As we move into the season of Lent starting on Ash Wednesday (February 10th) we will continue to move through the story of Jesus’s life in the Gospel of Mark. Each Sunday (plus Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday), has a theme word that we will focus on in the service and the sermon.

**Ash Wednesday** (worship at 6:30 pm): Mark 9:30-37 --- Welcome.

**Sunday Feb 14:** Mark 10:17-31 --- Give.

**Sunday Feb 21:** Mark 10:32-52 --- Serve.

**Sunday Feb 28:** Mark 12:1-17 --- Listen.

**Sunday March 6:** Mark 12:28-44 --- Love.

**Sunday March 13:** Mark 13:1-8, 24-37 --- Watch!

**Sunday March 20 (Palm Sunday):** Mark 11:1-11 --- Risk.

**Thursday March 24 (Maundy Thursday):** Mark 14:22-42 --- Take. Eat.

**Friday March 25 (Good Friday):** Mark 15:16-39 --- Forsaken.

**Sunday March 27 (Easter):** Mark 16:1-8. Go! Tell!

**LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Every year, we share Wednesday evening worship in Lent with our partner churches in the Two Rivers Ecumenical Ministry (TREM) group. Each of the churches takes a turn to host to worship services and invite to preach one of the pastors who is not their home pastor. As the theme for the services this year, each preacher will choose a person from their religious tradition and background, who has influenced and impacted their faith. The schedule of host church and preachers is as follows: (all worship services Wednesday night at 6:30pm)

- **Feb 17** at St. Peter the Fisherman Catholic Church; Pastor Colie Bettivia preaching
- **Feb 24** at Grace Congregational UCC; Father Maurice Mmegbudimm preaching
- **March 2** at Emmanuel United Methodist; Pastor Jim Rasmus preaching
- **March 9** at Calvary Lutheran; Pastor Joan Frost preaching
- **March 16** at Zion United Methodist (in Mishicot); Deacon Paul Gleichner reaching
- **March 25** (Good Friday, worship at noon) at Calvary Lutheran Church

(Grace will also have worship Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, both at 6:30pm)
Psalm 133
How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.

On Sunday, January 3rd, we celebrated the festival of Epiphany—when the Magi from the east followed a star that led them to Jesus. As part of worship that Sunday, each person that was in church with us received a ‘star word’—a piece of paper, in the shape of a star, with a single word on it.** They were words like strength, rest, faithfulness, mercy, challenge. I encouraged everyone to take their star word home and to place it somewhere where you might see it and remember it. Just as the God used the star to guide the Magi to Jesus, these stars might be for us guidance in our prayers and in our relationship with God in the coming year.

As I reached into the basket of stars that morning, the word that I pulled out was “community”. My mind wandered briefly to our church community, then I put the star in the pocket of my robe and I didn’t think much more about it.

Just a few days later, Tobin and I found out that I had miscarried my pregnancy. And suddenly, the word community took on a new meaning for me. As we reached out and broke the hard news first to family and then to others, we felt loved, supported, and embraced by our community. A few sent us flowers. Others cooked meals. A great number of you, our church family, offered prayers and notes of sympathy and encouragement.

From the bottom of our hearts, Tobin and I say Thank you. Thank you to Kathryn, Diane, Kim, and Jean who helped me rest more easily while I took a few days off to recover. Thank you to everyone who did and continue to offer words of support to us and lift up prayers on our behalf. As Paul wrote in his letter to the church in Thessalonica, “How can we thank God enough for you, given all the joy we have because of you before our God?”

Truly, thank you. You have helped me to remember that we are not just people living near to each other, we are a community, a community of people who love God and who love our neighbors near and far.

May God bless you, this day and always.
Pastor Colie

**If you did not receive a star word and you would like one, we still have some! Talk to me after church on a Sunday, or call the church office (553-1222) and we will gladly mail one to you.

HOPE HOUSE VOLUNTEER TRAINING

The next volunteer training for Hope House will be on Monday, February 8th from 6:00 PM-7:30 PM at Hope House, 1110-South 10th St. Manitowoc. If you have questions please call Mickey Veleke or Betty Becker and let us know if you plan to attend this training session so we can let the staff know to expect you.
In February, we will change to a new class time. Wednesday, Feb 3rd will be the regular time (6-7:10pm). On Feb 10th, Ash Wednesday, youth need to be in class by 5:20. We will have class time and prepare for Ash Wednesday services, which the youth will be assisting with. Parents are encouraged to join the congregation for worship starting at 6:30. Youth will be finished after worship is over, approx 7:15.

Feb 17 through the end of the year, class time will be 5:20-6:15. Youth are required to attend (with their mentor) 2 of the ecumenical Wednesday night worship services, which are hosted by different churches in town and begin at 6:30.

These are the class topics for February:
- **Feb 3:** Preparation for Ash Wednesday/Lent; the Christian calendar
- **Feb 10:** (class 5:20-7:15) Ash Wednesday and worship
- **Feb 17:** (class 5:20-6:15) Mentor night. Tough Questions
- **Feb 24:** (class 5:20-6:15) Can someone lose their salvation?

**MOVIE NIGHT!!!**

Come join us for a Grace church “Dinner and a Movie” February 12 at 5:30pm. Bring a dish to share and enjoy a potluck meal together then pull up a chair (or a blanket) and watch “Where Hope Grows” with us! This movie is about a baseball player whose professional career was cut short due to his personal problems. He gains a friend in the man who works for the grocery store who happens to have Down syndrome. This movie is rated PG-13 and is 95 minutes long. Please RSVP if you are coming at the information center or on Facebook so we know how many to plan on and what you are bringing to share! We look forward to spending an evening with you!

**PARENTS’ SUPPORT GROUP**

Our next Parents' Support Group gathering will be Friday, February 19th, at 5:30pm. We will have a pot-luck supper and babysitting will be provided. Parents with children from infant through high school are invited to join us for friendship, discussion, learning, and support. More details on discussion topic will be available soon. If you have questions or suggestions for conversation topics, see Pastor Colie or any member of the Board of Christian Education.

**FIRST COMMUNION/COMMUNION EDUCATION**

Children’s Communion Education classes will begin on Tuesday, February 23rd at 4:15-5pm and continue on Tuesdays through March 15th. These classes are open to children of any age, and are a great opportunity for even young children to learn more about our faith. To sign your child up for classes, if you need help deciding if this is the right time, or if you have any other questions, please see Pastor Colie.

**CONFIRMATION FUNDRAISER—SPAGHETTI DINNER**

On Monday, February 29th, our Confirmation youth will host a Spaghetti Dinner at the Two Rivers Family Restaurant. Dinner will include spaghetti, garlic bread, drink, and a dessert. Tickets will be available from our youth before the event or at the door, and are $8 each. Dinners will be available to be picked up and taken to-go that evening. Please come out and support our youth, who will be waiting on the tables! Proceeds from the evening go to support our class trips to St. Louis and the Work Camp at Moon Beach.
In Monday Book Study we are reading the book *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Her parents had not raised her in the Christian Faith. She started attending church with friends in the summer between the 10th and 11th grade. In college she was a religion major and eventually became an Episcopal Priest. She shares lessons that she has learned in the dark and in confronting her fear of the dark.

We often associate dark with evil and light with good. The Bible often uses that imagery. In the Letter to the Ephesians the author writes, “For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light – for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.” Barbara Brown Taylor points out how important things happen in the night in the Bible. Jacob wrestles with the angel all night, Joseph dreams his prophetic dreams, the exodus from Egypt.

She points out that it is at night that we can see the stars. The stars are there during the day but the light of the sun obscures our view. Here in Wisconsin we are gaining a minute or so of daylight each day. We also say we are in the dark when we have not been given information. Here are a few sources of information that help shed some light on the wider church:

The website [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) is the official site of the United Church of Christ. You can go to the site and sign up for a weekly informational Email called **Keeping You e-Posted**. Signing up is easy and each week you will receive an email with current news stories.

Two recent stories from the ucc.org site involve the United Church of Canada and the Anglican Church. On called a meeting October 17, 2015 the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada signed an agreement of full communion. It is a formal statement of our close relationship with the United Church of Canada. This was an occasion for great joy.

However, the story about the Anglican Church is not one of great joy. The Archbishop of Canterbury called a meeting concerning the Episcopal Church in the United States. The Anglican Communion voted to censure “the Episcopal church for its stance on gay people.” The national leaders of the United Church of Christ “released a statement of support for the American denomination.”

The Wisconsin Conference of the UCC is rolling out a new program: **Shift from Maintenance to Mission**. “The central idea around “shift” is that ministry will increasingly involve connecting, supporting, and collaborating.” “The annual meeting in June will focus in Shift.”

The Northeast Association again has a newsletter. Rev. Daniel Schultz is the editor of the **NEA Newsletter**. It lists activities and events happening at UCC churches in our Association. You are able to sign up to receive the monthly newsletter through your email. To get to it initially try Googling NEA UCC Newsletter.

Starting Sunday, February 7th, Dr. Karl Kuhn will be presenting a four part serious **“An Introduction to Islam”**. It will be held during Sunday School time between the two worship services. Because of the number of people signing up we will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you for your continued support of my internship. I have learned a great deal and at the same time have truly enjoyed the time we are spending together. Grace Congregational Church is blessed by strong leadership, talented musicians, caring members, beautiful children, faith-filled youth, and elders that care very deeply for this faith community.

**Peace, Diane L. Cayemberg**

**UPCOMING ADULT STUDY: An Introduction to Islam**

In February, the Sunday morning (9:30am) Adult Study offering will be “An Introduction to Islam”. Islam is one of the most widely practiced, and one of the most misunderstood, religious traditions today. This four-week study will introduce participants to the history, basic beliefs and practices, and contemporary manifestations of Islam. While not required, participants are encouraged to purchase the following text as a companion to the study: **John L. Esposito, What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam** (Oxford University Press, 2nd edition, 2011). The study will be led by Karl Kuhn, Professor of Religion at Lakeland College. There will be four session:

February 7th: The story of Muhammad and the spread of Islam
February 14th: The essential beliefs and practices of Islam
February 21st: The diverse manifestations of Islam today
February 28th: Topic(s) to be determined by participants

Books will be available for purchase through the Church. If you wish to order a book, please sign up at the Information Center.
Ancestors of Faith
2016 Lenten Worship
from the Two Rivers Ecumenical Ministry (TREM)
Each of us have people we look up to, those who have
gone before us in faith to lead the way for future
generations. On Wednesday evenings in Lent this year,
we will hear about "saints" from each of our different
traditions.

February 10 - Ash Wednesday
   Each Congregation on its own--check with your Pastor or Priest

February 17
   Worship at St. Peter the Fisherman Catholic Church, 6:30 pm.
   Pastor Colie Bettivia, preaching

February 24
   Worship at Grace Congregational United Church of Christ, 6:30 pm.
   Father Maurice Mmegbuadimma, preaching

March 2
   Worship at Emanuel United Methodist, 6:30 pm.
   Pastor Jim Rasmus, preaching

March 9
   Worship at Calvary Lutheran ELCA, 6:30 pm.
   Pastor Joan Frost, preaching

March 16
   Worship at Zion United Methodist (Mishicot), 6:30 pm.
   Deacon Paul Glechner, preaching

March 24 - Maundy Thursday
   Each Congregation on its own--
   check with your Pastor or Priest

March 25 - Good Friday
   Noon tenebrae worship
   at Calvary Lutheran
A NOTE FROM THE MODERATOR

At our Annual Meeting on January 24, the congregation elected officers and members of Boards and committees. We have open positions remaining for two deacons and one deaconess, each for 3-year terms, as well as 1-year terms for a youth deacon and a deaconess.

The Board of Deacons and The Board of Deaconesses make up our Diaconate, which meets at 6 pm on the second Monday of each month. The Diaconate is responsible for the spiritual life of the church, which includes (in the words from our constitution) “worship, music, the sacraments, ushers, greeters, lay calling, church membership and all programs which have to do with the cultivation of the Christian life.” Our Diaconate sponsors a meal for new members two or three times a year. It also provides opportunities for fellowship among members, such as Rally Day, bingo, senior luncheons, bowling, family movies, and walk/bike outings. It has also organized our Easter Saturday prayer vigils, Easter sunrise services and outdoor worship services.

We also have an open slot for a youth on the Board of Mission and Outreach (which also meets on the second Monday monthly at 6 pm), and one the Board of Christian Education (which meets at 5 pm on the second Monday each month). Any young person who has completed confirmation is eligible.

If you are interested in serving or would like to recommend someone, please contact me or Pastor Colie Bettivia. It would be great to have these positions filled before February 8, if possible. Don DeBruyn, Moderator

GENERATION G

It’s FEBRUARY! Generation G continues to meet through lent at 7-8pm in the high school youth room Wednesday nights. I am excited to share that we have Devo-zine for our high school youth who are interested. Devi-Zine is a devotional/magazine that is written by youth and young adults which is online and in a mini magazine form. Every day they share a bible verse as well as some insights and questions to help us grow our faith every day of the week! It’s a little bit of positive to brighten our day.

February 10th is Ash Wednesday and we will be beginning a new lesson based on 40Acts: Do Lent Generously. Last year I signed up online to the 40 acts website and Facebook page and enjoyed the devotion and challenges they offered. This year— I’m sharing it with our high school youth!

February 12th: MOVIE NIGHT at Grace church open to our high school youth AND the congregation! Come join us at 5:30pm for dinner— followed by the movie, “Where Hope Grows”. Early reminder that Easter is March 27th! Our high school youth group will be hosting Easter Breakfast in the fellowship hall: Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage and all the rest— from 9am-10:15am and we need your help! (So please mark your calendars!)

CRAFTING/SCRAPBOOKING

Winter has been brutal— so come inside and enjoy a warm up! Bring a dish to share, project to work on, something to drink then come join us up at church in the fellowship hall! February 13 from 9am-2pm (shorter then normal), March 12 from 9am-4pm, and April 2 from 9am-4pm are all scheduled! You can RSVP on Facebook or to Nicole Herda so we know how many to plan on. Friends are WELCOME!
UPDATE
January 25, 2016

$2,825,164

WE ARE BLESSED TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE CHURCHES LISTED BELOW - LET'S ADD YOUR CHURCH TO HELP PUT US OVER OUR MINIMUM GOAL OF $3,000,000!

Please call the Campaign Office at 262-245-2680 or email: campaign@ucc.org to confirm that your church’s decision date has been set, give us the good news if your church has adopted a goal and it does not appear on this list, if you have questions on how to set up your campaign, or if your church needs pledge cards.

PLEASE REPRODUCE THIS BULLETIN AND INCLUDE IN YOUR WEEKLY BULLETIN OR PIN IT UP ON YOUR BULLETIN BOARD FOR ALL TO SEE!!

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED TO DATE:

- Alma, St Paul-St Luke UCC
- Arpin, St John's UCC
- Baraboo, First Congregational UCC
- Black Creek, St John's UCC
- Bloomer, First Congregational UCC
- Brookfield Cong. Church UCC
- Brookfield, Trinity UCC
- Burlington, Plymouth Cong. UCC
- Cecil, St John's UCC
- Clintonville, Christ Cong. UCC
- Colby, First UCC
- Colgate, St Paul's UCC
- Darlington, Immanuel UCC
- Delavan, Congregational UCC
- De Pere, First Congregational UCC
- Dorchester, Peace UCC
- Dousman, Emmanuel UCC
- Eagle River, First Cong. UCC
- Eau Claire, Triux Cong. UCC
- Elkhart Lake, St John's UCC
- Evansville, Congregational UCC
- Fitchburg Memorial UCC
- Fond du Lac, Pilgrim UCC
- Fontana, Community Church of
- Franklin, Raymond Comm. UCC
- Fremont, Hope UCC
- Germantown, St John UCC
- Germantown, Our Savior's UCC
- Green Bay, First UCC
- Green Bay, Union Cong. UCC of
- Green Lake Federated Church
- Greenwood, Immanuel UCC
- Hales Corners, Emmanuel UCC
- Hartford, St John's UCC
- Hartland, First Cong. Church UCC
- Jackson, New Hope UCC
- Janesville, Emerald Grove UCC
- Kaukauna, Immanuel UCC
- La Crosse, First Congregational UCC
- La Crosse, St John's UCC
- Lake Geneva, First Cong. UCC
- Lake Mills, First Cong. UCC
- Land O Lakes, Ely Memorial UCC
- Madison, First Congregational UCC
- Madison, Orchard Ridge UCC
- Madison, Plymouth Cong. UCC
- Manitowoc, First Reformed UCC
- Manitowoc, St John's UCC
- McFarland UCC
- Medford, Community UCC
- Menomonie Falls, St Paul's UCC
- Menomonee, First Cong. UCC
- Merrill, St Stephens UCC
- Merrillan, St John UCC (Humbird)
- Merton, St John's UCC
- Milwaukee, Calvary Memorial UCC
- Milwaukee, Bethel Bethany UCC
- Monroe, St John's UCC
- Monticello, Zwingli UCC
- Neenah, First Presbyterian Church
- Neillsville, UCC
- Nekoosa UCC
- New London, First Cong. UCC
- Oshkosh, Emmanuel UCC
- Oshkosh, St Paul's UCC
- Osseo, UCC
- Phelps, Congregational UCC
- Pittsville, UCC
- Platteville, Mt. Zion Cornelia UCC
- Plymouth, First Congregational UCC
- Port Washington, First Cong. UCC
- Random Lake, St John's UCC
- Redgranite, First Cong. UCC
- Ripon, First Congregational UCC
- Ripon, Our Saviour's UCC
- Saint Germain, Community UCC
- Sauk City, First UCC
- Saukville, St Peters UCC
- Schofield, Peace UCC
- Shawano, Peace UCC
- Sheboygan, Ebenezer UCC
- Sheboygan, First Cong. UCC
- Shiocton, Trinity UCC
- Sussex, Redeemer UCC
- Three Lakes, Union Cong. UCC
- Tomah, First Congregational UCC
- Twin Lakes, Calvary Cong. UCC
- Two Rivers, Grace Cong. UCC
- Union Grove, Congregational UCC
- Verona, Salem UCC
- Wabeno, Forest Largeth Parish Presh.
- Waukesha, First Cong. UCC
- Waupun, Union Cong. UCC
- Wausau, Grace UCC
- Whitewater, Congregational UCC
- Williams Bay Congregational UCC
Thank you from Rose Mary & Claude Koch for the gift card to Shopko for their son Philip.

Thank you from the Protemans, for the wonderful “Secret Pal” gift for our daughter Michelle.

Marcia Robbins extends thankfulness and gratitude to all who helped make rebuilding together in Manitowoc in April 2015 a day I was most grateful for. After being scammed by a contractor God answered my prayers with all from Grace lending a helpful hand by painting and organizing plumbing, electrical work, cleanup of roof and gutters. Thank you

Thank you from the Crossing Staff of Manitowoc County, for the almost estimated amount of $900.00. This was in the form of 2,195 diapers, 1600+ baby wipes, 5 cans of formula and 34 baby supplies/clothing. God bless you all. Amy Legreve

On behalf of the Conference Board of Directors a big thank you for your gift to a fund which we have established for “ministerial support” in times of crises or health problems. Your gift allows us to carefully and wisely lend support at just the right time to a UCC minister in a crisis. Blessings Franz Rigert

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, our dedicated staff, volunteers, & the men that we serve at The Haven thank you for your thoughtful donation of $3,075.00. Without support of kind people like you, the Haven would not be able to continue to serve homeless men in our community. Sincerely, Michael Etheridge

DECEMBER 27TH 2015 BAPTISMS
Teegan Marie, daughter of Eric and Jenelle
Ashley Potter, daughter of Lori
Charles James, son of Matthew and Ashley
Owen Lee, the son of Joshua and Stephanie

JANUARY 17TH 2016 BAPTISM
Benjamin Dean, the son of Joe and Jackie

SPECIAL THANK YOUS
To the Beloved ASP Group. The flower committee would like to Thank you for always providing wreaths for Christmas for using to decorate the church; we know they are made with Love.

A CHILD is BORN
Jax Sandy was born on Tuesday, December 15th. Jax is the daughter of Andy and Ali, and she has a sister, Zoe. Blessings!!! Joy!!! Congratulations!!!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, all of our dedicated volunteers & the families that we serve at Hope House, thank you for the donation of 8 packages of bus tokens and $100.00 worth of gift cards we received in December 2015.

Also a big thank you for the $3,075.00 donation. Without the support of kind individuals like you, Hope House would not be able to continue to serve homeless families in our community. Sincerely, Heather Krueger, Office Manager.
Thank you for picking the Salvation Army to be the recipient of your donation of $500.00. As we reach out to families in need, each donation is crucial. From Jeffrey Olson, Lieutenant Corps Officer.

**SPECIAL THANK YOU**

From your Diaconate a hardy thank you goes out to all of the volunteers who were liturgists, greeters, ushers, and TAC servers!

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**SALVATION ARMY RED SHIELD FREE CLINIC**

Do you know someone that needs access to healthcare? They missed open enrollment, lost coverage or not eligible for government assistance? The Salvation Army Red Shield Free Medical Clinic is now open in Two Rivers and is available to assist those who are without medical insurance, or have high deductibles and co-pays with limited financial resources. There is NO CHARGE for this service. Running the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month of 2016.

Our volunteer medical professionals assist with:

- Non-emergency medical care,
- Blood Pressure and other health screenings
- Health Information and education
- Onsite Specialty Health Care
- Community Referrals

**Next clinics:**

**Thursday, February 4th & 18th, 2016**

4:30-7:30pm

Two Rivers Fire Dept

2212 Monroe St

Please call the Salvation Army @ (920) 684-7117 to schedule your appointment for care.

http://www.salvationarmywi.org/wum

If you are a healthcare worker & have any interest in volunteering, please contact the Salvation Army@ (920) 684-7117.

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**LADIES OF GRACE**

Afternoon Circle will meet for lunch on Tuesday, February 16th at 11:30am at Luigis in Two Rivers

Ladies of Grace are welcome to attend this monthly luncheon. Bring a friend along too.

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**BINGO**

Senior Get-Togethers are continuing and will be held in the Fellowship Hall

March 2nd between 1:30 – 3:00pm

RSVP: Call the Church Office: 553-1222 or Sign up at the Information Center