

The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6, CEB)

When Jesus spoke these words he did not intend to establish an exclusive club or an organization that excluded people. Instead,

Jesus intended to reveal the fullness of God through his own example of grace, mercy, forgiveness, and love. This revelation through the life of Jesus was manifest in those moments when Jesus welcomed sinners to dine with him; when he healed the broken, even on the Sabbath; when he challenged the mob to cast the first stone; and when he broke all the rules in favor of God's law to love one another. Jesus was a rebel, a revolutionary, a "trouble-maker". He was clearly anti-establishment and anti-status quo. He stood against the political and religious establishment to show us that God's kingdom is not of this world and, if we are to live in God's kingdom, we must learn to live a very different life from what our culture demonstrates for us.

This week we began our series, "**Renegade Gospel: Discovering the Rebel Jesus.**" It is based on the book by Rev. Mike Slaughter, pastor of Ginghamburg United Methodist Church in Ohio. We are approaching this in a different way than we normally do in Sunday worship. That is because I believe the message from this book is challenging us to behave very differently in our everyday life. The method may be uncomfortable for us – that's the idea; you see, Pastor Mike says we are called to, "**afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted.**" Maybe if we are a little uncomfortable from time-to-time we will better recognize where Jesus really wants us to be.

I also want to be very clear that some of the things that Mike Slaughter presents in his book are challenging, even controversial. I do not imagine or even intend for everyone in our church to agree with everything Pastor Mike has to say. We are Methodists – there is plenty of room for discussion and differences of opinion in our church. I am certain there are times when we do not all agree on everything. Disagreement in conversation is fine, as long as we do not become disagreeable.

As we continue to go through the Season of Lent I want us to all engage in the conversation about Jesus as a **revolutionary in his time who calls us to be revolutionaries in our time.** It is revolutionary to suggest that we should no longer think of justice in terms of "an eye for an eye," but rather in terms of "turn the other cheek". How does this affect our understanding of the way the criminal justice system in America works? How does this affect our own ability to tolerate and respond to people who might offend us in one way or another? Does this suggest that Jesus was a "pacifist"? What happens when you also include Jesus' mandate to "love your enemies" in this conversation. This is a very complex arena for prayerful conversation. There are no

easy answers to these questions and there are plenty of other questions to be asked. That is what makes Jesus' teaching revolutionary – it calls us to question what we thought we already had clear answers for and it challenges us to engage differing opinions in respectful discourse.

Each week we will encounter a new set of questions that challenge us to engage a Jesus we may not be familiar with or a man we may have forgotten through the years. It may be difficult for us to imagine that the Jesus we met in Sunday school may not be the same Jesus who actually walked the earth and taught his followers to stand against the government and their culture. I get that; this book challenges me as well. I cannot tell you that I agree with everything Mike Slaughter presents in this study. I can tell you that it is not my opinion that matters in this conversation – this is for you to decide how you feel about these issues and how you believe God is calling you to transform your life because of what you believe about Jesus Christ. What I think does not matter here – you need to be clear about what you believe. As someone said in worship on Sunday, *if we cannot be clear about what we believe, how can we ever hope to offer a faithful witness to anyone else?* We cannot talk about what we do not know about.

Rev. Slaughter says this in the introduction to his book: "*The Lenten season is a sobering reminder that the journey with Jesus leads to a cross. Jesus reminded the crowds that showed up motivated by self-interest, miracles of healing, and free food to count the cost of discipleship (Luke 14:25-33). He concluded by saying, 'In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples' (verse 33.)*" (Slaughter, page 13)

This message still applies to the church in this century. If we treat church simply as a place where we go to feel better about ourselves, to witness what God might be doing for somebody else, and to enjoy a few pot luck suppers, then we are missing the fullness of the revelation of God in Jesus Christ. The church exists for so much more than just nurturing and caring for its members; that is vitally important, but it is not our true purpose. The church exists to bear witness to the world that our Jesus welcomes, loves, and forgives anyone and everyone who seek him. He challenges us – the members of His Body – to act in that same manner towards everyone we meet. Walk with us on this Lenten journey as we discover new ways to engage the world in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Praying for all of us,
Pastor Don

HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

SOMEONE'S PRAYING, LORD.....

What an awesome beginning of our Praying Backwards Bible Study. Even on such a cold night, our hearts were warmed as we discussed and shared together. Say a little prayer for those of us participating, that we can use the concept of praying in Jesus' name in our everyday lives.

If you missed Pastor Don's sermon series on Prayer, I hope you can listen to it online. In such a troubled world, both far away and at home, Prayer is the only way to connect us to God's peace and direction. Thanks to the Stewardship Team for helping us to focus on prayer these few weeks before and during Lent. Let's keep praying! Virginia

Renegade Gospel:

Discovering the Rebel Jesus

Our worship series during Lent is called "*Renegade Gospel*." It is based on the book by Rev. Mike Slaughter of the Ginghamburg United Methodist Church in Ohio. The book deals extensively with challenging topics and is a really good book for you to read. Obviously, we cannot cover everything presented in this book during our worship time on Sunday. We have purchased three copies of this book to be placed in the Church Library. I hope you will take the opportunity to explore this further by reading the book and learning more about the topics we are discussing on Sundays in worship.

Our monthly Community Dinner began this week. "*Fourth Monday Community Meal*" will continue on the 4th Monday of every month from 5:30 – 7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. The idea is: "*Sit down with a stranger, get up with a friend.*" This dinner is an opportunity for us to reach out to our neighbors and offer them a good meal and great fellowship. Anyone is welcome to join us for supper and nobody

will be turned away. We are suggesting a donation of \$1.00 per person for the dinner, but anyone is welcome whether or not they can afford to contribute. We want to help our neighbors get a good meal and introduce them to our community of Christian fellowship. Our prayerful hope is that you, the members of our church, will also plan to join us for supper and that you will spend time meeting and getting to know our guests. This is not just another opportunity for us to have fellowship with one another; this is an intentional effort to meet new people who live in our community. We are asking that, in addition to your presence at the meal, you provide corn bread and deserts each month. You may bring these to church on the 4th Sunday morning, or bring them with you when you come to the dinner each month. We also need empty butter/whipped cream tubs to send leftovers home. You may also want to bring a pot of soup or stew – the beans are covered. Special thanks to the Noah Sunday school Class for spear-heading this important mission project for our church. This is an **all-church event** and we need everyone's help to keep it going into the future. The important thing is that this is a chance for us to be the church by showing God's love. Please help us make this a huge success!

CHILI COOK-OFF SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 at 5:30 p.m. - FAMILY LIFE CENTER



Please join us for an evening of fellowship & delicious food! Sign-up sheets are in the narthex. You can sign up to bring chili and/or deserts as well as set up and clean up help. All donations will be

used to purchase supplies for our **Restore Hope Missions Projects**.

Lenten Lunch Series

Once again this year churches in Sand Springs will host “Tuesdays in Lent,” a series of worship celebrations and lunches for the whole community. We will gather at various churches on Tuesdays during Lent at 12:00 NOON for a brief worship celebration and then we will gather for a lunch, hosted by the church. The idea is to have you back to work on time after lunch. Please plan to join us during Lent as we celebrate and break bread with our friends across Sand Springs.

2015 Lent Lunch Schedule

February 24	First Presbyterian Church
March 3	St. Patrick’s Catholic Church
March 10	St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church
March 17	Sand Springs United Methodist Church
March 24	OPEN
March 31	St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church



SPRING FORWARD

Sunday, March 8th
NOT THIS SUNDAY,
but the next



UMW Membership Brunch Saturday, March 7th 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall

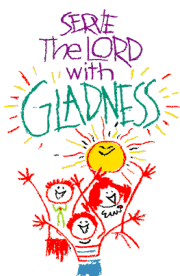
All ladies are invited to attend the UMW Membership Brunch. If you are a member of a circle group, please bring a breakfast item to share. Valerie Thomas from Sand Springs Community Services will be our guest speaker.

KidZone

We hope everyone is staying warm during all this snow weather!

This coming Sunday the children will learn the story of Jesus calming the storm as they continue scrapbooking the life of Jesus.

KidZone is really excited to have a new keyboard. We’ve put that to good use during our music time. Ms. Cathy is currently working on a musical, *Three Trees*, with the children. They will perform the musical for the congregation in the spring. See you Sunday!



Please Keep In Prayer

Martha Scudder, Tristan Schwartz, Darryl Muse, Jack Brown, Ruth Weaver, Paul Waldschmidt, Destinee Tackett, Billie Schmidt, Irene Stogsdill, Owen Johnston, Clare Caldwell, Craig Cooper, Leslie Dinsmore, Les Matthies, Jan Dickerson, Todd Williams, Mary Lea Forsythe, Andrew, Eric Johnson, Leslie Dinsmore, and Unspoken Requests

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—March 1

Visitors Center & Coffee-Discovery
Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David
Young Disciples Lesson-8:30a.m.-Jami Warkentin
Young Disciples Lesson-11:00a.m.-Jami Warkentin
Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids
Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Jan Dickerson
Counters-Sheree Buttler & Jami Warkentin

Sunday Volunteers—March 8

Visitors Center & Coffee-Discovery
Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David
Young Disciples Lesson-8:30a.m.-Jami Warkentin
Young Disciples Lesson-11:00a.m.-Jami Warkentin
Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids
Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Amanda Honeycutt
Counters-Janie Moore & Kent Warkentin

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FLC-Family Life Center

Wednesday, February 25

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast—Crescent Café
6:30 p.m.-The Awakening Youth
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 26

1:00 p.m.-Ruth Esther Circle-F. Hall
7:00 p.m.-Faith Circle-Parlor
7:00 p.m.-*Karate-FLC

Friday, February 27

5:30 p.m.-FLC in use

Saturday, February 28

5:30 p.m.-Chili Cook Off-FLC

Sunday, March 1

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship; 11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship
10:00 a.m.-Sunday School
5:00 p.m.-Praying Backwards-Parlor

Monday, March 2

7:00 p.m.-Boy Scouts-FLC

Tuesday, March 3

11:00 a.m.-Intercessory Prayer
12:00 p.m.-Lenten Lunch-St. Patrick's Catholic Church
1:00 p.m.-Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Praise Team
7:00 p.m.-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, March 4

7:30 a.m.-Men's/Women's Breakfast-Crescent Café
8:30 a.m.-Life Line Screening
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers
6:30 p.m.-Youth-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, March 5

7:00 p.m.-*Karate-FLC

Friday, March 6

5:30 p.m.-FLC in use
UMW Brunch set up-F. Hall

Saturday, March 7

9:30 a.m.-UMW Brunch-F. Hall
5:30 p.m.-Boy Scouts Blue & Gold-FIC

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