



# OUR CHURCH

## What Can St. Patrick Teach United Methodists?

by Heather Hahn and Carol Galligan's 2011 Shelter Island Reporter piece titled [About Saint Patrick and other things Irish.](#)



Full Article at  
<https://www.ctcumc.org/newsdetail/934831>

March 17 is the day many around the world celebrate all things Irish – in particular the saint for which the day is named. Did you know that Saint Patrick was not born in Ireland, and his birth name might not even have been Patrick. Many of the well-known “details” of his life are more legend than fact.

Such common misconceptions in no way diminish the legacy left by the patron saint of Ireland – a legacy that goes beyond green attire, food and beverage.

But what can modern day United Methodists learn from the fourth century life and ministry of St. Patrick? Quite a bit, it seems.

St. Patrick's commitment to the gospel led him at great personal risk to spread Christianity across Ireland. After his death, Irish missionaries used his methods to re-evangelize Western Europe after the fall of the Roman Empire. When people talk about how the Irish saved civilization, Patrick had a large hand in that – even if his hands were never actually full of snakes that he was forcibly expelling from the Emerald Isle.

As John Wesley would 1,300 years later, Patrick combined evangelical zeal with social teaching. Patrick was the first well-known man in Europe to stand publicly against slavery. But it's his evangelism for which Patrick is most often remembered. Even the tale about the snakes may be a reference to how Patrick's ministry supplanted the serpentine symbols favored by Druids

Patrick's ministry is a reminder that Christ's commission to make disciples of all nations is a form of loving our neighbor. Indeed, it seems that much of St. Patrick's fourth century life and ministry offers lessons and truths for the 21st century church as we reach out in Christian love to the modern day “pagans” in our communities who are looking for truth and life in all the wrong places.

### PASTOR

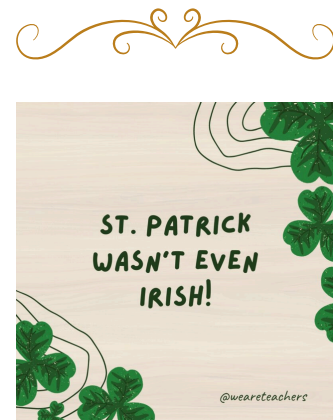
**Pastor Susan Rohden**  
 515-351-7050 (cell)  
 515-968-4119 (home)  
[gowrieumcpastor@wccta.net](mailto:gowrieumcpastor@wccta.net)

### Talk To Us

**Carrie Dalley (Secretary)**  
 515-352-3715  
[gowrieumc@wccta.net](mailto:gowrieumc@wccta.net)  
 1306 Market Street  
 Gowrie, IA 50543

### Find Us

on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/GowrieUMC/>  
 or Website  
[www.gowrieumc.com](http://www.gowrieumc.com)



**SERVE**

- **Council** March 10 6:30 PM
- **“Singing the Favorites”** March 15
- **“The Kindness Bucket List” and Random Acts of Kindness** - Intentional Acts of Kindness by all who worship with/at Gowrie UMC.
- **Suppers in Lent:** Check the clip-board and make a pot of soup for Lent March 4<sup>th</sup>, if you need someone to pick it up, call the church and we will arrange it.

**GATHER**

- **Sundays Together**  
 9:00 Sunday School  
 9:30 Coffee and Conversation  
 10:15 am Worship Service  
 Facebook live, later on Web-Cal channel 575
- **World Day of Prayer** March 6, 10am
  - Gowrie UMC, Fellowship Hall
- **Lent Suppers and Worship**  
 Supper at 6 pm - Service 7 pm
  - March 4 @ GUMC - Soup
  - March 11 @ Zion Lutheran Church
  - March 18 @ GUMC
  - March 25@Zion Lutheran Church
- **Birthday Party** March 22 After Worship
- **Maundy Thurs Worship - GUMC** 4/2, 7pm
- **Good Friday Worship - GUMC** 4/3, 7pm
- **Resurrection Sunday** - See back page.



In Case of Bad Weather please watch Channel 5, Channel 8 or Facebook for updates.

**PRAY**

Please call in or email your prayer request, changes and updates to the office.

**Care Facilities and Assisted Living:** Colleen Traster and George Anderson.

**Health Concerns:** David H. Anderson, Larry Ribblet (Sybil’s Husband), Viney Mulder, Gabe & Jess Olson From Paton-Son Otto who was premature continues to be in the hospital, Carol Orness, DJ (Randy & Viney Mulder’s Son-in-law). All those fighting cancer. All those suffering from chronic pain. All those receiving therapy. All those experiencing family distress.

**Grief:** family of Janet Rentschler

**Congregational Prayer Focus:**

Prayers for the families who lost loved ones in the Avalanche in CA.

Prayers for the Ukranian people as they mark the 4<sup>th</sup> year of conflict in their country.

Prayers for Minneapolis and it’s people.

Pray for all people who are hungry.

Pray for Gowrie UMC its ministries, its people, and its Pastor.

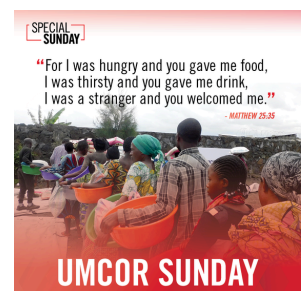
Pray for all who have yet to know the saving Grace of Jesus.

**CELEBRATE**



**Daylight Savings Time Spring Forward March 8**

**UMCOR Sunday March 15**



**Happy St. Patrick’s Day March 17**

# PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

*“As God’s choice, holy and loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Be tolerant with each other and, ... forgive each other. As the Lord forgave you, so also forgive each other. And over all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. The peace of Christ must control your hearts—a peace into which you were called in one body. And be thankful people. The word of Christ must live in you richly. Teach and warn each other with all wisdom by singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing to God with gratitude in your hearts. Whatever you do, whether in speech or action, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus and give thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:12-17 (selected)*

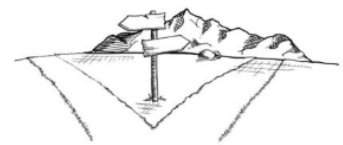


Grace and Peace to you,

I have so enjoyed our recently acquired focus on kindness and loving others in the simple things, of taking action and not just waiting for things to happen. It has opened my eyes to how challenging it can be to intentionally choose to go out of my way to do more, to do the next thing, to do extra... In worship we have scratched off cards from our RIO card deck. They don’t always apply to me and I think, what

now? So then I think how does this apply to me? So when we were to plant a tree (which I can’t do in winter), I thought about creation and I hung my clothes out on the line during uncharacteristically warm days. On our kindness calendar it challenged us to listen in more detail. I chose to stand by a cash register and listen to the cashier share about her day. Later, I went to eat and gave a nice tip and told the waitress I appreciated her while looking in her eyes. She held my eyes and said she appreciated me too. These things are not unique to me, we all do them but now I want to choose to do them more. Thank you Lord for placing kindness on my heart and on the hearts of those around me. Lord, help us grow in love..

"ATTITUDE IS A CHOICE. HAPPINESS IS A CHOICE. OPTIMISM IS A CHOICE. KINDNESS IS A CHOICE. GIVING IS A CHOICE. RESPECT IS A CHOICE. WHATEVER CHOICE YOU MAKE MAKES YOU. CHOOSE WISELY."  
- ROY T. BENNETT



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS  
FOUNDATION  
[www.randomactsofkindness.org](http://www.randomactsofkindness.org)

*Pastor Susan*

## March Worship Series



**Renewed in Mercy:** The Lenten journey encourages us to grow, to go deeper, to reach further than we may have before. Lent is a time of introspection, but also a call to action as we seek to be the pilgrim people of God, seeking and shaping God’s kingdom in worship and in service. This Lent, we invite you to experience the renewal that comes from God’s never-ending mercy and to walk with our Lord on a journey to new life.

<p><b>March 1</b> <b>Guided by the Promise</b> Genesis 12:1-4 Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17</p>	<p><b>March 8</b> <b>Companion for the Journey</b> Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42</p>	<p><b>March 15</b> <b>Journeying in Grace</b> 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41</p>	<p><b>March 22</b> <b>Redemption Road</b> Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45</p>	<p><b>March 29</b> <b>Marching Orders</b> Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Matthew 21:1-11 Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:9-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66</p>
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*Help me Lord to “...put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.”*

## MARCH SUNDAY SERVICES



9:00 am Sunday School  
 9:45 am Coffee and Conversation  
 10:15 am Sunday Worship and Facebook live,  
 later on Web-Cal Channel 575

Brock & Lindy Smith March 1  
 Dave & Judi Tjepkes Marth 8, 15, 22 & 29

### March 1

Communion: Gary & Kendale Vosberg  
 Worship Leader: Chelsey Worrel  
 Music: Colleen Palmer & Jeff Patterson  
 Tech: Lincoln & August Akins  
 Altar Flowers: Crystal Wilks  
 Bulletins/Online: Crystal Wilks

### March 4 Lent @ GUMC 6:00 Supper/7:00 Worship

Music: Tom Hlubek  
 Tech: Bergan & Carrie Dalley

### March 8

Worship Leader: Anna Cottington  
 Music: Nancy Vogt & Jeff Patterson  
 Tech: Bergan & Carrie Dalley  
 Altar Flowers: Pastor Susan  
 Bulletins/Online:

### March 11 Lent @ Zion 6:00 Supper/7:00 Worship

**March 15** **Choir**  
 Worship Leader: Bergan Dalley  
 Music: Jeff Patterson  
 Tech: Keith & Dena Sytsma  
 Altar Flowers: Pastor Susan  
 Bulletins/Online:



### March 18 Lent @ GUMC 6:00 Supper/7:00 Worship

Music: Jeff Patterson  
 Tech: Bergan & Carrie Dalley

### March 22

Worship Leader: Gary Vosberg  
 Music: Tom Hlubek & Jeff Patterson  
 Tech: Owen Nuss & Glenn Rohden  
 Altar Flowers: Pastor Susan  
 Bulletins/Online:

### March 25 Lent @ Zion 6:00 Supper/7:00 Worship

**March 29**  
 Worship Leader: Mary Patterson  
 Music: Jeff Patterson  
 Tech: Lincoln & August Akins  
 Altar Flowers: Pastor Susan  
 Bulletins/Online: Jim & Jane Frahm

## Extravagant Giving

### In February:

- We welcomed the community for Pancakes and joy in conversation. We gave our mom's and dad's a break from cooking midweek!
- We give to the food pantry and because we usually have something in the basket, we were able to help a family in a pinch.
- We gave \$235 to CWS for blankets!

All this is possible because of your Generosity!



**We are God's church!**

### February Offerings

**\$8,581.00**

Outgoing Automatic Bill Withdrawals Per Month Approximately \$9000

**Thank you!**

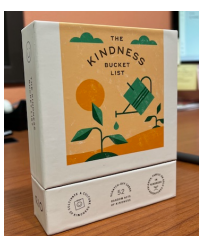


Automatic Payments and E-payments are a great way to give on your schedule. You can set frequency and date of all gifts to fit your budget.

*Help me Lord to "...put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."*

# March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee and Conversation 10:15am Sunday Worship	<b>2</b> Pastor's Sabbath	<b>Happy Birthday!</b> <b>3</b> Lily Brandes Marisa Jepsen 9am Office Open	<b>Happy Birthday!</b> <b>4</b> Kaleb Johnson 9am Office Open 6pm Lent Soup Supper at GUMC 7pm Lent Worship at GUMC	<b>5</b> 9am Office Open 9:30am Facebook Devotion 1pm UWF Mtg.	<b>6</b> Pastor's Prep Day 10:00am World Day of Prayer: Nigeria	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee and Conversation 10:15am Sunday Worship	<b>9</b> Pastor's Sabbath	<b>10</b> 9am Office Open 6:30pm Church Council Mtg.	<b>Happy Birthday!</b> <b>11</b> Charlie Dorsey Dean Farnham George Anderson 9am Office Open 6pm Lent Soup Supper at Zion 7pm Lent Worship at Zion	<b>Happy Birthday!</b> <b>12</b> Claire Schneider 9am Office Open 9:30am Facebook Devotion	<b>13</b> Pastor's Prep Day	<b>Happy Birthday!</b> <b>14</b> Randy Halligan
<b>15</b> <b>UMCOR Sunday</b> <b>Happy Birthday!</b> Bill Barkley 9am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee and Conversation 10:15am Sunday Worship/Choir	<b>16</b> Pastor's Sabbath	<b>17</b> 9am Office Open	<b>Happy Birthday!</b> <b>18</b> Laci Cottington Lillie Eller 9am Office Open 6pm Lent Soup Supper at GUMC 7pm Lent Worship at GUMC	<b>Happy Birthday!</b> <b>19</b> Crystal Wilks Kellen Pennebaker 9am Office Open 9:30am Facebook Devotion	<b>Happy Birthday!</b> <b>20</b> Gail McCloud Pastor's Prep Day	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee and Conversation 10:15am Sunday Worship 11:15 Birthday Party	<b>Happy Birthday!</b> <b>23</b> Bill Schneider Pastor's Sabbath	<b>24</b> 9am Office Open	<b>25</b> 9am Office Open 6pm Lent Soup Supper at Zion 7pm Lent Worship at Zion	<b>26</b> 9am Office Open 9:30am Facebook Devotion	<b>27</b> Pastor's Prep Day	<b>Happy Birthday!</b> <b>28</b> Katie Dorsey
<b>29</b> 9am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee and Conversation 10:15am Sunday Worship	<b>Happy Birthday!</b> <b>30</b> Colleen Traster Pastor's Sabbath	<b>Happy Birthday!</b> <b>31</b> Jeff Frahm 9am Office Open				



You are invited to participate in a year of intentional “random acts of kindness”. Each week during worship, we will scratch off a card from our “The Kindness Bucket List” We are encouraged to share this act of kindness in our daily life that week. May God bless you as you share his love.

**WORSHIP LIVE ON FACEBOOK AND ON LATER CHANNEL 575 AT 11:00 AM**

*Help me Lord to “...put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.”*

# MARCH 2026

**make kindness the norm.**

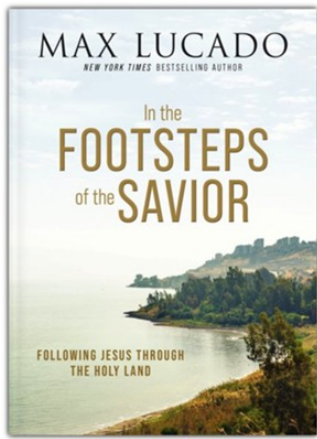
randomactsofkindness.org

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS FOUNDATION

SCIENCE SPARK: NEUROSCIENCE SHOWS THAT EXPOSURE TO DIVERSE STORIES BUILDS EMPATHY BY ACTIVATING BRAIN REGIONS TIED TO PERSPECTIVE-TAKING.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Learn how to say "hello" in three new languages.	2 Read a children's book or short story from a culture different from your own.	3 Compliment someone on a unique trait or talent that's different from yours.	4 Try new food from another country—bonus if you share it!	5 Ask a classmate or coworker about a family tradition they love.	6 Listen to music from a culture you've never explored before.	7 Host a "Story Swap"—pair up and share a five-minute story from your life that shaped who you are.
8 Watch a documentary that highlights a different culture, ability, or experience.	9 Invite someone new to sit with you at lunch or a meeting.	10 Write a thank-you note to someone who challenged your perspective respectfully.	11 Share a story from your background that others might not know.	12 Celebrate a cultural or religious holiday you don't typically observe by learning about it.	13 Create a playlist of global artists and share it with friends.	14 Ask someone to teach you a skill or hobby they enjoy that you've never tried before.
15 Explore a museum or virtual exhibit featuring diverse artists or histories.	16 Learn about a disability, neurodiversity, or accessibility innovation.	17 On St. Patrick's Day, share how your heritage or background shapes who you are.	18 Play a game or activity from another country.	19 Ask someone what kindness means to them—it might surprise you!	20 Post or share a quote celebrating diversity or unity.	21 Learn about someone who stood up for equality.
22 Cook a recipe from a different culture and share photos or samples.	23 Invite someone to share their favorite tradition, then share one of yours in return.	24 Read a biography of someone with a life story very different from yours.	25 Start a "Kindness Mosaic"—have everyone contribute a small drawing, word, or symbol that represents what makes them unique, then combine them into one big display.	26 Celebrate Neurodiversity Week by learning about different ways people think and learn.	27 Invite someone from another group to collaborate on a project.	28 Share a favorite movie, book, or song that taught you empathy.
29 Listen—really listen—to someone's story without interrupting.	30 Write a gratitude list that includes people who are different from you.	31 Host a "Celebrate Differences" day—encourage others to wear something or share something that represents who they are.	1	2		

FEBRUARY							APRIL						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	Th	F	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	26	27	28	29	30	1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



## In The Footsteps of the Savior by Max Lucado

We will be going through this video bible study during Adult Sunday School through Lent. Join us at 9:00 every Sunday!

Have you ever wondered what the Holy Land might have looked like through Jesus's eyes? Join pastor and New York Times bestselling author Max Lucado as he takes you on an unforgettable journey following Jesus through his life on earth, giving you a chance to see the Holy Land and God's heart for humanity in a brand-new light.

In the Footsteps of the Savior is an invitation to come alongside Max as he shares meaningful, insights on the people and places that shaped Jesus's life. In this special compilation, Max weaves together in-depth teaching from his bestsellers with poignant reflections on his time in the Holy Land, guiding you through three distinct aspects of Jesus' life:

- The arrival of the Savior
- Jesus's ministry
- The crossroads and the cross

With beautiful photographs and thoughtful questions for reflection, In the Footsteps of the Savior will take you on a journey through Bethlehem, Nazareth, Galilee, the Jordan River, Bethany, Jerusalem, and more.

As you see the places Jesus walked from a new perspective, you'll also deepen your connection with the King of the universe who became the Savior on the cross.

*You're  
Invited!*

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY WILL CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS**

**EVERY QUARTER IN 2026!**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FIRST QUARTER BIRTHDAYS!!**

**BIRTHDAY PARTY IS ON MARCH 22!**

**COME JOIN US FOR CAKE, COFFEE, AND FELLOWSHIP!**



United Women in Faith

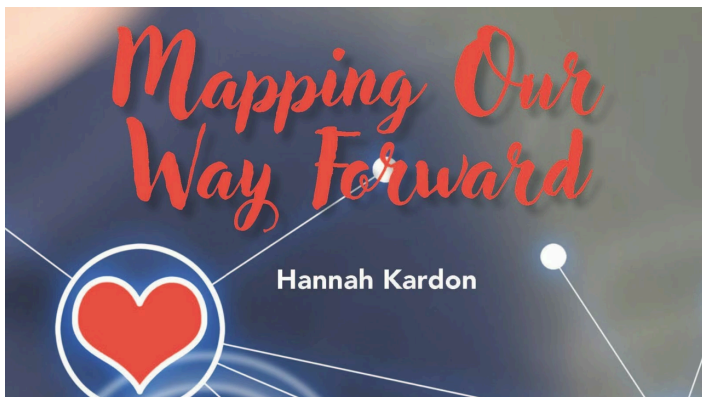
### 2026: Mapping Our Way Forward

March 5 1:00 pm

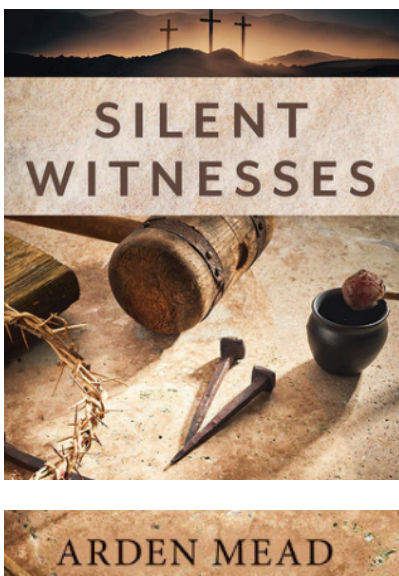
Program : Judi Tjepkes

Server:

Colossians 3:17 (NIV) “And whatever you do; whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”



World Day of Prayer will be held at Gowrie United Methodist Church this year on March 6, 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. We will be learning about and praying for Nigeria.



### Silent Witnesses

The thorns, the robe, the nails, the spear, the shroud, the stone—if these things could speak, what might they tell us? Silent Witnesses is a series of six services for Lent in which the chief speaker each week takes the role of one of the things associated with our Lord’s suffering and death, describing and interpreting the events and their meaning from that object’s point of view.

**Gowrie Lenten Services: through March 29<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 Soup Supper, 7:00 Worship**

**March 4<sup>th</sup> at GUMC, March 11<sup>th</sup> at Zion,  
March 18<sup>th</sup> at GUMC, March 25<sup>th</sup> at Zion**

*Help me Lord to “...put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.”*

**Gowrie United Methodist Church  
Administrative Council  
February 4th, 2026 6:30-8:00 pm  
A Place to Belong, Believe and Become.**



Present: Judi T., Jeremy V., Carrie D. and Pastor Susan

**LOVING:**

Devotion and Prayer for our church and 2026 council

**LEARNING:**

Explored Giving as an Act of Worship 2 Corinthians 9:10-15

Meeting was called to order by Jeremy Viles, acting chair. Pastor Susan volunteered to take minutes. Judi was Time keeper. January minutes were read and approved.

**LEADING:**

**Old Business**

As a continued reminder, Charge Conference goals were read.

Goal 1: Be intentional in providing active encouragement and support to members of our congregation, and to citizens of Gowrie and the surrounding area.

Goal 2: Promote prayer, gratitude and generosity. (generosity was added)

Goal 3: Incorporating music that the children know and enjoy into worship. (discussed that this was difficult, as it is difficult to know when children will be present.)

-Rejoicing and Thankfulness for tithes received January \$5,722. January was a snowfilled month.

-Notes of encouragement for our church community and the surrounding community. We are thankful for Jeff leading singing each week, Accompanist – Colleen, Nancy, & Tom, and Manager of Market on Market.

-Discussed Leadership positions that are open in 2026. After Discussion, Jeremy Viles accepted the position of Council Chair, Jane Frahm accepted the position of Financial Secretary (will enter the weekly gifts into Church 360) and Dave/Judi will continue to count weekly, Alex Adam will be an At-Large member and Carrie Dalley has accepted the role of Treasurer as the Cottington's have stepped down from this position. Council voted and approved these additions and change of roles in the Council. Council will continue to seek and discuss the need for a finance chair, worship chair, missions chair and a second At-Large member to council. Recommendations for these positions from the congregation are encouraged.

**New Business**

-Reviewed Statistics work by Carrie and Pastor.

-Discussed hosting Quarterly Birthday Parties. Council discussed and agreed that this would be a positive, fun and connecting event to have quarterly. We will sing Happy Birthday in church on that day and then share cake and beverages. Will set out a clip board and ask for 2-3 homemade cakes. Jan-March, April-June, July-Sept, Oct-Dec.

-Discussed Lent Services with Zion. We will continue to share a meal ahead of the service but what is served will be up to each church. No other new business was presented.

**Work Area Reports:**

-Judi Tjepkes reported on recent meeting of Trustees. Trustees have arranged for the fans in the sanctuary to be replaced and will have the walls in the sanctuary looked at for repairs. Both are deemed necessary for maintaining the building.

-Pastor Susan reported that the Lent study is titled "In the Footsteps of our Savior" by Max Lucado. We will also be having an "Acts of Love week" from Feb 8th- 14th. No other reports were received.

Next Meeting- 3/10/26 at 6:30pm. Jeremy Called to adjourn the meeting and all agreed. Meeting was closed with prayer.

Minutes Submitted by Pastor Susan

***Help me Lord to "...put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."***



**Gowrie United Methodist Church**  
**1306 Market Street, PO Box 479**  
**Gowrie, IA 50543**

Office Schedule

Tuesday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Wednesday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Worship Schedule

Sunday School 9:00 am  
Coffee and Conversation 9:45 am  
Worship 10:15 am  
Facebook Live  
Later on Channel 575 at 11:00 am



**March 29, 10:15am Palm Sunday**

Let us Rejoice!!!  
Presentation of Palms!  
Holy Week begins with a journey—or rather, picks up in the middle of a journey to Jerusalem.



**April 2, 7:00pm Maundy Thursday**

We come together to hear once again the mandate to love one another as Christ has loved us...not so we can be busy, but so that we can be active agents of love in the world.



**April 3, 7:00pm Good Friday**

We put ourselves in the disciples mindset who had no way of knowing what would come a few days later. We take in the whole story; not just the events, but the experience.



**April 5, Resurrection Sunday**

A new start for all of us who journey together in grace as those who seek Christ, for it is the good news that binds us together and empowers us to continue on the path set before us.

**Holy Week and Easter**

Come experience the story of Christ.  
You are invited.

**Resurrection Sunday Encounters with Christ**  
Through worship, fellowship and the joy of childhood.

7:30am - Sunrise Service  
8:30am Potluck breakfast  
9:00am Easter Egg Hunt  
10:15 am - Worship

He has risen, He has risen Indeed!

