



West Point UMC

M A R C H 2 0 1 1





“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”
Proverbs 15:1

Last January 8th was a really good day for my family. Ronda's brother Kirk married a very special lady that day and it was truly a privilege for me to be the one to join them together in marriage. For our family, that day was a milestone day. Unfortunately, it was a sad and dark day for our nation. On that day, January 8th, in Tucson Arizona, Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords was seriously wounded, along with nineteen others, six of them fatally, by a deranged gunman. Naturally, our prayers for a speedy and full recovery go out to Congresswoman Giffords and those recovering from their wounds. And our most heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those who have lost their lives in this senseless tragedy. My heart, like those of most Americans, is heavy with grief over this whole thing. But what grieves my spirit almost as much is the immediate response from some of the nation's public and political figures. Before the blood that had been spilled on the Arizona sidewalks had dried, voices were raised on our nation's airwaves condemning and assigning blame to their political opponents. No facts about the case, nor the young man who had done the shooting could possibly have been known yet and still, several public figures announced with untoward certainty that this tragedy could be laid squarely at the feet of one particular news network, certain forms of talk radio and their personalities and the internet.

Please allow me to be very clear: the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States guarantees our freedom regarding speech — especially political speech — even speech we stridently disagree with. So for me personally, I don't care so much what people say. What people say at times like this tell us a great deal about who and what they are and frankly, I'd rather know that upfront. Do you know what does concern me though? There seem to be two types of motivation behind the immediate condemnation. The first boils down to simple, cynical opportunism. Some of the folks making those statements in the aftermath of Tucson saw political points to be made and they simply couldn't pass up the opportunity. As disagreeable as that is, it is also a sad fact of life that in the fallen world in which we live, there will always be someone who would run roughshod over the reputations of others, marginalize or dismiss facts and turn a blind eye to the truth in order to further their cause, their career or to line their pockets. The second apparent motive is a bit more disturbing. Some of the folks who immediately condemned others without supporting evidence did so because they flat out wanted to believe the worst about folks on a different side of their personal politics and/or world view. Again, for purposes of clarity, none of us are immune to this tendency but for me, the most recent example of it is what happened in Arizona. I don't even want to waste ink naming

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March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>Administrative Council mtg</i> 7:00 PM	2 Morning bible study 9:00 AM <i>Little Beamers</i> 4:30—6:00 PM 708	3	4	5
6	7	8 <i>Women's bible study</i> 7:00 PM	9 Morning bible study 9:00 AM Ash Wednesday Service @ Stidham UMC 7:30 PM  Ash Wednesday	10	11 <i>Prayer Coach bible Study</i> 7:00 PM	12
13 Soup and Sandwich Supper United Methodist Women Join us at 11:30 AM 	14	15 <i>Women's bible study</i> 7:00 PM	16 Morning bible study 9:00 AM <i>Little Beamers</i> 4:30—6:00 PM 708 UMW 7:00 PM	17 <i>Serving At Attica UMC</i> 4:00—7:00 PM 	18	19
20  First Day of Spring	21	22 <i>Women's bible study</i> 7:00 PM	23 Morning bible study 9:00 AM 708	24	25	26
27	28	29 <i>Women's bible study</i> 7:00 PM	30 Morning bible study 9:00 AM	31		

**SERMONS & SCRIPTURE
LESSONS**

March 6

- Last Sunday of Epiphany
- Holy Communion
- Sunday School 8:30 AM
- Traditional Worship 9:30 AM

The service will revolve around the Wesley Foundation's Africa Witness.

March 9

- Ash Wednesday

Joshua 24:14-17 & 1st Corinthians 3:1-9. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "You Gotta Serve Somebody."

March 13

- 1st Sunday of Lent
- Sunday School 8:30 AM
- Traditional Worship 9:30 AM

Luke 18:9-14 & Psalm 119:1-8. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "Comfortable Assumptions."

March 20

- 2nd Sunday of Lent
- Sunday School 8:30 AM
- Traditional Worship 9:30 AM

John 3:1-17 & John 3:22-30. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "From Here to There"

March 27

- 3rd Sunday of Lent
- Sunday School 8:30 AM
- Traditional Worship 9:30 AM

John 4:5-42 & Exodus 17:1-7. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "Headlock Grace."

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

CLAYTON WHITEHEAD

MAR. 7

DEL CRAIG

MAR. 11

JULIE KATTER

MAR. 18

GREG STOUT

MAR. 21



Prayer Concerns

Ava Bryan, Nora Lamb, Ray Record, Mark Stout, Jim Hale, Dexter Andrews, Shirley Lutes, Joanna Cook, Aubry Deno, Heather and Jenny Baumgartner (missionaries going to Uganda), Virginia Emerick, Mary Lou Lawson, Patty Stetler, Florence Denny, Bailey Keller — a little girl facing life sustaining surgery, Elizabeth Matthews, Sarah Elizabeth Barr, a premature newborn and her parents Chuck and Christie, Delaney Loveridge, Clayton Whitehead, Ron & Nancy Oliver, Congresswoman Gabriel Giffords and those who were injured or lost their lives in the Arizona shooting.

The family and friends of Beverly Dummitt (Pastor Jeff's aunt) on her recent passing

The family and friends of Sheila Gustus on her recent passing

The family and friends of Gary Harbolt, (Larrissa Ritter's father) on his recent passing.

All our men and women in uniform, particularly Cody Hamilton, John MacIntosh, Rob Gaither, John Barton, Chad Gooden, Nathan Marks and Jeremy Ritter, especially those serving in harm's way.

The Tax Man Cometh

It's that time of year again. You know, that time usually after the Super Bowl and before April 15th, where we Americans diligently get ready to settle up with the tax man. Darlene Christian would like you to know that your giving records will be cheerfully forwarded to you if you but ask for them. However, if we don't hear from you, we will assume you don't want them. You can contact Darlene at dcmc2@tds.net, or at 572-2719.

Bible Verse of the Month

Luke 18:13

But the tax collector standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, "God be merciful to me, a sinner."



Women's Bible Studies

Come Join Us

The weather has been a little hostile towards us but our adventure continues in our Beth Moore bible study. For the remainder of this month and well into April, we will be continuing our exploration of the life and ministry of "the disciple Jesus loved." That would be John. As Beth herself says: "Every disciple and early follower of Christ left a legacy for future believers. John's legacy was love. Perhaps like no other disciple, John understood that relationship is the point. Every command of Christ and call to obedience is to enhance relationship and place the recipient in a posture the giver can bless. This study is about finding our way to the heart of Jesus and reclining so closely that our pulse begins to throb in tandem, loving what He loves, hating what He hates."

It's not too late to join us and we would love to have you come along for the ride. Please contact Delite Ritter or Ronda Smith for details.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study Perseveres

We are well into our bible study on “Understanding the Six Phases of Faith” by Pastor Rick Warren. Those phases are dream, decision, delay, difficulty, dead end and deliverance. The group has really connected with Pastor Warren’s study not only in terms of how it relates to our own personal journeys, but also how his faith-building series speaks to us as a church. What an adventure it’s been.

We will begin a new study later this month on Lent. Please join us.

How things stand with our new property

As time goes by, we are faced with a challenging, soul searching, gut checking question: “are we continuing to wait patiently on God, or are we drifting?” I fear that we are doing more drifting than patiently waiting. There is not a doubt in my mind that waiting patiently on God is a spiritual discipline and it is indeed pleasing to God. However, that’s not the same as doing nothing. While Joseph was languishing in prison, unfairly convicted of a crime he didn’t commit, he was waiting patiently on God. But he wasn’t just sitting. Look for us to continue waiting patiently on God’s direction for what He would have us do, but look closely because while waiting, we intend to continue also moving towards what we think God is preparing us for. Stay alert! God is working mightily in our lives. Blessings, Pastor Jeff



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Mark your calendars:

The choir is coming back! Want to join the adventure? Rehearsals will take place on March 6th and 20th after church.

Imagine the Easter season with choir voices and music as part of our worship experience!

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Congresswoman Gifford's assailant in this space. I don't want to give that man even the remotest semblance of recognition. I will say this: the man is clearly crazy. And now that some of the facts are in about who and what he is, it seems that he was far more influenced by Carl Marx, Nicolai Lenin and the occult and that as far as we know, he never even heard of Rush Limbaugh. Yet there seems to be a segment of our population for whom the facts mean nothing, if the some of the blogs are any indication. For those folks, blame can still be lain at the feet of those on the other side of their political ideology. Why? I can only conclude that it is because they want so badly to believe it. They want it to be true. It fits a template that defines their world view.

Let us remember that none of us are immune to this tendency. It's easier for all of us to put the "unknown other" in some kind of box and slap a label on them. Then you don't have to deal with pesky things like facts or ugly and inconvenient truths. Secondly, this type of response is not unprecedented. I happen to be old enough to remember Dr. Martin Luther King and his crusade for racial justice in America. I also remember how some Americans blamed him for the violent response to his non-violent protests. Somehow, he was responsible for the beatings, fire bombings that the people he was standing up for endured. Somehow it was Dr. King's fault that Bull Conner unleashed the dogs on the peaceful protestors in Birmingham. Why did so many Americans respond to Dr. King's message that way? Because it was easier to do that then to wrestle with the fact that we had problems with race in our country.

So what does all of that mean to us here at West Point United Methodist Church and what should our take on this be as followers of Christ? As Christ followers we need to remember that truth has no agenda. We need to remember that yes, the truth shall indeed set us free, no matter how unpleasant that truth might initially be. The facts are our friends. But we do have a responsibility to wait for the truth to out before we make judgments or pronouncements. We also need to remember that when we do discover the truth, Christ demands that we respond responsibly; that we respond in love. Proverbs 15:1 says it best: "A gentle answer turns away wrath but a harsh word stirs up anger." Jesus often spoke uncomfortable truths that stirred up anger but that anger never came about because Jesus was harsh in his judgments. Personally, I need to work harder to be like Jesus. So do lots of us, amen?

Blessings,

Pastor Jeff



March Birthdays

Cory Meadows	Mar. 2
Star Wells	Mar. 7
Shad Meadows	Mar. 12
Megan Francis	Mar. 18
Sarah Craig	Mar. 18
Destiny Taylor	Mar. 21



Hey Light House;

We wrapped up February by talking about faith and the role it plays in our lives. We will study faith further in March by using Rick Warren's six stages of faith bible study. It's going to be a blast.

March 2: This will be our free day but we will talk briefly about what we stand on the mission trip to Sault St. Marie. Like to accomplish in the coming year.

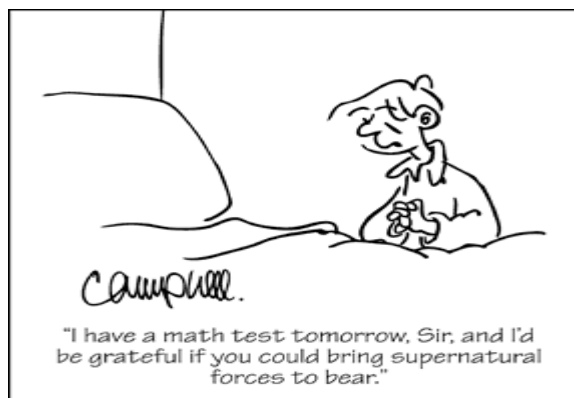
March 9: No 708 due to the Ash Wednesday worship service at Stidham UMC. All Lighthouse youth are encouraged to attend the service at Stidham which starts at 7:30 PM.

March 16: We begin our study on Faith with Rick Warren.

March 23: We continue our study on Faith with Rick Warren.

Little Beamers!!!

We won't let a little thing like bad weather slow us down! Last month we were scheduled to start a new adventure by having Little Beamers meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. We could do that last February 2 because of excessive cold and snow. But we won't let that stop us for March. We will see you on March 2 and again on March 16. Are you ready for this new adventure? See you then.



Our Vision Statement

We envision the West Point United Methodist Church to be the focal point of our community and to be a welcoming church reaching out to everyone; offering all the opportunity to know and serve God; providing fellowship; offering spiritual leadership; and teaching the Word of God.

**For more information about West Point UMC, contact us at 765-572-2256, or
wpumc@tds.net or check out our webpage at
Www.westpointunitedmethodist.org**

Sunday School: 8:30 AM
Traditional Worship 9:30 AM

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