Admitting Our Fault & Embracing Resurrection

“Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.”

In Luke chapter 13, Jesus fixes his eyes on Jerusalem and begins making his way to the cross. His entire life and ministry has been leading up to this point. At his birth, the angels appeared and proclaimed the birth of a new king. As a boy, he stayed behind in Jerusalem and interacted with religious teachers. At his baptism, the Spirit descended upon him, as God proclaimed, “You are my Son, the beloved; with you I am well pleased.” After his baptism, the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness, where he both overcame all manner of temptation and received a clear vision of his mission. He has chosen disciples. He has taught. He has healed. Moses and Elijah have appeared and spoken to him about what is to come.

And now Jesus is making his way to Jerusalem, where he, Jesus will encounter his greatest test and trial: the cross. Each Gospel in the Bible has a slightly different focus when it comes to what Jesus accomplishes on the cross and what we are meant to do in response to the death and resurrection of God’s only begotten Son. In the Gospel of Luke, Luke invites us to ask ourselves: How could such a thing happen to the Son of God? How could humanity allow an innocent being, who went about loving and teaching and healing, who was clearly sent to us by God, to be murdered?

Luke invites us to take a sobering look at what happened to Jesus and recognize that we, as humans, not only did not recognize the one God sent to us; but, rather, we put him to death. The response Luke encourages in us is to recognize our guilt in this travesty and confess our sinful nature, which led to the death of God’s Son.

And yet, Luke also invites us to celebrate the fact that though we put the Son of God to death, God invites us to participate in the triumph of the resurrection. Even though humanity did not recognize God’s Son, and treated him with the utmost contempt, God invites each and every one of us to participate in the triumph of his Son. We are invited to share in Jesus’ resurrection by admitting our wrong and believing in the resurrection. This is the very definition of grace!

As we approach Easter, we will have the opportunity to recognize our fault (Maundy Thursday service, March 24th), and celebrate the resurrection (Easter Sunday, March 27th). We will also have the opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to the life and teachings of Christ by participating in the 24 hour prayer vigil and by giving our resources toward the Easter offering, which will go to support our missionaries and the Good Samaritan Fund.

May God bless you this Easter, Pastor Craig Luttrell
FAITH FOR MED CITY 2016-2017

March Worship Styles
March 6—Contemporary Worship with Sanctuary Singers and Communion
March 13—Marketplace Worship with Alleluia Ringers
March 20—Palm Sunday—Easter Cantata and Children Sing
March 24—Maundy/Thursday Service and 24 Hour Prayer Vigil Begins.
March 27—Easter Sunday—Blended Worship and Confirmation

UMW End of Year Report by Ruth Jackson
United Methodist Women is an organization that centers its mission on the needs of women, youth and children all over the world. Thank you for the support the congregation of First United Methodist Church gives to the various fundraising events throughout the year. Thanks for your tasty donations, your service and your money gifts. Here is an accounting of projects we give to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District Pledge</td>
<td>$3500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Local and Global projects)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift in Memory, Mission</td>
<td>115.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Thank Offering</td>
<td>193.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Projects (Shesler Hall, Hawthorne Hill, Bidwell-Riverside)</td>
<td>312.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bidwell-Riverside</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Youth Wednesday night, Peanut Butter Jelly lunch</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packaging Event</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nursery Curtains 166.00
TLC 100.00
Good Samaritan Fund 400.00
Van Orman House 200.00
House of Compassion 250.00
Food Box 250.00
Salvation Army 250.00
Child Abuse 250.00
Caring Center 250.00

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Aaron & Grant Fitz
Todd Elipperle
Scott Vial
Derek Johnson
Dalton VanZwol

Prayer Shawl Ministry by Kathy Braga
Reflecting upon our prayer shawl group and what we have done, I have been trying to figure how many prayer shawls we have made and given away. We are starting our 5th year in 2016. To the best of my knowledge, we have made and given away 300+ shawls. Someone once compared that to 300+ hugs from God. We don't look for praise for that, we pray for thanks and praise for God whom we attempt to glorify in our efforts. We have recently been able to donate some of our extras to Iowa River Hospice house. I so appreciate any help we receive from all those that make shawls, donate yarn or money for yarn. We couldn't do this without that.

We meet Thursday mornings at 10AM in the Oasis room if you would like to check us out!

March 9—Flyer Night
March 16—Public Prayer Night
March 23—Families Night
March 30—Joy Night

Children’s Easter Event by Gina Ruddock
“A Walk Through Holy Week”
Children and their families are invited to a very special event on Palm Sunday, March 20, following the Easter Cantata.

The Children’s Ministry Committee will present “A Walk Through Holy Week.” Families will journey through the week together, experiencing the praises of Palm Sunday and walking through the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Cross and the Empty Tomb. Stations are interactive and kids can enjoy an egg hunt as part of the experience.

Lunch and craft/storytelling stations also provided.

We hope you will come and experience Holy Week together in a way that will connect with toddlers to upper elementary children.

RSVP is requested for this event. Please sign up during worship or in the office.

Volunteers welcome! We need help with set up and lunch service. See Gina Ruddock

SPRC by Lisa Cooper

For those who have not heard—First church has been assigned a new senior pastor to start July 1st. He is Reverend Jeffrey Kodis currently serving at Mediapolis/Sperry, Iowa. Pastor Jeff and his wife Anna met at Iowa State and will celebrate 17 years of marriage this July. After finishing his degree there, he graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary in 2003. Since then they have served in Spirit Lake for 4 years and the churches of Mediapolis and Sperry for the past 9 years. They have been blessed with 5 children: Wesley (13), Andrew (11), Meredith (9), Elliot (6), and Ethan (15 mos).

Also, we have been appointed Pastor Craig as our associate pastor for the 2016-17 year as well. Many of you were concerned about him being reappointed elsewhere, but that will not be the case. Thanks to those of you who have volunteered to help Phil Dickey with various youth projects including the ski trip.

The next year, with these three talented individuals in the lead, will give us all poise in our Christian work ahead. God bless all of you who have supported the SPRC through the difficult times we have had.

from the YOUTH MINISTRY

Phil Dickey
Students had a fantastic February with lots to be thankful for. Starting with a friendly competition with Center Street Baptist youth group from January—February 7th. They challenged our students to a canned food drive for the local Emergency Food Box. Collectively we raised 613 canned goods and $105 dollars. We’re very proud of all the students who participated in this fun competition.

Also, Momentum Students and other local churches had some excitement in February skiing at Afton Alps Resort in Minnesota. Many memories and friendships were made as we conquered the Minnesota Mountains! Students also attended an Ebenezer-sponsored worship night on February 24th at First Baptist Church. Students across our community came together for a great time of fellowship and worship.

All of our Momentum Students would like to thank everyone again who participated in our “Soup’er Lunch Fundraiser” February 7th. Because of your continued support we raised over $600 for our students summer activities.

Our next fundraiser is a “Thirty-One Gifts fundraiser” with 100% commission going to support our youth. You can order now through March 27th, by contacting Hannah Hokanson @ (641) 691-2891. If you would like to shop online you can by going to www.mythirtyone.com/1799952, click on “my scheduled parties” then selecting FUMC Youth Fundraiser. Hannah will also be outside the sanctuary before church to set up.

March is quickly approaching with lots of activities for our students. We are very proud of all the students who participated in this fun competition.

Packaging Event
Peanut Butter Jelly lunch

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Aaron & Grant Fitz
Todd Elipperle
Scott Vial
Derek Johnson
Dalton VanZwol

This Month’s Usher / Greeter Teams
Dennis & Heidi Drager
Jane Markey
Elva Weaver
Dick Cope

March Worship Styles
March 6—Contemporary Worship with Sanctuary Singers and Communion
March 13—Marketplace Worship with Alleluia Ringers
March 20—Palm Sunday—Easter Cantata and Children Sing
March 24—Maundy/Thursday Service and 24 Hour Prayer Vigil Begins.
March 27—Easter Sunday—Blended Worship and Confirmation

UMW End of Year Report by Ruth Jackson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District Pledge</td>
<td>$3500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Local and Global projects)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift in Memory, Mission</td>
<td>115.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Thank Offering</td>
<td>193.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Projects (Shesler Hall, Hawthorne Hill, Bidwell-Riverside)</td>
<td>312.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bidwell-Riverside</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Youth Wednesday night, Peanut Butter Jelly lunch</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packaging Event</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nursery Curtains 166.00
TLC 100.00
Good Samaritan Fund 400.00
Van Orman House 200.00
House of Compassion 250.00
Food Box 250.00
Salvation Army 250.00
Child Abuse 250.00
Caring Center 250.00
March 24:
7:00 pm
Service with Communion
Prayer Vigil
Begins at 8:00 pm

March 27:
10:00 am
Easter Service with Communion

Confrimands and new members will be inducted. Let us welcome them in Christian love.

Change for Change goes to Sanctuary Board for operating costs. Monday Night Prayer Time 5:15 - 6:15 pm Sanctuary You are invited to join.

UMW by Edie Hodges
- March 3 – 9:30 am UMW Board Mtg. in lower tower room
- March 4 – Church United – Celebration
- March 4 – World Day of Prayer
- March 14 – Day Ad @ Hope UMC, Marshalltown – 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Could your spiritual life benefit from a tune-up? After a long winter, are you ready for a day just for sharing, encouraging, and celebrating the joy of Jesus Christ? Ladies of FUMC, this meeting is close, the programming is always great, and the salad luncheon is delicious. You don’t have to be a member of a circle, so let’s have a great turn out. If interested, contact Bev Sloppy 753-3088 or Edie Hodges 753-7175. They would appreciate a count of attendees by March 12.
- Mary Long is encouraging readers to be reading for the reading program and anyone interested in doing this, is to get in touch with her. The reading reports (which are very simple) are due at the end of June each calendar year. There are some fantastic books available to be read by you.
- UMW has boxes of 12 cards left in the office for a discount of $5.00. We will not be ordering anymore at this time, since the Card Ministry cards are now available for sale outside the church library.
- Altar Flowers: Jo has the 2016 calendar to sign up in the office. If you have a Sunday you would like to honor or in memory of someone, stop in and Jo can show you the available Sundays left in 2016. The earlier months are getting filled, but there are many open spots later in the year yet. The cost is $27.00 dollars for two bouquets and then the flowers are delivered to a hospitalized or homebound member.
- Janice Springer continues to send out greeting cards to members. If anyone knows of someone who would benefit from a greeting card, please contact Janice Springer. She is wonderful in trying to keep up with that mission. Janice is also very active in CWU. UMW is going to help that organization and some others in some forth while mission projects. We encourage FUMC members to help UMW with saving items for these also: There will be a box in the office to leave these items in. Thanks!
- Annual Spring Salad Luncheon – Thursday, April 28, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. The committee chairs Bev Sloppy, Edie Hodges, Betty Gray, Jana Latham, Betty Kunc, Marleta Scritchfield, Karen Berger, Cheri Strunk, and Janet Wenk met this week to begin this event planning. Hold this date and plan to bring your salad, deviled egg, muffins/wheat or white dinner rolls, and sweet treat recipes you would like to use this year for your donation. We will need lots of volunteers to help serve, help in the kitchen, clean up and dishwashers. If you know of a location you would like to put up a poster, stop in and Jo Ruff will have some extras. We will have lists to sign up on at the Sunday services on April 3, 10, and 17 for donations of food and volunteering or a caller will be calling you. Thanks for all the support you give us for this event. The community always looks forward to the food, fellowship, and fun they have. I have some asking already what the date is this 2016 year. More information will be coming on posters, the UMW bulletin board, church bulletins/screen, church newsletter, and other media.

Local & Global Missions by Barb Matya
- Thanks to Janet and the Sanctuary Singers for planning and preparing the meal in February for the soup kitchen. Gina and the Hand in Hand group will be doing March. Helpers are always welcome.
- We donated Bibles to Women at the Well in Mitchellville.
- Supply Closet collection for March is bar soap.

March 24
7:00 pm
Service with Communion
Prayer Vigil
Begins at 8:00 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Thursdays at 10:00 am in the Oasis.
Anyone is welcome to join in.

Temple Builders
Exercise Class
8:15 - 9:00 am
Tuesday & Thursday
Fellowship Hall
All you need is an exercise ball & mat.

HOC Supply Closet
March Collection
Bar Soap

Insurance Requirement
Please do not sit in the front row of the balconies.

March 6
Communion
March 24 & 27

Weather Policy
If Marshalltown Schools
close because of bad weather, the church office
will be closed.

Monday Night Prayer Time
5:15 - 6:15 pm
Sanctuary
You are invited to join.

Please sign up on the board by the Welcome Center if you could be a greater after worship.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to:
The family of Dona Lee Smith.
Steve & Peggy Niedermann in the loss of Marilee Niedermann, Steve’s mother.

In Christian Sympathy

Altogether We Build
MARCH

Monthly Meetings:
Trustees: Thursday, March 3 at 5:00 pm
Finance: Tuesday, March 8 at 5:00 pm
SPRC: Tuesday, TBD at 5:45 pm
Stonewall Estate Ad Hoc:
Missions: Tuesday, April 19 at 4:00 pm
Ad Council: Tuesday, May 17 at 5:00 pm

Altar Flowers: Jo has the 2016 calendar to sign up in the office. If you have a Sunday you would like to honor or in memory of someone, stop in and Jo can show you the available Sundays left in 2016. The earlier months are getting filled, but there are many open spots later in the year yet. The cost is $27.00 dollars for two bouquets and then the flowers are delivered to a hospitalized or homebound member.

Janice Springer continues to send out greeting cards to members. If anyone knows of someone who would benefit from a greeting card, please contact Janice Springer. She is wonderful in trying to keep up with that mission. Janice is also very active in CWU. UMW is going to help that organization and some others in some forth while mission projects. We encourage FUMC members to help UMW with saving items for these also: There will be a box in the office to leave these items in. Thanks!

If Marshalltown Schools close because of bad weather, the church office will be closed.

Altar Flowers: Jo has the 2016 calendar to sign up in the office. If you have a Sunday you would like to honor or in memory of someone, stop in and Jo can show you the available Sundays left in 2016. The earlier months are getting filled, but there are many open spots later in the year yet. The cost is $27.00 dollars for two bouquets and then the flowers are delivered to a hospitalized or homebound member.

Janice Springer continues to send out greeting cards to members. If anyone knows of someone who would benefit from a greeting card, please contact Janice Springer. She is wonderful in trying to keep up with that mission. Janice is also very active in CWU. UMW is going to help that organization and some others in some forth while mission projects. We encourage FUMC members to help UMW with saving items for these also: There will be a box in the office to leave these items in. Thanks!

If Marshalltown Schools close because of bad weather, the church office will be closed.

We donated Bibles to Women at the Well in Mitchellville.

Supply Closet collection for March is bar soap.
when we come to you for a special offering. The latest was the Soup’er Lunch put on by the Youth

Other Giving
Roof Renovation $340
Radiator Repair $380

Music Ministry by Janet Collison

Parking Request
On Sundays, if you are able, please park in the lot across the street to the east or on the north side of the building so people who have difficulty walking can park in our lot. Thanks for being considerate of others.

Finance Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions $37,503</td>
<td>$37,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Int. $0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other $2,372</td>
<td>$2,372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total $39,875</td>
<td>$39,875</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenses

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating $4,879</td>
<td>$4,879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff $22,066</td>
<td>$22,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministries $2,281</td>
<td>$2,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apportionments $4,000</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total $29,236</td>
<td>$33,226</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Apportionments Paid $4,000 Remaining $97,957

Other Giving

<p>| |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roof Renovation $340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiator Repair $380</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Finance Report by Kevin Miller

March is here and soon we will be celebrating Easter, the greatest gift that Jesus could give us, his life, so that we may have eternal life with God. In reading about this gift, the chapter I read started out in verse 1 with “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” The words Jesus spoke as he was dying on the cross. Later in the chapter verses 14 through 18 say, “I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet; my eyes have dimmed with fasting; my strength is spent; you have taken away my acquaintance; you have put my friends far from me.”

While I am on the subject of gifts I do want to say a little something about the Stonewall Estate, a fantastic gift that was given to us. Though we are still discussing a plan for this, which we are close to presenting to the congregation, it is not yet available to us in any form. We have also had a lot of fantastic input as to what your wishes are for using this money. The one thing I want to mention is that all of the suggestions we have had so far, none of them include using the money for the regular Church budget. We have also noticed that the weekly giving has dropped a little since we received this gift. We just ask that you continue to give to support the Church and help us keep the lights on and doing God’s work.

I do want to thank you for all of your generosity when we ask for help. You have done so much when we come to you for a special offering. The latest was the Soup’er Lunch put on by the Youth to raise money for their mission trip this summer.

Music Ministry

Palm Sunday, March 20th, will be a Music Sunday as the Sanctuary Singers and Band sings the cantata "Come, Touch His Robe.” This is an especially touching collection of songs and readings designed to bring to mind the many people that were touched by Jesus. The first song is from the story of the sick woman that was healed by reaching out and touching the robe of Jesus and asks the question, “Will you go to Jesus for healing? Will you come, touch His robe?”

Other stories include Jesus on the mount of transfiguration and the whiteness of his robe, the crowd laying down their robes and palm branches on the ground as Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey, the key of putting a purple robe on Jesus and spitting on Him, the thoughtful centurion taking Jesus’ unseamed robe, the empty grave clothes in the tomb and finally, the robes of white that we all will wear. A special display of robes and props will visually enhance the experience. Soloists include Mary Cowdrey and Mike Luttrell, who is also playing his mandolin for the song that has a bluegrass feel. Narrations will be read by Gina Ruddock.

This cantata will be presented in memory of Joyce Hart, wife of choir member Jim Hart and mother of choir member Echo Nuese. It is truly a heart-touching cantata that honors Jesus and asks the questions that draw all of us closer to Him. Do invite your friends and neighbors to this event. The children will also be singing a special song, complete with actions and plenty of enthusiasm.

Easter Sunday, March 27th, will feature a worship service complete with an Easter Message and 2 songs specially chosen for this special day. “Forever” will be sung by the choir with soloist Jennifer Daniel, and “Were You There?” with a special triumphant ending, will celebrate the Risen Jesus. New members will join this day. Communion will be served. Come one and all!

Weather Cancellations
To find out if church activities are cancelled, check KIX-101 FM KFJB 1230 AM KDAO 99.5 FM / 1190 AM KCCI TV Channel 8 http://www.fumcmtown.org/

Tuesday Bible Studies
We are studying the book “Experiencing God” by Henry and Richard Blackaby and Claude King. This study is about how God invites you to experience Him in an intimate love relationship through which He reveals to you His will, His ways, and His work. If you would like to join us classes are held on Tuesday at 10am, 1pm, and 5:30pm. If you have any questions please contact Reva Roland at 641-691-1335 or rolandrjr2003@yahoo.com.