

THE INFORMER



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Special Points of Interest

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Worship Schedule

Preaching March through Lent 2024:

Rapture Ready series of sermons – Dr. David Jeremiah

March	3	Lent 3	"Hang On! He's Coming!"
March	10	Lent 4	"Seven Secrets of Serving"
March	17	Lent 5	"Eternal Victory"
March	24	Palm Sunday	"A King's Ransom"
March	29	Good Friday – combined worship with Breckenridge Lutheran here at Breckenridge UMC.	
Soup and dessert at 6:00 p.m. followed by worship at 7:00 p.m.			
Combined Choir		"O Sacred Head"	Mary McDonald
March	31	Easter Sunday	"If Christ Had Not Risen"

From the Pastor's Perspective —Mark Gronseth

From the Pastor – March

As people in covenant with God, we see the entire Bible as the story of promise-based relationships. God first makes a covenant with Noah (6:18), and then with Abram (15:18). When God hears the groaning of the people of Israel in Egypt, he remembers his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Exodus 2:24). God speaks with Moses on Mount Sinai, and gives him two tablets of the covenant, the Ten Commandments (Exodus 31:18). After the Israelites enter the Promised Land, the angel of the Lord says, "I will never break my covenant with you" (Judges 2:1).

Unfortunately, the people of Israel break their side of the deal. "They have broken my covenant," says God through the prophet Hosea, "and transgressed my law" (Hosea 8:1). So, God promises through Jeremiah to "make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah" (Jeremiah 31:31). This new covenant comes to life in Jesus, who offers his own body and blood on the cross to show us exactly how much God loves us. At the Last Supper, Jesus gives his disciples the cup and says, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:28). The letter to the Hebrews tells us that Jesus is "the guarantee of a better covenant" (Hebrews 7:22).

When we focus on covenant, we learn that God is always faithful, even when we are not. God never breaks this faithful and loving relationship, even though we often fall into faithlessness.

The good news of the Bible is that we are covenant people, with an ancestry that goes back to the everlasting covenant that God made with Abram. Thus in that covenant, we discover that our promise-based relationship with God is stronger than any human failings. We can build our lives on the foundation of the old and new covenants, and trust that "neither death, nor life ... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

Our covenant with God proves that we really are a part of God's family. We have covenantal DNA as it were. God shows us the same kind of unconditional love that a good parent shows a child. Children are going to misbehave, as we all know, but good parents remain loving and faithful -- even when their nerves are frayed. No matter what children do or say, the link between parent and child is going to remain in place.

That's the attitude that God has toward us, even when we act like rebellious teenagers. God loves us unconditionally, just as God has loved us humans throughout history. The everlasting covenant started with Abraham, and it continues with everyone who is a member of God's family.

Pastor Mark



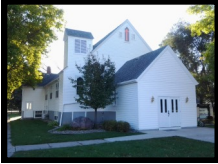
FAIRMOUNT UMC NEWS



Prayer Concerns

Fairmount UMC Congregation:

Nursing Home/Assisted Living: No one at a nursing home at this time.
(... and Jesus also said to pray for our enemies.)



Sunday Schedule

Coffee at 8:30 a.m.
Worship at 9:00 a.m.



March

22 Sandy Mahler
31 Marianne Van Oort
* *Wedding Anniversary*

Congregational Permanent Trust Fund

BRECKENRIDGE

CONGREGATIONAL TRUST FUND CAMP SCHOLARSHIP POLICY

1. One Camp Scholarship per child, per year
2. UMC Camp Scholarship of \$150.00 per child/per year.
3. Christian Camp Scholarship of \$75.00 per child/per year.

We realize that the total cost of many of these Summer Camps is approximately \$300, but we would like to encourage "all" of our youth to attend at least one Summer Camp before they are Confirmed. These Camp Scholarships are also open to High School Youth. If you are interested in sending your children to either a United Methodist or other Christian Camp please have them contact Ricki at the church.

METHODIST MOMENTS SPONSORSHIP (Please return to our church office, 910 Main St., Breckenridge, MN 56520)

Sponsor's Name _____

(Circle one)

In Memory

In Honor

of _____

on the occasion _____

Sponsor which Sunday? 2024 Broadcast Sundays

Apr. 7

May 5

July 21

BRECKENRIDGE PRAYERS, CONCERNS, CELEBRATIONS



PRAYER CONCERNS THIS WEEK

Breckenridge UMC Congregation: Dean Beyer; Carol Grotjohn; Steve Hanson ; Norm Hiedeman; Nancy Hoogland; Janice Johnson; Artis & Gordon Martinson; Kris Meindl, Beck Regan; Don Taylor.

Our Friends: Laurie Allen; Adrian Dahm; Pete Eikeland (Terry Boldingh's friend); Deb Foertsch (cancer); Cheryl Goldade (cancer returned); Victoria (Tori) Grenier; Hannah Henry (Darlene Anderson's great-niece); Alwyn Martinson; Vicki Steinwand (Hulda's daughter-in-law); Bruce Strom (Mary Lou Roecker's brother); Cheryl Tilton.

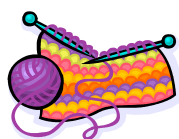
OUR MEMBERS RECEIVING CARE: Janice Johnson at St. Catherine's Living Center; Helen Olthoff at St. Francis Home; Doris Leinen at 2520 Pebble Lake Rd, Fergus Falls; Merwin & Annabel Peterson at Twin Town Villa. (... and Jesus also said to pray for our enemies.)

NOTE: Please contact the Church Office or Pastor to inform them of all emergencies, hospitalizations, illnesses, births or special prayer requests of any kind. Thank you.



March

- 1 Alexander Burhans
 - 2 Carson Anderson
 - 3 Jerry/Tami Kallstrom*
 - 8 Morgan Osvold
 - 10 Annalisa Anderson
 - 10 Janel Sayler
 - 13 Beck Regan
 - 16 Kim Raguse
 - 16 Winston Hendrickson
 - 18 Lisa Bock
 - 18 Artis Martinson
 - 19 Ed Roemmich
 - 21 Roger/Renee Gilberg*
 - 23 Gary/Deb Burhans*
 - 23 Olivia Burhans
 - 26 Butch Jirak
 - 28 Merle & Sandy Hasse*
 - 29 LaVonne Dupree
 - 29 Kaitlyn Osvold
 - 30 Hailee Bruce
- *denotes Wedding Anniversary



Breckenridge Prayer Shawl Ministry

We meet every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Please call the office if you have need for a shawl. We would encourage anyone to let us know if they are aware of a need in our church or community... or beyond, for someone to be given a shawl. Our shawls are not just for the members of our church, but are given to those who are in need of a special touch of kindness to brighten a difficult time or day. Thank you to all who have supported our ministry and to those who keep us informed of a special need that we can fulfill.



OUR SYMPATHIES to Stacey Manock & family on the death of her mother, Shirley Marohl, on Sunday, February 11th. Her funeral was Monday, February 19 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wahpeton.



"Our Daily Bread" a daily devotional help from Our Daily Bread in

Grand Rapids, MI is available at both Fairmount and Breckenridge churches. The devotional come's in a 3 month format and is an additional source for your daily study.



BRECKENRIDGE - U.M.W. NEWS FOR ALL! - LOLA PATNOUDE, PUBLICITY

MARCH MEETING . . .

Breckenridge United Methodist Women will meet Wednesday, March 6, 1:30 p.m. All women of the fellowship are welcome to attend. Devotions will be given by Carol Anderson; the meeting will be conducted by Sharon Olson, president. Hostesses will be Lois Bock & Sharon Olson. Checklists for this year's officers will be available. The 2024 Program Booklets were ready to be picked up; are now in the church office. *(Please bring them to each meeting.)*

VISITATION . . .



CoCo Gronseth will visit shut-in's this month, whether it be in-person visiting, calls, telephone calls, or friendship letters.

A list of those to visit is in the church office. No publication to deliver this month. THANK

YOU, CoCo!

SUMMER CAMP POLICY . . .

Want to go to camp this year? Perhaps the U.M.W. policy will help. Read on! "United Methodist Women will underwrite one-half the cost of fees, not to exceed \$150 per student, from our Campership Fund, for all interested youth of the church, grades 5-12, to attend summer camp at Northern Pines, Lake Koronis, or any other United Methodist camp in our North Star district (per child, per year).



RECORD OF SERVING UPDATE

No functions were served last month.

Members of the 2024 Serving Group are: Carol Anderson, Mary Boldingh, LaVonne Dupree, Pamela Facey, Corinne Jirak, Sharon Olson. Lola Patnoudé will do calling & write the report. Helpers are: Lois Bock, Phyllis Hiedeman, Stephanie Kaufman; Janel Saylor will help serve on Saturdays.

Lists of those who indicated on the annual survey they will furnish food or help serve food during 2024 have been placed in our Record of Serving notebook.



Ink Cartridge recycling for our Church

Breckenridge UMC has partnered with Planet Green Recycle to run an E-Waste

Recycling Fundraiser! This fundraiser is a great opportunity for us to raise funds and at the same time help the environment. (We have received \$40.25 for sending in 68 ink cartridges this year.)

How can YOU help? To help support us, bring in any of the items listed below to the church. There is a small, blue plastic tub under the small bench in the coat rack area marked for your donations. Bring in your used Ink Cartridges.

RICHLAND-WILKIN

EMERGENCY

FOOD PANTRY

March 2024

Needed Items:

- ♦ Canned Cream Corn
- ♦ Alfredo Sauce/Pasta Sauce
 - ♦ Baked Beans
 - ♦ Jelly
- ♦ Instant Oatmeal Packets

These 5 items are under \$10 for all, less than a lunch out.

If you would rather not shop, a monetary donation is always appreciated. Thank you!

BRECKENRIDGE UMC—

2024

Income Feb. 26, 2024

Beginning balance	\$	15,431.38
Income to date	\$	4,808.34
Donations to date	\$	22,352.89
Journal Entry	-\$	
Transfers to Savings	-\$	15.00
Transfers from Savings	\$	

Expenses through Feb. 26, 2024 -\$ 21,826.14
 Cash Balance, 02/26/24 \$ 20,751.47

Weekly Giving & Attendance for February

	Attendance	Offering
Feb. 4	31	\$ 1,939.00
Feb. 11	53	\$ 3,504.00
Feb. 14	27	\$
Feb. 18	41	\$ 1,778.79
Feb. 25	44	\$ 1,146.00

FINANCE TEAM:

Year to date TOTAL thru February 26:

General Fund Income 2024	\$	24,207.48
General Fund Expenses 2024	-\$	19,161.05
	\$	5,046.43

Prayer For
March

May You be happy.
 May You be well.
 May You be safe.
 May You find comfort.
 May You have strength.
 May You have courage.
 May You find healing.
 May You have peace.
 May You have joy.
 May you be blessed.
 May you be filled with

LOVE and Kindness
TODAY AND ALWAYS.

~Babz

inspired Positive
soul sensations IPSS

METHODIST MOMENTS on
KBMW 1450 (1st & 3rd Sundays)
March 3, 2024— Sponsored by
 Butch & Corinne Jirak in memory
 of Jim & Marlene Jirak.

March 17, 2024— Sponsored by
 Butch & Corinne Jirak in memory of Jim &
 Marlene Jirak.



Our church delivers the
 first week of each month for 7
 months (October through April).

THANK YOU to Dale & Carol
 Anderson, Paul & Linda Thulen,
 Terry & Mary Boldingh, Janel
 Saylor, and Robin Jirak & Kayla
 Burhans for delivering in the
 month of February.



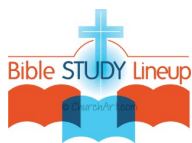
*Breckenridge Church
 Fellowship Potluck*

Sunday, March 3, 2024
 (Hosts are Ramona Taylor
 and Dale & Carol Anderson).

Sunday April 7, 2024
 (Hosts needed to set up
 and clean up afterwards).

Everyone is Welcome!!

BRECKENRIDGE UMC EDUCATION —



Our Friday morning Bible Study will begin the first Friday in February, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. We will be studying the Book of Revelation and will be using two texts: Dr. David Jeremiah's study and Warren Wiersbe's commentary on the Book of Revelation.

From Dr. David Jeremiah: (\$12.00) "Christ is the final victor, and he will come again..."

Follow Dr. Jeremiah through the book of Revelation in a chapter-by-chapter study that will help you understand what it meant to the people at the time it was written, and what it means to Christians today.

Even in John's day, many Christians wanted to know when Christ would come again—when the plan of salvation would be accomplished. Throughout the book of Revelation, in all of its confusing images and prophecies, God's stunning faithfulness and love is on full display as he offers up every chance for sinners to claim redemption and join him forever."

From Warren Wiersbe's "Be Victorious" series: (\$17.00)

"The book of Revelation stands out as one of the most intriguing, yet least understood books of the Bible. From the sobering letters to the seven churches to the amazing visions and epic battles, millions of Christians have toiled to understand the meaning of this mysterious book.

Trust Dr. Warren Wiersbe, pastor and Bible teacher for over forty years, to take you chapter-by-chapter through the various topics in this important book, all the while, keeping a steady eye on the main message of the book: Christ is the victor, and in Christ, we are also victorious."



**Sunday school for PK—3rd grade
March 10 & 17, 2024**

We have finished learning about Daniel and Gideon. Next we learn about Ruth & Jonah. Scout, our puppy puppet greets the children, then we have story time, bible memory verse with sign language, and then a craft! If you would like more information, please call the office (218-643-5158).

Sunday School Parents & Congregation,

Linda Thulen and I have been teaching Sunday school for two years now and have thoroughly enjoyed teaching the PreK through 3rd grade students. They have been so much fun to get to know. They are kind, inquisitive, helpful, eager, polite, and love to learn about God!

We will be stepping down from teaching next Fall, so if anyone is interested in taking over this ministry, we would be glad to show you the curriculum and invite you to attend a class. Each lesson includes an opening, activity, prayer, story lesson, bible verse and a craft. Sunday school meets twice a month during the Worship Service. We have had great attendance... a steady 8 children.

Sunday school brings children to God and parents to church. Please consider this ministry prayerfully.

With Gratitude, Linda Thulen & Ricki Barvels

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Check out our Website!!
Breckumc.org

Office hours:
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. to 12 noon
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Our **MISSION** is to
proclaim the love of
God.

Our **VISION** is a
community of faith in
relationship with the
world through Jesus
Christ, glorifying God
as we reach out to
people in love, physi-
cally, emotionally and
spiritually.

Our **PURPOSE** is to
develop a community
of spiritually mature
believers, loving and
nurturing all in the pow-
er of the Holy Spirit.

Our **VALUES** are
Fellowship, Outreach,
Music, and Youth.

PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

Indonesia— Indonesia, home to the world's largest Muslim population, has seen a rise in recent years of hardline Islamic ideology. Only a generation ago, Muslims and Christians lived peaceably as respectful equals in accordance with the state-prompted philosophy "Pancasila."

But now Christians (more than 15% of the population) experience many difficulties.

The threat from Islamic extremism, pressure from local authorities and hostility from the Muslim community vary greatly in intensity across the country. In the last 12 years, West Java, with its large Christian population, has seen the most incidents of intolerance toward Christians. But Aceh province, which has implemented sharia even for non-Muslims under certain circumstances, is where the most severe persecution occurs.

Since the introduction of the 2006 decree on places of worship, over 1,000 church buildings have been forcibly closed on various pretexts, and Christians prohibited from worshipping many provinces, including West Sumatra, Jambi, Banten, DKI Jakarta, DI Yogyakarta and East Kalimantan. In 2019, a congregation in Riau was even stopped from worshipping in a tent after its church building was forced to shut. In Muslim-majority provinces, it is almost impossible to get permission to build a new church building.

The central government has taken some steps to try to combat the rise of hardline Islamism, especially in the civil service and schools. But in June 2020, the Communications and Information Ministry removed a Bible app in the Minang language from the Google Play Store at the request of the governor of West Sumatra. The mainly Muslim Minangkabau are the fourth largest ethnic group in Indonesia.

The moderate Muslim movement, Nahdlatul Ulama, which claims to be the world's largest Muslim organization with 90 million adherents, has recently broken with classical Islamic teaching by abolishing the legal category of "infidel" (*kafir*) for non-Muslims.

Give thanks for the Muslim-background believers who come to faith and follow the Lord despite persecution. Pray that the Word of God will be available to all in Indonesia. Ask that church buildings be reopened, especially in Aceh.



Weekly Recordings of our worship services and now being posted on the Breckenridge UMC Facebook page as well as on the church website page.