

First Things First

“I lift my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth”

Psalm 121:1-2

Dear First UMC,

It’s the most wonderful time of the year... the time when the light returns! I’ve driven my son to daycare all week in glee – I can SEE the mountains! The returning light seems to sneak up on us... Though we gain incrementally each day, I have this moment every spring where I stop and say, “Oh! It’s light again!” as if the shift was rather sudden. And perhaps for many of us, it is. There is an inflection point where we move from the depths of winter into the hope of Spring, a moment where suddenly we find ourselves facing a new direction – no longer looking deep into the winter, but instead with our eyes to the hills, hope of the dawn on the horizon.

I won’t pretend like this shift is a panacea for all that is wrong in the world. Certainly, the daily struggles, relationship challenges, illnesses, and stresses don’t disappear. But we do find new energy in facing them. And perhaps that’s the golden wisdom from this psalm. Turning our eyes to the hills is a conscious decision. We must stop what we are doing and intentionally look up. The act of shifting our attention is an act of faith. A step that takes us from the all-consuming reality in front of us, into the bigger picture God has for the world.

Friends, my prayer is that you can make that shift this week. Yes, I know, it’s still winter. I write this as it’s blizzarding outside. AND YET, look up. Do it, do it now. As the adage goes, ‘those who worry suffer twice.’ May our worry turn to hope, and may we trust God to hold the suffering. For surely the dawn is coming, our hope is on the horizon, our help comes from the Lord. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Your fellow disciple in Christ,
Pastor Emily

Open Office Hours: Tuesday 1pm to 4pm and Wednesday 9am to 12pm.

Availability to meet by appointment: Monday – Thursday, 8am to 4pm, and as needed.

Email: pastor@firstumcanchorage.org

Office Phone: 907-272-2112

Sabbath (days off): Friday and Saturday (I don’t look at email or respond to calls or texts these days unless it is an emergency)

Emergency Pastoral Care: 907-315-1110

Sunday Services

Worship:
10:15 am

In this issue:

Parent’s
Night Out **2**

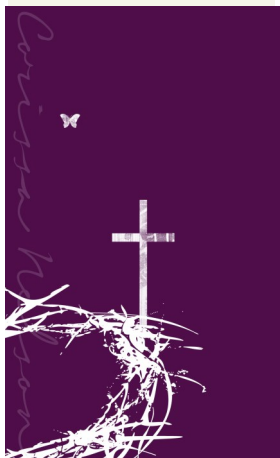
United Women
in Faith **2**

Meet & Greet **3**

Lenten Food
Drive **4**

Book Club **5**

Calendar &
Birthdays **6**



United Women in Faith to make care sacks

March 2023

United
Women
in Faith



St. John's United Women in Faith will once again make "care sacks" for friends, family and women in our lives who might just need a little pick-me-up during these cold winter months. This involves collecting items (candles, notepads, pens, candies, tea bags, pocket hugs, etc), and assembling them in cloth bags with a note. At the last meeting, each attendee will choose some women who would receive these gifts of love. Items can be brought to the church office or given to Debbie Pintsch or Linda Heim on Sunday morning. Bags will be assembled at the next 2nd Saturday meeting at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 11 in Room 163.



St. John UMC | March 4, 2023 - 5-8pm

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

A fundraiser for St. John Youth's July Mission Trip. Youth will provide and lead activities with children at the church for parents to have a night out!

Activities: games, light dinner, crafts, movie, etc.

Cost: Free will donation (suggested \$30/child, \$60/family)

RSVP to PastorAutumn@StJohnAnchorage.org by March 2

Meet and Greet with Bishop Bridgeforth

We are hosting a Meet and Greet for laity with Bishop Bridgeforth on Saturday March 18th from 5:30-7:30pm. Light finger foods, etc. Come meet our new Bishop, bring a dish of finger foods to share! This will be a great time of sharing with each other.

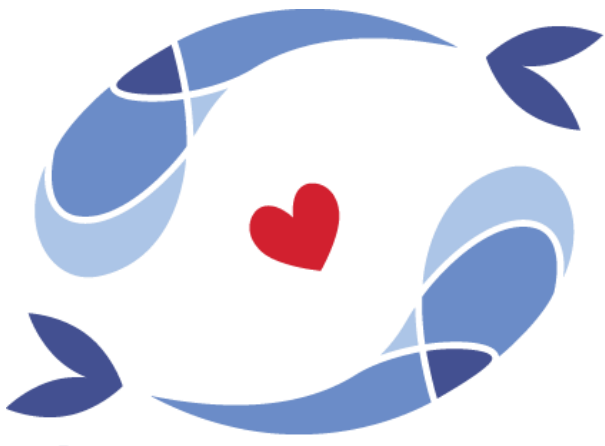


RETHINKCHURCH®
LENT 2023
PHOTO-A-DAY CHALLENGE

EACH DAY DURING LENT, WE WILL POST A WORD OF THE DAY. WE INVITE YOU TO PAUSE, REFLECT AND POST A RESPONSE ON YOUR PLATFORM OF CHOICE TAGGED WITH #RETHINKCHURCH. YOUR POST SHOULD ILLUSTRATE HOW YOU PERCEIVE EACH WORD OF THE DAY. NO EXPLANATION NEEDED. YOU CAN SHARE A PHOTO, POEM, VIDEO OR EVEN A SIMPLE THOUGHT.

<p>FEBRUARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22 - CONSUME 23 - WILDERNESS 24 - TEST 25 - WORSHIP 26 - CELEBRATE 27 - SHONE 28 - DAZZLING 	<p>MARCH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - BELOVED 2 - OVERCOME 3 - ALONE 4 - VISION 5 - CELEBRATE 6 - DEEP 7 - SPRING 8 - HARVEST 9 - COMPLETE 10 - SOWS 11 - BELIEVED 12 - CELEBRATE 	<p>13 - REVEALED</p> <p>14 - WORKS</p> <p>15 - OPENED</p> <p>16 - ASTONISHING</p> <p>17 - SEE</p> <p>18 - REMAINS</p> <p>19 - CELEBRATE</p> <p>20 - MESSAGE</p> <p>21 - LOVE</p> <p>22 - CONSOLE</p> <p>23 - GIVE</p> <p>24 - LIVE</p>	<p>25 - LOUD</p> <p>26 - CELEBRATE</p> <p>27 - DISCIPLES</p> <p>28 - NEEDS</p> <p>29 - PROPHET</p> <p>30 - HUMBLE</p> <p>31 - BLESSED</p>	<p>APRIL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - TURMOIL 2 - CELEBRATE 3 - EARLY 4 - REMOVED 5 - LOOKING 6 - HOLD 7 - CARRIED 8 - ANNOUNCED <p>EASTER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 - CELEBRATE
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#RETHINKCHURCH



FISH

friends in serving humanity

Families in Need

Hundreds of families in Alaska are without the SNAP benefits due to processing delays. This means that children are going hungry. We can help! Please bring food donations to First UMC to support the FISH Food Pantry during Lent. Use the list below with suggested items for donation and bring them to church! We will make sure the food goes to feed hungry families. Let's see how much food we can collect by Easter!

FOODS FOR F.I.S.H.



Canned fruit 14.5 oz

Pasta

Tomato Sauce/Paste

Canned Vegetables 14.5 oz

Canned meat/fish
(Spam, tuna, chicken)



Macaroni and Cheese

Canned Soup

Hamburger Helper

Peanut Butter 18 oz

Jam or Jelly

Baby Food

Baby Cereal

Oatmeal

Dry Milk (3qt box)



We had a great meeting as we discuss discussing The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid.

Our next meeting will be on March 27th at 7:00 p.m. We will be discussing Midnight Library by Matt Haig.

Between life and death there is a library, and within that library, the shelves go on forever. Every book provides a chance to try another life you could have lived. To see how things would be if you had made other choices . . . Would you have done anything different, if you had the chance to undo your regrets? A novel about all the choices that go into a life well lived.

Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the oth-

er life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, what if you had the chance to go to the library and see for yourself? Would any of these other lives truly be better?

Nora Seed finds herself faced with this decision. Faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one, following a different career, undoing old breakups, realizing her dreams of becoming a glaciologist; she must search within herself as she travels through the Midnight Library to decide what is truly fulfilling in life, and what makes it worth living in the first place.

Join us for our next meeting at the home of Eleanor Franke on March 27th at 7:00 pm.

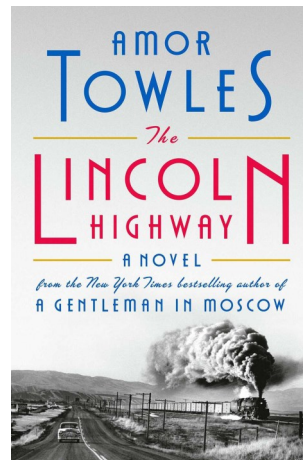
Upcoming Books:



March

Midnight Library

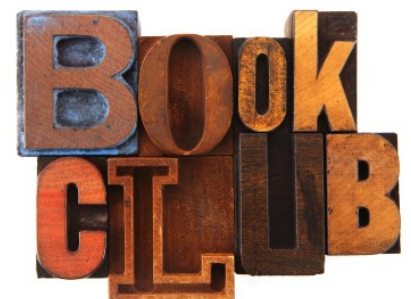
by Matt Haig



April

The Lincoln Highway

by Amor Towles



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Deliver Clare House Dinner 5:15 pm Wed night Supper* @ St John	2 Emergency Cold Weather Shelter	3 Office Closed	4
5 10:15 am Worship	6	7	8 5:15 pm Wed night Supper* @ St John	9	10 Office Closed	11
12 10:15 am Worship	13	14	15 5:15 pm Wed night Supper* @ St John	16 Emergency Cold Weather Shelter 12:00 pm 49+ Lunch @ St. John	17 Office Closed	18 5:30pm Bishop Meet & Greet
19 10:15 am Worship	20	21	22 5:15 pm Wed night Supper* @ St John	23	24 Office Closed	25
26 10:15 am Worship	27 7:00 pm Book Club	28	29 5:15 pm Wed night Supper* @ St John	30	31 Office Closed	

Jenn Out of Office

Jenn Out of Office

***Wednesday Night Activities @St John**
Wednesday Night Supper:
 5:15-6:15 p.m.

Adult Classes and Wednesday Night Bible Study:
 6:30 p.m.

Youth Group (Grades 7-12):
 6:30-8 p.m.

Mini-Methodists (Grades 5-6):
 6:15-7:30 p.m.

Biblemania (Grades K-4):
 6:15-7:30 p.m.

March Birthdays

Denise Carey	3	Corinne McVee	10
Tina Kile	4	Jeffrey Linxwiler	10
Don Keil	5	Max Tutaan	25
John Braden	9	Michael McVee	26

