



# Circuit Rider

Rev. Steve Deckard, Pastor

February 2018



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**Pastor Deckard's  
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**MUMC Mission Statement:**  
We welcome, encourage and  
equip all people to experience  
**God's love and grace through**  
Jesus Christ.

Special points of interest:

- What is Lent and Why Does It Last 40 days? P. 2
- Adult Sunday School & Lent Small Groups, p. 3
- Letter from Rev. Sung Ah Choi, p. 5

## Light for the Path

*"Let your light shine before others in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify God in heaven." Matthew 5:16*



Looking back at 2017 at MUMC, perhaps some will point to turmoil or change. The same may be said for the U.S.A. and various factors around the globe. Here at MUMC, God and many faithful leaders and members have moved together in a way that will allow this community to step forward trusting in the **Lord's guidance**. The new has been a constant theme in human and biblical history.

As I experienced these early months of my retirement there are new experiences and feelings. I am challenged to reflect on the various new events that have shaped my life at times like: starting kindergarten, college experiences, marriage, divorce, birth of

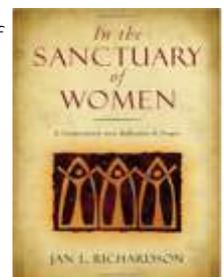
children, each unique church community, and so forth. I can see the hand of God correcting, shaping and guiding.

So, I pray that as you **experience "the new"** in your lives that you will trust the Lord in all ways.

I close with a paragraph from In the Sanctuary of Women, by Jan L. Richardson that encourages me. Rev. Richardson shares in a way that reminds me that through Christ I can learn new languages as God challenges me to live open, bold, and creative with God, self and neighbors. She writes:

**"Taking up a new medium, entering a different way of working, diving or tiptoeing into a new approach: all these can be complex, unsettling, disorienting, dis-**

combobulating. Launching into the unknown and untried confronts us with what is undeveloped within us. It compels us to see where we are not adept, where we lack skill, where we possess little gracefulness. Yet what may seem like inadequacy – as I felt in my early attempts with charcoal (art work) – becomes fodder for the creative process and for life. Being present to the messiness allows us to sort through what is essential and clear a path through the chaos. To borrow the words of the writer of Psalm 51, it creates a clean heart within us.



-continued pg 2-

## What is Lent and Why Does It Last 40 Days?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

## Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Worship

7 pm St. Francis Xavier Church  
1 W Main Street  
Marcellus, NY 13108

Service will include ashes, message, and music.

Participating congregations include:  
*First Presbyterian Church of Marcellus*  
*Marcellus United Methodist Church*  
*St. John's Episcopal Church*  
*St. Francis Xavier Church*



## Prayer Concerns

For prayer requests, contact  
Mary Widger (315) 673-9142

### We hold up in prayer...

- Dick & Fran Smith
- Marilyn Rich
- Earline Hall
- Doug Coon
- Rev. Tom Brown
- Tom Lathrop
- June Ast
- Bill Toth
- Bill Hoyt

## February 2018 Worship Series

February 4 — Holy Communion  
*Nehemiah — Holy Cornerstones!*  
Nehemiah 4: 1 – 3, 7, 8

February 11  
*Strength through Inconvenience*  
Romans 5:3-5 & Numbers 13: 17 - 23

February 18  
*Lent: Past, meaning and today!*  
Mark 1: 9-15

February 25  
*Authentic Faith - God Calls*  
*Wilderness Times*  
Mark 1:9-13

## Leadership Training Day, Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018

The 7th annual District training day is scheduled for Saturday, February 10, at the UMC Conference Center, 9 am to 3:45pm.

Description of the workshops being offered and the registration form can be found on the tables in Wesley Hall. Cost: \$5 per person for the day, including lunch.

Drop off our completed registration form to the MUMC office by February 1. We will send the registrations in as a group. Thank you!

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Deckard.

Please keep the following military service people in your prayers:

- George Kusner
- Zachary Smith
- Daniel Lathrop
- Matthew Barnes
- Kristen & Brian Walter
- Kendra Hughes Smith
- Sam Williams

Friends and loved ones, our military forces worldwide, and peace.

## Why Go to Church?

*If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this!*

*If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it.*

*If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!*

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every **Sunday**. He wrote, **I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.**

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: **"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"** **When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!** Faith sees the invisible, believe the incredible, and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

If you cannot see God in all, you cannot see God at all!

*B.I.B.L.E.—simply means, Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!*

When you are about to forward this to others, the devil will discourage you.

So go on! Forward this to people who are DEAR to you and TRUST GOD!

## Adult Sunday School

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Adult Sunday School Class  
February 4 & February 11

*GET THEIR NAME! Grow Your Church by Building Relationships*

*“Most churches and Christians struggle with knowing that they are called to share the Good News and reach out to the lost...but not knowing how to really do that in their day to day lives.”* -

Ken Willard, Certified Church Consultant and Coach.

*“Just Get Their Name” reveals the ways most churches misdirect their reach into the community. The authors show how to change the habits of leaders and entire congregations, so that invitation is natural, genuine, and easy.*

Learn how to share your faith in a way that is effective, biblical, and transforming. Class will be taught by Bob Mueller in upstairs Adult Classroom. (Please note these are the last 2 sessions of the 4-week class.)

## Ignite

Contemporary  
Praise Service

Saturday, February 3, 6-7 pm



Join us for music (*played by our praise band*), discussion of scripture, prayer, and time for fellowship!

Colby Sutter will be preaching.

*All are welcome!* We meet the 1st Saturday of each month.

## Lenten Secret Prayer Partners



At February worship those who would like to participate will exchange names to have a person to pray for during Lent. It is also nice to send that person a note with a Bible verse of your choice or thinking-of-you card during the 40 days—**just don't** sign your name! On Easter you can reveal who you are. If you need help knowing who your person is, talk to Diane Iathrop or see the member photo board in the hallway downstairs.

## Lent Small Groups

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The Wesley Challenge:  
21 Days to a More  
Authentic Faith

In the Wesley 21-day Challenge small groups work through 21 questions that will engage their physical, spiritual and emotional lives and their relationship with God and others.

With emphasis on graphics and short content bits, the challenge will inspire us to a new kind of commitment—one that is more authentic, vulnerable and soul shaping resulting in thousands of people who have a renewed passion to discover deeper levels of commitment to God and others.

Join us on Wednesdays during Lent starting on February 21 at 7:00 pm. We will meet in the Lounge. Look for sign-up sheets in Wesley Hall.

## Soupy Bowl

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Soupy Bowl Bring canned goods for the Soupy Bowl and vote for your favorite team. We will be collecting at both the 6:00 PM February 3 service and the 9:30 AM February 4 service. Collections will go to the Marcellus Food Pantry.

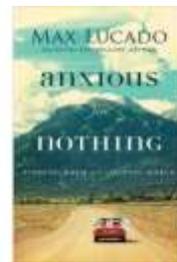
## Game Night—Feb. 3

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Saturday, February 3, is game night at MUMC! Bring your favorite board game/card game. Popcorn and soda will be served. See you at 7 PM, following the Ignite Praise and Worship Service!

## Adult Sunday School

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Adult Sunday  
School Class:  
February 18—  
March 25

*Anxious for  
Nothing: Finding  
Calm in a Chaotic*

*World* by Max Lucado. Class led by Anne Dorio.

This study invites readers to delve into Philippians 4:6-7. After all, it is the most highlighted passage of any book on the planet, according to Amazon:

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Max guides readers through this Scripture passage and explains the key concepts of celebration, asking for help, leaving our concerns, and meditating. Stop letting anxiety rule the day. Join Max on the journey to true freedom and experience more joy, clarity, physical renewal, and contentment by the power of the Holy Spirit. Anxiety comes with life. But it doesn't have to dominate your life.



## Thank you!

Thank you to everyone for your prayers and cards at the recent passing of my son Billy Riggall. It helped a lot. A special thank you to Rev. Deckard for his hospital visit and kindness.

~ Evelyn Riggall

# February 2018 Calendar of Events at MUMC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Noon—PEACE Luncheon, WH  6-7 pm—Brownie Troop mtg., WH	2	3  6-7 pm Ignite Praise and Worship Service  7pm—Game Night at MUMC
4 9:30 am Worship Svc 10:30 am Fellowship  11 am—Adult Sunday School Class  6-7 pm—Cub Scouts	5 7—8:30 pm Boy Scouts, WH  7 pm—Worship Planning Team mtg., L	6  6-10 pm—Quilt Guild Board mtg., WH	7  12:30 pm—Lay Visitation	8  Noon—PEACE Luncheon, WH  6:30-8 pm—Girl Scouts, WH	9	10
11 9:30 am Worship Svc <i>Scout Sunday</i> 10:30 am Fellowship 11 am—Adult Sunday School Class	12 7-8:30 pm Boy Scouts, WH  7 pm—Missions mtg., L	13 7pm—Trustees	14 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 7 pm Ecumenical Worship w/ashes at St. Francis Xavier 6-7 pm—Cub Scouts, WH	15 Noon—PEACE Luncheon, WH  6-7 pm—Brownie Troop mtg., WH	16	17
18 <b>8:30 am Men's Breakfast</b> , WH  9:30 am Worship Svc 10:30 am Fellowship 11 am—Adult Sunday School ( see pg. 3) 6-7 pm—Cub Scouts	19 7—8:30pm Boy Scouts, WH	20 6:30 pm—SPRC  6-10 pm Quilt Guild	21	22 Noon—PEACE Luncheon, WH  6:30-8 pm—Girl Scouts, WH	23	24
25 9:30 am Worship Svc 10:30 am Fellowship 11 am—Adult Sunday School ( see pg. 3)	26 7-8:30 pm Boy Scouts, WH  7 pm Admin. Council/Charge Conference	27 7 pm Craft & Devotions	28 6-7 pm—Cub Scouts, WH	 <p><i>Lent</i> "He fasted for forty days and forty nights..."</p>		

## February Birthdays and Anniversaries

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### Birthday Wishes for:

- 1 Linda Ellinwood
- 2 David Takach, Anne DeCapio
- 9 Ella Butler
- 14 Joy Buffan
- 16 Pam Mueller
- 17 Jan Macko, JoAnn Mathieson
- 20 Trudy Quinlan
- 22 George Beck
- 27 Sue Dennis
- 28 Bill Toth



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## UMW News and Schedule of Events

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February 27 7 pm—Craft and Devotions, Lounge



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## Gift & Thrift Shop

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*Business hours: Tues., Thurs., Friday, and the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.*



February is Sweetheart Month. The Shop has a selection of gift items, greeting cards and decorations for the day.

All our greeting cards are \$.50 each. Warm winter items include, mittens, scarves, hats, coats and jackets to keep you warm!

The shop is looking for brown grocery bags for the Spring Rummage sale in March. Watch for more details.

We are having a half price sale on adult blouses, shirts, and sweaters. Blue dot items are excluded.

February is Hearth month, wear something **RED!**

## Introductory Letter from Rev. Sung Ah Choi

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Dear friends at Marcellus UMC,

I am writing this letter to you to introduce myself before meeting every one of you soon on July 1st. I was born and raised in a Methodist family in South Korea. My two siblings are missionaries working with HIV/AIDS affected children and widows in Malawi. My husband, Jun Ho and I have a cute 4-year-old daughter, Eden. We have been joyfully serving at Champion and Carthage UMCs since July 2015, and we are very delighted and grateful to have a new opportunity to serve the Lord with Marcellus UMC.

I came to the United States in 2001 to study church social work and theology. I completed my Master of Social Work studies at Roberts Wesleyan College in 2003 and **received my Master's in Divinity** from Drew Theological School in 2008. I am currently doing my doctoral studies in social welfare at SUNY Albany. My research interests include spirituality/religion in social work practice, faith-based organizations and community development, and HIV/AIDS stigma in Sub-Saharan Africa.

My favorite Bible verse is John 17:4: **"I have brought You glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do."** I pray that the Lord will reveal the will of God to us so that Marcellus UMC and I together will be able to glorify our God by fulfilling the work that God will assign us to do on earth. I believe that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and no one comes to the Father except through Jesus Christ (John 14:6).

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As a witness of Jesus Christ, I have lots of lived experiences to tell the **world about the power of Christ's** gospel. I believe that the Church of Christ is called to bless the least, the lost, and the oppressed with the love and power of God. John Wesley said, "The world is my parish."

" I pray that our ministries will reach out not only to neighbors in our local village but also all nations in our global community.

I am excited to begin a new journey with a new kingdom family at Marcellus UMC soon. Until my family and I meet you face-to-face, we will be diligently praying for you. Please pray for your sisters and brothers at Carthage and Champion UMCs to have their divinely appointed pastor.

May the Lord bless you all abundantly and exceedingly!

Pastor Sung Ah Choi

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## BLESSING

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**"May the Holy One who never ceases to practice the art of creating keep us ever at the edge of our skills, our habits, our visions, that we may never grow so content in our creating that we miss the God who is ever about to do a new thing."**

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## Marcellus United Methodist Church Mission:

***We welcome, encourage and equip all people to experience God's love and grace through Jesus Christ.***

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## Marcellus UMC Vision Statement to Support Our Faithful Mission

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As a faith community seeking God's direction for discipleship, we are called to:

Welcome all people by:

- Creating inspiring worship, relevant to daily life, through music and the Word
- Inviting people to worship service and church activities
- Participating in ecumenical events
- Honoring diversity and our unique perspectives
- Appreciating that God speaks to people differently
- Inspiring worshippers to share Christ's love with others

Encourage one another by:

- Visiting the sick and homebound
- Praying for the church and its people
- Offering personal assistance
- Utilizing laity of all ages
- Offering Gifts and acts of service to neighbors near and far

**“Let your light shine  
before others in such a way  
that they may see your good works,  
and glorify God in heaven.”**

*Matthew 5:16*

Equip all people by:

- Presenting a variety of small group learning opportunities
- Offering Sunday School classes for all ages
- Providing strong leadership for education
- Encouraging activities to apply lessons learned
- Providing information by communicating in a variety of ways



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