



## Pastor Mary's Posting-

Part of my daily devotions center on the lyrics of hymns. Mary Ann Kidder wrote these words as part of the hymn, *Did You Think to Pray*: "When your heart was filled with anger, did you think to pray? Did you plead for grace that you might forgive another who had crossed your way?"

The purpose of prayer is not to tell God what to do. Have you ever found yourself trying to convince God to change his plans? President Lincoln noted that each side in the Civil War "read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; ... the prayer of both could not be answered." I believe both sides prayed for a quick, easy victory. History has shown us that was not the case. I wonder if in those desperate, dark days anyone closed their prayer like Jesus did: "Thy will be done."

It is a privilege to speak to God in prayer. Over time our relationship with God becomes more deeply entwined as we pray and spend time in the Word. We learn more of his design for our lives. While our prayer may or may not be in harmony with his will, it is a vital part of his plan.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Mary

## It's still cold outside-

While I can't wait for warmer weather, cooking on the grill and a crispy salad, here's a recipe from an old friend for a soup you might not have tried yet this winter.

### FISH CHOWDER

- 2 lbs. haddock or other white fish
- 1/3 c. onion, diced
- 1/4 c. oil
- 2 c. raw potatoes, diced
- 1/8 t. thyme
- 1/8 t. pepper
- 1 1/2 c. water
- 1 t. salt
- 2 T. butter
- 2 T. flour
- 1 qt. milk

Flake fish. Saute onion in oil about 5 minutes, until soft but not brown. Add fish, potatoes, seasoning and water. Cover and cook gently about 15-20 minutes until tender. Make a white sauce of the butter, flour and milk. Add to fish mixture and heat. 4-6 servings.



## Make-n-Take Meals

*Old Mother Hubbard went to the cupboard,  
to get her hungry family a meal.  
And when she got there, the cupboard was  
full of wonderful meals to prepare.*

Not exactly the rhyme as you remember it? Your cupboard needn't be bare again if you join in the fun of Make-n-Take meals on Monday, March 29 from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. All of the ingredients and utensils needed will be organized for you to assemble these tasty meals in the church kitchen. They will be ready to store in your freezer for use at your convenience for your family. 'Home-made', nutritious meals, at a fraction of the cost of eating out.

Complete the registration and return, with your payment, to Ronda in the church office by March 19. Please indicate the entrée/entrees and portion size you would like to prepare as well as the time that works best for you. You are welcome to assist with arranging the assembly stations or assisting with clean-up.

### Glazed Mandarin Chicken

Your family will ask for more of this chicken marinated in tasty mandarin sauce.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Full portion (serves 6-8) \$9
- \_\_\_\_\_ Half portion (serves 3-4) \$6

### Baked Ravioli

Cheese ravioli baked with a full-flavored meat and marina sauce.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Full portion (serves 6) \$9
- \_\_\_\_\_ Half portion (serves 2-3) \$6

### Beef and Bean Burritos

Tasty burritos to eat at the table or take in your lunch box.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Full portion (serves 6) \$9
- \_\_\_\_\_ Half portion (serves 2-3) \$6

### World's Best BBQ Pork

That's what the recipe is really called, and my friends rave over this.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Full portion (serves 6-8) \$9
- \_\_\_\_\_ Half portion (serves 2-3) \$6

### French Apple Pie

You will make a pie with fresh apples, cinnamon, and a crumble topping.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 9 inch pie \$8

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 5:30 \_\_\_ 6:00 \_\_\_ 6:30 \_\_\_ 7:00

- \_\_\_ I would like to help set up stations.
- \_\_\_ I would like to help with clean-up.

## GREETINGS FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

Mercy! Say that three times quickly.

As I am sitting here writing this, I am thinking "Spring". Pastor Mary informed me today that there are still 34 days until spring begins and snow is forecasted for each day the rest of this week.

Everyone gets the hum-drums of winter and we need our spirit refreshed about this time of year. A good place to have that happen is attending church gatherings of some kind.

Each week Aurora UMC offers Rejoice! for children K-5 grade, youth groups for middle school and high school age and Sunday school each Sunday morning. This would be a great time to try something new and get your spirit a spring push.

Some people have been asking about the Youth Mission Trip planned for June. Ten youth and 3 sponsors will be traveling to Nashville, Tennessee and will be there for a week. While there, we will be assigned a task to help in mission work. We do not know the type of work or where we will be working at this time.

**There will be a breakfast between services on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> to help fund this mission trip. Plan to attend and support this mission for the Lord's work.**

The children will again be singing on Sunday, March 28. There will not be any activities on Wednesday night March 10 due to school not being in session.

Registration has begun at all three of our Nebraska UM Camps. You can visit each site on the web at [www.campcomeca.com](http://www.campcomeca.com), [www.campfontanelle.com](http://www.campfontanelle.com), [www.norwesca.org](http://www.norwesca.org). Online registration for all programs can be found at [www.umcneb.org/register](http://www.umcneb.org/register). The 2010 summer camp brochures are also available at the church. To get your first choice of the program offerings, pick up a brochure or go to [www.umcneb.org/register](http://www.umcneb.org/register) today. If you have any questions, please contact Comeca at 308-784-2808, Fontanelle at 402-478-4296, or Norwesca at 308-432-3872. Very generous financial aid is available to all campers.

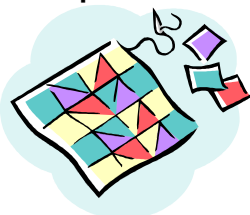
Until next month-THINK WARM  
Randy Shackleton



### TLC PRESCHOOL NEWS

THE GOOD SAMARITAN, QUILTS, FEELINGS, AND DINOSAURS....ALL THESE THINGS STRETCHED OUR MINDS AT TLC LAST MONTH. CHILDREN EXPLORED WHO OUR NEIGHBORS ARE AND HOW WE CAN SHOW GOD'S LOVE.

GENENE WILLIS HELPED EACH CHILD MAKE THEIR OWN QUILT SQUARE AND WE HAVE PUT THEM ALL TOGETHER TO MAKE A CLASS QUILT. THANKS TO GENENE FOR HER EXPERTISE. CHECK OUT OUR QUILT IN THE PRESCHOOL HALLWAY.



OUR VALENTINE PARTY WAS A BIG HIT WHEN MOMS SHARLENE OSENTOWSKI, LARISSA GROSS, AND SHELLEY CARMICHAEL-SMITH PUT TOGETHER LOTS OF FUN ACTIVITIES AND GOOD FOOD FOR THE CHILDREN.

WE MADE DINOSAUR FOSSILS AND PAINTED THEM. WE USED COOKED SPAGHETTI TO MAKE A DINOSAUR PICTURE AND PLAYED A GAME CALLED, "COUNT THE DINOSAURS."

WE CONTINUE TO ENJOY OUR TIME WITH NURSE CATHERINE. THIS MONTH WE'VE PLAYED MUSICAL CHAIRS, LONDON BRIDGES, AND PEAS, PORRIDGE HOT.



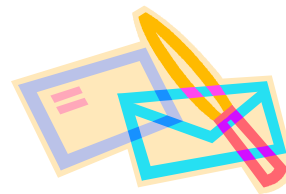
REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR NEXT YEAR'S PRESCHOOL CLASSES. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (694-6471 X. 21) OR KATHY (694-2325) OR TAMARA (694-6600).

KATHY CAROL, TAMARA, &

### Offering Envelopes

Since the new offering envelopes do not have numbers on them, it is very important to **put your name on the envelope** when tithing (especially when using cash). That will assist us in insuring your Giving Statement is accurate. We appreciate your help!

The Money Counters



### Our Church Family News:

Proudly Serving Our Country

#### REGIER, TYSON

Tyson Regier  
B TROOP 1-91 CAV  
FOB Altimur  
APO AE 09364  
E-MAIL: [tyson.regier@us.army.mil](mailto:tyson.regier@us.army.mil)

#### HEINS, MARK

2031 Evergreen Way-SW  
McCord Air Force WA 98439

#### SPC. HANSON, JOHN

C-TROOP 1-10 CAV  
2346 Specker Ave  
Box 112  
Ft. Carson CO 80913

## Marriage

Congratulations to Geoff Griffin and Cheyann Rath who were united in marriage Jan. 15, 2010 in our sanctuary.

## Baptisms

Braden Gregory Wolinski was baptized into our community of faith on February 28, 2010. Braden was born October 20, 2009 to Ken and Tammy Wolinski.

Dillon Roy Karr was baptized into our community of faith on February 28, 2010. Dillon was born on November 10, 2009 to Dan and Mandy Karr.

## Deaths

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Clifford Williams who passed away January 5, 2010. His service of death and resurrection was held in our sanctuary January 11.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Richard Bristol who passed away January 10, 2010. His service of death and resurrection was held in our sanctuary January 14.

Our sympathy is extended to Rebecca Rouse and family upon the passing of her father, Charles Skarin. Services were in Blue Hill on Monday, January 11, 2010.

Our sympathy is extended to Dave Long and family upon the passing of his father, Kenneth Long, on January 13, 2010. Services were Saturday, January 16.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Ida Reichardt who passed away on January 15, 2010. Graveside services were January 18.

Our sympathy is extended to Julie Christensen and family upon the death of her mother, Bonnie Hermanson, who passed away January 22, 2010. Funeral services were January 26. at Kronberg. Tamera Wert is her granddaughter.

Our sympathy is extended to Leland Stump upon the death of his grandmother, Jean Stump, on February 20. She lived in Louisiana. Services were February 24, 2010 in Denver.

## “Volunteer Opportunity”

Occasionally, our list of volunteers gets short with people being sick, away for the winter months, the weather conditions, other obligations, vacations, etc. If you would be willing to be called to help fold the monthly newsletter, weekly bulletin, deliver bulletins to facilities i.e. Crossroads Court, East Park Villa, Hamilton Manor and Community Care, etc., please call the office.

There is never an obligation to say “yes” when you are called but sometimes it is an opportunity to get out of the house and the serve your church and our Lord.

## Greetings from the Yarn Spinners

Ask and ye shall receive! We were greeted with a wonderful surprise Wednesday morning--a box with 21 skeins of yarn, asking to be made into prayer shawls. There was no name, so to whomever left the yarn -- A GREAT BIG THANK YOU. Your generosity has touched our hearts, and will be passed on as a blessing to someone else.



Senior afghans are coming along nicely. Hopefully, we have picked colors each graduate will enjoy, as they take a part of their home church with them as they begin their journey through life on their own.

Remember, if you would like to join in creating shawls, you can call for a pattern, and pick up yarn at the church, or contact one of the Yarn Spinners. Ronda can help you contact us.

Barb Hruza  
402.631.8354  
[pikegirl@neb.rr.com](mailto:pikegirl@neb.rr.com)

## MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Dates to remember:

March 10: No Youth Group-- Spring Break

March 19: Prairie Rivers District

Lock-in @ Hastings YMCA

March 24: Movie Night@12<sup>th</sup>Street Cinema



## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Sr. High Youth Group meets at the Moyer home with 16-21 kids in attendance each week. “e-Merge” is the curriculum being used with positive reviews. They went bowling on February 11 and on March 24 they will attend the “Silver Ring Thing” i-Tour in Aurora.

## Outreach Committee

### Food Pantry

During this Lenten season, support the Hamilton County Food Pantry by making a cash donation when you pay for your groceries at the Aurora Mall and Super Foods. Share with those who call for our support as this long winter comes to an end. We are blessed to have such opportunities!



## Nickels for Nigeria

Again this year, the staff and students of Rejoice will collect funds to support the orphanage in Jalingo, Nigeria, that began operation in 2001 as the Nigeria/Nebraska Partnership with the United Methodist Church.

### SOUTHERN DINNER & FISH FRY

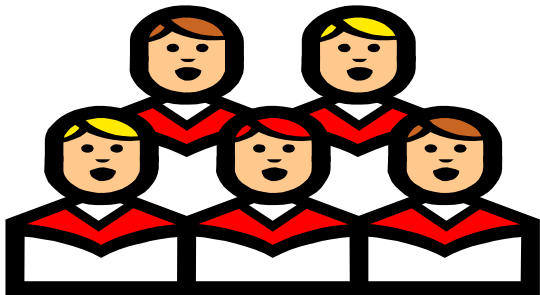
**Sunday, March 28 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.**

Be sure to mark your calendars for Sunday evening, March 28 – our church's 5th annual Southern Dinner & Fish Fry will take place between 5:00 and 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by the **Outreach Committee**, this delicious event will benefit victims of the earthquakes in **Haiti** this year.

All proceeds will go to **UMCOR** (the United Methodist Committee on Relief). UMCOR is a unique program, in that every dollar you give goes directly to the designated program. No administrative costs – UMCOR is 100% efficient. This is possible through the donations that you make each year during the "One Great Hour of Sharing".

We still need help, so be sure to sign up to donate food and/or manpower. We will have sign-up sheets at church on March 14 and 21, or you can call Patti Kell at 694-6370 or 631-8642.

This event is open to the public, so invite your friends and neighbors – see y'all here on March 28!



### John Brown University

John Brown University Cathedral Choir will be performing in our sanctuary March 25 at 7:00 p.m. There are a number of ways you will have the opportunity to assist during their visit such as providing overnight housing with breakfast the next morning, transportation to your home and back to the church the next morning, someone to meet the bus upon arrival, a light meal prior to the concert, ushering for the concert, volunteering to be the sound technician, just to mention a few of the opportunities. When you know that you are willing volunteer, please call the church office. There are 52 student to house.

### United Methodist Men

At the February meeting, Ken Killion provided the devotional message that highlighted the Christian strengths of presidents Washington and Lincoln.

Each of these men began their day with prayer. The Ground Hog Roast netted over \$1800.00 that will be donated to the Trustees to assist with parking lot repairs. A donation to support distribution of copies of "Strength for Service – TO GOD AND COUNTRY" books to men and women serving in Haiti was made to General Conference on United Methodist Men. The program was a presentation by Barb Johnson that highlighted the mission of the Hamilton County food pantry and provided a history of the food pantry from its beginnings by Jay Mitchell in First Christian Church. In 2009 the pantry served 160 families. Summer months are the time when donations are the lowest. Ken Killion and Gerald Holtzen provided lunch. Next meeting will be March 15 at 7PM in Fellowship Hall.

### FAREWELL COFFEE

Deborah Circle is hosting a farewell coffee for DALVA COFFEE on March 9 at the Aurora Methodist Church. You are invited to come at 9:30 am to hear Dalva tell about her recent mission trip to Cuba or come anytime between 10:00 am and 11:30 am for coffee and a chance to say good-bye. Dalva will be moving to Texas on March 16.

Deborah Circle  
Aurora UMW



### United Methodist Women

March is fast approaching. Hopefully signs of spring will come with it. The ladies of the UMW had their Prayer and Self-Denial unit meeting in February. Our guest speakers were from the Kruse House in Grand Island, a partner with Epworth. They told how the boys were selected to live at Kruse House, that they are integrated with the public schools, that they have household chores, and are being prepared to live their lives out in the community.

Did you know??? 79+ books were read last year by our circle members. Each circle also reads the Response Magazine. I know more books were read by some that do not qualify in our Reading Program. Great job ladies!!!

Upcoming Dates to remember:

Mission Team Meeting: March 3, 2010 @ 3:00 p.m.  
Spring Retreat at Central City, April 17, 2010.  
Registrations are due April 5, 2010.

Norma Wert  
UMW President



## Finance Committee Comments--

On February 21<sup>st</sup>, I gave a talk on the dire financial condition our church is in. One of the problems we are having is the weather. We have had so many Sundays with bad weather, and poor attendance. The day I picked to speak, we had cold winds, and blowing snow, again.

When people miss a Sunday, they very seldom make up that Sunday's giving. When we have seven or eight of those blizzard Sundays since December, the giving is very hard, if not impossible to make up. One of the easiest ways to make sure your giving is continued in your absence is to use an Electronic Funds Transfer from your bank. You can set it up to automatically send your offering to church. You can arrange it to have it taken out weekly, monthly, or twice a month. We will have cards in the pews for you to put into the plate to show that you have given through EFT

As it stands right now, we do not have enough money to meet February bills and payroll. We have made a token payment on Mission Shares, but we are now two months behind. By the time this letter is published, we will know how it turned out. December, January, and February are the best giving months of the year. These months usually give us the padding to get through the extremely lean summer months. If we can't take care of business now, what will happen this summer?

I really don't want to be in charge of recommending which programs or positions need to be eliminated. To survive, a church must continue to grow spiritually and to fulfill the needs of the community. That won't happen, if we start cutting activities.

We really want to see you in church. We miss your smiling faces, and we miss your financial support!!.

Steve Leach  
Financial Committee Chair



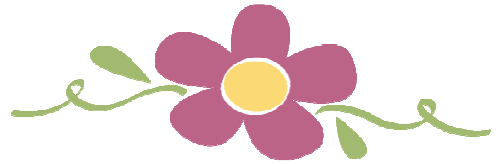
## HAITI RELIEF

*According to a bill passed in Congress, contributions for Haiti earthquake relief made between January 12 and February 28, 2010, will be allowed as a deduction on 2009 tax returns. Taxpayers are not required to claim a 2010 contribution in 2009 but have the option to do so.*

# THINK SPRING!

## Newsletter Going Green

**Each month the church snail-mails over 450 newsletters to members and friends of the church. It is available on-line at [umc-aurora.org](http://umc-aurora.org) (go to "Services" where there is a dropdown menu and you will find "This Month's Newsletter"). Just the postage is \$0.17 per newsletter, it would "save a tree", and the clipart is in color!! So if you would prefer to "Go Green" for the newsletter, let us know—call the office (402.694.6471), email the church @ [auroraumc@hamilton.net](mailto:auroraumc@hamilton.net), leave a note in the attendance pad, or stop by the church. We'd love to see you!!**



## PARISH NURSE NOTES

It has been a long winter—at least it seems that way. Road conditions have been bad,, there have been many days in a row of dark grey clouds. Many families were not able to get together at Christmas. The recession has left some people jobless or without a home. Several individuals in our community have experienced deaths within their families. Others privately mourn the consequences of mistakes made or health issues faced without health insurance. Pain is a reality of life.

During this season of Lent, we are reminded of the difficulties leading up to the crucifixion of Christ. The disciples were in danger. Some fell asleep when Christ requested their attentiveness. One lied, not once but three times. One betrayed his savior and then was not able to endure the consequences of his actions and hung himself. And then there was death itself—not just Christ's death, but the torture Christ endured before breathing his last, while those who loved him witnessed the brutality of his dying. More disbelief followed—fear, mourning and that disorienting experience of how to move on after a crisis.

Then something amazing happened. Yes—you know the rest of the story! Not only was the tomb empty, but Christ appeared to his disciples. It's like when the sun appears after days of darkness—all of a sudden spring seems like a possibility and the mood is lifted. But because we have lived through trouble, somehow we are able to appreciate feeling whole all the more. Sometimes trouble gives us new perspectives that we never would have gained if we hadn't been "conditioned" for what lies beyond it. This is the experience of Lent leading us to HOPE. It allows us to gain empathy for others—to be able to forgive—to be assured of salvation—to know that darkness will end. It allows us to appreciate the gifts of others shared—it allows us to love our neighbor in a new sense of wholeness.

"In the world you shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

John 16: 33

To your health,  
C. Rahrs, RN, Parish Nurse



## March Calendar

- March 1, Monday  
6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
- March 2, Tuesday  
9:00 a.m. TLC  
9:00 a.m. Parish Nurse  
9:30 a.m. Bible Study  
5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts  
Christian Education 7:00 p.m.  
Rachael Circle 7:30 p.m.
- March 3, Wednesday  
9:00 a.m. TLC  
10:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m. Yarn Spinners  
5:30 p.m. Rejoice!! K-5<sup>th</sup> grades  
6:30 p.m. Hand Bell Choir  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir  
7:00 p.m. NAMI—Nurse's Office  
7:30 p.m. MS & HS UMYF  
7:30 p.m. Prayer Time
- March 4, Thursday  
9:00 a.m. TLC  
9:00 a.m. Parish Nurse
- March 5, Friday
- March 6, Saturday
- March 7, Sunday—Food Pantry Collection  
**Mission Trip Breakfast—between services**  
8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Praise Worship
- March 8, Monday  
7:00 p.m. Trustees
- March 9, Tuesday  
9:00 a.m. TLC  
9:00 a.m. Parish Nurse  
9:30 a.m. Deborah Circle  
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
- March 10, Wednesday  
9:00 a.m. TLC  
10:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m. Yarn Spinners  
NO REJOICE—SPRING BREAK  
6:30 p.m. Hand Bell Choir  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir  
7:00 p.m. NAMI—Nurse's Office  
7:30 p.m. MS & HS UMYF  
7:30 p.m. Prayer Time
- March 11, Thursday  
NO TLC—SPRING BREAK  
9:00 a.m. Parish Nurse  
9:30-3:30 WIC
- March 12, Friday
- March 13, Saturday  
9:00—Noon Confirmation Class #2
- March 14, Sunday—Daffodil Sunday  
8:45 a.m. **Bell Choir Concert**  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Praise Worship
- March 15, Monday  
7:00 p.m. United Methodist Men (UMM)  
7:00 p.m. Worship Committee
- March 16, Tuesday  
9:00 a.m. TLC  
9:00 a.m. Parish Nurse  
9:30 a.m. Bible Study  
2:00 p.m. Dorcas Circle  
7:00 p.m. Finance Committee
- March 17, Wednesday  
9:00 a.m. TLC  
10:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m. Yarn Spinners  
5:30 p.m. Rejoice!! K-5<sup>th</sup> grades  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir  
7:00 p.m. NAMI—Nurse's Office  
7:30 p.m. MS & HS UMYF  
7:30 p.m. Prayer Time
- March 18, Thursday  
9:00 a.m. TLC  
9:00 a.m. Parish Nurse  
7:00 p.m. Evangelism Committee
- March 19, Friday  
Deadline for Make-n-Take Meals  
10:00 p.m. Youth District Lock-in  
@YMCA in Hastings
- March 20, Saturday
- March 21, Sunday—Chancel Choir  
8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship-Bell Choir  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Praise Worship  
5:00--7:00 p.m. Bradshaw Pancake Feed  
5:00--7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Pancake Feed
- March 22, Monday—Bloodmobile 11:30--5:30  
7:00 p.m. SPRC
- March 23, Tuesday—Bloodmobile 11:30-5:30  
9:00 a.m. TLC  
9:00 a.m. Parish Nurse  
9:30 a.m. Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. Admin. Council
- March 24, Wednesday  
9:00 a.m. TLC  
9:00 a.m. TLC  
10:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m. Yarn Spinners  
5:30 p.m. Rejoice!! K-5<sup>th</sup> grades  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir  
7:00 p.m. NAMI—Nurse's Office  
7:30 p.m. MS & HS UMYF  
7:30 p.m. Prayer Time
- March 25, Thursday  
9:00 a.m. TLC  
9:00 a.m. Parish Nurse  
9:00 a.m. TLC  
**7:00 p.m. John Brown University  
Chancel Choir Concert**
- March 26, Friday
- March 27, Saturday  
9:00—Noon Confirmation Class #3
- March 28, Sunday—Rejoice & Sunday School  
Children Sing @ both services  
8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship-Bell Choir  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Praise Worship  
5:00--6:30 p.m. Southern Dinner
- March 29, Monday  
5:30-7:00 p.m. Make-n-Take Meals
- March 30, Tuesday  
9:00 a.m. TLC  
9:00 a.m. Parish Nurse  
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
- March 31, Wednesday  
9:00 a.m. TLC  
10:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m. Yarn Spinners  
5:30 p.m. Rejoice!! K-5<sup>th</sup> grades  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir  
7:00 p.m. NAMI—Nurse's Office  
7:30 p.m. MS & HS UMYF  
7:30 p.m. Prayer Time