



**First United Methodist Church**

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# TIDINGS

## FEBRUARY 2019

**Worship and  
Fellowship  
Together**

Sunday Morning Church Service  
in the Fireside Room 10:00AM  
Coffee Hour to Follow



***From the Pastor's Desk -***

Kathleen Norris wrote a lovely little book, some years ago now, she called Dakota, A Spiritual Geography, in which she inserted a series of 'weather reports'. This is a portion of the one for February:

*Walking with care, snow barely covering the patches of ice, I begin to recall a canticle or a psalm – I can't remember which – and my body keeps time:*

*Cold and chill, bless the Lord  
Dew and rain, bless the Lord  
Frost and chill, bless the Lord  
Ice and snow, bless the Lord  
Nights and days, bless the Lord  
Light and darkness, bless the Lord*

It was heartening to me to rediscover this wisdom recently as I was enduring the ice and cold and, frankly, not thinking to bless the Lord. I am surprised every time all over again how much it helps to bless the Lord for these things. It actually puts a smile on my face and makes me see these brutal, cold days of winter for what they really are, which is, of course, life itself, for without them where would be? And don't say Florida, for the truth is, as nice as that would be, it is still a fact that we are alive today, whether in the sunshine of the south or in the frigid north. We are here. We are alive today and life is a gift to us. It is all a gift. I think that is what it means to bless the Lord. It is a way for the heart to give thanks for the gift and in so doing to be reminded of its' giftedness. When I bless the Lord, my heart is lifted and I am surprised by the joy that is present in the blessing, is apparently always present, just waiting for us to open our hearts to receiving it. Beloved, I wish you all well wherever this winter takes you and I offer you this word for the journey: bless the Lord!

*Blessings, Larry*

***You are cordially invited to  
our...***

***Winter Blues Buster***

**Soup and Sandwich Lunch**

**March 10, 2019 at 12:00 Noon**

**Please RSVP by February 24<sup>th</sup>**

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Lay Leader...

This poem has lived in my Bible for many years and has meant a great deal to me over time. I was fortunate to grow up in a christian home but the ups and downs of life lived there also.

A few months before I entered the field of nursing I decided to try to run away from God. That was an interesting time in my life as He would not let me go. It wasn't long before He pulled me back and it was around that time that I was given this poem which I share with you now.

**Recompense by Ella Wheeler Wilcox**

Straight through my heart this fact today, by truth's own hand is driven,  
God never takes one thing away but something else is given.

I did not know in earlier years the law this law of love and kindness; I  
only mourned through bitter tears my loss in sorrow's blindness.

But ever following each regret o're some departed treasure, my sad  
repining heart was met with unexpected pleasure.

I thought it only happened so but time this truth has taught me- no least  
thing from my life can go but something else is brought me.

It is the law, complete, sublime; and now with faith unshaken in patience  
I but bide my time when any joy is taken.

No matter if the crushing blow may for the moment down me still back of  
it waits Love I know with some new gift to crown me.

This year just passed included all these elements. Some have been harder to accept than others but through it all God has been there to love and to guide me. I expect that God has much more that He plans to introduce us to in the year to come. I am looking for changes that will challenge our faith in many ways, we are few in number but we are also capable of doing great things for Him. Julie has a burning in her soul to work together to see our church grow. I am so fortunate to work side by side with her.

Together we can see our group grow and experience new life in our midst.

Blessings,  
Winnie

## February 2019 Memorial Flowers

### In Memory Of

### Given By

February 3	Nellie and Harlan Clock parents of	Sandy Barton
February 10	Natassa Walsh and Virginia Tarbuck	Carolyn & Stephen Walsh
February 17	Carolyn & John Sinkiewicz	Ann & Roger Washburn
February 24	William Flumerfelt	Ruth Flumerfelt

## February Birthdays

- 1 David Cooper
- 7 Carol Kirby
- 10 Carolyn Walsh
- 16 Mary Maione
- 20 Marguerite Sweeney
- 27 Jeffrey Stinson
- 28 Sandy Barton, Jeff Losano
- 29 Gloria Lockard, Jody Wetson

## February Anniversaries

- 3 Diana & Jim Campbell

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### Bible Verse for February

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<sup>7</sup>“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.

<sup>8</sup>He is like a tree planted by water,  
that sends out its roots by the stream,  
and does not fear when heat comes,  
for its leaves remain green,  
and is not anxious in the year of drought,  
for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

**Jeremiah 17:7-8**

Save the Date...

**Missions Walk**

Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>

More details to follow



### IMPORTANT:

If there is interest, Larry will offer a Lenten study called *Listening for God* which is a reflection on the life of faith as found in contemporary literature.

Let the office know soon if this sounds like something you would like to do and, also, when would be your preferred time to do it.

# Motivational Article

## Have you ever thought of kindness as one of your ideal traits?

- **Are you a kind person?**
- **Do you treat all people kindly?**
- **Do you always maintain a kind and considerate nature?**
- **Are you forbearing, sympathetic, and understanding in your relationships?**

**Kindness** is an ideal accessible to each of us. Kindness can make your journey down lifes pathway more enjoyable and more rewarding. An instance of kindness can put a smile on the face of the toughest recipient. History recognizes kindness as a powerful virtue. It may be the simplest way to experience and share the grandest ideals of humanity. We all can make the choice to perform an act of kindness within ourselves at anytime, nourishing hope in all those we meet.

Kindness acts as the oil that makes the engine of our world move more smoothly and with less friction. It helps us all get to where we're going and makes the ride much more pleasant. Remember, kindness is limitless and easily available to everyone.

You can start with a smile and a kind word. You can grow by being a shoulder to cry on. As you continue to grow in loving kindness, your light will shine on all who you meet.

Whether giving way to another in traffic, letting another ahead of you in line, donating to charity, or sharing in a time of crisis, we can create a universe of kindness and giving with each choice we make. The smallest gesture can bring a smile to lighten a darkened world. When we give, we receive kindness in return, but giving of kindness is really its own reward.

Kindness expands God's light within us. It reaches out to touch the light of others. It gives us a glimpse of the glow each of us has within to enlighten the world.

When we act in ways confirming kindness as one of our ideals, we make those ideals our reality.

**May kindness always be a part of your living.**

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Bob Stoess is a Retired CEO, prolific writer and wonderful mentor.

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<https://motivateus.com/stories/bob-stoess-kindness.htm#285Pww06X9KryOaq.99>