

The Friendly Communicator

March 2023

From the Pastor's Desk. . .

"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

What is prayer? It's a loving and refreshing spiritual connection with God. We have been practicing silence as a prelude to our own congregational prayers. It's a way of preparing our hearts and minds to enter into the presence of God. I hope you find the quiet and silence to be relaxing and peaceful. During these times, God can touch you and transform you into someone BETTER. Jesus said, "DO NOT BE AFRAID" to enter into communion with God and experience a change within you.

Just as we prepare ourselves for prayer, so we prepare for that glorious Easter Sunday celebration of the RESURRECTION of Christ! This year, Lent begins on February 22 and lasts 40 days; it is our spiritual preparation, during which we continue our practices of stillness, quietness, and reflection. This is a time in our inner work when we can pray, study, and reflect on Jesus' life, teachings, and interactions with those he met. Take time to consider his suffering and the sacrifice he made just to save us for eternal life. Ponder what this has to do with you as a Christian and as a disciple and follower of Jesus Christ.

This is the purpose of prayer: to ask God questions, to seek answers through Bible study, and to keep knocking until the door of understanding opens to you and you are transformed into a new person in Christ.

Pastor Gwen

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MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Adell Kupka
- 3 Diana Brophy
- 4 Antonio Wothe
- 7 Karrie Napier
- 19 Rosemary Valdes
- 20 Kim Drost
- 29 Mary Schecher

If we have inadvertently missed your special day, please accept our apologies, and let the office know so we can change our records.

ABMen's Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, March 19 in Fellowship Hall following morning worship, \$9 for adults and \$5 for children.

Come enjoy a delicious meal and help support the mission work of the ABMen.

GATHERINGS

During Women's History month, ABWM curates a gathering every Monday during March. We hope you'll join us in celebrating Women's History Month!

Women's History Month Gathering Monday, March 6, 2023, at 11:00-11:30 PM CST

Speaker: Minister Sadiqa Delaney, member of ABWM's Young Adult Women's Ministries Advisory Team (YAWMAT) and Associate Minister at Berean Baptist Church

Women's Work...Trabajo de Mujeres Monday, March 13, at 11:00-11:30 PM CST

Speaker: Dr. Laura Miraz, Associate Executive Director of Human Resources Management Services at American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS)

Let the Walls Fall Down: Women in Ministry Monday, March 20, at 11:00-11:30 PM CST

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Patricia Hernandez, Associate General Secretary for American Baptist Women in Ministry and Transition Ministries at ABC-USA, USA

Women's History Month Gathering Monday, March 27, at 11:00-11:30 PM CST

Speaker: Rev. Yvette Vanterpool, Chief Communications Officer at Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB)

To find out more information and to register, visit the ABWM website at:

<http://www.abwomensministries.org/eventDetails.aspx?EventId=66>

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March 2023

January 2023
Financial Income Report

General Receipts

Envelopes	11,075.00
Loose Offering	107.08
Church School	175.02
Birthday	35.00
Christmas	150.00
Online giving	23.67
Total	\$11,565.77

Miscellaneous Receipts

Secret Place	2.00
Music Fund	50.00
MMCC donation	200.00
Initial offering	40.00
Total	\$292.00

Communion Offering

Fellowship Fund	165.00
Grand Avenue Club	125.00
Milwaukee Christian Center	125.00
Total	\$415.00

Mission Offering

RMMO	100.00
Love Gift	10.00
Total	\$110.00

Deposited Total **\$12,382.77**

Upcoming ABWM Webinars

Building Lasting Bridges

Thursday, March 2, 2023

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Katie Choy-Wong, consultant, trainer, and writer in intercultural ministries.

Sisters in Prayer

Thursday, March 16, 2023

"START SPREADING THE 3Gs NEWS!"

Yes, start spreading the news! The 3Gs is getting the band back together! By "the band," of course, we mean our group of those ages 50 and up. After taking off much of the last two years (thank you so very much, COVID!), we're going to get together to open our 2023 season with a mini-concert being performed by Mary Schecher. She will entertain us with songs from the rich history of Broadway musicals, many tunes of which will be familiar to all.

So join us on **April 13 at 11:30 AM** in the church sanctuary for this musical event. After the half-hour concert, we will (here's a surprise!) go to lunch at a restaurant to be named later. Additional details will follow. Thanks to Karl Byleen for alerting us to this opportunity.

2023 Sectional Meeting

Midwest

Monday, March 13, 2023

8:00 PM EST / 7:00 PM CST

Visit the link to find out more and to register:

<https://abwomensministries.org/eventDetails.aspx?EventId=69>

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Musical Notes **FROM THE DIREKTR**

You are invited to join the conversation.....

Ten years ago, I wrote an article for the Communicator with the above title. I looked back at it and discovered that very little, if anything, has changed. Most, if not all, of the "changes" we worried about ten years ago have not happened. We are still doing "church." Just what does that mean?

Doing church means showing up on Sunday morning. Yes, it's early, yes, I'm tired, and yes, it's available online. But we are called BY God to worship God. (Ps. 95:6)

Doing church means joining in the call to worship and opening prayer with all your hearts. Make those words mean something to you and to the others who are gathered. (Heb. 2:12)

Going to church means singing your heart out. You can't sing? Who told you that? That is not true!! The songs we sing convey what we believe about God and his son, Jesus. The songs share the experiences of others, so we can see the connection between all of God's children. (Col. 3:16)

Doing church means praying with your heart, soul, and mind. It means saying "thanks" to God for those wonderful daily surprises like waking up, enjoying a great cup of coffee, seeing a child playing at the park, or finding your way to a new place. (Eph. 6:18)

Doing church means supporting each other as we continue our journey of faith. We are NOT done yet! All of us are growing and changing. (Heb. 10:24)

Doing church means serving God's people wherever they are and sharing the love and grace of Jesus. (Acts 20:35)

You are invited to join in the conversation known as "Doing Church."

Mary Schecher