

# Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## COMBINED LENTEN SERVICE – 7:00 PM



Bread: February 21<sup>st</sup> – Nekoosa UCC – 7:00 PM

Cross: February 28<sup>th</sup> – Port Edwards UMC – 7:00 PM

Coins: March 6<sup>th</sup> – Nekoosa UCC – 7:00 PM

**Shoes: March 13<sup>th</sup> – Port Edwards UMC – 7:00 PM**

Oil: March 20<sup>th</sup> – Nekoosa UCC – 7:00 PM

HOLY WEEK: Maundy Thursday – Port Edwards UMC – 6:00 PM

Good Friday – held at both churches separately



*Musician: Judy Miller*  
*Greeter: Sharon Studinski*

*Media Technician: Colby Grunden*  
*Leaders: Bonnie Wheeler & Pastor Caleb*

### WORDS OF WELCOME

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: 'Tis so sweet to walk with Jesus, step by step and day by day;

**P: stepping in His very footprints, walking with Him all the way.**

L: 'Tis so safe to walk with Jesus, leaning hard upon His arm,

**P: following closely where He leads us, none can hurt and none can harm.**

L: Step by step we'll walk with Jesus, striding steady and in time;

**P: heights we have not wings to soar to, day by day our feet can climb.**

**ALL: Step by step, day by day, we will walk with Jesus;**

**everyday, all the way, keeping up with Jesus: AMEN!**

*["Step by Step," Albert B. Simpson, 1897; adapted]*

## OPENING PRAYER:

**ALL: God of Un-Consuming Fire,**

**You are a force beyond our understanding,  
with a power to set alight the veins of creation  
with passion and vigor, or to extinguish the universe in a blaze.**

**Your presence is dangerous,  
for there is no predicting where You will burn next,  
and Your light offers a warm invitation for us to draw closer.  
Through our worship this evening,  
prepare us to leave this place with the shoes You need us to wear:  
*running shoes* for endurance;**

***tennis shoes* for when the mission gets messy;  
*steel-toed boots* for the tough work before us;  
*sandals* for the joy that comes as we walk with You;  
*hiking boots* to pursue the least, the last, and the lost  
in all the hard-to-reach places.**

**But for now, help us to remove the soles of our hearts  
that we may stand barefoot and vulnerable in this place,  
knowing we are on holy ground—and You are here among us!  
In the name of the One whose sandals we are unworthy to untie: AMEN!**

## \*OPENING HYMNS:

*Holy Ground Medley*

lyrics below

Song #1:

**This is holy ground! We're standing on holy ground!  
For the Lord is present and where God is, is holy! (2x)**

Song #2:

**We are standing—on holy ground!  
And I know that there are angels—all around!  
Let us praise—Jesus now!  
We are standing in His presence on holy ground! (2x)**

Song #1 (return):

**These are holy hands! God's given us holy hands!  
God works through these hands and so our hands are holy! (2x)**

## **'LENT IN PLAIN SIGHT'**

### **WITH HEART AND SOLE**

Pastor Caleb

Exodus 3:2-5 / Mark 6:7-9 / Luke 15:20-24 / John 1:26-27 /

Acts 12:6-8 / Exodus 12:11 / Ephesians 6:10-17

#### **\* HYMN OF RESPONSE:**

*Thy Word*

**UMH 601**

**Chorus: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path!**

**Vs. 1: When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,  
still You're there right beside me,  
and nothing will I fear as long as You are near.  
Please be near me to the end! (*chorus*)**

**Vs. 2: Now I will not forget / Your love for me and yet /  
my heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus, be my Guide and hold me to Your side,  
and I will love You to the end! (*chorus*)**

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ALL: Merciful God, we confess**

**that we put on airs more than we put on the Armor of God.**

**We are guilty of girding ourselves**

**with lies and conspiracies instead of the Truth.**

**We try to protect ourselves with arrogance, superstition,  
and self-reliance instead of righteousness, faith, and salvation.**

**Our footsteps are on the warpath and not the paths of peace.**

**We are quick to wield Your Word to attack others,  
instead of striking at the sins we commit ourselves.**

**Forgive us, Holy God,**

**for staying in our house slippers when we should be suiting up  
for the missions You are calling us to pursue.**

**Give us the strength to be peace-making soldiers of the Lord.**

**In His name we pray: AMEN!**

***[MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION & CONFESSION]***

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

*L: Hear the Good News of Jesus Christ:*

Whenever we, as prodigal children, return home:

Bring the best clothes! A signet ring! New shoes!

Bring out the best meat and drinks! We shall all celebrate!

What was once dead is now alive! What was lost is now found!

Our return is always greeted with a party in heaven!

**ALL: We are a forgiven people! Glory to God! AMEN!**

**\*CONFESSIONAL HYMN:**                      *Our God Reigns*                      lyrics below

How lovely on—the mountains are the feet of those—

who bring Good News! Good News!

Announcing peace—proclaiming news of happiness—

that our God reigns—our God reigns!

*Our God reigns! Our God reigns! Our God reigns! Our God reigns!*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(each time): L: O Crucified God,    **ALL: deliver us from evil!**

**\*CLOSING HYMN:**                      *Footsteps of Jesus*                      see insert

**\*BENEDICTION**

<b>REFRESHMENTS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL</b>
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1. Sweet-ly, Lord, have we heard Thee call - ing, "Come, fol-low  
 2. Tho' they lead o'er the cold, dark mount-ains, Seek - ing His  
 3. If they lead thro' the tem - ple ho - ly, Preach-ing the  
 4. Then at last, when on high He see us, Our journey

4 Me!" And we see where Thy footprints fall - ing, Lead us to  
 sheep, Or a - long by Si - lo - am's foun-tains, Helping the  
 Word, Or in homes of the poor and low - ly, Serving the  
 done, We will rest where the steps of Je - sus End at His

8 Thee.  
 weak. Foot-prints of Je - sus that make the path-way glow;  
 Lord.  
 throne.

13 We will fol-low the steps of Je-sus wher-e'er they go.

## OFFERING

*(place any donations in the wooden box as you leave the service tonight)*

When at Nekoosa: Nekoosa School District Lunch Debt Fund

When at Port Edwards: Port School District Lunch Debt Fund

## HOLY WEEK:

### **Live Last Supper Service**

Marshfield Wesley United Methodist Church

*(211 S. Maple Avenue, Marshfield, WI)*

Mon., March 25<sup>th</sup> – 7-8 PM / Wed., March 27<sup>th</sup> – 7-8 PM

*(we'd like to take a group on Wed.)*

No admission or tickets needed.

**Maundy Thursday Service** – 6-7:30 PM @ Port Edwards UMC

### **Soup-and-Service**

PEUMC is asked to bring soup and bread

NUCC is asked to bring desserts (and sides)

**Good Friday Services** – held at both churches separately