
Milwood UMC March 🍀 2025 Newsletter

2 messages

Milwood UMC <milwoodumchurch@34419333.mailchimpapp.com>

Sat, Mar 1, 2025 at 9:43 PM

Reply-To: milwoodumchurch@gmail.com

To: office@milwoodunitedmethodistchurch.org

**March 2025**[View this email in your browser](#)

I never got my orienteering badge, but my mom did. (If you don't remember, orienteering is the sport of finding your way with a map and compass). While her sense of direction wasn't perfect, her inner sense of direction was always true. When a young adult wrestled with their call to ministry, when a teenager struggled with coming out, when there was conflict among the leadership, she was there to help someone else along their path.

We all need Spiritual Orienteering now and then, finding our way through the unknown territory of our life, trying to find the place where God has called us. There's a reason Jesus called himself The Way, and why the early church was called that, too. We're all "Walking together on our journey of faith."

Lent is a season in our church life where we look down at our spiritual compass and make sure we're following our true north. Your church family wants to help this be a

powerful time of centering for you, and we've planned a bunch of tools to support your Lenten journey.

- Ash Wednesday (7pm on 3/5) will call us to silence life's distractions
- Daily Devotions on the Church Center app and social media
- The Table (Wednesdays at 5:30) soup dinner and reflections
- Classes (Wednesdays 6-7pm)
- Small Groups (various times throughout the week)
- Worship (Sunday mornings) series on answering God's call
- Wayfinder Weekend (April 11-12)

I can't wait to experience this powerful season with you. May it be a blessing in your life and may you, in turn, bless this world.

Pastor Caleb

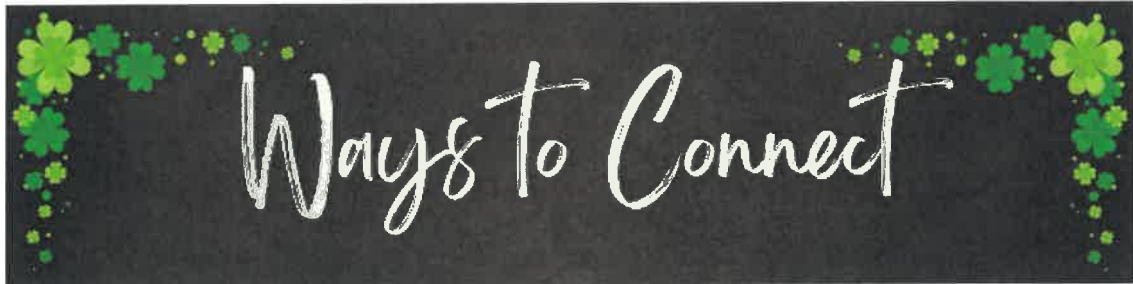
[**Click here to access the weekly bulletins!**](#)



- **MAR 2** - Get to Know Church Center - *after worship in the sanctuary*
- **MAR 4** - Mardi Gras Benefit Dinner - 5pm-7pm *in the Fellowship Hall*
- **MAR 5** - Ash Wednesday Service - 7pm
- **MAR 12** - Ladies Lunch - 12pm *at Olive Garden, 6700 S. Westnedge*
- **MAR 12** - Pantry Fresh Food Distribution - 4-5pm
- **MAR 12** - The Table - 5:15pm-7pm *in the Fellowship Hall. followed by classes*
- **MAR 13** - Milwood Book Club - 1pm *in the lounge*
- **MAR 16** - Cereal Sunday - *bring a box of cereal to support the pantry*
- **MAR 16** - Church Directory Photo Session - *sign up for your time slot*
- **MAR 16** - Fine Arts Concert - 3pm
- **MAR 17** - *No Pints with the Pastor until warmer weather!*
- **MAR 19** - Fosdick Sermon Study - 12:30pm-2pm *in the Gathering Area*
- **MAR 19** - The Table - 5:15pm-7pm *in the Fellowship Hall, followed by classes*
- **MAR 23** - Church Directory Photo Session - *sign up for your time slot*
- **MAR 24** - *April Newsletter submissions due!*
- **MAR 26** - Fosdick Sermon Study - 12:30pm-2pm *in the Gathering Area*

- **MAR 26** - The Table - 5:15pm-7pm in the Fellowship Hall, followed by classes
- **MAR 30** - Town Hall Meeting - in the Fellowship Hall following worship

Things Change! For the most up-to-date info, visit our website!



Get to Know Our New App, Church Center!

Wouldn't it be great to access the church directory on your phone? What about the church calendar? **You're invited to stay after church tomorrow, March 2nd, to learn more about Church Center**, the new app that Milwood is introducing. You will be able to check in your kiddos, give an offering, watch church online, and more through the app. We are still building and developing the features, but the first step is to download it to your phone. [Click here to learn more](#), or search for "church center" in your app store!

Reserve Your Photo Session with Alex for the New Directory!

Our church is growing, and it's time for a new directory! Alex Gordon has generously set aside some time after church on **Sunday, March 16th and Sunday, March 23rd** to take photos of everyone in our church who wants one. He will be offering 10 minute time slots for appointments starting right after worship ends until 2pm. [Click this link to sign up now to reserve your time slot](#) or visit the welcome desk after worship to sign up in person. Alex will also be offering an opportunity for you to order prints of your photos. Proceeds of the sale of prints will help cover the cost to print the directory. If you are unable to get your photo taken either of these two weeks, please reach out to the office.

Ways to Connect During Lent

As Pastor Caleb outlined in his letter, there will be many ways for us to connect and build our faith this spring. Below are some options for you to consider as you grow in grace and love this Lent.

WEDNESDAYS

- *Silent Mode* - Ash Wednesday Service **March 5th**, 7pm

March 12th- April 9th

- The Table - fellowship & food, 5:15pm

- *Church 101* - for anyone who wants to learn about the Methodist faith led by Pastor Caleb, 6pm *in the Fellowship Hall*
- *Ministry with the Forgotten* - spiritual care for those with dementia, led by Rev. George Lewis, 6pm *in the Music Room*
- *Passion of Jesus Bible Study* - reflecting on how Jesus' passion informs our faith, led by Rev. Dr. Sherry Parker-Lewis & Stephanie Diep, 6pm *in the Youth Room*

DAILY DEVOTIONS

- We all need help unplugging from our various screens and plugging into God's presence. This Lent, Milwood is taking time every day to remember the ways God is calling us. Each evening (except Sundays) at 5:45pm, you'll receive a notification through our new Church Center app. It will encourage you to take time away from your screens and recommend a way to reconnect with God. The Lenten Daily Practices will also be posted on social media. If you prefer a printed version, one can be made available to you through the church office.

Monthly Ladies Lunch - Location Change!

This month, the Ladies of Milwood are meeting at Olive Garden on South Westnedge. **Come enjoy lunch with other ladies at noon on Wednesday, March 12th!** If you need a ride or more information, please contact Candace Williams or reply to this email.

Milwood Monthly Book Club

The Milwood Monthly Book Club will be meeting **Thursday, March 13th at 1pm** to cover chapters 7-12 of the book *Sensible Shoes: A Story about Spiritual Journey* by Sharon Garlough Brown. This book follows the stories of four women as they are drawn into a spiritual formation journey at a retreat center. From them we'll learn about key spiritual practices. Find a printed or audio copy at the library, or a new copies are available through the church office for \$10.

If you are interested in an evening meeting, a copy of the book, or more information, contact Sherry at: shparker01@gmail.com

A Pint with the Pastor is on a break!

We have been meeting monthly at [One Well Brewing Company](#) for casual fellowship with Pastor Caleb and others, but the weather has made it less favorable. We've decided to hold off until the weather warms up enough for us to sit outside to enjoy each others' company again. **Check out the Small Group Connect we will be hosting after worship on February 23rd to make connections** in the meantime! And of course, if you still want to have a one-on-one with Pastor Caleb, he's always willing to make time to see you! Reply to this email to learn more.



Mardi Gras Party to Benefit the Pantry!

There's still time to get your tickets for the **Mardi Gras Benefit Dinner** with live music by Dixie Vibes this **Tuesday, March 4th from 5-7pm** in the fellowship hall. [Tickets are available online](#) or in person at church for a suggested donation of \$10 per person. Children 10 and under eat free! All proceeds from this event will support the Milwood Community Food Pantry!

Fine Art Concert March 16th

The 2025 Milwood Series opening concert will be on **Sunday, March 16, at 3 p.m.** at Milwood UMC. A collaborative event with the Kalamazoo arts community, Fontana Chamber Arts and the Milwood Series will present *A Chamber Music Showcase* featuring a variety of student small ensembles from the Irving S. Gilmore School of Music at Western Michigan University. **Admission is free!**

The Milwood Series has been invited to join a relatively new Kalamazoo arts collaboration between Fontana Chamber Arts and the Irving S. Gilmore School of Music at WMU. In addition to offering outstanding professional chamber music performances to our community, Fontana Chamber Arts is equally dedicated to supporting music education. Its most recent outreach program is this partnership with the Irving S. Gilmore School of Music designed to provide chamber music students the opportunity to perform in the community. As these small ensembles prepare music, they are heard on campus. Selected ensembles are then chosen to perform off campus. The Milwood Series was approached to see if we might be interested in presenting one of these Chamber Music Showcase events on our regular concert series. We are honored to do so!

Having them be part of our series automatically gives their performances a well-established concert venue supported by organized publicity. The exact ensembles will be determined rather close to the March 16 concert, but we can expect a variety of both ensembles and the music being performed.

Fosdick Spring Study Series Starts March 19th

Upcoming Six-week Sermon Study at Milwood UMC, in the gathering area.

The 2025, spring, Greater Southwest District Rev. Harry E. Fosdick sermon study group will begin its six weekly sessions at the Milwood UMC on **Wednesday, March 19, from 12:30-2:00 p.m.** This time we will reap from among Fosdick's depression-era sermons in his 1934 publication, *The Secret of Victorious Living*. The text will be supplied on loan to participants. Order one online if you prefer---note however that

three sermons were edited out of the 1960's paper-back edition.

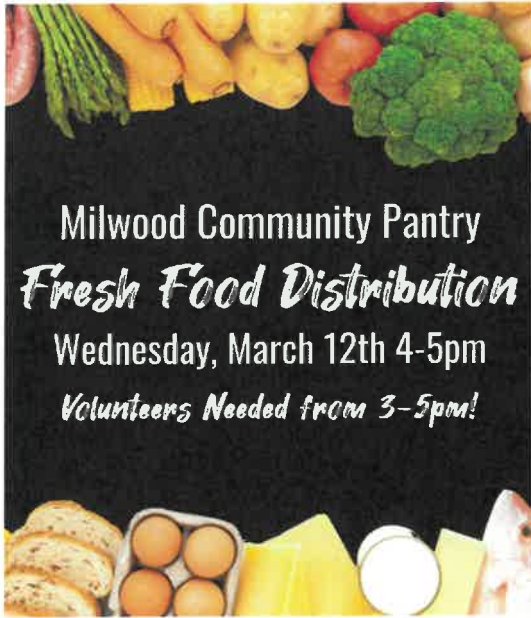
As always, it helps to know ahead of time how many are joining the group, so please contact Rev. Dave Knapp at 269-775-1387, or dgkcreations@outlook.com if you plan to attend!



The Food Pantry is open weekly on **Fridays from 12pm - 2pm** to anyone who needs to supplement their food supply. Enter the parking lot from Paddington and drive up to the Main East Doors to receive pre-packed bags of groceries. Please share this information with anyone that could use it!

Volunteers are always appreciated! If you can help with this very important ministry please email the [pantry](#) or contact the church office!

Keep in mind that if the weather is bad enough for Kalamazoo Public Schools to close, that the Pantry will also be closed.



Please click on the link below to watch services online.

[Milwood Kalamazoo - YouTube Channel](#)



Facebook YouTube Website

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