

Liberty Pole, New Hope, & Retreat Methodist Churches



March 2024 Volume 16.3

From the Cross to the Resurrection!

Easter will soon be here! To help everyone embrace the true meaning of this season, we have several wonderful opportunities for you to join us for reflection and worship!

On *Good Friday (March 29th)*, you will have an to join us in worship as we reflect on Christ's great sacrifice. We welcome you to join us at the *Retreat Methodist Church at 6 p.m.* for a special and meaningful worship service. All are welcome to attend, so be sure to invite your family, friends, and neighbors!

Then, on March **31**st, the big day!



<u>Easter!</u> You, your family, and friends are invited to celebrate the glory and miracle of Easter morning with our church families during our normal Sunday worship hours (Retreat at 8 a.m., Liberty Pole at 9:15 a.m., and New Hope at 10:30 a.m.). Come and join us as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus!

Easter Community Breakfast

What's a better way to celebrate the Easter season then spending time with your family, friends, and neighbors? We invite you to join us on **Saturday, March 30th** for a special Community Breakfast with an Easter twist! Breakfast will be served from 8 to 10:30 a.m. at the Retreat Methodist Fellowship Hall and will feature plenty of fantastic food and great fellowship. The meal is free and open to all, so please come and enjoy a hot breakfast while catching up on the latest with your family and friends. If you wish to make a donation at the breakfast, please note that any donations will be split between the New Hope Food Pantry and Sleep in Heavenly Peace (more on this mission on page 5).

In addition to our traditional Community Breakfast, we will also be hosting a fun Easter Egg Hunt for the children! This event is always a ton of fun! The Easter Egg hunt will start around 10:00 a.m. and will feature plenty of goody-filled eggs for the kids to find!

Don't miss this special opportunity to spend time with your friends and neighbors, enjoy a hot breakfast, and have a little Easter fun!



Inside this issue:

*Sunday Bible Study	
*Lenten Online Study	2
*Food Pantry Needs	
*March Prayers	3
*March Meetings	2
*Thank You for Support	
*Preparing for Celebration	4
*Preparing for Easter Fun	-
*Thank You for your prayers	
*A Special Birthday	
*Retreat Crafters News	5
*Basement Quilters	3
*Mission Spotlight	
*Sugar Bush Day	6
*Around the Driftless	
*Community Soup (& more!)	7
*We Must Choose!	Ľ
*Shining Celebrations	8
*Fellowship Sunday	o
*Events calendar	9
	1

Upcoming Events

Communion Sunday Sun. Mar. 3rd

New Hope Board Meeting Sun. Mar. 10th, 11:30 a.m.

Liberty Pole Board Meeting Mon. Mar. 11th, 6 p.m.

Retreat Board Meeting Mon. Mar. 11th, 6 p.m.

Good Friday Service Fri. Mar. 29th Retreat @ 6 p.m.

Easter Community Breakfast Sat. Mar. 30th, 8 – 10:30 a.m. @ Retreat Fellowship Hall

Sunday Bible Study Sun. Mar. 3rd & 17th 8:30 a.m. @ Liberty Pole

Wednesday Warriors Each Wednesday, 3:30 p.m. @ New Hope

Food Pantry Open Wednesdays: 5 – 6:30 p.m. Thursdays: 9 – 11 a.m.

Get a Spiritual Boost and Dive into the Bible with Us!



We invite you to renew your spirit as we jump into God's Word, grow in our faith, and discover how it applies to our lives today! Everyone is invited to join us for our Sunday Bible study at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 3rd and 17th at the Liberty Pole church. This Bible study is open to everyone, so come as you are and be ready to dive into the Living Word!

> Sunday Morning Bible Study Sundays, March 3rd & 17th @ 8:30 a.m. at Liberty Pole

Lenten Meditation Lenten Online Study

We will be holding a special online Bible study over the course of the Lenten season during which we will be commemorating and mediating on Christ Jesus in the days leading up to Easter. We invite you to join us on this Lenten journey as we deepen our faith in Jesus and encourage each other as we reflect on His life, death, and resurrection.

Please join us anytime during Lent as we journey and mediate on the days leading up to Easter. This study will began on Feb. 14th but you can jump in and participate at any time!

• Easter: The Worship Initiative (40 days) https://bible.com/p/64054829/7ef4faab8152d3bf3fef40ba84a82855

These online studies and more can be accessed through the Bible App or bible.com website, which are free resources. In addition to wonderful devotional and reading plans, they provide a verse of the day, and you will be able to read the Bible in a wide variety of versions. The Bible App is available in your app store on your mobile device, or accessible online at www.bible.com.

Please note that Bible.com online will no longer support Plans with Friends. You will need to open the Bible App on your mobile device to continue to use this feature.

Food Pantry Needs

The New Hope Food Pantry welcomes your generous donations to help those in need in our communities. This month the pantry is seeking donations of **peanut butter**, jelly, ketchup, and peas. If you wish to donate items or funds, feel free to drop them off at any of our three churches. You may also drop them off during the pantry's open hours: Wednesdays, 5 -6:30 p.m. and Thursdays, 9 – 11 a.m.

> The New Hope Food Pantry is located at E2286 State Highway 82, De Soto, WI 54624





Reminder: Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 10th! Set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on the evening of Saturday, March 9th!



Prayers for March

Each day of the week, use this simple prayer starter as part of your conversation with God.

Monday

God, may Your light guide my day, and Your Spirit bring me peace. Amen.

Tuesday

God, may the sacrifices I make today remind me of my dependence on You for all the blessings I enjoy. Amen.

Wednesday

Lord, may I stand in solidarity today with all my brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering. May we be united in your love, and may I work to build your kingdom here on earth.

Thursday

Heavenly Father, I'm truly sorry for the moments today where I may miss the mark. I ask for your forgiveness and the strength to better follow Your call in the days to come. Amen.

Friday

God, I lift up (name of the person you'd like to pray for) today. I ask that you bless them abundantly today and throughout Lent. Amen.

Saturday

Oh Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything. Amen.

Sunday

Heavenly Father, as I enter another week of my Lenten journey, guide me to the path that leads to you. Fill my heart with gratitude, patience, strength, and peace as I strive to become the-best-version-of-myself. As I renew my resolve each day to become a better person, let me hear your voice in the deepest reaches of my heart and give me rest in you. Amen.

Make a Difference! Attending Upcoming Church Meetings!

Being an active part of your church is <u>vital</u> to the life of your church! We encourage everyone to come and participate in the discussions at your respective church board/council meeting. All church members have a vote, and all ideas are welcome. Join us at your next church meeting and make a difference!

New Hope Church Board Meeting Sun. March 10th @ 11:30 a.m.

Retreat Church Board Meeting Mon. March 11th @ 6 p.m.

Liberty Pole Church Board Meeting Mon. March 11th @ 6 p.m.



Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. **Romans 12:9-13 NIV** ~



Liberty Pole, New Hope & Retreat Methodist Churches – Visit us online at: www.driftlessministry.org

Thank You for Your Continued Support!

The New Hope Food Pantry thanks everyone for their continued support of this vital community ministry! Your generous monetary donations have recently allowed the pantry to purchase half a hog. This meat was processed at a discount thanks to Steve's Country Meats and turned into pork sausage for the patrons of the pantry.

A big thank you also goes out to our mysterious anonymous donators! Each week, the pantry finds a few sacks of food items and toiletries left at the church for distribution at the pantry. Your contributions are greatly appreciated by our volunteers and patrons! The food pantry also continues to receive words of appreciation from those who utilize its resources. Volunteers recently received the following message and wanted to share:

"We wanted to thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness this year. You helped so much. Sincerely, a family that was in need. God Bless."

Preparing for a Celebration!

Hello Liberty Pole friends! How is your coin challenge coming? I've already realized that we don't use cash as much as we used to, so this may be a bigger challenge. One of mine will be to carry our coins back from Arizona in our carryon luggage! Keep on collecting. You have until June 15th.

Now for the next! We will be having a meeting in mid-March to discuss progress on other parts of this process — list of folks to invite, advertising, menu, service make up, etc. How have you contributed? There are lots of tasks to be completed so we can have a fun filled day on June 30th.

Have you come up with an idea for a memento? Put on your thinking caps and submit your ideas by mid-March. It's amazing how fast time goes!

That's it from sunny, warm Arizona. We will see you on March 10th. Keep smiling! 🕲 ~ Barb Robson

Liberty Pole Methodist Church's 150th Anniversary Celebration will be held on Sunday June 30th, 2024.

Preparing for Easter Fun!

Now that we are into the Lenten Season, it means spring and Easter are just around the corner! As in previous years, the Retreat Methodist Church is planning to host a community Easter egg hunt for the youth just before Easter

in conjunction with a Community Breakfast. However, we need YOUR help! The church is in need of tasty treats that they can stuff into all of the eggs for the hunt. Last year, over 1000 eggs were stuffed, hid, and discovered thanks to your generous donations! Can you help? Donations of individually wrapped candies are welcomed and greatly appreciated. You can drop off the donations of candy (or funds if you don't want to do the shopping) at church or reach out to Angie Isbell. With your help, we can make the Easter season bright and joyful for so many youth in our region!

Thank You for Your Prayers!

Thank you to everyone for the thoughts and prayers while I was hospitalized most recently. Things are good. Much gratitude for the angels among us.

~ Phyllis Skarda









Celebrating a Special Birthday!

On Saturday, March 2nd, family and friends (both near and far!) are invited to come and celebrate the 90th birthday of Alice Richards! Alice served as the pastor of both New Hope and Retreat in the late 1980's and through the 1990's. Many of us have fond memories of our time in ministry with Alice and it would be great to go and honor her on her 90th birthday! This birthday celebration will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Willow Valley Church (24811 Hwy 58, Richland Center) in Ithaca. Birthday cards are welcome and can be sent to the church, but it is requested that no gifts be brought.

Retreat Crafters Group News

The Retreat Crafters Group will be meeting on Saturday, March 16th at 10 a.m. in the Retreat Methodist Fellowship Hall. Along with their normal crafting and fellowship, they will be discussing various projects and events happening in the church!

One of the projects they will soon take on is a new one and will give people an opportunity to enjoy some homemade Easter goodies! Just before Easter, the group is planning to bake Easter cutout cookies, decorate them together in the church hall on March 28th, and then sell them at the Community Breakfast on March 30th! They will be seeking volunteers to help bake cookies and also to come and decorate them. All are invited to participate in this project, so come for a good time of fun and fellowship!





Basement Quilters Stitch Again!

Good news! The church basement quilters will resume on Monday, March 11th at 9:30 am. We will also meet on Monday, March 25th. I hope you can pack your sewing machine, quilting projects and lunch so you can join in on the fun. Bring your energy and your sense of humor! We will have a "laughing" good time!

Mission Spotlight: Sleep in Heavenly Peace "Helping Children in Need Sleep Better"

All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. Sadly, across the United States, too many boys and girls go without a bed—or even a pillow—to sleep on. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets, and even floors. This can affect their happiness and health.

That's where Sleep in Heavenly Peace comes in. They're a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. Their organization has grown steadily over time, and they're working on opening more chapters in different states to serve more people. In fact, did you know that Vernon County has its very own chapter? It's true!

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

In fact, the chapter needs your help! They are currently in need of volunteers (of all ages and abilities) to help them build and deliver beds, and also help in finding kids in the Vernon County area ages 3 to 17 who are sleeping on the floor. They are also seeking volunteers to help provide bedding for single size beds and beautiful quilts to go with the beds. If you would like to volunteer, please connect with them at: <u>https://shpbeds.org/chapter/wi-vernon-co/</u>.

Sugar Bush Day

Head out into the great outdoors with your family and marvel over God's wonderful creation at Sugar Bush Day at Living Waters Bible Camp. Come, taste and see the sap to syrup production of delicious maple syrup. Marvel over God's wonderful creation and the blessings we experience when we understand how to care for it. See how the sap is processed and what a difference the weather has on the process. Hear about the pioneers who discovered this sweet treat and how they used it.

Start your family outing by enjoying a tall stack of pancakes at the camp and then venture outside to tour their maple tree stand and find out how to tap a maple tree and collect its sap. For an easy tour of the trees and the tapping process, you can board the camp bus for a quick ride up the hill. From there you and your family get to hike through the woods to observe the tapping of a maple tree. Afterwards, you can visit the Sugar Shack to observe the boiling process and find out how much sap it takes to make a gallon of syrup. You might be surprised! You will also get to tour the kitchen where the syrup is filtered and bottled. After the tour, the family can then gather around and listen to a portion of the Little House On



The Prairie book when Pa used maple syrup to make candy. Your kids can even help the facilitator stir the ingredients to make their own maple candy!

Sugar Bush Day is Sunday, March 24^{th} at Living Waters Bible Camp. The event begins at 1 p.m. with lunch (Pancake meal) being served from 1 - 4 p.m. The cost is \$7 per person (ages 4 and up) and includes the pancake meal and the programs. You can register the day of the event, but if you have a large group you are encouraged to call for a reservation at (608) 634-4373.

Living Waters Bible Camp is located at E8932 Reo Ave., just north of Westby off of HWY 27.

Happening Around the Driftless...

Look at some of the other events happening around the Driftless area during the month of March! Plan a fun outing with the family!

- **Eagle Day**, Saturday, March 2nd, 9 a.m. 2 p.m. @ Ferryville Village Hall. *Family friendly activities and programs focusing on the American Bald Eagle. Middle school eagle art display, kid's crafts, live eagle program, hooting contest, refreshments. Free admission all day!*
- 2nd Annual Chili Challenge, Saturday, March 2nd, 1 4 p.m. @ Viroqua Eagles Club.

\$20 per entry, \$10 per taster. Pie & cake auction at 3 p.m. Proceeds go to benefit the Amara Rose Foundation.

 Chili Soup Supper, Saturday, March 2nd, 5 – 7 p.m. @ Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Soldiers Grove.
 Serving: chili, corn bread, dessert, and drinks. Free Will Donation.



- **Viroqua SOUP**, Wednesday, March 6th, 5 6:30 p.m. @ Viroqua Food Co-op. Attendees gather to enjoy a shared meal of soup, bread, and butter, while local community members and organizations pitch their inspiring projects and ideas. Each pitch aims to benefit the wonderful town of Viroqua.
- **Easter Egg Hunt & Brunch**, Saturday, March 30th, 10 a.m. Brunch, 11 a.m. Egg Hunt @ Sugar Creek Bible Camp, rural Ferryville. *Family friendly activities and fun for everyone*. *Egg hunt & activities: \$5/child, brunch (ages 5 and up): \$10/person, brunch (ages 4 and under): free*. *RSVP by Friday, March 22nd to office@sgrcreek.org*.

Community Soup, Salad & Sandwiches!



Everyone is invited to head down to De Soto and stop by the De Soto Community Center on Wednesday, March 20th for some delicious soups, sandwiches, salads & desserts. The meal will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. and is being hosted by the De Soto Area Lions. There is no set cost for the meal, but a free-will offering will be taken with all of the proceeds going toward the De Soto Area Schools lunch program! Come on out for a delicious meal and wonderful fellowship while helping support a vital program for our local youth and schools!

No, Actually, We Must Choose

*The following is a recent devotion from a WiRE for Men email devotional created and distributed by Gather Ministries. Learn more about them at <u>gatherministries.com</u>.

And he said to them, "Follow me"-Matthew 4:19

In our lives, we confront two mutually exclusive, diametrically opposed if-then statements, each claiming to be true. The first is from the enemy and goes like this: *if* we chase created things—wealth, status, sex—*then* our lives will be more full, *then* we'll have more peace, joy, security, freedom, fulfillment, significance. The second is from God: *if* we chase him, our Creator—*if* we listen to him, *if* we surrender, *if* we love, *if* we serve—our lives will be more full *then*, we'll have more peace, joy, security, freedom, fulfillment, significance *then*.

The simple question before us, therefore, is which statement we'll believe and adopt and follow in faith. But, before we can answer, we've got to get serious. We've got to stop playing around, trying to convince ourselves the statements are not actually mutually exclusive and not actually diametrically opposed. We've got to stop trying to convince ourselves we can believe both statements at once, that we can prioritize both created things and the Creator—and that it'll be okay if we try. We can't and it's not.

"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other" (Matthew 6:24).



We must choose. And, it's a real choice between good and evil. For, while God uses his if-then statement to invite us into "more and better life" than we could "ever dreamed of," the enemy uses his to "steal and kill and destroy" (John 10:6-10 MSG).

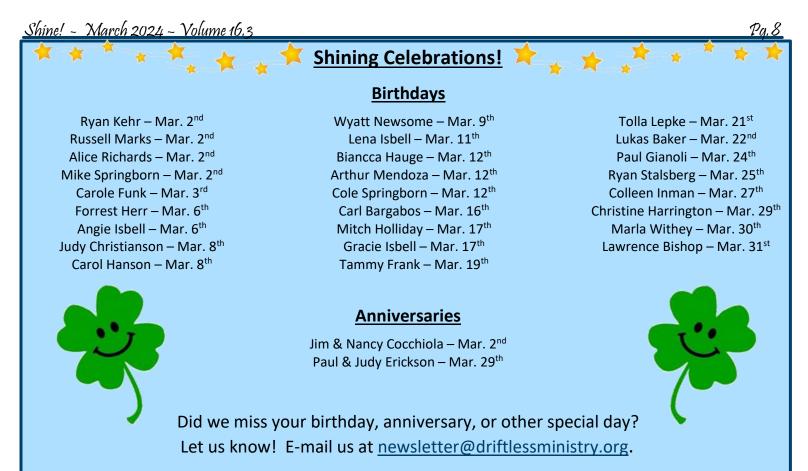
Okay, so what do we do?

Spend some time searching for, and meditating upon, those places in the Bible where God offers if-then statements. There are so many. Do any come to mind, right now? Focus most on his promises that, for you, stand out from the rest.

Give to Your Church Anywhere, Anytime

It is easier than ever to financially support the ministries of your church! Safe and secure online giving is available for the Liberty Pole, New Hope, and Retreat Methodist Churches on our website: https://www.driftlessministry.org! Simply click on the "Giving" tab in the main menu or head directly to https://driftlessministry.org! Simply click on the "Giving" tab in the main menu or head directly to https://driftlessministry.org! Simply click on the "Giving" tab in the main menu or head directly to https://driftlessministry.org! Simply click on the "Giving" tab in the main menu or head directly to https://driftlessministry.org/giving/ and discover just how easy it is to give from the comfort of wherever you may be. I think you'll be surprised!





Join Us for Fellowship Sundays!

The next Fellowship Sunday at the Retreat Methodist Church is coming up on Sunday, March 3rd and everyone is welcome to stick around after worship and join in the wonderful fellowship. This month's hosts at Retreat are **Gary & Lynnell Nummerdor.** We hope you can join us after worship on Sunday, March 3rd for some wonderful fellowship time!

This month's Fellowship Sunday at the Liberty Pole Methodist Church will be held on Sunday, March 17th. Be sure to join us following worship as we enjoy some snacks and have great fellowship together.

These Fellowship Sundays are a great way to catch up with your faith family. Be sure to check them out and enjoy some quality time with your family and friends at the church!





Interim Pastor: Rev. Drew Filkins (517) 899-3408 pastor@driftlessministry.org

SPRC Chair – Barb Robson: (608) 606-5809

Lay Leaders – Debbie Groves: (608) 648-3684 Barb Robson: (608) 606-5809 Jeffery Nelson: (608) 379-2933

Food Pantry – Debbie Groves: (608) 648-3684 Robbin Henchen: (608) 804-0314



Liberty Pole, New Hope & Retreat Methodist Churches – Visit us online at: www.driftlessministry.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
LP: Liberty Pole NH: New Hope R: Retreat	Driftless Ministries Rev. Drew Filkins (517) 899-3408 pastor@driftlessministry.org	Ainistries w Filkins 19-3408 ssministry.org			7	2 90 th Birthday Celebration for Alice Richards 1 – 4 p.m. @ Willow Valley Church, Ithaca
3 LP Bible Study: 8:30 a.m. LP M. Women, 10:15 a. Fellowship Sunday (R) Communion Sunday	4	ц	6 Wednesday Warriors 3:30 – 5 p.m. @ New Hope Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	7 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	œ	ი
10 VH Board Meeting 11:30 a.m.	 11 Basement Quilters 9:30 a.m., Liberty Pole LP Board Meeting 6 p.m. Retreat Board Meeting 6 p.m. 	12	 13 Wed. Warriors 3:30 - 5 p.m. 2 New Hope Food Pantry Open 5 - 6:30 p.m. Ash Wed. Service 6 p.m. @ Liberty Pole 	14 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	15	16 Retreat Crafters 10 a.m. @ Retreat Fellowship Hall
17 LP Bible Study: 8:30 a.m. Fellowship Sunday (LP)	18	19 hello Spring	20 Wednesday Warriors 3:30 – 5 p.m. @ New Hope Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	21 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	22	23
24 PALM SUNDAY	25 Basement Quilters 9:30 a.m., Liberty Pole	26 Newsetter	27 Wednesday Warriors 3:30 – 5 p.m. @ New Hope Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	28 Easter Cookie Decorating Time TBD @ Retreat Fellowship Hall	29 Good Friday Service 6 p.m. @ Retreat	30 Community Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt 8 – 10:30 a.m. @ Retreat Fellowship Hall

March 2024



Return Service Requested

Address Label Here

