

United Parish
801 Main
Box 175
Bottineau, ND 58318
Facebook
We are on the web
www.unitedparishbottineau.com

Newsletter News:

Send
unitedparishbottineau@gmail.com

Deadline for April Newsletter is
March 29 - looking for articles

Church office - 228-2800

Secretary - 228-8123

Please let the church know if you have
a e-mail address



The reason your wind shield is bigger than your back window is: Where you are going is a lot bigger than where you have been!

A man is talking to God. "God, how long is a million years?" God answers, "To me, it's about a minute." "God, how much is a million dollars?" "To me, it's a penny." "God, may I have a penny?" "Wait a minute."

March 3

7:00 Lenten Service at United parish
Parish Council to follow

March 7

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship Service

March 10

7:00 Lenten Worship at First Lutheran

March 14

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship Service

March 17

7:00 Lenten Worship at United Parish

March 21

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship Service

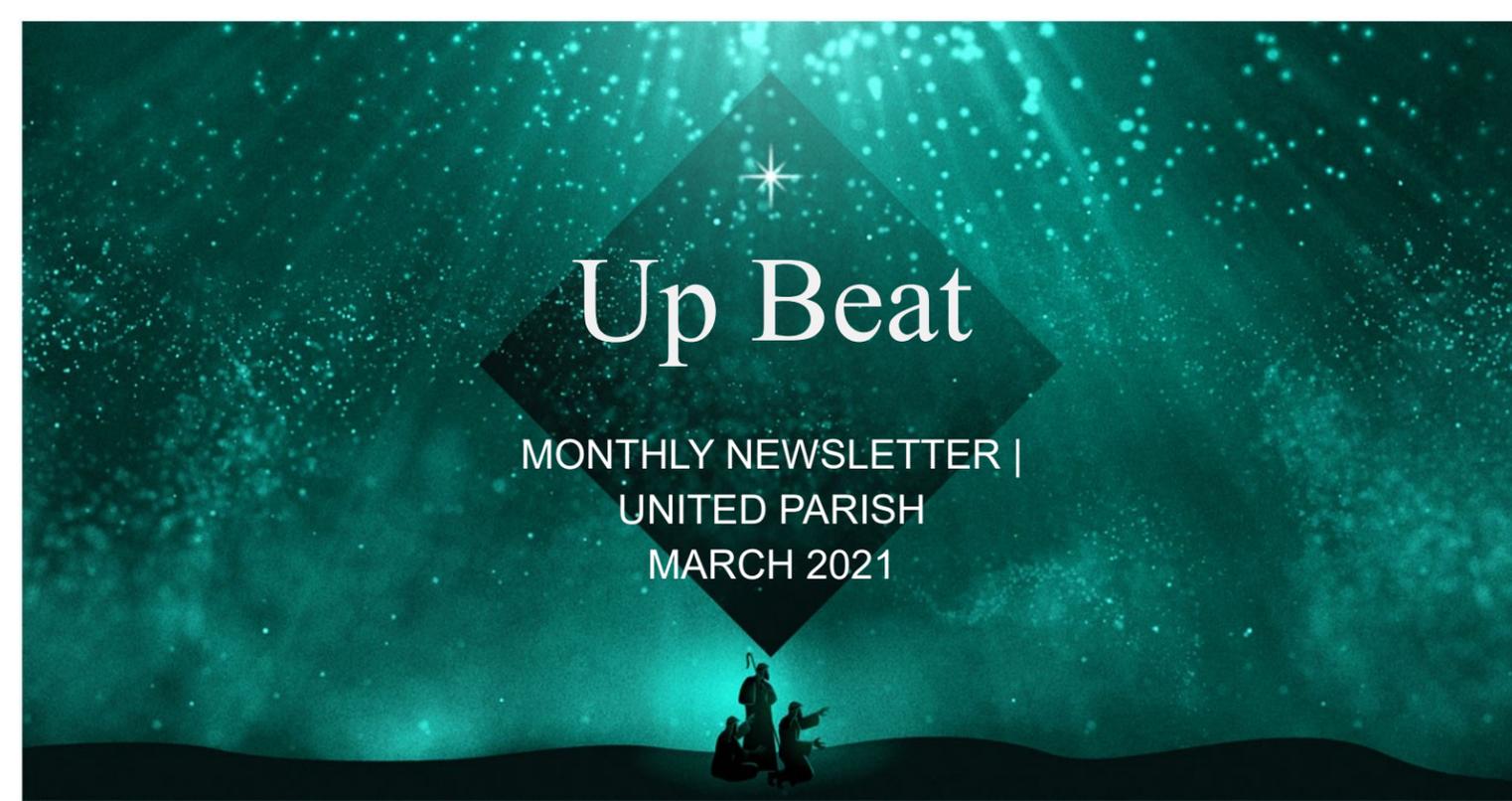
March 24

7:00 Lenten Worship at First Lutheran

March 28

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship Service

All groups can meet at their own desecration.



Lent not a time of 'giving up,' but of 'taking' time to be with God

By Nancy Sylvester

There is a wisdom in the liturgical cycle. The yearly remembering of the life of Jesus of Nazareth accompanies our own evolving self. It invites us to engage the scriptural story anew with the insights, concerns and deepening awareness of who we are and who we are becoming. It assures us that life-death-new life continues throughout our life and our time.

When I was growing up, Lent was a special time to stop and spend more time with God. It was 40 days bracketed in the middle of the 365 days of our regular life. Many of us might only remember Lent as the time when you "gave up" things — candy, favorite TV shows, movies. You couldn't wait for Sunday. For some reason, Sunday freed you of these sacrifices and you could indulge yourself eating candy all day if you wanted (at least that was my Chicago Catholic memory).

As I think about this year, "giving up" is certainly not needed. We have experienced the loss of so much throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Most things we have not chosen to give up: Rather, they were taken from us. Seeing parents, family, friends, the birth of new grandchildren; special celebrations for birthdays, graduations, anniversaries canceled; high school and college sports truncated; and classroom education replaced by online teaching. Jobs lost; housing evictions; reduced income; getting sick with COVID-19 and dying of COVID-19. And the list can go on.

We have changed. This year has both taken a toll on us and — hopefully — given us new insights into what is important, what can be let go and what is essential. However, as we face more months of potential mask wearing and physical distancing, emotions still seethe in us, as do questions and wonderings about the future.

Instead of *giving up* anything else, perhaps what is needed is *taking* more time to spend with God this Lent. There are many ways to do this, but one that might be illuminating is to engage with the story of Jesus' life as expressed in one of the Gospels.

It is not simply to read the daily readings, but rather to choose one Gospel and enter into a dialogue with it, after having experienced a full year of the effects of the pandemic.

The story line is similar to ours. Jesus lived in a tumultuous time. There were divisions within the political and religious groups. People were sick and in need of healing. Certain types of people were considered outcasts. There were entitled groups who flaunted privileges that oppressed others.

Jesus entered his public time in ministry by being tempted. Power, wealth and self-sufficiency were offered to him and he struggled to respond. He experienced rejection and ridicule. He was a frontline worker who tirelessly healed the suffering of those he encountered. He was tortured, accused of a crime he did not commit and he suffered the death penalty of the time — crucifixion. He even cried out in desperation, seeking the God who he felt abandoned him.



Lenten Poem by Ann Weems

Lent is a time to take time to let the power
of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events get up
and walk around in us,
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of
Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and
listen to his Word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder....
Lent is a time to allow
a fresh new taste of God!
Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think,
for thoughts come unbidden.
Perhaps we're afraid to face our future
knowing our past.
Give us courage, O God,
to hear your Word
and to read our living into it.
Give us the trust to know we're forgiven
and give us the faith
to take up our lives and walk.

BEST POEM IN THE WORLD

I was shocked, confused, bewildered
As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
Nor the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven
Who made me sputter and gasp—

The thieves, the liars, the sinners,
The alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade
Who swiped my lunch money! Twice.
Next to him was my old neighbor
Who never said anything nice.

Herb, who I always thought
Was rotting away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal?
Would love to hear Your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake.

'And why's everyone so quiet,
So somber – give me a clue.'
'Hush, child,' He said, 'they're all in
shock.
No one thought they'd be seeing you.'

JUDGE NOT.

Remember...Just going to church doesn't
make you a Christian
Any more than...Standing in your garage
makes you a car.

**"A cheerful heart is good
medicine" (Prov. 17:22)**



March

11 – Gloria Olson	12 – Eric Sand
18 – Jordan Kippen	23 – Marsha Martin
25 – Nick Milbrath	27 – Dwight Olson
28 – Sara Milbrath	



5- Ken & Nora Bangs



BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Z C W B D M L O K S S Y Y H X
U D R E E R V E A Q P Z Q E G
I H E A V E N S V V S D D H L
Q T F R S D R P V A O U W E O
V C O O O E G E L D Y E S N E
O C R M Q M X V I E C J W E F
P A G U B P A S S O R C K L J
S F I H C T C N N X K S I A I
O Z V Q I I R I S N W W Z D S
A R E O P O F S K K M Y K G Q
L E N L H N O I S N E C S A E
H T E T J K D I X V K B A M R
L S S U M E D O C I N P R Y C
N A S K M Q Q C N G O Y B L O
R E S U R R E C T I O N E I X
A R O S E A S C E N S I O N C R O S S C R U C I F I X I O N
D I S C I P L E S E A S T E R F O R G I V E N E S S H E A V E N J E S U S
M A G D A L E N E N I C O D E M U S R E D E M P T I O N
R E S U R R E C T I O N R O M A N S S A L V A T I O N
S I N S T H O R N S T O M B