten Prayer
- Mar 18, 6:30 Worship Comm
- Mar 18, 6:30 Green Team
- Mar 22, Online Devotion
- Mar 23, 6:00 Staff-Parish
- Mar 24, 1:00 Herald's Angels
- Mar 24, 6:30 Lenten Prayer
- Mar 29, Online Devotion
- Mar 31, 6:30 Lenten Prayer

As I sit at my computer writing my monthly letter, I can hear the snowplow driving past our house, yet again. Soon, I need to go outside to shovel and run my snow blower one more time. Yes, we are deep into depths of winter. We have had more snow this year than we have had in recent years. We are in a stretch of below zero temperatures. It has been a year since we started the COVID 19 pandemic with all the in-person restrictions. It all sounds a little dreary and depression doesn't it? Well, I guess it is all a matter of perspective.

I have Facebook "friends" through the Small Munsterlander page (Wrigley our dog is a Small Munsterlander) who live in the northern region of Norway. They find winter to be a wonderful time of the year. They are out hiking and cross-country skiing with their dogs. I never hear them complain about the weather or the even shorter days. They receive only a few hours of sun each day, most of the time it is like twilight. They post some of the most beautiful and breathtaking pictures on our Facebook page. Studies have shown that our Scandinavian brothers and sister don't struggle with seasonal depression like some of us Americans do. Why is that? Well my Facebook friends say it about embracing life not matter what the circumstances bring.

Yes, they say there are days when they cannot go outside because of the extreme snow storms or cold weather that they experience. But, when the storms stop and it warms up they are outside living life. They say to find the joy in life you must be prepared both physically and mentally to overcome the challenges that life throws at you. That means that they have a wide range of clothing options to keep them cool in the summer and warm in the winter. They also have the mental attitude that there is joy to be found in any moment. They have a positive attitude about life. They look for the best that life has to offer not the worst.

Because, they are only Facebook "friends" I cannot have a deep conversation about their faith. I believe that it is our faith that provides the third critical dimension to life that is even more vital to us being able to live a life with a positive attitude. Over the past two months we have been looking into the essentials of our Christian faith through our worship series **What Matters Most**. We talked about seven essentials of our Christian faith.

1. The belief that Jesus is both human and divine. God actually came in human form to earth to be Immanuel, God with us.
2. That our relationship with our Triune God empowers our relationships with other humans.



Worship Services:

Saturdays:
5:00 pm in the Chapel

Sundays:
10:00 am in the Sanctuary

3. That Grace, God's love showered on us, means that when we say yes to a relationship with Jesus Christ we are accepted by God into the family of God as children of God.
4. Our Triune God chooses to work through the people of the church to show God's love to our community and to the world.
5. Through our relationship with God through Jesus Christ we are set free by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to live lives that reflect the image of Jesus Christ to others.
6. Because we have a God who knows and has experienced firsthand our human suffering we can be confident that even though God may not remove our suffering, God walks with us through our suffering giving us the strength and perseverance we need.
7. The truth of the resurrection means that we have a living hope. That death is not the final answer. Life wins! Not just ultimately in heaven with God but daily through the empowering presence of our living God.

It is these seven essentials of our Christian faith that makes finding joy, peace, and love in our daily living possible. It is our Christian faith that empowers us to truly flourish in life. Yes, we need to be physically prepared. Yes, we need to have a positive attitude in our minds that allows us to live full lives. But, it is our faith that provides the strength, perseverance and vision to find joy, peace, and love in every situation!

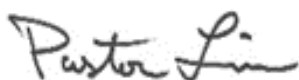
When I first realized that a life lived in relationship with our Triune God was essential to my flourishing in life I found one of my life scriptures. **Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through him (Jesus Christ) that gives me strength."** This continues to be one of my go to Scriptures. When I find myself in the doldrums and a little depressed I recite this Scripture to remind myself that it is not by my own strength that I will flourish. My flourishing comes from my relationship with God.

Each year I try to find a Scripture that will guide my life for that year. This year God showed me that my go to Scripture for 2021 should be. **Romans 12:1-2, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."**

Right now the world is throwing a lot of crappy stuff at us. There is a lot of pressure to conform to worldly standards and not Godly standards. So, I am going to memorize and live this passage so that every time I am challenged by the world to conform to its standards I can overcome that temptation. I will find my true identity and hope in the love of God found in my growing relationship with Jesus. My strength to overcome and truly flourish comes through the indwelling presence of God the Holy Spirit.

May you too find your go to Scripture this year so you can flourish!

Blessings Pastor Tim





Lent 2021

DACMA Community On-line Worship

Each Sunday at 6:30pm the churches of Dixon

Will broadcast from Facebook.

We will share the broadcast on our Dixon Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/FUMCDixon>

- | | | |
|---------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Feb 21 | First Presbyterian | I am the Bread of Life |
| Feb 28 | First Baptist | I am the Light of the World |
| Mar 7 | First United Methodist | I am the Good Shepherd |
| Mar 14 | TBA | |
| Mar 21 | TBA | |
| April 2 | Good Friday - TBA | |



Lenten Prayer Service with Prayer Room

Wednesday's starting February 24

6:30-7:00 pm Facebook on-line service

7:00 pm Zoom prayer room

To Register for the Zoom Prayer room

Call the Office: 815-284-2849

Or talk to Pastor Young Sun or Pastor Tim

THANK YOU JERRI SIEDSCHIAG FOR AGREEING TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF MEALS ON WHEELS TO REPRESENT OUR CHURCH!!!

Carolyn Paisley, coordinator for FUMC

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 2020 INCOME | \$ 398,922.21 |
| 2020 EXPENSES | <u>\$ 392,413.97</u> |
| 2020 NET | \$ 6,508.24 |
| 2019 CARRYOVER | \$ 15,549.28 |
| BAL IN GENERAL FUND AS OF 12/31/2020 | \$ 22,191.53 |



Financial Notes for 2020

Income included \$49,387.00 Government PPP loan

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|----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| JANUARY INCOME | \$ 51,880.28 |
| JANUARY EXPENSES | <u>\$ 21,272.67</u> |
| JANUARY NET | \$ 30,607.61 |
| 2020 CARRYOVER | \$ 22,151.93 |
| BAL IN GENERAL FUND AS OF 1/31/2021 | \$ 52,759.54 |



Financial Notes for JAN 2021

YTD Income is +\$8,613.87 (+19.9%) MORE THAN January 2020. YTD expenses are -\$15,254.15 (-41.8%) LESS than 2019. Much of this excess was due to one-time yearly giving.

Copies of the full financial report are available upon request.

Green Note:

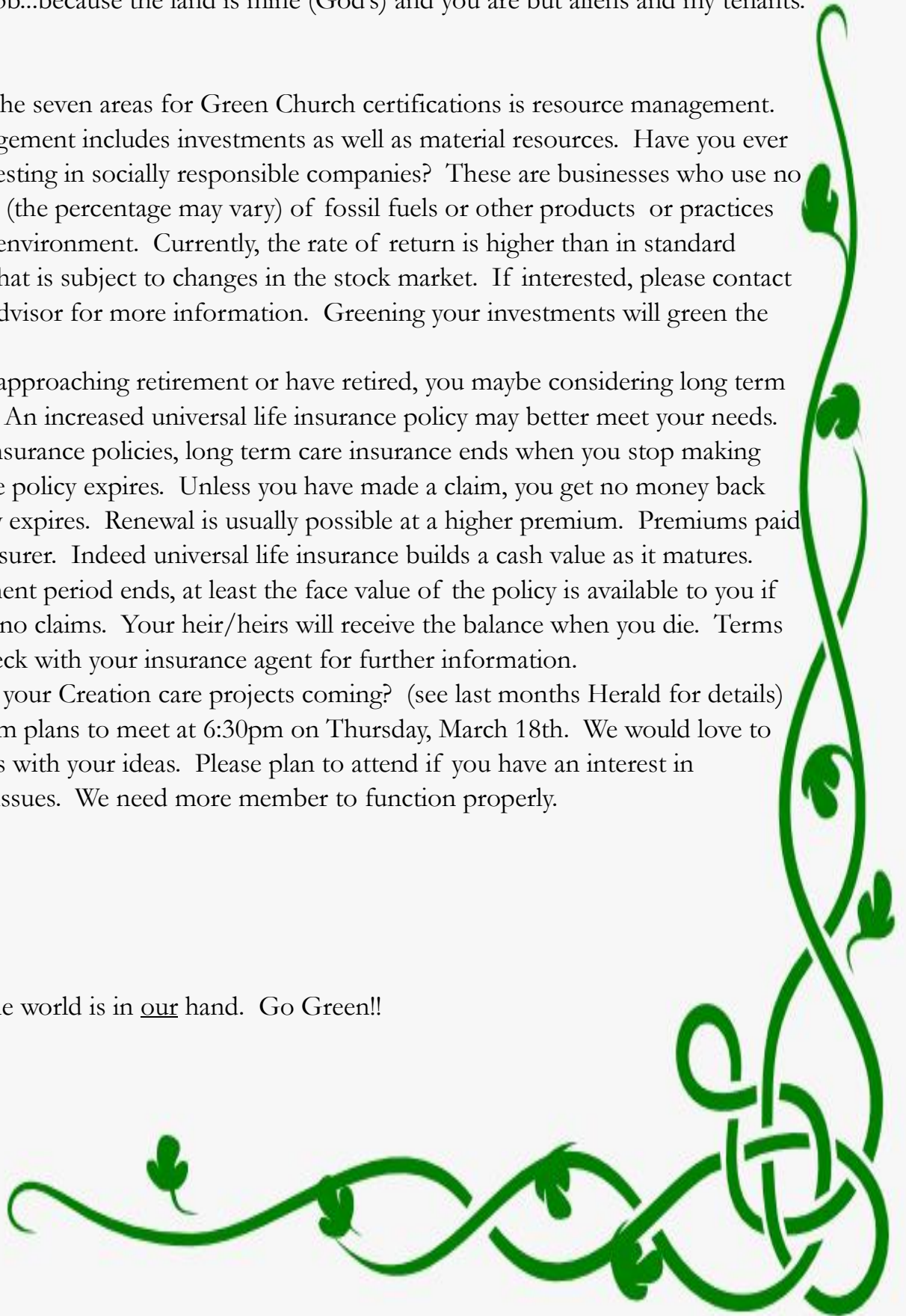
Leviticus 3, 5:23b...because the land is mine (God's) and you are but aliens and my tenants.

One of the seven areas for Green Church certifications is resource management. Resource management includes investments as well as material resources. Have you ever Considered investing in socially responsible companies? These are businesses who use no more than 10% (the percentage may vary) of fossil fuels or other products or practices harmful to the environment. Currently, the rate of return is higher than in standard investments. That is subject to changes in the stock market. If interested, please contact your financial advisor for more information. Greening your investments will green the environment.

Are you approaching retirement or have retired, you maybe considering long term care insurance. An increased universal life insurance policy may better meet your needs. As with most insurance policies, long term care insurance ends when you stop making payments or the policy expires. Unless you have made a claim, you get no money back when the policy expires. Renewal is usually possible at a higher premium. Premiums paid Stay with the insurer. Indeed universal life insurance builds a cash value as it matures. When the payment period ends, at least the face value of the policy is available to you if you have made no claims. Your heir/heirs will receive the balance when you die. Terms may vary so check with your insurance agent for further information.

How are your Creation care projects coming? (see last months Herald for details) The Green Team plans to meet at 6:30pm on Thursday, March 18th. We would love to have you join us with your ideas. Please plan to attend if you have an interest in environmental issues. We need more member to function properly.

Remember: The world is in our hand. Go Green!!



Greetings in the name of Christ Jesus, Our Holy and Gracious Lord and Savior!

Whoa! We are already in the middle of February, just before the Lenten journey begins! I feel like it is just a few days ago when I was deeply thinking about my New Year's resolution for 2021 and started a plan of reading the whole Bible this year as a project to accomplish my New Year's resolution of knowing better who the Triune God is to live out my faith following Jesus' example and thereby following my call to the ministry better in the guidance of the Holy Spirit. But, it is already one and half months since the New Year, 2021, began and now we are at the beginning of our Lenten journey.

What do you plan to do for your Lenten journey this year? According to Lucy Lind Hogan, a professor of Wesleyan Theological Seminary and an ordained elder of the Episcopal Church, Lent is the time during which we join Jesus' journey to the cross and we are all invited into this Lenten journey to the cross when Jesus says in Matthew 16:24,

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." --Matthew 16:24 (NRSV)

Hogan suggests that the cross in Jesus' words in this passage means the cross of love and discipleship, faithfulness and devotion, and repentance and renewal. Thus, the invitation to this Lenten journey can be understood as the invitation to the opportunity of reflection on God's love for us through Christ Jesus, on God's calling to be right with Him, and on the meaningfulness of our lives in Christ Jesus. In this regard, our Lenten journey can be understood as joining Jesus on the journey toward wholeness and fulfillment in God.

The question is "How?" In other words, "How can we join Jesus in the journey toward wholeness and fulfillment in God through our Lenten journey?" Considering several practical purposes of the forty days of Lent, such as preparation to celebrate the Easter Vigil or preparation of the baptism of the new comers at the Easter Vigil, and penitence through fasting, etc., there would be various ways of joining the way of the cross during the Lenten journey depending on what purpose would be concentrated on through the journey.

However, the most important goal that all these purposes of the forty days of Lenten period share is, as Pastor Tim mentions in the session guide of G2-Growth Group work for Lent, "to grow closer to God through our relationship with Jesus Christ in our searching the inner recesses of our mind and spirit for the dark things that prevent us from following Jesus in his love and humility and moving forward into the Light, our Lord Jesus Christ."

Thus, even with the hardship and suffering that we might be struggling with in this journey, we can go on with hope for a new life and even for death, as Martin Thielen suggests in his book, *What's the least I can believe and still be a Christian?*, in our faith in the risen Christ Jesus, who we are walking with all through this journey and who is the light of our life. As Apostle Paul proclaims in Romans 8:38-39, we believe and know that nothing can separate us from God's love.

³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

--Romans 8:38-39 (NRSV)

May God's grace and love be with you all through the Lenten journey this year!

Blessings,
Pastor Young Sun

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 28 | 1 Online Devotions 10am - Stach G2 - 1pm - Staff Meeting 4pm - Pastor Tim G2 | 2 6pm - Macklin G2 - | 3 10am - Lynne G2 - 6:30pm - Lenten | 4 | 5 6:30pm - Pastor Jay | 6 8am - UMM, Page 5pm - Worship, F.H. |
| 7 8:30am - Brooks G2 10am - Worship 6pm - Culvers Group 6pm - DACMA | 8 Online Devotions 10am - Stach G2 - 1pm - Staff Meeting 4pm - Pastor Tim G2 | 9 4pm - Prayer Team 6pm - Macklin G2 - 6:30pm - Trustees, | 10 10am - Lynne G2 - 6:30pm - Lenten | 11 6:30pm - Finance, cr | 12 6:30pm - Pastor Jay | 13 5pm - Worship, F.H. |
| 14 8:30am - Brooks G2 10am - Worship 6pm - Culvers Group 6pm - DACMA | 15 Online Devotions 10am - Stach G2 - 1pm - Staff Meeting 4pm - Pastor Tim G2 5:30pm - Faith | 16 NEWSLETTER 6pm - Macklin G2 - 7pm - Leadership | 17 10am - Lynne G2 - 6:30pm - Lenten | 18 6:30pm - Worship 6:30pm - Green | 19 6:30pm - Pastor Jay | 20 5pm - Worship, F.H. |
| 21 8:30am - Brooks G2 10am - Worship 6pm - Culvers Group 6pm - DACMA | 22 Online Devotions 10am - Stach G2 - 1pm - Staff Meeting 4pm - Pastor Tim G2 | 23 6pm - Staff-Parish 6pm - Macklin G2 - | 24 10am - Lynne G2 - 1pm - Herald's 6:30pm - Lenten | 25 | 26 6:30pm - Pastor Jay | 27 5pm - Worship, F.H. |
| 28 8:30am - Brooks G2 10am - Worship 6pm - Culvers Group 6pm - DACMA | 29 Online Devotions 10am - Stach G2 - 1pm - Staff Meeting 4pm - Pastor Tim G2 | 30 6pm - Macklin G2 - | 31 10am - Lynne G2 - 6:30pm - Lenten | 1 | 2 | 3 |

MARCH

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First United Methodist Church
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www.fumcdixon.org
Facebook: First United Methodist Church in Dixon IL

Conference website: umcnic.org
District Superintendent, Rev Dr. Brian Gilbert
815-561-8285

THE HERALD
MARCH 2021

Watching Services online If you want to watch the Sunday worship services that we are recording live, they are available to view on the church Facebook page at First United Methodist Church in Dixon IL. You have the option to see them live or anytime during the week! If you are still confused, please talk to the pastors.

Don't forget to change your clocks on
March 14th



Newsletter deadline Articles for the next Herald are due in the church office no later than March 16. Email, bring copy or call me to get your article in! Thanks!

Staff Phone#

Pastor Tim Mitchell, 815-440-0278
Pastor Young Sun Lee 217-778-7898
Melissa Reynolds, office, 815-284-2849
Tommy Whitcombe, music, 815-440-9623
Carla Anderson, organist, 815-590-6698
Jessie Marie Dir, records, 815-288-1326
Sharon Welker, treasurer, 815-652-4384
Keith Gabany, janitor, 815-288-5001
Laura Anderson, youth, 815-421-3279