

What To Do?



The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

Joshua 3:17, NIV

The people of Israel were standing on the banks of the Jordan River water edge, wondering *what to do*. Like their ancestors on the edge of the Red Sea, they wondered how they were ever going to get across. Moses was dead, so he couldn't, raise his staff and stretch out his hand over the sea to divide the water. But God was with them, and he had just made a promise to their new leader Joshua. *"This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, God said, so that they may know that I will be with you as I was with Moses"* (v.

7). The Moses generation was ending and the Joshua generation was beginning. God begins to exalt Joshua and promises to be with him. So what does Joshua instruct the Israelites to do? I would love to share three pivotal actions in reference to our journey forward with God:

Begin by listening. Joshua said to the Israelites, *"Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God"* (v. 9). Joshua instructs the people to fall into formation behind God, not to march ahead of God. This is demonstrated when the people set out from their tents and *"the priests bearing the ark of the covenant [are] in front of the people"* (v. 14). The ark represents the presence and the power of "the living God," moving ahead of the people (v. 10). We are challenged to do the same today, that is, to listen to the word of God and follow where God leads us. God really wants to guide us in the path that is best for us, giving us words of instruction designed to help us, not to hurt us.

Move forward one small step at a time. *"When those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped into the edge of the water, the waters flowing from above stood still, rising up in a single heap"* (vv. 15-16). Notice that the priests just dipped their feet into the edge of the water, instead of plunging into the deepest part of the river. Then the people crossed over the Jordan. We dip our feet into the water when we move forward, one step at a time. "Take the first step in faith," said the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "You don't have to see

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The Church

The

The mission of Court Street UMC is to be a welcoming, nurturing, serving community of Christ.



The Chimes

Lay Leadership

**Lay Delegate
to Annual Conference**

Diane Risley
David Risley

**Alternate Lay Delegate
to Annual Conference**

Jeanine Wang

Administrative Council Chair

Joan Tunnell

Staff/Parish Relations Chair

Sue Cram

Finance Chair

Mike Davis

Stewardship Chair

Jeanine Wang

Treasurer

Gene Ferry

Endowment Chair

Mike Davis

Trustee Chair

DuWayne Stanis

Lay Leader

Georgalee George

Nurture & Outreach

Georgalee George

Worship Chair

Joan Tunnell

Local Missions Chair

Helen Gibbons

Christian Education Chair

Diane Lutmer

Arts Committee Chair

Richard Wang

United Women in Faith

Sue Cram

United Methodist Men

DuWayne Stanis

Jeremiah Ministry Reps

Kay Galloway
Krysta Tilges

JFON Liaison

Kay Galloway

the whole staircase; just take the first step.” Watch and wait for what God will do, both *for* you and *through* you. The help that God provides makes a huge impact, but comes in the form of small acts of healing, protection and peace.

Keep your eyes on the future, not the past. Joshua tells us that after the people had crossed the Jordan, “*the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the LORD came up from the middle of the Jordan, and the soles of the priests’ feet touched dry ground, then the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks, as before*” (4:18). As soon as the people crossed the river, it began to flow again. God takes the very circumstances that once seemed to impede our progress, and reconfigures those circumstances in such a way that we’re now able to proceed and move forward into God’s future!

*Grace,
Pastor Cal*

CSUMC Book Club

**February 26
2:00 p.m.**

Our Missing Hearts
by Celeste Ng
Penguin

Jan Mace’s Home
4250 Ahlstrand Drive



Contact Diane Risley for more info at rishouse@juno.com.

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www.courtstreetumc.org

February 2023

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1
12 PM
DINING ROOM

SERVING

TURKEY, RICE, BROCCOLI CASSEROLE
CRANBERRY SALAD
CHERRY PIE & ICE CREAM

RSVP BY 1/29/23

DONNA DOW
(815) 963-3020
\$10 PER MEAL

COLLECTING DONATIONS FOR
ROCK HOUSE KIDS
MAKE CHECK DONATIONS
PAYABLE TO THEM

SUGGESTED DONATIONS

- CEREAL CUPS/BOXES/POUCHES
- BOYS/GIRLS DEODORANT
(IN A NEUTRAL SCENT)
- HAND LOTION (LARGER SIZE)
- LIP BALM
- BLANKETS
- POPSICLE STICKS
- CRAFT POM POMS
- 3-HOLE-PUNCHED PAPER
- VALENTINE'S DAY CANDY
(INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED)



GUEST SPEAKER

DEANNA "DEE" LACNY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ROCK HOUSE KIDS



Domestic Violence Subcommittee Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 7th
11:00 a.m. in the Library

All are invited to attend.

Health & Wellness: From our Parish Nurse, Teresa Field

This month I would like to discuss keeping up with wellness checks, and I will be writing about glaucoma. Glaucoma is called the sneak thief of sight. Vision loss by glaucoma is caused by damage to the optic nerve. Increased eye pressure can damage the optic nerve. High eye pressure alone does not cause glaucoma. While eye pressure is important in glaucoma, it does not explain why glaucoma develops in patients. The optic nerve is responsible for carrying images from the eye to the brain. The optic nerve acts like an electric cable with over a million wires. Researches now view glaucoma as a disease of the brain, a neurodegenerative disease rather than just an eye disease. The understanding of one key to glaucoma is in the connections within the retina and the brain. This ongoing research is leading to advances and may well lead to new treatments and possibly a cure one day. A study shows that blindness ranks third (after cancer & heart disease) as people's major fear.



It is estimated that over three million Americans have glaucoma but only half know they have it. The majority of patients diagnosed with glaucoma have minimal symptoms, and once vision is lost from glaucoma, it is permanent. Vision loss begins with peripheral or side vision. One may compensate and not notice this due to unconsciously turning ones head to see until significant vision is lost. The good news is that glaucoma is treatable. This is why it is so very important to be tested throughout one's lifetime. Glaucoma is the leading cause of preventable blindness. We all need to raise awareness about the seriousness of regular eye exams. Glaucoma can affect people of all ages; however, the most common forms primarily affect the middle-aged and the elderly. After cataracts, glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness among African Americans and people of African descent. It is six to eight time more common in African Americans than in Caucasians. A

person is six times more likely to get glaucoma if one is over sixty years of age. A family history also increases the risk. The most common type is primary open-angle glaucoma. If a member in your immediate family has the disease, you are at a higher risk than the general population. Research also shows the risk for Hispanic and Latinos is greater than for those with European ancestry, and the risk also increases among Hispanics over sixty. An eye health survey found that 76 percent of Hispanics did not know that their ethnicity is a factor for glaucoma. Another form of glaucoma known as acute angle closure has traditionally been more common in people of Asian descent.



It is recommended that your eyes should be tested: before 40, every two to four years, from 40 to 54 every one to three years, from 55 to 64, every one to two years, and after 65, every six to twelve months. Anyone with high risk factors should be tested every year or two after age 35.

Tips to remember:

1. Tell everyone on your health team, including all your doctors, that you have glaucoma if you do. This will help them when prescribing medications and to be careful when using medications with cortisone.
2. Report any changes to your doctor, especially eye irritation, watering, blurring, scratchiness, unusual discharge, temporarily cloudy vision, or rainbows around lights at night.
3. When you go to see your doctor, write down questions before you go and write down your doctors answers.

It is so very important NOT to neglect your vision and eye exams. If you would like to learn more about glaucoma, go to glaucoma.org for further reading. Please let me know if I can help.

What Our Youth Have Been Up To

The youth of the church have had a busy couple of months and accomplished quite a bit! Multiple gifts were purchased and wrapped for the Angel Tree Ministry. Additionally, we wrapped all of the literature that went out with each gift for that ministry project. We are incredibly proud of our youth who participated in the stick routines during the holiday season. It was beautiful to see them performing in church, and we hope that they will grace us with that opportunity again soon.

In recent events, confirmation has begun for our 2023 season! This year we have four confirmands who have decided to take on this challenge. I would like to thank all of our members who stepped up to volunteer either as a mentor or to put the confirmands in a prayer chain. If you have gone through the confirmation process, you understand how challenging it can be, and they will need all of the positive thoughts and prayers out there.

Our youth are excited to begin taking on some projects around the church. While we do have some specific areas already in mind, we are always willing to assist with any ongoing ministry opportunities.

Ryanne Ludington,
Director of Christian Education



SOUPER Bowl Sunday

February 12, 2023

Be an MVP for our team by donating cans of soup to the Rock River Valley Pantry in the Narthex from now until Super Bowl Sunday.





**ASH
WEDNESDAY
SERVICES**

February 22, 2023
12 PM & 6 PM
Chapel

By the sweat of your brow you will eat
your food until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken; for dust
you are and to dust you will return.

Genesis 3:19, NIV

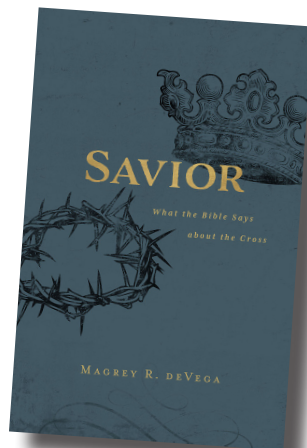
LENTEN STUDY

*Savior: What the
Bible says about
the Cross*

by Magrey R. DeVega

Begins Sunday,
February 26th

Contact the office by
Friday, February 10th
to reserve your copy.
Price TBD.



**SHROVE SUNDAY
PANCAKE LUNCH**



Sunday, February 19th
Pancakes, sausage, and all the
trimmings served after service.
Free-will donations appreciated.



**BLANKET
SUNDAY**

Sunday, February 12th

Donations benefit Church
World Service (CWS).



**Chatterbox
Supper Group**

**Backyard Grill & Bar
6473 N. 2nd Street**

Thursday, Feb. 9th @ 6:00 p.m.
All ladies are invited.

Contact Cindy Fisher at (815) 519-3653 by
noon of the Wednesday before the dinner.

The Arts Committee would like to know if you are personally interested in and would participate in any of the various Show & Tell Presentations involving art & faith topics of visual artists and their works.

Topics under consideration include:

Käthe Kollwitz & Ernst Barlach
Germany–Mid. 1900s

The Ashcan Art Movement
Robert Henri, George Wesley Bellows, et al.

Ben Shahn & Public Art and
Social Conscience

Roland Poska and Fishy Whale Press
(Local Artists)

If interested, contact Dick Wang at (815) 218-1699



Waffles & Worship

Please join us for a contemporary worship service filled with fellowship & food.

Sunday, February 26th
Dining Room at 8 AM



On the 3rd Sunday of each month, support Waffles & Worship by donating your loose change to The Noisy Offering.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Beginning in February, emergency contact cards will be available for the congregation to fill out and put on file with the office. We hope this will assist us in assisting you in the case of an emergency. Information is optional and for staff / lay leadership usage only.



SCRIP PROGRAM UPDATE

Welcome to February everyone! We at the Scrip committee want to send a big thank you to those who purchased Scrip cards last year, especially in the last quarter. Scrip sales increased significantly in 2022 (up 18%) from that of 2021. The 2022 scrip program was able to contribute \$3,000.00 to the church, which brings the total raised for the church to \$26,400.00 from 2016 through 2022. The top five vendors for 2022 were: Woodman's, Walmart, Valli, Amazon, and Pinnon.

Other notable vendors were Culver's, Starbucks and Beef-A-Roo. We want to thank our loyal repeat customers and also want to encourage those of you who are not currently buying scrip gift cards to give it a try. It is a worthwhile program for the church to raise additional funds

We also want to remind you that Scrip cards can be used for everyday purchases. We have cards for groceries, gas, and restaurant meals. We can now order \$10 and \$25 McDonald's cards, which had not been available to us before.

Thank you from your scrip committee.





Court Street United Methodist Church
 The Chimes February 2023
 215 North Court Street
 Rockford, IL 61103-6897

Return Service Requested

Phone: (815) 962-6061 Fax: (815) 962-9754
 www.courtstreetumc.org

Thank you for volunteering!

February 5, 2023

10:00 AM Ushers: The Sandy Gregory Team
 Sound Tech: Tim Welk
 Video Tech: Steve Ripley
 Acolyte: Ella Anderson
 Liturgist: Volunteer welcome.

February 12, 2023

10:00 AM Ushers: The Sandy Gregory Team
 Sound Tech: Ryan Welk
 Video Tech: Steve Ripley
 Acolyte: Kaylee Bulliner
 Liturgist: Volunteer welcome.

February 19, 2023

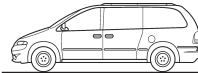
10:00 AM Ushers: The Sandy Gregory Team
 Sound Tech: Tim Welk
 Video Tech: Steve Ripley
 Acolyte: Lili Breson
 Liturgist: Volunteer welcome.

February 26, 2023

10:00 AM Ushers: The Sandy Gregory Team
 Sound Tech: Ryan Welk
 Video Tech: Steve Ripley
 Acolyte: Ella Anderson
 Liturgist: Volunteer welcome.

Livestream Techs: Krysta Tilges & Ella Anderson
 Cameraman: Andrew Mertenich

If you wish to receive The Chimes electronically
 or to be removed from this mailing,
 please call the church office at (815) 962-6061
 or e-mail Communications@courtstreetumc.org.



Need a Ride to Church?

Riders, please call drivers for a ride by 6 p.m,
 on the Saturday before the Sunday you wish to attend.

Riders must wear a mask, be fully vaccinated, and able to
 show their vaccine card to the driver if requested.

02/05/23	Bruce Shindel	815-397-1479
02/12/23	Curly Thompson	815-988-2735
02/19/23	Tim Gorman	815-636-0514
02/26/23	Jeff Mann	815-742-5444
03/05/23	Bruce Shindel	815-397-1479

Please thank these men for making this ministry work!

Court Street United Methodist Church Staff

Rev. Calvin Culpepper	Pastor	ext. 220	cculpepper@courtstreetumc.org
Ryanne Ludington	Director of Christian Education		ludingtonryanne@gmail.com
James L. Crow	Director of Arts Ministries	ext. 209	jlcrow@live.com
Krysta Tilges	Director of Video Ministries		ktilges@gmail.com
Jack Armstrong	Director of Music	ext. 221	gogo234@att.net
Andrew Mertenich	Organist		andrew.mertenich@gmail.com
Teresa Field	Parish Nurse		Teresabsf5@yahoo.com
Verlette Gorman	Church Administrator	ext. 202	ChurchAdmin1@courtstreetumc.org
Tiffany Wilken	Publications Secretary	ext. 200	Communications@courtstreetumc.org
Bert Cromwell	Nursery		
Bill Kint	Maintenance Engineer		Maintenance@courtstreetumc.org

Birthdays

Name	Date	Name	Date
Davis, Michael	1	McDonald, Okcha	21
Yencsik, Lorraine	1	Armstrong, Tracey	22
Damken, Katy Elizabeth	2	Bremner, Nathaniel	22
Hoople, Nathan	2	Earnest, Joshua	23
Mann, Billy	3	Gdowski, Henry	23
Swansbro, Charlene	3	Morse, Bethany	23
Welk, Ashley	3	Ripley, Steven	23
Liddell, Patrick	7	Mailand, Earle	25
Allen, Charles	11	Cram, Susan	26
Thompson, Curly	12	Fibrow, Dana	26
Stanis, DuWayne	15	Stein, William	26
Welk, Timothy	15	Gillette, Alice	27
Dyreson-Noble, Doris	16	King, Rob	27
Hagele, Mason	16	Morgan, David	27
Justice, Julie	17	Noltemeier, Karl	27
Adam, Barb	18		
Noltemeier, Louise	19		
Zimmer, Matt	20		

Wedding Anniversaries

Name	Date	Year	Married
Noble, Gary and Doris Dyreson-Noble	14	2015	8
Condon, Martin and Kelly	25	2012	11

⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

John 15:9-12, NIV








Our prayers and sympathy go to the families of

Michl “Mike” McGee who died on March 1, 2022

Bradley Scott King who died January 21, 2023

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 10:30 AM UWF Leadership Team 12:00 PM UWF Luncheon with Dee Lacny as Guest Speaker 04:00 PM Staff Meeting	2 08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 10:00 AM Stewardship Team 01:00 PM The Journeymen	3 08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings	4 08:00 AM Rockford Rhythm/Phantom Regiment
5 09:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Facetime 11:15 AM Youth Activities	6 08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings	7 08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 09:00 AM History & Archives 09:00 AM Quilters 09:30 AM Exercise Class 11:00 AM Domestic Violence Subcommittee 12:00 PM Nurture & Outreach Committee 06:00 PM JuBellation Rehearsal 07:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8 08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 04:00 PM Worship Committee	9 08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 01:00 PM The Journeymen 06:00 PM Chatterbox Supper Group at Backyard Grill	10 08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings	11 08:00 AM Rockford Rhythm/Phantom Regiment 08:30 AM United Methodist Men Breakfast at Stockholm Inn
12 SOUPer Bowl Sunday Soup Can Drive 09:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Facetime 11:15 AM Youth Activities	13 08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings	14 08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 09:00 AM History & Archives 09:00 AM Quilters 09:30 AM Exercise Class 05:30 PM Trustees 06:00 PM JuBellation Rehearsal 07:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	15  CHIMES DEADLINE 08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 04:00 PM Staff Meeting 05:30 PM No IL Wood Turners	16 08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 11:30 AM Dorcas Circle at Olive Garden 01:00 PM The Journeymen	17 08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings	18  ALL-CHURCH MEETING 08:00 AM Rockford Rhythm/Phantom Regiment 10:00 AM All-Church Meeting
 09:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Facetime 11:15 AM Shrove Luncheon 11:15 AM Youth Activities	20 08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings	21 08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 09:00 AM History & Archives 09:00 AM Quilters 09:30 AM Exercise Class 06:00 PM JuBellation Rehearsal 07:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	22  08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 12:00 PM Noon Ash Wednesday Service 6:00 PM Evening Ash Wednesday Service	23 08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 01:00 PM The Journeymen	24 08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings	25 08:00 AM Rockford Rhythm/Phantom Regiment
26 08:00 AM Worship & Waffles 09:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Facetime 11:15 AM Youth Activities 11:15 AM Lenten Study 02:00 PM CSUMC Book Club	27 08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 04:00 PM Finance Committee 05:00 PM Administrative Council	28 08:30 AM Beautiful Beginnings 09:00 AM History & Archives 09:00 AM Quilters 09:30 AM Exercise Class 01:00 PM Knitting Group 06:00 PM JuBellation Rehearsal 07:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal				