



Rock River in Byron

The Discipler

March 2023

Upcoming Dates



Sunday, March 19

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, April 2

Maundy Thursday, April 6
Soup Supper

Good Friday, April 7

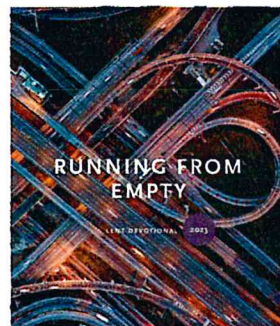
There will be no joint community service this year. Watch for updates on Holy Week Services

Easter Service, Sunday, April 9

Easter Breakfast 9:15 am
Easter Egg Hunt

Lenten Devotional Booklets

We have Lenten Booklets available if you would like one. The title is, "Running From Empty" by the UCC's StillSpeaking Writers' Group. There is an example of it on the long table by the coat rack near the office. If you would like a copy, please let us know or sign up on the sheet by the copy on the table. We will print one out for you, and if you are able to make a donation of \$3 to cover the printing costs, that would be appreciated. You can also download it at not cost by going to the link:



<https://delivery.shopifyapps.com/-/b2056cf91ed2c605/6543c7206d9339a7>



Game Night is Back!

Join us on **Saturday, March 11th at 5 pm** for a night of fellowship and friendly competition! This is open to all ages! Bring your own snacks and drinks and any games that you would like to play. The church also has a few board games and two sets of Mexican Train Dominoes available.



**Church
Financial
Report**

Financial Report as of January 31, 2023

	<u>MO</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD /2022</u>
Operating Income	\$10,698	\$10,698	\$10,092
Operating Expense	\$21,766	\$21,766	\$23,903
Net Inc. or (loss)	(\$11,067)	(\$11,067)	(\$13,811)
Cash for Operations (General Fund, Capital)		\$141,751	\$142,194
Other Funds (Fellowships, restricted)		\$28,286	\$29,728

Legacy/Endowment Committee

Endowment fund values are not currently available.

The Legacy/Endowment Committee wishes to report that there is grant money available from each of the endowment funds, and for those who would like to apply, please contact the church office for application forms. The Endowment Committee wishes to mention that for those interested in another way to give to our church funds, you can use an IRA required minimum distribution as a tax free charitable gift. Ask a committee member or your tax advisor for details.



The Legacy/Endowment Committee members are Cliff Freeman, Mike Gyorkos, Ron Beem, Lori Smith, and Greg Wills. To anyone else from our church community, please talk with one of our committee members if you would be interested in joining this committee. New ideas and perspectives are needed in the management of these funds. The next committee meeting will be determined at a later date.



The Basics of Medicare program returns on Wednesday, March 15th, from 6-7:30 in the Fellowship Hall at the church. This program is an educational and informational meeting only; no sales or marketing will be done. This is a great opportunity to ask questions about how this program works. All are welcome to attend. Presenter will be Greg Wills. **Disclaimer:** All plans available in your area will not be discussed. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-Medicare to get information on all plans.

All-You-Can-Eat Pancake & Sausage Supper

Emmanuel Lutheran Church (located at 764 N. Stillman Road, Oregon) is holding their annual **Pancake & Sausage Supper** on **Saturday, March 4, 4:30-7 pm**. Ticket prices are adults, \$10; kids ages 5-11, \$5; children under 5 eat free. Proceeds from this supper benefit local organizations in Ogle County. There will also be a bake sale that evening, and all proceeds will go to Lustgarten Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research. So, get out and enjoy a delicious supper, and support this worthwhile Ogle County fundraising event.





Lent is often thought of as very negative. I don't mean negative as in "bad", I mean negative in the sense that it takes things away. The traditional practice is to give things up for Lent. Catholics aren't allowed to eat meat on Fridays during Lent. We even begin the season with Ash Wednesday, where we spread ashes on our forehead to remind ourselves that "we are dust, and to dust we shall return." That's not a very positive message.

While I certainly don't want to take away the meaningfulness of Lent for people that get something from it, I do want to put the events of Lent into a different light for those who really just need something more positive in their lives right now.

Consider the ashes we put on our head during Lent. We do use these as a "memento mori," a thing to remind us that we will die one day. God made the first human from the dust of the world, and in time, our bodies will return to being dust. It helps us keep a check on our egos. But, if we just look at it from a different way, we see something positive there.

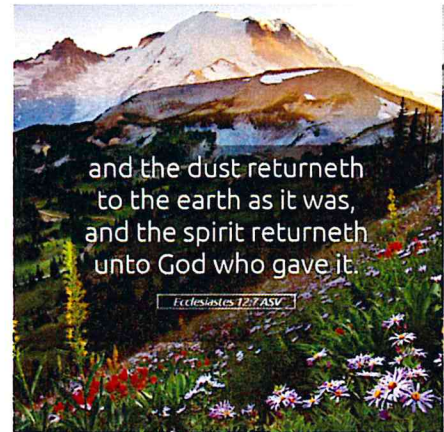
We are dust – yet look at the good God does through us. We are dust – yet we are thinking, feeling, loving dust. We are dust – yet God looked at the soulful dust and said it was very good. We are dust – and God loves us enough to become dust in Christ Jesus.

You may be dust - but you are precious, precious dust.

Life has a way of making us feel like we don't matter. Our actions don't feel like something big on the grand scale of history, or the universe. We are, as the Apostle James says, "*a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes*" (4:14, NRSV). Yet, you will never gaze upon any human being that God does not love, even when you look in the mirror.

For those who don't like the "negativity" of Lent, I hope this allows you to look at it in a different light. Let us remember during this season the trials and tribulations that Jesus went through for the whole world these forty days, all so we may be welcomed into God's holy family and kingdom. Amen.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Spellious



Lenten Poem by Ann Weems

Lent is a time to take time
to let the power of our faith story
take hold of us,
a time to let the events get up
and walk around in us,
a time to intensify
our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over
the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet
in the streets of Jerusalem
or to walk along the sea
and listen to his Word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge through us
a time to ponder and
a time to wonder...
Lent is a time to allow a
fresh new taste of God!
Perhaps we're afraid
to have time to think
for thoughts come unbidden.
Perhaps we're afraid to face our future
knowing our past.
Give us courage, O God,
to hear your Word and
to read our living into it.
Give us the trust
to know we're forgiven
and give us the faith
to take up our lives and walk.

It's Time for Zero Hunger

Food sustains life. Responding to hunger is an affirmation of life. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, *"The time is always right to do what is right."* Ending hunger is always the right thing to do.

What does ending hunger in West Timor, Indonesia look like?—The Timor Zero Hunger program. With your support, CWS has been working with the Oe Ekam community in West Timor since 2018, where there are now five farmers groups

Dominggus is the leader of the Tosilo Toselo farmers group.

"In the past, each family was only able to plant Chinese cabbage, tomatoes, and chili on about 100 square meters (2% of an acre) of land per family," says Dominggus. After feeding their families, some community members were able to generate a small surplus and sell it in the local market, earning around \$3.50-\$7.00 each time they sold produce.



Before the Timor Zero Hunger program, the dry season made it difficult for the people of Oe Ekam to harvest crops year-round because they could only plant vegetables during the short rainy season from December to March. *"The Timor Zero Hunger program has been a life-changing experience for members,"* says Dominggus. *"We were able to expand our farmland to about 2.5 acres. We were also able to diversify: now we harvest white mustards, cabbage, kale, green beans, bitter melons, tomatoes, chilies, zucchinis, cucumbers and papayas. Over the past two years we have been able to harvest much more and eat vegetables every day. Once or twice in a week we sell our crops in the local market in the district capital. On average our members make \$17.50-\$52.50 for each harvest. Now we can harvest up to 4 times in a year,"* he added.

The Timor Zero Hunger program has trained farmer groups on how to make organic liquid fertilizer and how to ward off pests and disease. With CWS support, the Tosilo Toselo group also built a cistern and installed a pipe that is over half a mile long to bring more water from a spring directly to their land. The program also taught them about the benefits of drip irrigation, and they have built a drip irrigation system for themselves.

All this would not have been possible without your gifts through One Great Hour of Sharing, which support programs that address the root causes of food insecurity, bringing real and sustainable change to communities like Oe Ekam.

The need has never been greater. The opportunity is now. It's time to share. *"So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up..."* Galatians 6:9

One Great Hour of Sharing will be collected on March 19th!



Invite your friends and family members to United Church of Byron's age-specific programs.

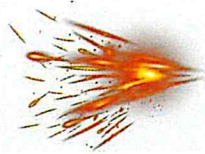


Sunday School: Children's Sunday School for pre-K through 5th grade takes place from 9:30-10:15 am every Sunday. They meet downstairs and we play games, complete crafts enjoy a snack and study the Bible



Fuel: our newest middle school program is for 6th-8th graders meets Sunday afternoons 3:30-5:30pm. We explore the bible in an age appropriate fashion with a focus on real world issues and how we can implement the teachings of the bible in our daily lives.

Fuel & Spark meet together for dinner at 5:00 pm.



Spark: for 9th-12th graders and meets 5:00-7:00 pm. Much like fuel, we explore the ways we can apply biblical teachings to our daily lives through age appropriate discussion and study.

Richard Simpson is our Youth Ministry Coordinator, and if you have any questions about our youth programs, please email him at:

ucbyouthandchildren@gmail.com



Save the Date Potluck and Movie Night

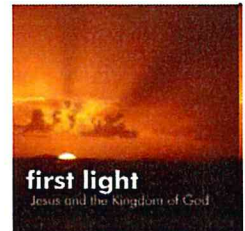
Meet for potluck at the Breck's, 9002 Hedge Road, Byron, at 6 pm, Friday, March 31st. We

always have tasty food, fun conversation, and an interesting movie. If you've never attended, try it this month. The movie this month is "The Swimmers." Two Syrian sisters flee their war-torn home in Damascus, swim for hours in choppy Mediterranean seas to reach Greece as asylum seekers before going on to compete at the Rio Olympic Games. Join us!

Adult Sunday CE

Through March and April, we will continue viewing LtQ's "First Light:

Jesus and the Kingdom of God." This is a study of "The Historical Jesus and the Kingdom of God"



with two of the world's leading Jesus scholars, John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg, on location throughout the Galilee and Jerusalem. Join us Sunday at **9:15 am** in the Woodcock Room. For more information, please contact Norma Freeberg at 815-234-8511.





Our deep sympathy to Meredith, Brad and Meredith's family on the loss of their mother, **Dorothy Erwin**. She passed away on February 21st at the age of 101. Please keep the family in your prayers as they experience the loss of this beloved member of their family.

We send our prayers to the family of **Toby Way** who passed recently, and we extend our deep sympathy to his family. He was Butch Huls uncle and Sherry Capes brother-in-law. Please keep all of his family in your prayers.



Congratulations to **Jeff and Dawn Schad** who are **first-time grandparents**. Their daughter Kelly (and her husband, Jeff) gave birth to Mason Jeffrey Faltersack, born on February 23rd at 6:14 am. He weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces and was 20" long. The family is thrilled that he's finally here!



Join the UCB men for breakfast at Swedish Pancake House Restaurant at 8 am on March 4th and 18th for good food and fellowship. All men are welcome!

- Denny Arjes
- Hannah Beintum
- Greg Beitel
- Mark Belito
- Keith Benson
- Cheryl Bonte
- Steve Bonte
- Jennifer Brandt
- Mike Brown
- Norma Browning
- Susan Caruso
- Lisa Stevens Colbert
- Ginger Compton
- Keith Erwin
- Jill Faber
- Joann Farris
- Joe Farris
- Cindi Frye
- Jan Frye
- Ron Glisan
- Ali Groen
- Dave Groharing
- Betty Grubb
- Gary Hahne
- Nancy Hamer
- Jennifer, Norma's niece
- Jim Hilliger
- Jon Huls
- Adrian Johnson
- Pat Ingram
- Wayne Jaquet
- Kathy Johnson
- Janet Logan
- Sue Lydic
- Tony Maanavi
- Bill Michaux



- Betty Morris
- Meghan Newbold
- Pat Nicoloff
- Clyde Patterson
- Paul
- Allan Petersen
- Judy Picha
- Edie Pierce
- Ellen Rippon
- Hal & Dixie Rowland
- Wood & Jeanne Rudolph
- Mary Sanders
- Diana Snodgrass
- Tori Spanbauer
- Linda Stein
- Barney & Sharon Sterbez
- Holly Stukenberg
- Stan Sutton
- Linda Tarpley
- Shelley Trussoni
- Karis Turner
- Josh VanBriesen
- Diane Williamson
- Tim Wittmer
- Jerre Woodworth

Our Homebound, our first responders and health care workers, those experiencing hard economic times and those around the world in need of special prayers.



Jerrick & Tatiana Leon Orsted, stationed in Italy

Please help us keep our prayer list up-to-date. Let us know if a person needs to be added (with their permission) or when prayers have been answered or the need has passed and so we can take their name off the list. Thank you!



SERVING THE CHURCH

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled Sunday, please switch with someone and notify the church office of the change as soon as possible. Thank you!

March 2023

	<u>3/05</u>	<u>3/12</u>	<u>03/19</u>	<u>03/26</u>
Acolyte	T. Jenkins	M. Gyorkos	Smith	Johnson
Scripture Rdr.	Wilson	Tarpley	King	Sutton
AV System	Jenkins	Gyorkos	Jenkins	Gyorkos
Guest Center	Capes	D. Jenkins	Townsend	King
Nursery	Ingram	King	Schertz	Tarpley
Nursing Home	Schertz	Townsend	M. Bohrer	Spellious

Offering Counters for March: Ali Groen & Lova Sutton
Communion Preparer for March: Lova Sutton

**People Helping People Collection Items:
Canned Fruit & Toilet Paper**

April 2023

	4/02	4/09 (Easter)	4/16	4/23	4/30
Acolyte	K. Gyorkos	M. Gyorkos	C. King	Beitel	T. Jenkins
Scripture Rdr.	Smith	Huls	K. Gyorkos	T. Bohrer	D. Eisfeller
AV System	Jenkins	Gyorkos	Jenkins	Gyorkos	Jenkins
Guest Center	K. Gyorkos	Jenkins	M. Gyorkos	Capes	Townsend
Nursery	Ingram	King	Schertz	Tarpley	Wilson
Nursing Home	T. Bohrer	Gyorkos	Schertz	Townsend	M. Bohrer

Offering Counters for April: Tim Bohrer & Karyn Wilson
Communion Preparer for February: Karyn Wilson
People Helping People Collection Items: Peanut Butter, Jelly and Cereal



If you wish Pastor Tyler to visit you, and you would also like communion, please call him or call the church office. Pastor Tyler's phone number is 309-230-4951, and the church office is 815-234-8777.



March 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Feb 2023</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Apr 2023</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28					S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30									1	2 12:00 PM Rotary Club Mtg	3	4 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
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5 2 pm UCB Serv. at Neighbors Communion	6 6:00 PM Missions Mtg. 7:00 PM Fellowship Board Mtg	7 9:00 AM Esther Circle Mtg 3:30 PM Love Meals Prep 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	8 7:00 PM Building & Grounds Mtg	9 10:00 AM Memorial Comm Mtg Pastor Tyler on vacation until March 20	10	11 5:00 PM Family Game Night in Fellowship Hall																																																																																											
12 	13 7:00 PM BY-Y Badgers 4H	14 3:30 PM Love Meals Prep 7:00 PM Lydia Circle Mtg	15	16 12:00 PM Rotary Club Mtg	17 	18 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast																																																																																											
19 11:30 AM Community Connections 	20 6:30 PM Stewards & Deacons Mtg 7:00 PM Council Mtg 	21 3:30 PM Love Meals Prep	22	23 NewsLetter DEADLINE	24 UCB Night at St. Mary's Lenten Fish Fry	25																																																																																											
26	27	28 3:30 PM Love Meals Prep	29	30	31																																																																																												

Biblical Genesis Stories Word Search

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 L E A A W U R V W N D Z I H C R O O G M
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Words List

Adam	Tempt
Eve	Disobey
Snake	Naked
Forbidden	Angel
Fruit	Sword
Eden	Cain
Garden	Abel
God	Offering

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ORDER FORM

Easter Lilies, Tulips, Hyacinths, & Azaleas for Easter

Spring flowers from Merlins for Easter: we do not know what colors we will get; it will be a surprise! Flowers available will be Lilies, Hyacinths, Begonias, Geraniums, Tulips, Kalanchoes and Mums in a flower pot; **cost is \$17.50 per pot.** To order, fill out the form below and mail to the church, drop off at the office or put in the offering plate. Extra forms along with a box to put your completed form in is located on the table just outside the church office. Please make **checks payable to "UCB."** Order **deadline is April 3rd.** The flowers will decorate our sanctuary, and following the 10:30 am Easter Service, you may take them home.

Name _____ Hyacinths Quantity: _____

Begonia Quantity: _____ Geranium Quantity: _____ Tulips Quantity: _____

Kalanchoes Quantity: _____ Easter Lilies Quantity: _____ Mums Quantity: _____

Total Number of plants orders: _____ Total Cost: _____ Check Cash

Flowers in memory of: _____

Flowers in honor of _____

Flowers to the Glory of God _____



COUNCIL

- Ali Groen, Head Steward..... 815-871-2304
- Butch Huls, Steward..... 815-222-6252
- Tim Bohrer, Steward..... 773-965-2232
- Deb Eisfeller, Steward..... 815-985-2008
- Lova Sutton, Head Deacon 815-871-2354
- Karyn Wilson, Moderator, Deacon... 815-222-9954
- Norma Freeberg, Deacon 815-234-8511
- John Gibson, Deacon 815-985-6524
- Cliff Freeman, Financial Secretary 815-978-6367
- Kim Gyorkos, Clerk 815-234-8713
- Laura Hopkins Treasurer

COUNCIL MEETING

Third Monday of the Month
Stewards and Deacons meet at 6 pm
Full Council meets at 7 pm

Members of the congregation are welcome to attend council meetings.

CHAIRPERSONS

- Adult Sunday School Norma Freeberg
- Building & Grounds..... Greg Beitel
- Community Connections Ann Schertz
- Endowment/Legacy Committee Cliff Freeman
- Fundraising Committee Ali Groen
- Memorial Committee Marsha Gyorkos
- Mission Committee Elaine Breck

UCB FELLOWSHIP

- Lydia Circle Diane Wheeler
- Esther Circle Carole Bolin

The United Church of Byron

701 W. 2nd St. PO Box 927
Byron, IL 61010-0927
Phone: 815.234.8777
Email: ucb@comcast.net

Church Facebook Page:

United Church of Byron, Illinois

Website: *unitedchurchofbyron.org*

Worship Times

- 8:15-8:45 am Meditation Service
- 9:15-9:45 am Adult Sunday School
- 9:30-10:15 am PreK-5th Grade Sunday School
- 9:30-10:30 am Coffee Hour
- 10:30 am Worship ~ Worship Service
- Communion served on 1st Sunday of the Month
- 3:30-5:30 pm Fuel (6th-8th Grade)
- 5:00-7:00 pm Spark (9th-12th Grade)

Pastor: Rev. Tyler Spellious
309-230-4951
tylerspellious@gmail.com

Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday: 10 AM - 1 PM
Wednesday: 1 PM - 4 PM
Thursday: 10 AM - 1 PM

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Richard Simpson

Church Secretaries

Carla Trommer Marsha Gyorkos

Secretaries Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday
9:30-5:00 pm (Lunch: 12:30-1:30)

Choir Director/Accompanist:

Jennie Saltzgeber

Media Specialist

Bill Groen

Our Mission Statement:

**Loving God and
Serving People**

