



### A SUPERABOUNDING LENT!

In reading Oswald Chamber's "My Utmost for His Highest" this past week, he speaks of the call of God. Chambers says, God has not called us to any particular service, but that as we are in contact with God's nature, we realize what we would like to do for Him. When God reveals Himself to us out of abounding devotion, we react by serving. Service becomes the natural part of our life. As we have relationship with God, out of love for Him on our own account do things that bring Him glory.

Ash Wednesday falls on February 17th this year. Each year during Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday many set aside something. The idea is that we give up something of luxury in order to replicate the sacrifice of Jesus in His journey into the desert for 40 days. This was for Jesus a time of preparation and therefore Lent is a time for Christians to prepare for Easter. Lent is observed by most denominations and may include prayer, penance, mortifying the flesh, repentance of sins, almsgiving and self-denial. In addition to giving things up there is also the desire to take on something new, Bible reading, prayer, daily devotion, acts of kindness and other things that bring Glory to God and draw us into closer contact with Him.

Service is the overflow of superabounding devotion, says Chambers. I am not sure that I have ever used that word or even seen it used. Webster defines it as to abound or prevail in greater measure or to excess. In searching I could not really find a synonym for the word, it is more than, overwhelming, above and beyond the feeling of devotion.

My prayer and desire for Lent for myself is that my devotion toward God would grow in such measure that service overflows from that love and devotion. I hope that during Lent each of us will search not only for things stop but that we will seek ways to connect

to God in a deeper way. May I encourage us all to find ways to meet God. May I suggest a devotion using the Bible App which you can search for on your phone, tablet or computer. As you sign up look under plans and search for a Lenten devotion and Bible reading plan. Other growth opportunities include joining a Zoom Sunday School class, Zoom Bible Study, or other opportunities with the church. If you can't think of or find something, give us a call and we can help with ideas.

I want us all to have a superabounding Lent.

Blessings, Hale

### A NOTE FROM ROB

February is the month of love. We tend to wear red. We send cards and flowers to those we love.

Harlequin Publishing House states more than 180 million romance novels are purchased each year. That means for every second; five-and-a-half books are sold!

I think their search for significance and love is off target. People desire to know more about love. But it seems they are looking in the wrong book. Check out the greatest love story. I would suggest starting with the gospel of John. Jesus did it all out of love for you and for me. Join in serving this loving God. Have a great February! - Rob

<b>HALE BISHOP</b> <i>Senior Pastor</i>	<b>ROB GROTHEER</b> <i>Associate Pastor</i>	<b>PAUL CHANT</b> <i>Director of Music Ministries</i>	<b>MICHELLE JOHNSON</b> <i>Director of Education</i>
<b>HANNAH BASS</b> <i>Director of Children and Youth Ministries</i>	<b>GRACE WILSON</b> <i>Office Coordinator</i>	<b>AMELIA JAMERSON</b> <i>Communications Coordinator</i>	<b>ASHLEY SAPORITO</b> <i>Controller</i>



# Worship on Wednesdays

throughout Lent

A SEASON OF REFLECTION, RENEWAL, AND PREPARATION

Join your church family on Wednesday evenings during the season of Lent for a time of casual mid-week worship. This will be an opportunity to safely gather outside for a time of worship, fellowship, and spiritual connection.

#### Ash Wednesday

February 17th

Stop by the church between **noon and 1:00 pm** or between **6:00 pm and 7:00 pm** for a time of personal reflection and imposition of ashes. Ashes can be received either inside with Pastor Hale or in the Prayer Labyrinth with Pastor Rob.

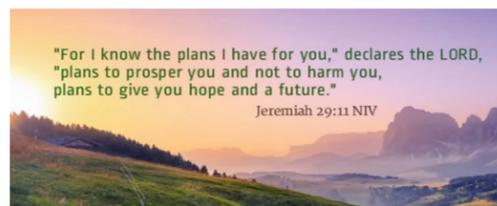
#### Taizé Service

February 24th - 6:00pm

A Taizé Service is an evening prayer for all Christian faiths. It is a simple, meditative form of worship, calling us to dwell deeply on Christ's presence around and within us. Songs (like "Jesus, Remember Me"), prayerful silence, and short readings guide the focus of the prayer in a candle-lit environment.

#### Happening in March...

- PRAYER WALK - March 3rd
- INTERACTIVE WORSHIP - March 10th
- PICNIC & PRAISE - March 17th
- PRAYER & REFLECTION - March 24th



# Children and Youth Ministries



## CELEBRATING SIUMC YOUTH

Say hello to Luke! This guy has been around for a while, but maybe your only point of reference for him to this point has been as Michelle's son. Luke is the guy who is always ready to laugh with a joke, prank or just in joy at playing games. In the summer I gauged just how much fun he had by how dirty his feet were by the end of the night because

the first thing he does at any Youth Event is ditch his shoes.

Over the last few months, I have truly enjoyed watching him become a leader within our Group. He will often call his peers back to order when it is time to buckle down in God's Word. His answers to our life application questions can range anywhere from genuine reflection to the obscure randomness that is simply the life blood of teenage interactions.

When asked for a quote he turned to Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

Teenagers are often hitting that transition of truly just starting to walk out their faith independently. As a church we are called nurture and are blessed watch them grow. Teenagers do it quickly, and if we are good stewards, our investment in their lives will lead them to flying!

When asked about Youth, Luke had this to say: "I like youth because we get to learn new things about Christ, play fun games, and get to know new people."



## LOVE WALK SUPPORTING WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTERS

Saturday, February 13th • 10:00 am  
Gather in Church parking lot at 9:45 am

Come join the fun and make a positive difference in the lives of homeless and low income children and adults as we raise money for Wesley Community Centers. We will start at the church and do a 3.1 mile walk that loops through Deer Creek. If you'd like to make a donation, please submit a check to the church and notate "WCC."

## GATHERING AT THE MARSHES

Monday, February 1st • 2:00 pm  
Marshes Ballroom

Residents of the Marshes are invited to join Pastor Rob each month in the Marshes Ballroom. This will be a time to catch up in person and discuss what's currently happening in the church.

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

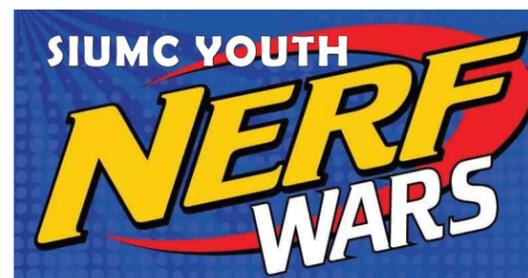
Tuesday, February 2nd • 2:00 pm  
The Landings Harbor

Looking for a time of fellowship with your brothers in Christ? Every month, Pastor Rob hosts a Men's Fellowship group. This group meets outside, at the Landings Harbor. Bring your lawn chair and your beverage of choice and feel free to invite others.



## COLLECTING CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Our "Little Free Library" located near the playground behind the church is checked every week to be sure it has plenty of children's books - we are in need of more. If you are able to donate one or two, please place books in the library when you are over near the church. If you have more than a couple and would like to donate them for future need, a plastic box with a lid will be located near the church office door where you can leave them.



SUNDAY, FEB. 28TH - 3:00 PM - BAILEY HALL

Nerf bullets and safety glasses provided.  
Bring your own Nerf gun.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

John 1:29 (RSV) The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" The "Agnus Dei" is a liturgical prayer written in Latin. It is a chant addressed to Christ. In Western Christian liturgies, it is the fifth part of the Mass ordinary: Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus (including Benedictus and Hosanna), and Agnus Dei.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. (Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.) Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. (Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.) Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem. (Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.)

Lent is a solemn religious observance in the Christian liturgical calendar. In 2021, it begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th and ends on Saturday, April 3rd, just before Easter Sunday. The last week of Lent is Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday. It is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days.

It is my heartfelt prayer that we shall have peace in the world, now and always. SDG and Pax vobiscum, Paul

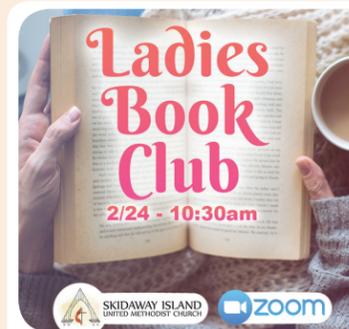
## FEBRUARY LECTIONARY TEXT

February 7th: Isa 40:21-31 | Ps 147:1-11 | 1 Cor 9:16-23 | Mark 1:29-39

February 14th: 2 Kgs 2:1-12 | Ps 50:1-6 | 2 Cor 4:3-6 | Mark 9:2-9

February 21st: Gen 9:8-17 | Ps 25:1-10 | 1 Pet 3:18-22 | Mark 1:9-15

February 28th: Gen 17:1-7, 15-16 | Ps 22:23-31 | Rom 4:13-25 | Mark 8:31-38

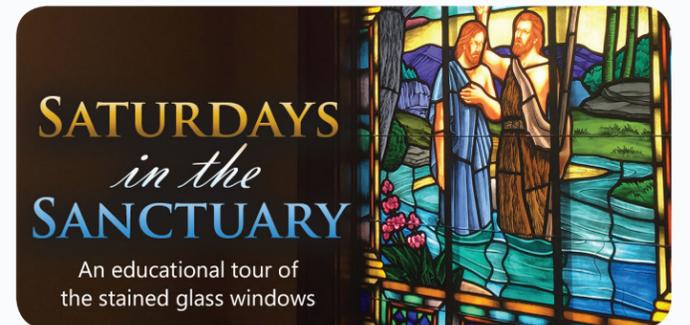


Bruce Feiler  
The First Love Story  
Adam, Eve, and Us

## FEBRUARY BOOK:

"THE FIRST LOVE STORY" BY BRUCE FEILER  
Wed. February 24th • 10:30 am  
Hybrid meeting (in-person & Zoom)

Containing all the humor, insight, and wisdom that have endeared Bruce Feiler to readers around the world, "The First Love Story" is an unforgettable journey that restores Adam and Eve to their rightful place as central figures in our culture's imagination and reminds us that even our most familiar stories still have the ability to surprise, inspire, and guide us today. If you plan to participate, contact the church office at 598-8460.



## SATURDAYS IN THE SANCTUARY

An educational tour of the stained glass windows

Beginning January 30th, the morning devotionals on Saturdays will have a new focus. We will travel around the Sanctuary and visit one stained glass window each week and discuss the scripture connection and symbolism. The windows are arranged in the Sanctuary to tell the story of Jesus' life and as we observe each one, we will gain insight to the life and ministry of Jesus.

\*Monday through Friday devotionals will continue as regular\*