

# Valley Views

A monthly publication of Valley United Methodist Church  
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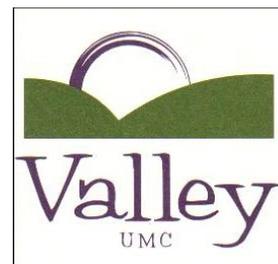
OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Thurs 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Friday 9 a.m. to noon

Volume 47, Issue 2 February 1, 2020

Family Worship Service: Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 a.m.

We are handicap accessible and child care is provided.



## Church Staff

### Pastor

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### Admin. Coordinators

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### Organist

Karen Hutzell

### Admin Leadership Chair

Michael Hommer

### Lay Leader

Michael Hommer

### Financial Secretary

Rose Donati

### Treasurer

Charity Coates

### Valley Views Editor

Sheila Madsen

### Custodian

Missy Williams

## READY FOR CHANGE

February 26<sup>th</sup> will be Ash Wednesday, which will mark the beginning of the season of Lent. And at the climax of the Ash Wednesday service, you'll be invited to receive the sign of the cross on your skin, while the traditional liturgy calls the cleric to say: "Remember that you are dust; and to dust you shall return."

I want to write that one more time, in case you glazed over it the first time: "**You are dust,**" it says.

Have you ever stopped to wonder what the message is supposed to be here? It doesn't sound very encouraging, does it? And indeed, many people interpret this as a reminder to be humble. 'Don't get too full of yourself,' they'll say; 'after all, you're just a dirtball!'

But that's missing the most beautiful aspect of the story. You see, when we're invited to "remember that you are dust," the reference it's drawing our attention back to is the creation story (Genesis, chapter 2). To form the first human, God takes some earth, shapes it, and *breathes* into it. Before it's touched by God's breath, it's just dirt—a dead thing. However, once the divine spirit enters the mix (by the way, in Hebrew, there are no separate words for wind, breath, and spirit—they're all the same; they're all *ru'ach!*), it comes alive. It becomes...us! That's our origin story: we are 'earth' dancing with the breath/spirit

of God!

So, the Ash Wednesday reminder that "you are dust" is an intentionally *incomplete* story. And by leaving out the best part, we are invited to explore, and share, the bigger secret about our true identity. We're challenged to ask: what does it mean for us to be 'earth'<sup>1</sup>—earth that is alive with God's spirit? Is our ultimate destination simply death? Or will our life, which is God's Spirit, also return to its source (God!)?

So many of us want to cling to what we have, as we are. The prospect of mortal change frightens us. That's just the dust talking—and we already know where it will settle. But if we're tuned into our divinely-spiritual nature, we'll be ready to move as the Wind changes—for that's what spirits do, they never sit still! Thus, at its heart, the season of Lent is an invitation to change. It's an invitation to return. It's an invitation to become more fully who we already are: the breath of God alive, unsettling the dust!

1-By the way, the name 'Adam' is a play on the Hebrew word for earth, 'Adamah;' God names the first person something like 'earthling'.

—Pastor Jeremy

**Ash Wednesday Service**  
**Wednesday, February 26**  
**6:30 p.m.**

## FEBRUARY LECTIONARY

### February 2

Micah 6:1-8  
Psalm 15  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Matthew 5:1-12

### February 9

Isaiah 58:1-9a  
Psalm 112:1-10  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12  
Matthew 5:13-20

### February 16

Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Psalm 119:1-8  
1 Corinthians 3:1-9  
Matthew 5:21-37

### February 23

Exodus 24:12-18  
Psalm 99  
2 Peter 1:16-21  
Matthew 17:1-9

**Next VV Deadline:**  
**February 18, 2020**

# MISSION AND OUTREACH

## DMARC FOOD PANTRY

Please place your donated food pantry items in the bins located under the mission table in the St. Andrews Fellowship Hall.

### \$175

### January donations

Food Pantry Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of the month.

## FEBRUARY BRUNCH

**February 2 11:30 a.m.**

**Proceeds benefit the  
2020 Youth Mission Trip**



Please remember to sign up for brunches via the Connect, phone call or email the church office.

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**Youth Mission Trip  
Sheboygan, Wisconsin  
June 21-27, 2020**

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE

The celebration of life service for Virginia Aschan will be held at Valley UMC on **Friday, February 21** at 11:00 a.m. Lunch and fellowship time with family will follow the service. Burial will be with family at a later date.

Please continue to keep the Midkiff family in your prayers.



- Rose Donati
- Rich Sychra
- Arlene Eckhart
- Those suffering with illness this season
- Women at the Well
- Valley UMC
- Pastor Jeremy and family

## JOIN THE VALLEY UMC MISSION TEAM!

If you have ideas for “Reaching Out” to others, we would love to have you join us on **Tuesday, February 4 at 6:30 p.m.** for our 2020 planning meeting. We will be discussing ways that our congregation will be **“In Missions Together”** in 2020. Please contact Deb Stensrud if you have questions.



*COG – a coalition of West Des Moines churches actively and collaboratively involved in Christian community service since the 1960s.*

## PERSONAL CARE ITEM DRIVE

Together we sent diapers, nine shampoos and other much-needed items to West Des Moines Human Services as a result of our December collections. At the end of January, Emory will transport the soap, shaving cream and other donations collected during the month.

During February, please consider providing **toilet paper** – just place rolls in the tubs located in the “mission central” area in the St. Andrews Hall.



While any item is welcome at any time, here is a list of target items for upcoming months to help with your planning – March: laundry detergent; April: deodorant; and May: toothpaste and toothbrushes. There also is a great need for diapers, sizes 5 and 6.

# Reaching Out at Valley UMC



## CFUM NEWS

### JANUARY CFUM SUPPER CLUB AT TRINITY UMC

On Friday, January 10, the Missions Team prepared a Supper Club favorite of Meatball sandwiches, fruit salad, relishes and cookies. As luck would have it, Mother Nature brought a snowstorm severe enough to close schools early, and the Supper Club was cancelled. Deb Stensrud and Jim Lewis delivered the food items Monday afternoon so that the Supper Club could serve it that evening.

### 2020 CFUM MEAL SCHEDULE

For many years, groups from Valley UMC have prepared and served a meal once a month at the Supper Club at Trinity UMC (located north of downtown Des Moines). Supper Club is a program of Children & Family Urban Movement (CFUM) that provides a meal for neighborhood families six evenings each week. Many of the guests at the meal are among the growing number of the working poor. Various church groups, service clubs, and faithful volunteers sign up for a monthly time to serve.

*Our commitment in 2020 has changed so that we serve every other month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month.* Teams within the church have been combined and are scheduled to lead as follows:

**March 13: Music Groups/WE Team**

**May 8: Boy Scouts**

**July 10: CD/RSVP/Facility Team**

**September 11: Adult Sunday School/  
Leadership Team**

**November 13: YF/Missions**

This is an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ! You can volunteer to help even if you are not part of the teams listed. If you have any questions, please see Deb Stensrud.

## VUMC MEN'S GROUP CHILI/SOUP CHALLENGE



**Sunday, February 9**  
**Chili/Soup Challenge**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**All Church Birthday Party**  
**6:00 p.m.**

All Valley UMC members and guests are invited to this annual fun event and fundraiser!

Individuals or church groups are invited to join the Men's Group in bringing crock pots of **chili or soup** to enter into the Challenge at 4:45 p.m. People attending the event will vote for their favorite chili/soup with donations to Valley United Methodist Church (checks payable to VUMC). Money raised will help fund Valley UMC needs to be identified at a later time.

The All Church Birthday Party will follow the soup Chili/Soup challenge. **Sign up for the Birthday Party outside the church office.**

ASH

## WEDNESDAY SERVICE

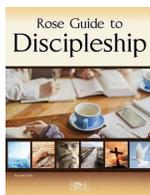


WEDNESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 26

6:30 p.m.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Adult Sunday School Class will begin a new study series on **Sunday, February 2.**



We will study "12 Things that Mark a Disciple" by Len Woods and produced by Rose Publishing Co.

No book is necessary. We will provide handouts for readings. Meet in the Pommrehn Lounge after fellowship time. I hope you join us!

-Clare DeBoef, Leader



**Christian**  
Development  
**Sunday, February 9**

- SS classes for preschool thru high school resume again on **Sunday, February 9**
- Making plans for outreach Easter Egg hunt on **Saturday, April 11**--watch for info on how you can help.
- Making plans for Intergenerational SS after fellowship during the summer months.
- Planning/working on a start date for Cluster/Small Groups for April--If interested contact Margaret Forster or Lynne Henn.

• SS classes for preschool thru high school resume again on



Find Pastor Jeremy's sermons, Valley Views, Calendars, bulletins and much more by visiting our website:

**[www.valleyumc.org](http://www.valleyumc.org)**

### WEATHER POLICY

If WDM Schools are closed for the day or close early, all Valley UMC activities for the day or evening will be cancelled.

## REACHING UP, REACHING OUT, REACHING IN

At Valley UMC we're **REACHING UP** to experience a bold, passionate, life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ, **REACHING OUT** to witness through nurture and service, and **REACHING IN** to challenge ourselves toward discipleship and spiritual growth.

**Valley UMC**  
**Men's Group**



The Valley UMC Men's Group meets for fellowship, video study and discussion in the Valley UMC St. Andrews Fellowship Hall. Meetings run from 7:30-8:45 a.m. All Valley UMC men and guests are invited to join us!

**Winter-Spring Schedule:**

- Saturday, February 8**
- Sunday, February 9**
- Chili/Soup Challenge**
- Saturday, February 22**
- Saturday, March 7**

Contact Les Ottervanger  
[lottervanger@aol.com](mailto:lottervanger@aol.com)  
 or Perry Meyer  
[meyerp@ihaonline.org](mailto:meyerp@ihaonline.org)

**VALLEY UMC FOUNDATION MINUTE**

**LOOKING FEW A FEW GOOD WOMEN  
 (OR MEN IF WE HAVE TO)**

The Valley UMC Foundation is operated by a board of 9 people plus the pastor as an ex officio non-voting member. Three of our members are appointed by and from the Leadership Team. Six members come from the congregation who are not members of the Leadership Team. They serve in classes of two people for three years each with the possibility of serving a second 3-year term.

**THE BOTTOM LINE** is that we have an opening for one more person on the board. At this time, Ginny Midkiff is the only female, and she gets lonely and frazzled keeping the guys in line. So lady volunteers will have an advantage in being selected. We meet quarterly on the second Monday night of the second month in the calendar quarter. We only met three times in 2019 because of a lack of business to transact. So you know that this Board is not very demanding of your time. Yet it is very important!

Please consider serving our church in this capacity. Questions about the Board position may be directed to any Valley UMC Foundation Board member.

**NEW PASTOR NAMED FOR VALLEY UMC**

With the news of Pastor Jeremy leaving Valley UMC and the ministry, comes the news of a new pastor for Valley UMC. This past weekend it was announced that Pastor Lee Schott will become the Pastor of Valley UMC beginning July 2020. You may recall that Pastor Lee and her family were members here 17 years ago when she left to attend seminary and pursue her call to ministry. Pastor Lee has served at Women at the Well for the past nine years.

Please keep our church, Women at the Well and Pastor Jeremy and Pastor Lee in your prayers as we work through the upcoming transitions.

**UMW CIRCLE**



Searchers Circle will not meet in February or March, but will resume April 2.

**FLOWER CHART**

Sign up outside the church office to provide flowers for worship in 2020. Contact the church office or WE team member if you have questions.



Please be reminded of the Valley UMC

**NO NUTS Policy**

Thank You!

***A Word of Thanks!***

*I wanted to share a big 'thank you!' to the whole congregation for your very generous gift at Christmas! We have been overwhelmed by the support and encouragement our family has received from you. Serving at Valley has been a gift we will always treasure; and the best part of it has definitely been the amazing people. I don't know how else to express our gratitude, other than the humble words: thank you so very much!*

-Jeremy, Kristen, Katryna, and Eli