

## Pastor's Message

I was struck by something I read on Facebook a few weeks ago. It was a quote by Dallas Willard - who was an American Southern Baptist minister and a Professor at the University of Southern California for many years. He was a teacher, preacher and writer and he said:

The Gospel is less about how to get into the Kingdom of Heaven after you die, and more about how to live in the Kingdom of Heaven before you die.

Sometimes I think that Christian's focus a little bit too much on the next life and a little bit too little about the current life. A life that offers opportunities each and every day to share a bit of kindness with

another - in word or in deed. An opportunity to serve one another - to give of one's time and energy and resources. As followers of the Christ we are called to be the light in a world that sorely needs. It.

How it is that you share your light with others? How is it that others know you to be a person of hope - even in the midst of the trials of life? How we live in this world says a great deal about us. And I trust that God's grace will carry me on to the next.

Blessings,

Jennifer

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## What's Happening

### Shrove Sunday

Shrove Sunday will be observed next Sunday. Traditionally this is the Sunday before Lent begins. Come for an interactive service – great music and stay for a Pancake Breakfast!

5:30 pm with the service to follow. This year we will not be holding Wednesday services as we have in the past.

### Welcome Daylight Saving Time

Daylight saving Time Begins on March 10th Be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour when you go to bed Saturday night.

### Lent Begins

The Lenten Season begins March 6th with Ash Wednesday. There will be a light supper served at

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## VEAP News

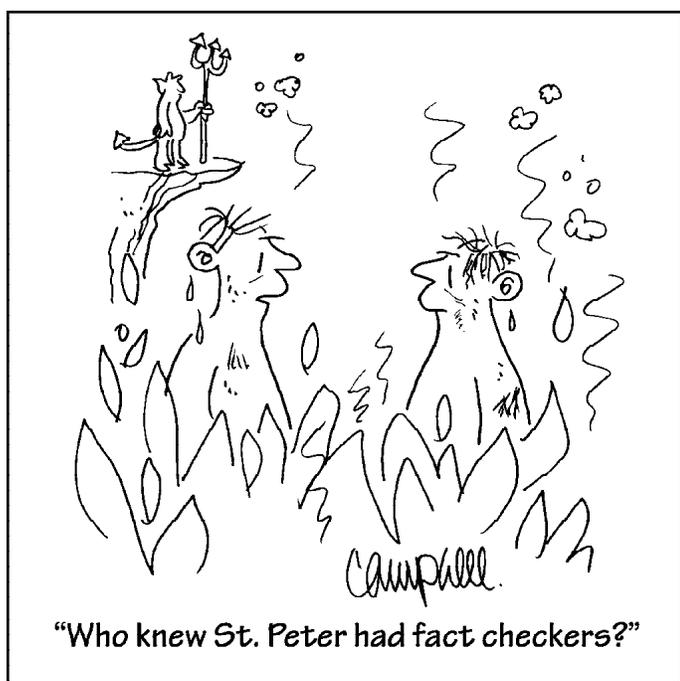
New CEO Joe McDonald comes to VEAP with a strong background in non-profit and organizational leadership. Most recently, he was the Executive Director of the Upper Room in Edina, MN. Joe was

integral in the founding of that organization in 2001, and has spent the majority of his career in roles there. He brings a strong skill set including operations, finance, fundraising, training and team-building. In the CEO role at VEAP, Joe will work closely with the Board of Directors, Staff and

Volunteers to move forward the mission and vision of the organization, build upon the strong foundation of basic needs and social services programs and continue to be guided by VEAP's Strategic Plan – Hope for the Future. Joe's degree is in Math and Economics, and his early career includes roles in research, finance and accounting. Joe McDonald's first day at VEAP was Monday, December 3, 2018. Join us in welcoming Joe to VEAP!

## VEAP Story

Sarah is a senior with special needs living alone, and rent that is difficult to pay each month. She is able to come to VEAP for food two times per month, which helps her stay in her home. Her small income from social security doesn't provide enough to meet all her needs. Sarah comes to VEAP using public transportation, but gets a ride home and assistance with her groceries from a VEAP volunteer driver. VEAP has also connected her to agencies that have helped with furniture needs and she's been placed on a wait list for housing assistance. Without VEAP, Sarah would not have a stable home and hope each month. Thank you for your donations!



## Lenten Message – Fasting and Feasting

Let us in this Lenten season learn new ways of living.

Let us fast from words that pollute and feast on words that are kind.

Let us fast from judging others and feast on building others up in love.

Let us fast from despair and feast on an attitude of gratitude.

Let us fast from hatred and jealousy and feast on kindness and compassion.

Let us fast from thoughts of illness and feast on the healing power of God.

Let us fast from worry and feast on hopes and dreams.

## What's your theme?

Disgusted by a tasteless dish, Winston Churchill once summoned a waiter, saying, "Take this pudding away. It has no theme!"

Any good dish, book, movie or sermon needs a good theme. So does a good life! That's why a personal motto or mission statement is helpful. William Carey's was "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." Joan of Arc's was "God must be served first." And St. Paul's was "to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2, ESV).

Pastor Curtis Nigh says, "If the heart does not have a noble or goodly theme, then it develops an anti-theme." What noble theme can you live by as you live for Christ?

# People to Keep in Our Prayers

**Pastor Jennifer**, as she continues to heal from a viral infection.

**Jack Vande Waa**, Laura's son. He's unable to walk under his own power. Now at The Villa in St Louis Park for transitional care and strength building.

**Matt Brokl**, a brain tumor was removed Jan 9<sup>th</sup>. Undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatment.

**Jacquie Clemens**, in hospice care at home.

**Joanne Olson and her family**, as they care for Joanne living with dementia.

**Marilyn Leaf**, friend of Brokl's, dealing with cancer as well as other health issues.

**Dick Pappin**, uncle of Deb Barger, dealing with pain after back surgery. Prayers for healing of nerves so he can walk again. Also prayers for his wife, Bonnie, as she cares for him – separated due to

hospitalizations and long term care.

**Johnny**, Laura Vande Waa's neighbor, as he receives chemotherapy for recurring cancer.

**Steven Gamm**, friend of Drew Brokl, receiving chemotherapy for bladder cancer.

**Scott Mayforth**, close friend of the Jaimez family living with the effects of a serious stroke.

**Andy Krohn**, nephew of Mary Ann and Russ Dunne, two-time kidney transplant patient now diagnosed with a malignant melanoma.

**Doug Settle and family**, Jim Settle's nephew, affected with a serious illness.

**Tiger (Edwin) Wing**, nephew of Helen Wing, suffering with many illnesses.

**Linda Settle Mitchner**, niece of Jim Settle, with serious health concerns.

**All those suffering with chronic health issues.**

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## February 12, 2019 Council Meeting Highlights

### Reports of the Ministry Team Leaders

**Spiritual Development Ministry:** Nothing to report.

**Care and Nurture:** Pastor Jennifer remains homebound. Nothing more to report.

**Outreach to Local and World Community:** Malissa Reibel addressed the congregation about the supply pantries at Kennedy High School and Jefferson. She works with the Kennedy pantry and shared the many needs for students. St. Mark's collection will continue through the end of February.

**Building and Grounds:** Nothing to report.

**Pastor's Report:** Looking forward to the Pastor's report in March. We're praying for a speedy recovery for Pastor Jennifer.

### Financial Reports:

Financial Secretary's Report: We reviewed the information for the month.

#### Treasurer's Report:

	January	YTD
Total Receipts:	6,108.50	6,108.50
Total Disbursement:	<u>9,766.41</u>	<u>6,108.50</u>
Difference:	(3,657.91)	(3,657.91)

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“Never look down on anybody unless you're helping him up.”  
—Jesse Jackson

“It's better to bite your tongue than to eat your words.”  
—Frank Sonnenberg

# Global Ministries Mission Moment: (a ministry of the Disciples of Christ and the United Church of Christ) : Shared Encounters BY ELEAZAR FERNANDEZ

*And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.* Hebrews 13:16

Displaced from their ancestral homes because of mining, militarization, and other forms of developmental aggression, the Lumads (indigenous people of the Philippines) have sought temporary sanctuary among hospitable communities. Global Ministries partner, Union Theological Seminary (UTS) has been privileged to host the Lumads. The Lumads stayed for a month at the UTS campus, which felt like home because of its beautiful natural surroundings. Through UTS' hospitality, the Lumad children were able to continue their education through the traveling Bakwit (evacuees) School, which provides schooling to the many Lumads who evacuated.

To the surprise of the seminary hosts, the Lumads/strangers became their teachers. In the encounter, the seminary community experienced revelation and transformation.

Seeking to be faithful, as Jesus did, to prophetic boldness and compassionate witness, members of the UTS community, particularly seminarians, have now organized a regular Sunday Worship with a farmers' group that is occupying the nearby agricultural land.

The Sunday Worship has been going on for some months now, with students coming home from the day's activity with unspeakable joy, a better understanding of God, and a stronger commitment to the least.

*Eleazar Fernandez serves with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. His appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Church's Wider Mission, WOC, OGHS, and your special gifts.*

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## How Peace Bears Witness

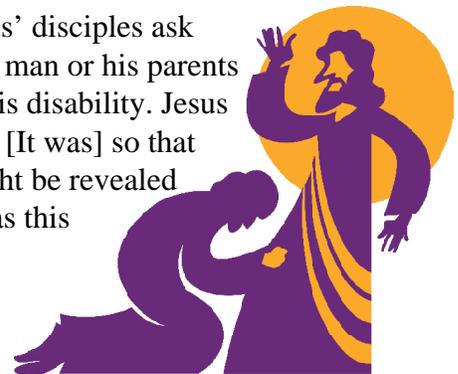
Christians ought not to be smothered in fear. There is a spiritual readiness, where we return to having the peace of God stand guard over our hearts and minds.

What an incredible witness it is to a lost and fearful society when the Christian acts like a child of God, living under the loving sovereignty of the heavenly Father. The Christian needs to walk in peace, so no matter what happens they will be able to bear witness to a watching world.

## Bible Quiz

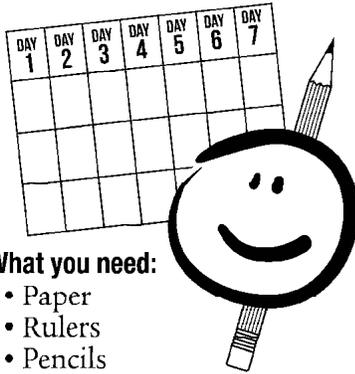
In John 9, Jesus' disciples ask whether a certain man or his parents sinned, causing his disability. Jesus says, "Neither. ... [It was] so that God's works might be revealed in him." What was this man's disability?

- A. Deafness
- B. Lameness
- C. Blindness
- D. Epilepsy



# DAYS OF CREATION

Play this game to remember when God made each of his masterpieces.



### What you need:

- Paper
- Rulers
- Pencils
- Markers or crayons
- Dice
- Bibles (open to Genesis 1:1-2:3 for reference)

### What you do:

1. To make game boards, draw a grid with four rows and seven columns, totaling 28 squares.
2. Across the top row, write DAY 1 in the first square and continue through DAY 7.
3. Take turns rolling one die, or all players can roll at once. For the number rolled, draw something God created on that day (in the correct column).
4. When you fill an entire row, draw a smiley face in the DAY 7 square. The first player with two smileys wins.



# Decode The days

At this time of year, God's creation "springs" to life.

*Directions: After reading Genesis 1:1-2:3, write the correct Creation day number under each picture. Then add up each day's total and write it on the correct blank below.*


Day 1 (light) \_\_\_\_ Day 2 (waters) \_\_\_\_ Day 3 (land and plants) \_\_\_\_ Day 4 (heavenly bodies) \_\_\_\_  
 Day 5 (birds and water animals) \_\_\_\_ Day 6 (land animals and people) \_\_\_\_ Day 7 (God rested) \_\_\_\_

Answers: Day 1 = 3, Day 2 = 3, Day 3 = 10, Day 4 = 6, Day 5 = 10, Day 6 = 15, Day 7 = 2

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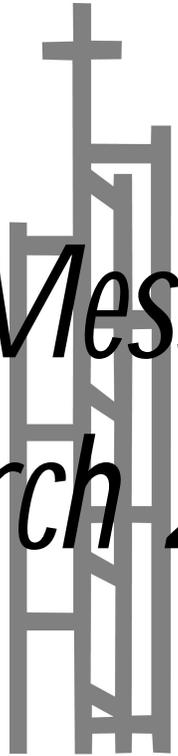
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First Class

A stylized, grey graphic of a church steeple with a cross on top, positioned behind the title text.

*The Messenger  
March 2019*

**St. Mark's United Church of Christ Mission Statement**

St. Mark's is a welcoming Christian community whose mission is to worship God, to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to serve all humankind in the spirit of love.