

Rochester United Methodist Church
March 8, 2020

This Sunday

Liturgist: Jensen Meyer
Greeter: Joyce Smith

Next Week

Don Cottam
TBA

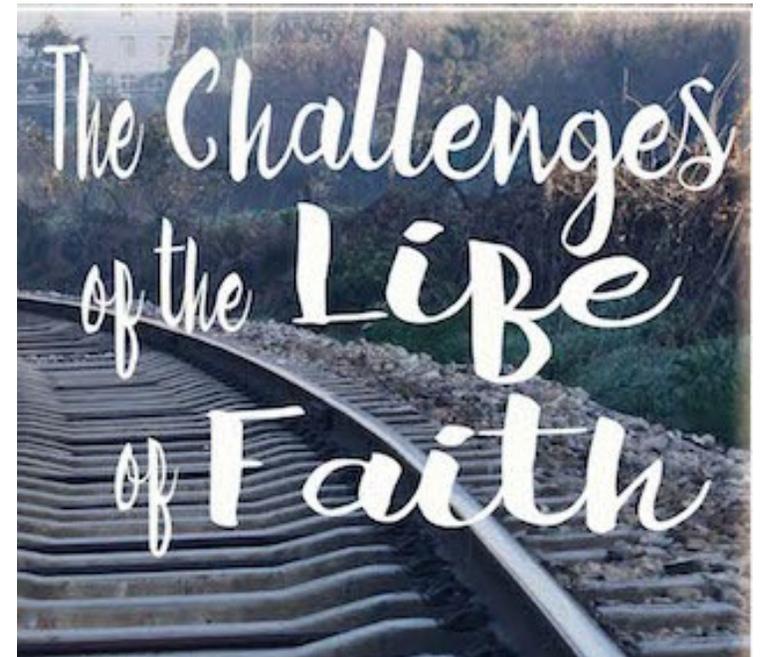
CONTACT INFORMATION

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Rochester UMC, email: info@rochesterumc.org**



Today's Scripture:

John 3: 1-17

Message:

"Challenged"

Rochester United Methodist Church
Second Sunday in Lent

Please join us for refreshments and fellowship
after the service today.

GATHERING MUSIC

“Come, Now Is the Time to Worship”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING TIME

WORSHIP IN SONG

“O How He Loves You and Me,” (FWS#2108)

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus,” UMH#526

OPENING PRAYER—*Rev. John Indermark*

God of grace, help me to accept your love for me when I feel unworthy or unwanted, when I face challenges that seem overwhelming. And in the knowledge of your love, may I be strengthened by your Spirit to love you and others in return. In Jesus Christ, Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

A TIME OF PRAYER: Joys and Concerns

OFFERING: SHARING OUR BLESSINGS

OFFERING HYMN:

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow,”
(UMH#95)

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION---*Rev. Pam Brokaw*

Creator, we give these gifts as grateful expressions of your love for us and for the world. Use them in sharing the gospel. Use us as living and outward expressions of our love for you and for one another. With you in us, may we be instruments of grace in our families, in our community, with strangers and in unexpected places. The world is a challenging place, but in you may we have the courage to be your church in love and grace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: John 3: 1-17

MESSAGE: “Challenged”

Rev. Pam Brokaw

CLOSING HYMN: *“In His Time,” (FWS#2203)*

BENEDICTION

Upcoming at RUMC

Monday, March 9

Clothing Closet open 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Sue B's Kitchen open 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 10

Bible Study, Matthew 17, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Church Meetings: 3:30 p.m. Serve, 4:30 p.m. Trustees, 5 p.m. Staff Parish Relations, 6 p.m. Administrative Council

Wednesday, March 11

Clothing Closet open 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Sue B's Kitchen open 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Senior Exercise, 10 a.m.
Senior Lunch, 11 a.m.

Friday, March 13

Senior Exercise, 10 a.m.
Senior Lunch, 11 a.m.

Sunday, March 15

Breakfast at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School classes all ages 9:45 to 10:45.
Worship at 11 a.m.
Baptism and Membership Class, 2 p.m.
Sermon: "Rejection," John 4: 5-42
Sunday Night Conversation at 6 p.m.

Requests from Your Trustees and Finance Committees:

- **Support Our Youth: Three months of Youth Leader Salary at \$450 a month.**
- **Church Repair: \$1000 to repair our leaky roof.**



Help Families: Donate Basic Baby Supplies
Contact Mary Jensen after church to help local families in need by donating newborn baby supplies. We need baby wash, bibs, receiving blankets, sleepers and large baby blankets. You can also leave donations in the basket on the fireplace in the Fireside Room.



No Sunday Night Conversation Group on Easter, April 12.

Palm Sunday Service

Worship and Palms, Sunday, April 5, 11 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service

Worship Service and Communion at Rochester UMC, Thursday, April 9, 6 p.m.

Good Friday Service

Noon at Tumwater UMC, April 10.

South Sound Co-Op Churches Sunrise Service, Percival Landing, Olympia, Easter, April 12, 7 a.m.

Easter Sunday Service

Worship Service, Baptism, Welcome New Members at Rochester UMC, Sunday, April 12, 11 a.m.



Interested in baptism, re-affirming your baptism, becoming a church member or learning more about the United Methodist Church? Membership classes with Pastor Pam are Sunday March 15 at 2 p.m. and Sunday March 29 at 4 p.m.

Today's Reading

John 3: 1-17 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus[Ⓜ] by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."[Ⓜ] ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.[Ⓜ] ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You[Ⓜ] must be born from above.'[Ⓜ] ⁸The wind[Ⓜ] blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."[Ⓜ] ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you[Ⓜ] do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.[Ⓜ] ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.[Ⓜ] ¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Thoughts on Today's Reading---From Pastor Pam

This past week I attended ordination Interviews with the United Methodist Board of Ordained Ministry. Each year, our Conference gathers ministers as they submit to the challenges of becoming ordained and provisional elders and deacons. It is an emotional time for all involved as they respond to Christ's call to ministry after years of study, practice, prayer and discernment of Christ's call.

We are all challenged in this life. Sometimes it's to meet the expectations of others. Sometimes stuff just gets thrown at us and we do our best. This week's sermon speaks to how Jesus challenges us. We see this in his encounters with people throughout the New Testament. We experience his challenges to us today at work, at home, in our relationships and how we see our life in him and in our responses.

In John 3, Jesus challenges a Pharisee named Nicodemus to think about his life and relationship with God and faith in a new way. Seeing and entering the kingdom of God requires being born again of water and spirit, Jesus says. We are changed and challenged forever as we give up control. This John Indermark prayer reflects the acknowledgement that our lives are an ongoing discernment of Christ's specific call to each of us: ***"In my heart, through my life, within my church, what do you want me to do for you, O God?"***

That change in us can transform those around us and even the world. If we accept the challenges of Christ to faithfully act, and to intercede on the behalf of others, to embrace and become welcoming community, we can find ourselves vulnerable. But God's grace calls us to show up and empowers us to dare to build the kingdom together. In all this, we must stay centered and grounded in Christ.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Pam