

Bethany

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3501 W 1st Ave ♦ Denver, CO ♦ 80219

March is such a declarative word. But, as we all know in Colorado sometimes we need that - a declaration that will inspire us to march into the spring sunshine through feet of snow. Maybe we won't have that much snow this Lenten season, March is also the month that we are embraced by Lent. It would be so easy to snuggle in where it is warm, safe, and no one would ask you about our Lenten journey. As we are learning this month through the lectionary for Lent, we are ready to live our deepest connections with God on the outside. Our confirmation - our assurance - our boldness moves us into the cold sunshine and we are ready to be the hands and feet of Christ. The Iowa State mission team who will be here in March is a great way to show our hospitality. My preparing dinner for them when they arrive we will model the service that



they will be working on during the week as the ministry with people behind the Sacred Doors of Denver. Our attention to detail - like having a clean building, finished showers, clean dishes, and coffee ready for them is an oh so subtle way of saying welcome and that we are glad you traveled to our town to learn about our non-profits. March - we ponder our faith so we can show our faith.

Love, Pastor Denise

February 26 -

First Sunday of Lent

Matthew 4:1-11

Be Lent, Not Do Lent

When people look at me, do they see a reflection of Jesus?

What are the lurking problems that still tempt me?

March 5 - Communion

2nd Sunday of Lent

John 3:1-17

Called to A Deeper Commitment

What practical steps am I taking for daily prayer?

March 12 -

Third Sunday of Lent

John 4:5-42

Thirsty

What does my life thirst for?

March 19 -

Fourth Sunday of Lent

John 9:1-41

We Only Know What We Know.

What are my truths?

March 26 -

Fifth Sunday of Lent

John 11:1-45

Where Were You?

How have my confessions gotten in the way of hope?

Donations for upcoming Iowa Mission Trip:

Max Fund - No Kill Animal Shelter

-Used towels and wash cloths

-Poop bags

Delores Project

-Peanut butter

-Socks for women

-Canned foods

Urban Peak

-Boxer briefs

-sports bras

-winter gloves

-sleeping bags



What Is the Spring Equinox?

In the Northern Hemisphere, the spring equinox in the Northern Hemisphere (also called the March equinox or vernal equinox across the globe) occurs when the Sun crosses the celestial equator going south to north. It's called the "celestial" equator because it's an imaginary line in the sky above the Earth's equator. Imagine standing on the equator; the Sun would pass directly overhead on its way north.

After the spring equinox, the Northern Hemisphere begins to be tilted more toward the Sun, resulting in increasing number of daylight hours, with earlier dawns and later sunsets! (In the Southern Hemisphere, it's the opposite: the March equinox marks the start of autumn, as the Southern Hemisphere begins to be tilted away from the Sun.)

Although in most locations (the North Pole and Equator being exceptions) the amount of daylight had been increasing each day after the winter solstice, after the spring equinox, many places will experience more daylight than darkness in each 24-hour day. The amount of daylight each day will continue to increase until the summer solstice in June, during which the longest period of daylight occurs.

Here's an interesting fact: Equinoxes are the only two times each year that the Sun rises due east and sets due west for all of us on Earth! While the Sun passes overhead, the tilt of the Earth is zero relative to the Sun, which means that Earth's axis neither points toward nor away from the Sun. (Note, however, that the Earth never orbits upright, but is always tilted on its axis by about 23.5 degrees.)

The Spring Equinox

To us, the vernal equinox signals new beginnings and nature's renewal in the Northern Hemisphere! Many cultures celebrate with spring festivals, such as Easter and Passover.

Here are some ideas for how to spend the first week of spring.

Get outside! Look around. Are worms and grubs reappearing? (The March Full Moon is called the "Worm Moon" for this very reason!)

Watch the arc of the Sun across the sky as it shifts toward the north. Birds are migrating northward, along with the path of the Sun.

Are you noticing that the days are getting longer? Did you know that the increasing sunlight inspires birds to sing? Cool, eh?

Are daffodils poking up their heads? Trees, shrubs, and flowers are sensitive to temperature and day length, too! Since ancient days, people have used natural events as indicators of when the weather is right for planting. For example: Blooming crocus are your cue to plant radishes, parsnips, and spinach.

Can you feel the Sun getting stronger? The longer days bring high temperatures. Both we and the animals around us discard our warm clothes and heavy coats!

Do you plan to garden? The first day of spring is a traditional day to start in the garden! There's nothing more restorative! See which days are the best planting dates according to your local frost dates or consult our Vegetable Gardening for Beginners guide to get started!

Are you craving fresh foods after a long winter? A Spring Tonic, using the early greens of spring, may be just the thing you need! Also, find some new spring recipes using what's fresh and seasonal!



Denise Bender
Pastor's Report
February 19, 2023

Thank you for the time off. It was great practice for retirement.

DATES

Palm Sunday is April 2 - Palm fronds?

Bethany UMC will host Extreme Community Makeover Saturday, April 8. Interested in helping?

Easter is on April 9 - shall we do flowers again or balloons or ?

Mother's Day - May 14

Pentecost - May 28 (Rev. Nani Arning preaching)

June 4 - (Rev. Nani Arning preaching)

Father's Day - June 18

My last day to preach is June 18

MISSION TEAMS

I am planning and communicating with three mission teams that Sacred Doors Denver is leading in service projects. To prepare for that, I will finish painting the shower room and Curtis and Cliff will repair the walls downstairs. We need to rewash the dishes and clean very well before our guests arrive.

We will have a light and easy dinner prepared for each team on the Sunday that they arrive. Who would like to host with me and who is preparing what?

These three groups discovered Sacred Doors because of the connections I have made with the Western Jurisdiction UMWIM. One team contacted me while I was on leave and I began their process with them at that time.

March 11 - 17

Iowa State University alternative Spring Break.

Scheduled activities: Delores Project, Denver Rescue Mission, Urban Peak, Food Bank of the Rockies, and the Max Fund. I will lead this group of 17 each day and discuss social justice and marginalized people in Denver.

June 11 - 17

A small youth group from Wyoming. Extreme Community Makeover is one project, and am working on securing other projects.

June 25 - July 1

A group of 15 youth from Arkansas will drive up for a week of service. Included in their week is environmental theology, ECM and other services to be determined.

SCHEDULE NOTES

I plan on being in the church office on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the most part.

I will be gone May 28 - June 5

Annual Conference is June 22 - 25, which I will attend.

How can I help during these next few months of transition?

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Denise Bender



March 2023

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 10 11

11AM Worship
Brett Rohrer
BIRTHDAY

Carson Kaiser
BIRTHDAY

12 13 14 15 16 17 18

11AM Worship

St Patrick's Day

Iowa State Alternative Spring Break
Daylight Savings
Time Begins



Iowa State Alternative Spring Break

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

11AM Worship

First Day of Spring

26 27 28 29 30 31

11AM Worship

Norma Jean Coffelt
BIRTHDAY

Lectionary Readings

March 5, 2023

- Genesis 12:1-4a
- Psalm 121
- Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
- John 3:1-17
- Matthew 17:1-9

March 12, 2023

- Exodus 17:1-7
- Psalm 95
- Romans 5:1-11
- John 4:5-42

March 19, 2023

- 1 Samuel 16:1-13
- Psalm 23
- Ephesians 5:8-14
- John 9:1-41

March 26, 2023

- Isaiah 7:10-14
- Psalm 45
- Psalm 40:5-10
- Hebrews 10:4-10
- Luke 1:26-38

Liturgists

March 5, 2023

Eva

March 12, 2023

Lataine

March 19, 2023

Mary

March 26, 2023

Eva

