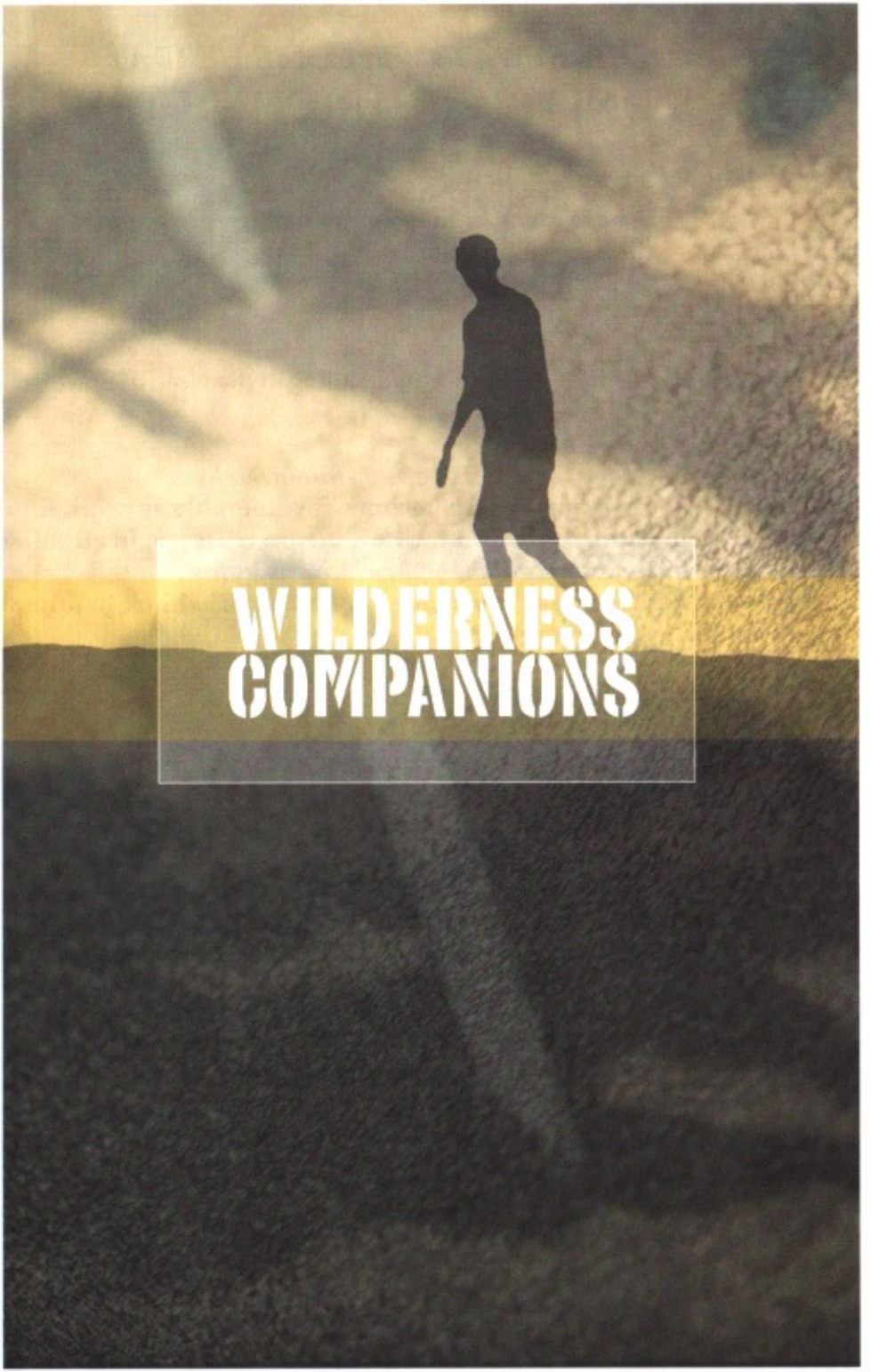
WILDERNESS
COMPANIONS

YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME HERE AT

PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 6, 2022

***Please stand in body and/or spirit as you are able.**

PRELUDE
ANNOUNCEMENTS

***GATHERING MUSIC** #519 Standing in the Need of Prayer

***CALL TO WORSHIP**
One: *We come seeking the power to give up fear in our lives.*
Many: **We come seeking help to become as vulnerable as Jesus, for in that vulnerability, we find the humility to trust you in all things;**
One: *In that trust, we discover the grace which sets us free;*
Many: **In that freedom, we can leave our badlands behind, in order to follow Jesus into new life.**

***OPENING PRAYER** (in unison)
God of the desert, God of the forty days in the wilderness, bring us to the waters of the Jordan and into Easter's promise. Steady us so that we are present to the rigors of each day's trek. Increase in us hospitality to the stranger. Subdue the enemy within us as you make peace in all the world. May unity overpowers our cherished divisions. Go before us as the desert gives way to Easter's Alleluia, through Jesus. Amen.
(adapted from "A Prayer for Lent" by The General Board of Discipleship, United Methodist Church)

***HYMN** # 436 God of Grace and God of Glory vs 1-3

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PSALTER READING: Psalm 91, Page 681-682 New Century Hymnal
SUNG RESPONSE #460 Be Not Dismayed

JOYS AND CONCERNS
SILENT PRAYERS, INTERCESSORY PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN** #351 I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

THE BAPTISM OF RIVERS JUDY JOHNSON
SPECIAL MUSIC "Welcome to the Family" (see insert)

BIBLICAL TESTIMONY: Luke 4:1-13
Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, 2where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. 3The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." 4Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" 5Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. 7If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." 8Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" 9Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, 10for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' 11and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" 12Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" 13When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

CONTEMPORARY TESTIMONY: an excerpt from The Tempter's Snare
by Nancy Rockwell
Worship Me! cries the Devil to each of us, and at oh-so-opportune times. And we do need stories, each showing us another way in which temptation ensnares us with its siren songs, and how the clay feet of our false idols do emerge at last. And there is no place at all that cannot become a wilderness, family life, the car pool, small towns, large cities, the church, even a zealous vision – false idols are everywhere.
Trailing his wonderful name behind him, sprinkling drops of it on all of us, Jesus wends his way through thickets of conversation, angry mobs, stumbling friends, till he comes to the brooding city, as tense as Kiev is today. The shadows lengthen, and he wrestles with his fearful temptations in the Garden. We know how the story ends. And how it can be written for us.

SERMON Temptation Island
(see insert)

OFFERING, OFFERTORY- *DOXOLOGY & DEDICATION OF GIFTS
Generous God, we pray that you might deliver us from the fear that causes us to be closed off. Bless the gifts we bring that they might bring healing and wholeness to a broken world. Amen

***HYMN** #330 Let Us Break Bread Together

INVITATION TO THE TABLE
THE STORY REMEMBERED
THE BANQUET SHARED

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
Satisfying God, may this table ever feed us when we are starving for justice, when we crave a sense of belonging and community, when the journey seems too far and too long and we long for respite and relief. Amen. (adapted from A Worship Resource for African Canadian Heritage Month)

***HYMN** #448 Take My life, God, Let It Be

BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to everyone who are here for the special day in the life of RIVERS JUDY JOHNSON, daughter of Richard and Cassie and sister of Cooper.

COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP TIME BEFORE CHURCH. Beginning at 9:30.

PASTOR MELANIE'S OFFICE HOURS are on Sundays, 1:30-3:30. Call or text if you'd like to meet with her. She can be reached at (402) 841-1450 or revdocmel@gmail.com

CONFIRMATION meets following worship.

PEACE UCC LENTEN BOOK STUDY will meet Wednesdays at 7PM, beginning March 9th in the Fellowship Hall. We will be reading and

discussing Amy-Jill Levine's book "Entering the Passion of Jesus". All are welcome.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Tilden will be holding their annual ST. PAT'S BASH FUNDRAISER on Sunday, March 20th from 11am - 2pm in the OLMC parish hall, 300 E. 2nd St. in Tilden. On the menu are soups, sandwiches, desserts and beverages for a free will donation. Join in the fun with a variety of games and raffles. Prizes include a Hisense 50" Smart TV, Handmade Quilt, Husker Football Tickets, Cash Prizes, and much more. Raffles begin at 2pm, and you need not be present to win. Bring your friends and family, and test your luck at the St. Pat's Bash.

PASTOR MELANIE'S OFFICE HOURS are Sundays 1:30-3:30. Call or text if you'd like to meet with her. She can be reached at (402)841-1450 or (402)500-3412 or revdocmel@gmail.com

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NURSING CENTER/HOMEBOUND PRAYER LIST:

Deloris Ashburn Clara Ritter Diann Larson

CONCERNS

Pierce family who lost 3 children in house fire.
War in Ukraine
"Hate-full" and Divided America
Members of Tilden Church of Christ
Graham Sayers, infant son of Lisa (Henseleit) and Jay Sayers

Keith Redinbaugh	Diann Larson	Ciera Nygren
Bill Rittscher	Clara Ritter	Gene Fields
Jesse Johnson	Dustin Meyer	Eric Heithoff
McCoy Backer	Laura Rutjens	Fr. Pat Nields
Deloris Mozer	Michelle Dittmer	Kandi Hart
Deloris Ashburn	Dave Carstens	Carter Brown
John Johnson	Holli Perez	Theresa Sullivan Meyer

JOYS

Elkhorn Valley Girls Basketball team going to State!!!