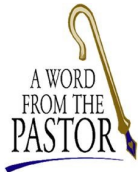
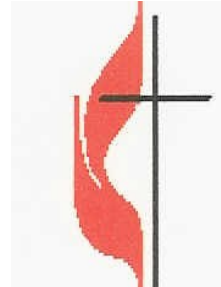


# The Methodist

March 2021

Danbury Grace Siren Lewis UMC



*Note from Pastor Eddie: After Pastor Tom and I announced our plans to lead a Lenten Bible Study we learned about a Bible Study offered by Bishop Jung about racial reconciliation called Together in Christ. We are including an excerpt from the study this month and if you would like to read the entire study you can contact the office or Pastor Eddie.*

## Session Two:

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.' (Genesis 9:8-17)

Covenant is a central theme of our Hebrew and Christian scriptures. Multiple times, God established covenants with human beings, which essentially held a few simple elements: 1) I will be your God, 2) you will be my people, 3) under the condition that you will be obedient and faithful to your God, and 4) doing to others as you would have done to yourself.

Frequently, when God established covenants, human beings accepted and agreed to them; human beings then broke the covenant and separated from God (sin); prophets called people to repentance; God reestablished covenant (redemption), and the cycle repeated itself. The grand culmination of this covenantal relationship was (and is) Jesus. Through Jesus the Christ, the cycle was broken, and the restoration and deliverance of God's people was sealed for all time. Note that, with Noah, the covenant is between "me and all the flesh that is on the earth." We know that shortly after this covenant was established, Noah got himself drunk, and his son Ham violated the moral code of his time and received a curse (Genesis 9:18-28).

4-Charge/Community	1-3
Lewis News	3
Siren News	3
Grace News	3
Danbury News	4
Bible Crossword	5

The naming of Ham's descendants in chapter 10 have led some questionable scholars to note that many of the darker-skinned ethnicities in our world today emerged as the lineage of Ham. This sad misinterpretation resulted in a terrible abuse of scripture: a bias and prejudice against brown and black skin on a supposedly biblical basis, used to justify slavery. An important question to consider is this: does the curse of Noah invalidate the promise of God? God's intention to protect all living creatures on the face of the earth is crystal clear. Are our earthly disagreements and divisions greater than the will of God? I pray this is a rhetorical question. In the midst of the global pandemic and the multiple incidents of violence and brutal force against black people throughout 2020 and before, the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church met and committed to a priority of Dismantling Racism. We do this not to be judgmental or political. While there are aggressive and violently racist people, there is also widespread agreement among Christians that such prejudice and bigotry is not acceptable. The Council of Bishops is more interested in dismantling the systemic nature of racial, ethnic, and cultural injustice and ongoing harmful ignorance. This will help us reconstruct systems of equity, fairness, acceptance, celebration, and justice for "all flesh that is on the earth." It is vitally important that we make every effort to order our lives and our ministries to contribute to God's divine plan for beloved community and to see "God's will be done on earth, as it is in heaven," which we pray regularly in the Lord's Prayer.

Thoughts, words, and actions that treat people of other colors, cultures, languages, ethnicities, or geographies as inferior, dangerous, repulsive, or contemptible based on their differences is sinful and destructive. These attitudes disrespect and disgrace the truth that "God is love" (1 John 4:8), and we should spend significant time together in our communities of faith working hard to eliminate prejudice, divisive judgmentalism, and oppression wherever we find it.

(continued next page)



## Home Away From Home

email chgs. to: [graceumchurch@live.com](mailto:graceumchurch@live.com)

### Traditions of Frederic Assisted Living

107 E. Oak Street  
Frederic, WI 54837  
**\*\*Eunice Tollerander**

### Frederic Nursing & Rehab

205 United Way  
Frederic, WI 54837  
**\*\*Roberta Sahr**

### Golden Horizons

1109 Lunderoff Dr.  
Sandstone, MN 55072  
**\*Lillian Holmes**

## Homebound

### Lois Willhard

24357 Cranberry Marsh Rd.  
Siren, WI 54872

### Joanne Daniels

7485 Burnikel Rd.  
Siren, WI 54872

### Gail Lane

Golden Oaks Apts. #108  
104 3rd Ave. S. ,  
Frederic, WI 54837

## 4-Charge News/Bishop Jung's Bible Study

### Questions for Conversation

1. What characteristics, qualities, and behaviors do I tend to judge other people on? What meets with my approval? What causes disapproval?
2. Where did these standards of judgment come from?
3. How does a person's skin color influence my thinking? How does their ability to speak my primary language clearly influence my thinking?
4. What sights, smells, sounds (think of clothing, cooking, music, decorations, hygiene, tone/volume/inflection, etc.) are most comfortable for you? Which make you uncomfortable or irritated?

### Questions for Personal Reflection between Sessions

1. Where do I encounter people who are significantly different from me?
2. What are the characteristics of my family, friends, and the people I associate with most frequently that I find most comfortable, confirming, and "normal"? What characteristics and actions make me most uncomfortable, uncertain, and threatened?
3. What obstacles and/or challenges do I feel about relating to people who think, speak, or act in ways foreign to my own thoughts, words, and actions?

### Closing Prayer (or one of your own):

Creator God, we offer our thanks and praise that we are part of your divine creation. Help us to view "all flesh that is on earth" as you view it. Open our eyes and hearts to see the beauty, the sacredness, the holiness, and the wonder of all you have created. We ask this humbly in Jesus' name. Amen.

### Recommended Resources for Deeper Learning and Understanding:

#### Book:

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson. Understanding our inequalities based in power dynamics and abuses of power large and small that divide us.

#### Film:

Twelve Years a Slave by Steve McQueen. Warning: graphic and disturbing, not easy to watch; the story of a man sold into slavery and the abuses of power and oppression that illuminate most of human history.  
Pastor Eddie

### Wednesdays at 11 AM

Gladys Benson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us05web.zoom.us/j/85829704125?](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/85829704125?pwd=ak1wMFBUbXNlbnZ5NnBNR1EVL1QwQT09)

[pwd=ak1wMFBUbXNlbnZ5NnBNR1EVL1QwQT09](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/85829704125?pwd=ak1wMFBUbXNlbnZ5NnBNR1EVL1QwQT09)

Meeting ID: 858 2970 4125  
Passcode: UMC

### Thursdays at 6:30 PM

Gladys Benson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us05web.zoom.us/j/88177060557?](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/88177060557?pwd=NHBxdE5ldk01bnZ5NnBNR1EVL1QwQT09)

[pwd=NHBxdE5ldk01bnZ5NnBNR1EVL1QwQT09](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/88177060557?pwd=NHBxdE5ldk01bnZ5NnBNR1EVL1QwQT09)

Meeting ID: 881 7706 0557  
Passcode: UMC

### Schedule for Lenten Season

**Wed. Mar. 3 11:00AM - Zoom Bible Study (directions to the left)**  
**Repeated**

**Thu. Mar. 4 6:30PM - Zoom Bible Study**

**Wed. Mar. 10 11:00AM - Zoom Bible Study**  
**Repeated**

**Thu. Mar. 11 6:30PM - Zoom Bible Study**

**Wed. Mar. 17 11:00AM - Zoom Bible Study**  
**Repeated**

**Thu. Mar. 18 6:30PM - Zoom Bible Study**

**Wed. Mar. 24 11:00AM - Zoom Bible Study**  
**Repeated**

**Thu. Mar. 25 6:30PM - Zoom Bible Study**

**Sun. Mar. 28 - Passion/Palm Sunday-On-line worship-10:30AM**

**Thu. April 1 - Holy Thursday - TBD**

**Fri. April 2 - Good Friday - TBD**

**Sun. April 4 - Easter Sunday - TBD**



## Lewis News

### March Birthdays

3/1 - Marie Nelson  
3/3 - Gail Lane  
3/5 - Hannah Scheiff  
3/8 - Diane Ackland

## Siren News

### March Birthdays

3/5 - Lori Dake  
3/7 - Harold Larson  
3/9 - Bev Beckmark

Hi folks

Well, I made it through having one stent, one valve and a pacemaker put in and all is well!

Thanks for the lovely cards and the well wishes sent to me—it is really nice to receive them.

God Bless you all! Love Phyllis Krajewski

## 4-Charge News (cont'd)

### Yellow Lake Food Distribution Update

#### (Caring Hearts Thrift Shop)

Thank you everyone that helped out this month, it was a little cold, but I guess it could have been worse.

We helped 731 families, a total of 1,968 people. The numbers of people are down some but I think that is because of doing the yearly update counts of our home deliveries. 563 Children, 881 Adults and 524 Seniors. We can't thank each of you enough for all the help and dedication to this mission, you are again awesome!!! Take care everyone, stay healthy. Debbie

The Community Help Fund is making a special request this year following the cancellation of the Thanksgiving meal in 2020 which is a major source of income. We are blessed to have Gladys to help administer the fund which started as a collective mission of churches in the Siren area. The fund helps people directly; there is no overhead. Our main sources of aid are gas cards for those going to medical appointments, we offer food, a short term place to stay at area motels, and collaborate with the Interfaith Caregivers and other non-profits for help with utility bills. Because the fund began as an informal partnership of churches it is not a 501 (c) 3 organization, but know that all donations go directly to help the varied needs that come to our door. If you would like to donate to the Community Help Fund you can make a check out to Community Help Fund c/o Steve Ward 29377 Earl Drive, Webster, WI 54893 Thank You!

- Pastor Eddie

## Grace News Meet a Member



**Robert (Bob) Nelson** was born and raised on his family's farm in Alpha and graduated from Grantsburg HS in 1954. He met Darlene, from Webster, at a dance. They were married at Grace in 1956, with Pastor

Sumwalt officiating and Ed Peterson as a groomsman.

They moved to Spring Lake Park, MN where he worked as manager of Jameson Brothers Cement Contractors for 35 years. After retirement he went to school to learn HVAC and worked for another 10 years at Health Partners Clinic.

Son Greg lives in upstate New York and daughter Robin lives in Grantsburg. He has four grandchildren. He spends 6-8 weeks every summer in New York.

Bob's hobbies included hunting and ice fishing, and he continues to enjoy mechanical work. In fact, when his son raced motorcycles Bob would travel with him across the US and was the mechanic on the motorcycles.

Bob and Darlene returned to Webster in 2009 to help care for her mother, who died in 2012. And they returned to Darlene's home church. Darlene died in 2014 following a two-year battle with cancer. He misses her daily. They had enjoyed traveling, and a favorite place was a spot in Maine where they returned for 13 consecutive years and enjoyed walking along the ocean.

During the Pandemic Bob watches a lot of television. He misses all his friends at Grace.

### March Birthdays & Anniversaries

3/2 Kermit VanRoekel      3/7 Randy & Karen Klink  
3/4 Cheryl Ingalls  
3/13 Keith Carlson  
3/20 Linda Peterson  
3/21 Marj Rand  
3/24 Florence Hoss  
3/26 Bertha Blake  
3/27 Kevin Ingalls  
3/29 Lynn Stromberg

"Hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls." Hebrews 6:19

Dear Anchors of Hope -

Thank you for providing "hope" to our world through your apportionment payment. We are all blessed by your faithfulness.

Grace & Peace -

Rev. Barb Certa-Werner





## Danbury News

***"You never know what people hide under their skin. Everyone has beauty in them. No matter what color, size, or shape they are. I believe that people have what's called pure beauty."*** – Peyton, age 16. Contributed to *The Inter County Leader* by "In a New Light," Peyton's words were graced by her stunning camera shot straight up the trunk of a tall oak tree where several red leaves of Autumn still cling tenaciously. The dark tree broke into Winter's cold pure sky, a sprinkling of crimson added excitement. Alone, the sky, tree and leaves were normal tributes to nature; together they were awesome. Many of us might have walked beneath the tree without looking up. Many of us would have missed the pure beauty.

Looking back on February, we remember a full week of sub-zero temperatures, dazzling sunlight spotlighting frosted trees. Inside, it was possible to see a living video choreographed by good hearts and willing hands. Did I see her working at food give-aways or him splitting and delivering wood? Did we notice those who wore masks and brave faces to keep our polls open on Election Day?

There are changes and losses this year, *and* there is a quiet assuring beauty in how things keep happening. Our Financial Secretary still receives, records, and deposits our contributions; our Treasurer still pays the bills and sends our donations into the community and the world; our Admin Council Co-Chairs still lead our (Zoom) meetings; our Pastors lead Lenten (Zoom) Bible Studies; our Admin Assistant still keeps the (Charge) office open and gets out mailings that keep us connected. Beneath The Church's skin is energy testifying to a belief that pure beauty In God's service does not remain hidden.

**ADMIN COUNCIL MET FEBRUARY 10**, primarily to brainstorm about what we'd like to be when Church reopens. (By agreement, we'd like to be together.) If we keep looking up and around, will God help us fill in some details? If you have ideas, please share them.

**Would you like to add a layer of comfort to people in need? In this newsletter, Pastor Eddie describes how The Community Help Fund stands ready to give aid. INDIVIDUALS ARE ASKED TO THINK ABOUT SENDING A CHECK TO Community Help Fund, c/o Steve Ward, 29377 Earl Drive, Webster. WI 54893.** A contribution of five

or ten dollars could provide a meal or buy gas to get to a doctor appointment, a larger amount would help in even larger ways. Wouldn't it be pure beauty if, when someone enters the Church office asking for assistance, Gladys could still see that the Community Fund could discretely and conservatively cover the immediate need?

THANK YOU!

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** continue for our **World**, all those brought to mind by our Prayer Chain administered by Marj Rand, for Jan Clemenson's ongoing chemotherapy, with gratitude for Jerry Heckman's rehabbing a "new" knee, the gift of a Lenten Bible Study, 200+ kids' masks by Linda Hoyer, as well as every small and large concern or gift. Like on the oak tree, we cling to The Tree; let us ask each other for help with our personal prayers.

**HAPPY SPRING! EASTER SUNDAY IS APRIL 4!**

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS:** Linda Hughes 3/2; Lillian Holmes 3/30 (Lillian Holmes, Specialty Care, Golden Horizons of Sandstone, 1109 Lundorff Dr., Sandstone, MN 55072).

***"Remember that Lent . . . is not just about putting away the bad things. It is more about creating good things and helping the poor and the needy, being kind to people, and much more."***

–Jacob Winters

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Grace & Peace -  
Rev. Barb Certa-Werner

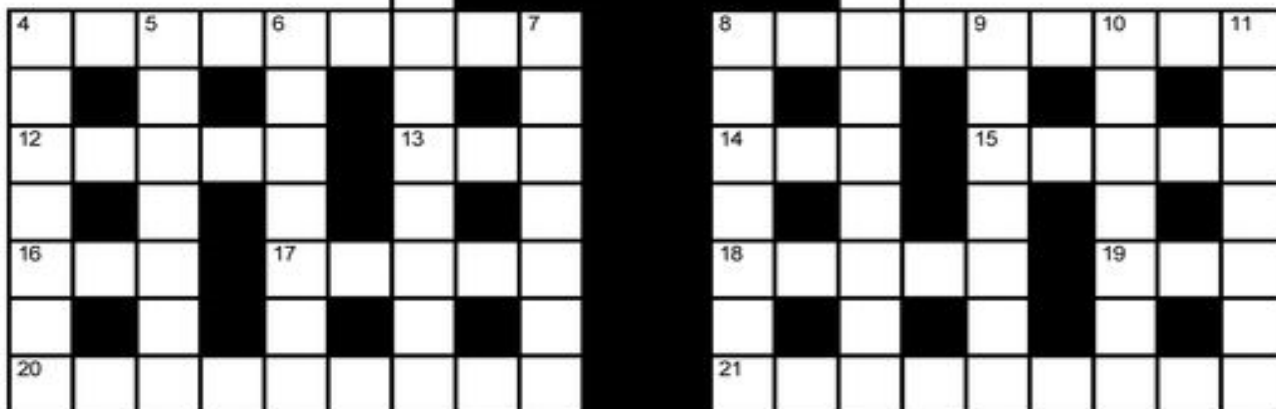
**LENT**  
Pray + Fast + Give



## Bible Crossword X

## Across

- 1 Donkey (3)  
2 Jesus' Father (3)  
4 One of the twelve (9)

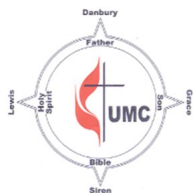


## Down

- 1 One of God's messengers (5,2,3,4)  
3 1940s archaeological find (4,3,7)

- 8 Didn't believe in resurrection (9)  
12 One of David's warriors (5)  
13 First word of the Lord's Prayer (3)  
14 New Testament name for Noah (3)  
15 Wish harm upon (5)  
16 Hole in the ground (3)  
17 Adversary (5)  
18 Saviour (5)  
19 First woman (3)  
20 Mother of John the Baptist (9)  
21 Family of priests (9)  
22 Third son of Jacob (4)  
23 Hates (8)  
26 Assurances (8)  
30 Endured pain (8)  
31 Return from the dead (4)  
32 Intercessor (8)  
35 Decorating (8)  
39 Old Testament book of the Bible (4)  
40 The prince of Rosh, Mesech and Tubal (3)  
42 A wise insect (3)  
44 Dwelling place of kings (6)  
45 Make bigger (8)

- 4 Tread down (7)  
5 Father of Jonah (7)  
6 Very salty water bordering Israel (4,3)  
7 Defensive structures (11)  
8 Refuges (11)  
9 Dirty (7)  
10 Devout (7)  
11 Pieces of money (7)  
24 Used to listen (3)  
25 Used to see (3)  
26 Positions (5)  
27 Made available (7)  
28 Snake (7)  
29 Destroyed along with Gomorrah (5)  
33 Finish (3)  
34 Possess (3)  
35 King of the Amalekites (4)  
36 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)  
37 Almost sacrificed by Abraham (5)  
38 Present (4)  
41 Unfasten (4)  
43 Fish traps (4)



Danbury Grace Siren Lewis  
United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 312  
Webster, WI 54893-0312

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Danbury:**

Worship..... on-line

Bible Study (Mon)..... pending

**Webster Grace:**

Youth Bible Study ..... pending

Bible Study (Tues)..... pending

Worship..... on-line

**Siren**

Sunday School ..... pending

Worship..... on-line

Bible Study (Wed)..... pending

**Lewis**

Worship..... on-line

Office hours are Tuesday thru Thursday (8:30a.m.—4:30p.m.)

Phone: 715-866-8646/[graceumchurch@live.com](mailto:graceumchurch@live.com)

website: [umc4pt.com](http://umc4pt.com)

Pastor Eddie Crise (715-733-0525)

Pastor Tom Cook (715-566-0110)

