## **New Sunday School Series**

Beginning Sunday, Mar. 3 through April 14th, the Sunday School class will view the series "Seven Words", by Susan Robb. "While many of us naturally wish to avoid the reality of the cross, it's from the cross that Jesus speaks and shows his deepest love for us. It's from the cross that Jesus' full humanity draws us closest to him." See weekly email for more information.

### **Easter Basket Donations Needed**

From Barb Andrews: We are back to collecting items for Easter baskets. They are basically the same items provided for Christmas stockings, but with baskets instead! Please leave these items in the box near the green Oxcart Pantry bin: wrapped candy, shampoo, deodorant, conditioner, toothpaste/toothbrushes, hair items, small coloring books, soap, skin cream/lotion, puzzle books, lip balm, razors, crayons, nail clippers/files, small tools, pens and pencils, jewelry, toy cars/trucks, small stuffed animals, small dolls, cosmetics. Toiletry items and men's gifts are especially needed. We will, however, make use of all donations. Remember that the items need to be small enough to fit in baskets. The February Penny Sunday is an opportunity to give cash to shop for needed items. Since Easter is so early this year, we will need the items by March 17, preferably earlier.

# Lent Sunday School February 18th and 25<sup>th</sup>

Craig Mueller will facilitate a two-week video screening of "Heaven, How I got Here: The Story of the Thief on the Cross" by Colin Smith. This is a powerful visual illustration of one man's journey coming to accept Jesus as his savior and learning what it means to fear God. A beautiful, emotionally charged performance by Stephen Baldwin brings this timeless story to life for a new generation in a way that is both entertaining and uplifting.

## **February is Black History Month**

Black History Month celebrates Black Americans throughout U.S. history. Dr. Carter G. Woodson - historian and founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History - established Black History Week in 1926. He chose February because Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln had birthdays in that month.

The Racial Justice Group will participate in the Pro-Racial Equity Group zoom meetings on the 2nd Thursday of every month. Recaps of any speakers are available after the meetings. NOUMC RJ Group will have a discussion zoom meeting on the following Monday evening. Ask Janis Jarvis if you would like any of the registration info and zoom links.

## **Volunteers Needed For Community Meal**

Please sign up to help with our community meal on February 29<sup>th</sup>. A signup sheet is on the sign-in table in FH.

#### **Easter Flower Sale**

The Worship Team is taking orders for Easter Lilies, Hyacinths, Daffodils, Tulips, Martha Washington Geraniums, and Pansies to decorate our altar on Easter morning. Order forms are available in Fellowship Hall every Sunday. Please fold your payment into the order form and place it into the purple box or send them to Wendy's attention at the church. You may also email your order to Wendy at <a href="mailto:sundayschool@noumc.org">sundayschool@noumc.org</a>. Proceeds from the sale will support our Altar and Arts Team and be used to decorate our altar. Deadline to order is Sunday March 3rd. Flowers may be taken home after our Easter morning service!

# **Grief Support Group Starting February 21st**

Are you grieving the loss of a loved one....the loss of physical or mental capacities that you or a loved one once had....the loss of hoped-for dreams coming true....the loss of stamina and resilience in being hopeful with troubling matters in your life or the world....maybe other matters of grief, too?

You are not alone and there are people in your church family that have experienced grief and are here to listen, pray, and support you. Rev. Alice, Rev. Joel and Pastor Hoyte understand and are offering a Grief Support Group during the Season of Lent on Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm to 7:30pm in the Prayer Room of NOUMC beginning February 21 and ending March 27. Please RSVP of your interest with the church office or simply show up on February 21!

#### Thank You From the Chermontes!

Deb and Joel would like to thank members of our church family who stepped up in a big way the past five weeks to support the weekly community meal at Nehemiah Mission. Your commitment to preparing and serving meals, greeting guests and clean up tasks is greatly appreciated. We made many new friends among those who benefited from the meals and fellowship, and especially enjoyed partnering with volunteers from other churches. We hope that this will be the beginning of continuing efforts to support Nehemiah's important ministry. Thank you, again!

## This Week's Happenings

Book Bank: Tuesday, February 20, 1-3pm

PM Bible Study: Tuesday, February 20, 7pm, Classroom 7

Grief Support Group: Wednesday, February 21, 6:30pm, Chapel AM Bible Study: Thursday, February 22, 11am, Classroom 7 Chancel Choir: Thursday, February 22, 7pm, Choir Room Sunday School: Sunday, February 25, 9am, Choir Room 2nd Sunday in Lent: Sunday, February 25, 10:30am