



March 2018

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

I pray that you have been blessed in the past month, and that you are striving to observe a holy Lent with prayer and fasting. If you have not already heard, Peace and Trinity churches are undertaking a 40-day prayer challenge during Lent. We began February 19 and will continue through March, ending on Saturday before Easter. What I am challenging all of our members to do is to be intentional about prayer every day for 40 days, asking God what it is they should be praying about, keeping a journal where you record what you are praying for and how God is speaking into that prayer or answering that prayer, praying bold prayers, and joining with others in prayer. I invite you to attend our Wednesday small group as we study and pray together the 40 Day prayer challenge. We meet at 6:15 at Peace church. It's not too late to start!

In recent weeks, I have been asked to invite a representative to come and speak to our churches regarding the Wesleyan Covenant Association. It was suggested that a speaker from the Wisconsin Conference also be invited to come and present their own views on the WCA. The first opportunity to come and hear one of these speakers will be on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm at Peace church. I am pleased to have Rev. Walter Fenton join us to present information about the WCA and to answer questions folks might have about this organization. Rev. Fenton has recently joined the WCA as its Vice President for strategic engagement. A Yale Divinity School graduate, Walter was ordained deacon (1996) and elder (1998) in the Detroit Annual Conference, and transferred to the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference in 2003. In addition to serving in the local church he has served extension appointments in Illinois and Texas.

We will be inviting members of surrounding United Methodist Churches to join us that evening. There are many people who are unaware of the current troubles in our denomination, and others who want to be informed about how to prepare for the findings of the Bishop's commission on a way forward. I invite you to join us that evening and look forward to having someone from the annual conference, representing an alternate view of things, come and speak to us in the near future.

Rev. Wiley Gladney