

Newsletter 02.26.26

This morning the Spotify algorithm decided I needed to hear the soundtrack to *The Greatest Showman*. If you've never seen it, then I highly recommend it. The musical tells the story of everyone's favorite circus owner and humbug artist P. T. Barnum. Starring Hugh Jackman, Zac Efron, and Zendaya, the acting is top notch. The songs (the key to any good musical) are amazing.

It is also one hundred percent historically inaccurate. The movie files away Barnum's rough edges and plasters over his flaws. The real Barnum was not the loveable rascal and kindhearted man Hugh Jackman plays. He was a liar, a cheat, and by all accounts a jerk.

The Greatest Showman is less a biopic and more a fairy tale. It's the story that Barnum would have told about himself. A story where he's the hero and the star. Where everything he ever did was for the right reasons and for a good cause. Barnum would have totally cast Hugh Jackman in a story that justifies everything he ever did.

We are not objective observers of our own stories. We don't know what other people in our lives are thinking or what they are going through. We justify our own actions because *we* know why we're doing something. We can easily overlook our own flaws while pointing out the flaws of others.

Jesus points to this in this teaching, "Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye"? (Matthew 7:3-4). We can be blind to our own faults, but hyper focus on the flaws in others.

To follow Christ means we need to be honest with ourselves. We need to be brave enough to admit that we can act selfishly. We can be jerks to people, even if by accident. Christ calls us to remember that no matter our reasoning or how bad of a day we've had, nothing justifies hateful attitudes. Nothing makes acting in unloving ways okay.

By accepting Christ, we admit that we are not perfect. We have made mistakes in our lives. We all have. But by following Christ we are working towards perfection. Every day we are working to remove those logs in our eyes.

Yet, we also need to give ourselves some grace. It is too easy to swing the other way and beat ourselves up for our imperfections. I know how easy it is to focus on the negative and ignore the positive when it comes to ourselves. So let us also remember that we are beautifully made by God. We are loved by God forever and nothing can ever change that.

So let us remember to be honest with ourselves. Let us acknowledge our faults and our strengths. Let us resist the temptation to cast ourselves as the hero of every story and instead allow Christ to shape the narrative. When we are brave enough to see the logs in our own eyes, we become gentler with the specks in someone else's. When we trust that we are already loved, already claimed, already forgiven, we no longer need to justify ourselves at the expense of others. We can simply live as disciples, humble, gracious, and growing, letting God write a better story in us than any fairy tale we could invent on our own.

God Bless, Pastor Ed

Disciples and Dragons Youth Group is meeting every other Sunday at 6 PM

TOPS Club meets at LUMC on Mondays, 4:00 PM, Room 206, use north east door.

Thank You

We'd like to thank our church family for all of their cards, love, & support during our brother, Roger's final days.

The service was touching and reflected Roger's personality & character.

We appreciate everyone that participated in making the dinner after the funeral, all went above & beyond. It was delicious & comforting and we thank you!

We are so blessed & appreciate belonging to such a wonderful church family,
Larry & Betsy Riddle

Online giving is available for your convenience
Scan the QR code for the direct link. Also, at lakevilleumc.org



Food Pantry Needs: pancake mix, ketchup, saltine crackers, cereal – all kinds, jelly or jam, peanut butter, dish washing soap, soup with meat, ranch dressing, jello, toilet paper

The Food Pantry is open to anyone in the Union North school district as well as to our church family on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month 3 – 6 PM

Sunday Fellowship Time Refreshments Schedule

Mar 1 Ort's Mar 8 _____ Mar 15 KFC Class

**Sign up at the bulletin board outside the
kitchen door.**

Sunday Kids Church Schedule

Mar 1 Communion

Mar 8 Hope Mar 15 Hope

**Sign up at the bulletin board outside the
kitchen door.**

Looking Ahead

Euchre/Game Night – Saturday, Feb. 28, 4-6 PM

Finance Committee Meeting – Thursday, Mar. 5, 10 AM

Missions/Evangelism Meeting – Thursday, Mar. 5, 6:30 PM

Daylight Savings Time Begins – Sunday, Mar. 8

Disciples & Dragons Youth Group – Sunday, Mar. 8, 6-8 PM

Food Pantry – Tuesday, Mar. 10. 3-6 PM

LaVille Cast Party – Monday, Mar. 16

Blood Drive – Tuesday, Mar. 17, 2:30 – 6:30 PM Palmer Community Complex

Mary Magdalene Mission Circle – Tuesday, Mar. 17, 7 PM

Disciples & Dragons Youth Group – Sunday, Mar. 22, 6-8 PM

Food Pantry – Tuesday, Mar. 24, 3-6 PM

Ida Mission Circle – Wednesday, Mar. 25, 10 AM Fireside Room

Fill Easter Eggs & Pizza – Thursday, Mar. 26, 6 PM

Euchre/Game Night – Saturday, Mar. 28, 4-6 PM

**Preschool Sunday/Easter Egg Hunt/Breakfast
Sunday, Mar. 29**