



THE MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER

We are in the midst of Lent, that time of preparation that leads us to “Good Friday,” the day of Jesus’ Crucifixion and then on to Easter Sunday and the celebration of his Resurrection. During Lent one of the things we should do to prepare ourselves for that Holy three days is to consider why Jesus died; that’s one reason we’re doing the study “Why Did Jesus Have to Die?” but in this letter I want to lift up a different idea than what’s considered in that book.

In the New Testament book of Hebrews, we have an insight that takes us beyond that day—Good Friday, which takes us beyond anything here on earth and helps us to understand why Jesus died. The author wrote: “Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable **to empathize** with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.” (Hebrews 4: 13-15)

Do you see what I emphasized? It is the word “**empathize**.” In the Greek as in English the word means to enter into another person’s pain. One not only feels for another but also gets connected with the one in need. The author starts by telling us that “**everything is uncovered**” to God! God sees our plight and enters our situation by sending the Son of God—Jesus to us.

Why did Jesus die on the cross? Because God has empathy. (“**For God so loved the world he sent...**”) Over the days of Lent, think about that.

Pastor Leah

P.S. I should add that the author of Hebrews also highlighted how the Christians he was writing to also had empathy. He wrote: “**Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. You suffered along with those in prison...**” (Hebrews 10:33-34) In the Greek that same word is found where I emphasized. As Christians we need to have empathy for others, just like Jesus has for us.

MARCH 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9am-Coffee Hour-FH 10am- Worship Service	2 3pm-Food Addicts-SSR	3 1:30pm-TOPS-FH 11:45am-Lenten Lunch 7pm-Lenten Study-L	4	5 2:30pm-Girl Scouts-SS 7pm-SPPRC-Zoom	6	7
8 9am-Coffee Hour-FH 10am - Worship Service DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME	9 3pm-Food Addicts-SSR 6pm-Girl Scouts-SS 7pm - UMW - FH	10 1:30pm-TOPS 11:45am-Lenen Lunch 7pm-Lenten Study-L	11	12	13	14
15 9am-Coffee Hour-FH 10am - Worship Service UMCOR SUNDAY	16 3pm-Food Addicts-SSR 7pm-Church Council-L	17 1:30pm-TOPS-FH 11:45am-Lenten Lunch 1pm - Book Club - SS 7pm-Lenten Study-L ST. PATRICKS DAY	18	19 7pm-Interfaith Meeting	20 9-9 - Lenten Fish Dinner First Day of Spring	21
22 9am-Coffee Hour-FH 10am - Worship Service	23 3pm-Food Addicts-SSR	24 1:30pm-TOPS-FH 11:45am-Lenten Lunch 7pm-Lenten Study-L	25	26	27 9-9 - Lenten Fish Dinner	28
29 9am-Coffee Hour-FH 9:30am-United Singers 10am - Worship Service PALM SUNDAY	30 3pm-Food Addicts-SSR	31 1:30pm-TOPS-FH 11:45am-Lenten Lunch 7pm-Lenten Study-L	1	2	3	4



LENTEN LUNCHES

Every Tuesday starting February 17th Lenten lunches will be held from 11:45am at the Central Presbyterian Church in Avon. Enjoy a light lunch and dessert with an inspirational talk after from local ministers/pastors. Suggested donation of \$2.00 is appreciated to cover paper products.

ORDERING EASTER SUNDAY FLOWERS

Let us celebrate the risen Christ and rebirth in the land by filling the chancel with beautiful spring flowers on Easter Sunday, April 5th.

Honor dear family and friends and remember loved ones no longer here with Easter Sunday flowers. Choose from lilies, tulips, hyacinths, and daffodils. Make your selections along with dedications on the order form in the back of the sanctuary, in the March newsletter, as well in the weekly bulletins for several Sundays prior to Easter. Please place your order by Sunday, March 22nd.

Please contact Linda Phillips with any questions by text, phone, or email.

585-506-2863

Lindaphillips5495@gmail.com



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before bed March 8th



March 20th





March

Birthdays and Anniversaries

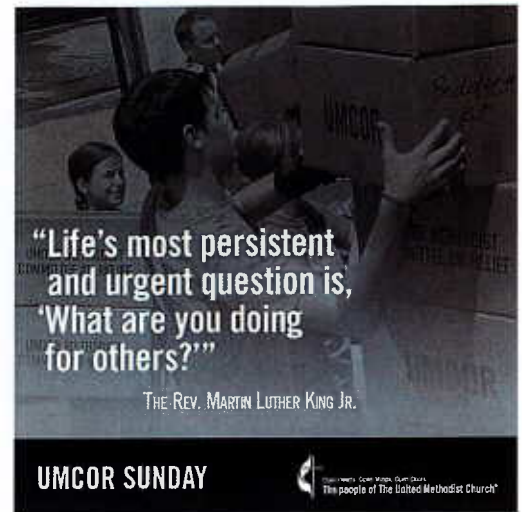
March Anniversaries

Mar 2 Mastin, Don and Sue

March Birthdays

Mar 1 Andrew Cappello
Mar 1 Rachel Stephenson
Mar 2 Amanda Crandall
Mar 4 Cindy Carpenter
Mar 5 Carol Foote
Mar 6 Trevor Gage
Mar 11 Jack Giso
Mar 15 Giovanni Cappello
Mar 15 Janey (Barrett) Keenan
Mar 15 Tricia Neil-Frear
Mar 16 Heather Arnold
Mar 17 Brian Blakely
Mar 18 Betty Dieffenbacher
Mar 19 Kyle Kenyon
Mar 19 Jonathan Stephenson
Mar 19 Daniel Quinlan
Mar 22 Bob Wright
Mar 27 Craig Bailey

UMCOR SUNDAY MARCH 15, 2026



TOGETHER OUR REACH
IS BEYOND MEASURE

Your donation changes the world one life at a time. Give to your church by making your check payable to Avon United Methodist Church.

HOW DO YOUR GIFTS
SUPPORT UMCOR?

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to respond with extravagant grace. Through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), we are able to make a difference in the lives of communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change. This offering underwrites UMCOR's "costs of doing business," allowing UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs.

MARDI GRAS FUN!!

Everyone had a great time at our recent Mardi Gras Celebration!
Thirty people enjoyed delicious food, lots of fun, and most importantly, warm fellowship. We look forward to having another celebration next year. Thanks to all who participated.





On February 9th a group of 12 gathered to attend a Safe Sanctuary Training. The care and safety of children, youth, and vulnerable adults is the upmost importance for our church ministries. The training focused on creating physically and emotionally safe environments for ministry, and reducing risks of abuse. We worked in groups to help learn about identifying risk, proper boundaries, and reporting procedures. It wasn't all business though. The group enjoyed some laughs, pizza, and cookies.

Thanks go to our Rush UMC trainers Alethea and Cindy.



LENTEN FISH DINNERS

March 20th and 27th

4:30 – 7:00 PM
or until sold out

EAT IN OR TAKE OUT

BAKED OR BATTER-FRIED HADDOCK

Baked Potato, Coleslaw, Applesauce,
Roll and Scrumptious Desserts!

Optional Hot dog available for children.

ADULTS \$18.00

CHILDREN 4 - 11 \$10.00

3 AND UNDER FREE

AVON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

130 GENESEE STREET

AVON, NEW YORK

226-8600



EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM 2026

Let us fill the chancel with spring flowers in celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You may participate by ordering plants to honor a special person(s) or event. Plants will be yours to take following the 10:00 am Easter Service.

To order, complete the form below (please print) and send it along with payment by March 22nd. Checks should be made out to Avon United Methodist Church. Orders may be sent to the church or placed in the offering plate. Order forms will be available on several Sunday mornings along with the bulletin.

Please contact Linda Phillips with any questions either in church, or by call or email. (585-506-2863 or lindaphillips5495@gmail.com)

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Given by: _____

In loving memory of: _____

In celebration of: _____

Other dedication: _____

Quantity	Flower Type	Cost (each)	Your Total
	Daffodils	x \$8.00 =	\$
	White Lilies	x \$10.00 =	\$
	Hyacinths	x \$8.00 =	\$
	Tulips	x \$8.00 =	\$

Thank You!

Total # of plants:	
Total Enclosed	\$

HEART OF RUTH

We are a group of seven members: Paster Keith, Steve Stephenson, Jon Lottes, Deb Gage, Stormy Bailey, Laurie Combs, and Sue Moses. We meet every other month at our church.

This group was started by Terry Cullinan many years ago. Our purpose is to reach out to others in our church family who are not able to attend church, or who are dealing with illness or a disease, or who are presently going through difficult times or have done so in the past, or who have moved away.

We want them to know how thankful we are that they are part of our church family and that we are thinking of them and keeping them in our prayers. We do this through a card ministry, phone calls, visits, etc.

Written by Sue Moses

Rivers do not drink their own water, trees do not eat their own fruit, the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is . . . life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you.

Pope Francis

Postmaster:
Time-Dated Material.
Please deliver promptly.
Return Service Requested

 Please recycle.



Visit our website today or scan the code with a smartphone or tablet to go now...

www.avonnyumc.org

(585) 226-8600

Avon, NY 14414

130 Genesee St.

Avon United Methodist Church

The Messenger

MARCH 2026 EDITION