



# SPIRIT SONG

## When someone asks, 'Pray for me ...'

On the way out of a service, an elderly man will say quietly, "Please pray for my wife"; an email message arrives: "Please pray for my sister who lives in another state." Or the request may be more direct: "Pray for me. I have a real challenge ahead."

The words pray for me signal a person in need. And when someone is in need—because of illness, a broken relationship, loss of work, a spiritual crisis or grief, it is as if he or she is carrying a heavy bucket—a bucket filled with emotion, filled with grief, filled with confusion, filled with disappointment.

### **Emptying Ourselves**

*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:5-8)*

Intercessors follow the example of Jesus, and we need to consider the cost of having the mind that was in Christ Jesus. Intercession requires emptying oneself on behalf of another.

When we worship, we move into the presence of a Holy God. We offer gifts of praise and silence, listening and humility, adoration and repentance. We place these gifts upon the altar. We gaze upon the greatest act of intercession, the cross of Jesus Christ. And we remember that Jesus continues to pray for us. He is the great high priest, seated at the right hand of God.

To make intercession is to worship God. All along the way, we are praising the God who shares our prayers, who is "our help in ages past, our hope for years to come." We "lay aside every weight and sin that clings so closely" (Hebrews 12:1). We empty ourselves. We look to Jesus, who emptied himself, who endured the cross, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2).

As you journey more deeply into a life of intercession, imagine that you are a part of a great procession approaching the throne of grace. You are not alone. You are laying your burdens before the altar. You are preparing for something. Perhaps you are preparing for a more profound ministry of intercession.

I have learned to honor the request "pray for me." It is a cry for help, however it may be expressed. It is an acknowledgment that we are limited and finite creatures. It is a trust placed in a higher power. It is always prompted by a situation that would not be desired: an illness, a loss, a need, a crisis, a doubt—and yet it is always an occasion for the grace of God, whose power is made perfect in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).

That intersection—God's power and our weakness—lies at the heart of intercession. May the grace of God lead you into a deepened life of prayer for others.

*From Pray for Me: The Power in Praying for Others © 2011 Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.*

# Holy Week

## **Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday)**

April 2nd at 7:30 p.m. - services to be held at Charlton City UMC. Communion service

## **Friday Cross Walk**

We will gather at Charlton Federated Church on Friday, April 3rd at 9 a.m. The cross will be carried starting from the Federated Church in Charlton and going to Overlook Life Care Communities

## **Good Friday**

April 3rd at 7:30 p.m.—services to be held at Charlton Federated Church

## **Easter Sunrise Service**

Everyone is invited to the Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m. on April 5<sup>th</sup> at Overlook Lifecare Communities on Masonic Hill Road, Charlton. It is at the base of the water tower in the back of the building.

## **Pancake Breakfast**

Following the Sunrise Service, everyone is invited to a Pancake Breakfast at the Charlton Federated Church, 64 Main Street, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

## **Easter Service**

April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.—service at Charlton City UMC

# Lenten Quiz

### **Why are eggs associated with Easter?**

(a) They symbolize new life. (b) They have a shell around the body inside, just as the tomb was around Jesus' body and then was cracked open. (c) They can be dyed pretty colors to represent joy, just as we have joy that Jesus has risen. (d) All of the above.

### **Which disciple objects to Jesus washing his feet?**

(a) Peter (b) James (c) John (d) Judas

### **Many people fast during Lent. How often did John Wesley fast?**

(a) Twice a week (b) Twice a month (c) Twice a year (d) Rarely (e) He did not fast

### **How did the early church observe Lent?**

(a) They remembered the mercy and forgiveness of Christ (b) They reconciled relationships among church members (c) They prepared converts for baptism (d) All of the above (e) None of the above

### **Can anyone receive communion at a United Methodist Church?**

(a) If you are a United Methodist (b) If you were baptized a United Methodist (c) If you are a Protestant (d) If you seek to respond to Christ's love (e) If you agree with the pastor of that church

Answers on page 5

## A Lenten Reflection

The season of Lent is almost over. This was a time of reflection on our Christian walk with Jesus. Are we truly his followers or just a fan. Would we willingly give up everything if he asked us to? Does he really abide in us and we in him? We've been studying about our Spiritual gifts on Wednesday evenings and how they are Supernatural and not just natural talents. We can do nothing in and thru our own will that is pleasing to God. We need to surrender and become a slave to our Lord and master, just as Jesus did to his Father on Good Friday.

When we look at the book of Acts and see how the early church functioned with passion, prayer, spiritual gifts and love, we can only think why not us? The good news is we can be that church if we truly want to be. We have everything the early churches had, it just has to be awakened from the slumber within us and brought forth into the beautiful light of the Creator, who created it. As we join in Christian fellowship with other churches during Holy Week, let's truly praise our Heavenly Father for reaching down from his throne on high to give us a way to experience His power and love, through his precious son, Jesus Christ!



Charlton City Youth hope to feed and care for 30 children for a month. They will go without food for 30 hours to raise money so others can eat.

### What are we doing for 30 Hours?

#### Fasting + Games + Friends + Service + God

Hunger is the single greatest threat to children's health. Undernutrition is a contributing factor in the death of 3.1 million children every year. Just \$35 - a bit more than a dollar a day - will help feed and care for a child for a month! They need your help. We hope to raise \$1050 which is enough to feed and care for 30 children for a month.

#### HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- 1. Pray.** Ask God to bring us together and help us see the world in a new way.
- 2. Give.** Write a check made out to World Vision and give it to a youth, or visit our online fundraising page at: [http://youth.worldvision.org/participant/CCUMC\\_Youth](http://youth.worldvision.org/participant/CCUMC_Youth)

## Sunday School Dates to Remember

**Children's Sunday** will be June 14th with the all church picnic to follow.

**Vacation Bible School** will be July 27th through 30th Monday-Thursday.



United  
Methodist  
Women

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Central Ma. District meeting  
**May 2, 2015** at Fisk UMC in Natick

Central Ma. Fall Gathering  
**October 3, 2015** Charlton City United  
Methodist Church.

**150th Anniversary  
United Methodist Women**

On March 23, 1869, eight women gathered at Tremont Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston, Massachusetts, and organized the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, what would later become United Methodist Women.

The women raised money to send a doctor, Clara Swain, and a teacher, Isabella Thoburn, to India as missionaries to serve the women of that



**Relish, Bread and Butter Pickles  
Governor's Sauce**

If any one would like to purchase Relish, Bread and Butter Pickles or Governor's Sauce please contact Nancy Rand at 508-987-5860. They are \$4.50 per Pint Jar.



**75<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY**

**UMCOR** - the United Methodist Committee on Relief is celebrating 75 yrs of service this year!

The United Methodist Women are organizing the donation of supplies to make 75 Health Kits to send to UMCOR this fall. These relief supply kits help provide care for the most vulnerable people during times of crisis. We will have a donation box in the narthex to collect items over the next few months. If you would like to participate we are asking for one item each month This should give us enough to assemble the kits.

Thank you for being part of this mission!

Items needed for April are:

- **1 new washcloth**  
Do not wash as they will be considered used
- **1 bath-size soap**  
3 oz. and larger sizes only;  
No Ivory or Jergens soap due to moisture content;  
Do not remove from original packaging.



**Generous Food Pantry Donations bring help to the hungry and hope to the burdened.**



Thank you for your consistent terrific support for our food pantry, we will be able to help out some local food pantries as well due to your bountiful blessings.  
Merry Christmas! CCUMC Mission/Outreach Team

## Youth group sledding at the Heritage School.



## Men's Roast Pork Supper—Saturday, April 11 from 5:30—7pm

The Men's Club is hosting a Roast Pork dinner at Charlton City United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7pm. Come and enjoy food and fellowship with friends and neighbors.

A tasty pork roast with potatoes, vegetables, and your choice of beverage, along with a delectable dessert, will be served. As always there will be continuous serving and take-out. Adults \$10.00, children 6 – 12 \$6.00, children 5 and under free. Family maximum: \$40.00. Take out orders available.

Tickets may be purchased at the door although reservations are appreciated. Call the church office at (508) 248-7379 for information and reservations. The building is handicap accessible.

### Answers to Lenten Quiz

**Why are eggs associated with Easter?** —The correct answer is (d) all of the above.

**Which disciple objects to Jesus washing his feet?** The correct answer is (a) Peter.

**Many people fast during Lent. How often did John Wesley fast?** The correct answer is (a) twice a week.

**How did the early church observe Lent?** The correct answer is (d) all of the above

**Can anyone receive communion at a United Methodist Church?** The correct answer is (d) if you seek to respond to Christ's love. The Sacrament of Holy Communion is based on the scriptural Last Supper, or final meal that Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion. In The United Methodist Church, the communion table is "open" meaning that anyone who truly seeks Christ's love and to 'live a new life of peace and love,' as the invitation to the table says, is welcome to receive.

**CALENDAR**

Service at CCUMC ..... Thu, Apr 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:30 p.m.  
 Cross Walk (gathering at Charlton Federated Church) ..Fri, Apr 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00 a.m.  
 Service at Charlton Federated.....Fri, Apr 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:30 p.m.  
 Sunrise Service at Overlook ..... Sun, Apr 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 a.m.  
 Pancake Breakfast at Charlton Federated ..... Sun, Apr 5<sup>th</sup> 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.  
 Easter Service ..... Sun, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.  
 Ecumenical Fellowship ..... Tue, Apr. 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.  
 Men's Fellowship..... Thu Apr. 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm  
 Men's Roast Pork Supper ..... Sat, Apr. 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm  
 Drumming Circle.....Mon, Apr 13 at 6:30 pm  
 Newsletter Due.....Tue, Apr 28<sup>th</sup>

**ONGOING PROGRAMS**

Sunday School ..... Sunday at 9am  
 Adult Bible Study ..... Sunday at 9am  
 Worship ..... Sunday at 10:30 am  
 Youth Group ..... Most Sundays at 6pm  
 Caring Fellowship..... Second Sunday of each month  
 Drumming Circle..... Second Monday of each month  
 Men's Early Bird Coffee..... Wednesday at 5:30 am  
 Women's Bible Study ..... Wednesday at 10 am  
 Sharing Faith ..... Wednesday at 7pm  
 Intercessory Prayer ..... Thursday at 11:30am  
 AA ..... Saturday at 7pm  
 Community Café ..... Last Saturday of the month at noon

www.cc-umc.org  
 charltoncityumc@cc-umc.org  
 email:  
 Phone: 508 248-7379

RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED

Rev. Taesung Kang  
 Charlton City United Methodist  
 74 Stafford Street  
 Charlton, MA 01507

Sunday's  
 10:30 am Worship