



THE MESSENGER

The Sycamore United Methodist Newsletter

Volume 24, Issue 4

April 2023



Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 1 & 2

Saturday at 5:00pm

8:30 & 10:00am Worship Services
w/Holy Communion

Maundy/Holy Thursday, April 6 at 7:00pm
w/ Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 7

3:00pm - Ecumenical Worship Service
7:00pm Worship Service led by the youth

Easter Vigil, April 8 at 5:00pm
w/Holy Communion

Easter Sunday, April 9

8:30 & 10:00am Worship Services
w/Holy Communion and a
Continental Breakfast between services
9:30am - "The Mystery of Easter" for KIDS

Families & kids are invited to the Commons at 9:30 Easter Morning to participate in "The Mystery of Easter". Families will work together to solve clues based on the Easter Story to exit the tomb!



SPRING CANTATA

Presented by the Choirs of
Sycamore United Methodist Church

Saturday
April 15
5:00pm

Sunday
April 16
10:00am

(1 service only that day)

Staff

Rev. Luis Reyes

LEAD PASTOR

LFReyes@sycamoreumc.org

Pastor Joe Munro

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

joemunro@sycamoreumc.org

Debbie Elleson

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

debbie@sycamoreumc.org

Craig Fritz

ORGANIST

craigfritz@sycamoreumc.org

Peter Hansen

MUSIC DIRECTOR

peter@sycamoreumc.org

Jim McCue

BUSINESS DIRECTOR

jim@sycamoreumc.org

Becca Rome

DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP & SPIRITUAL FORMATION

becca@sycamoreumc.org

Lisa Szydlowski

ABC PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

abcpreschool@sycamoreumc.org

Buzz Wheeler

MINISTER OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

buzz@sycamoreumc.org

Cory Blanco

SATURDAY WORSHIP LEADER

cory@sycamoreumc.org

Securely give online at
www.sycamoreumc.org/giving or
by texting "giving" to 815-895-
9113. Checks may be
mailed to the church
at: 160 Johnson Ave.,
Sycamore, IL 60178.



Sycamore United
Methodist Church



@sycamoreumc



Congratulations to Chris and Jackie Schroeder on the birth of their son Reid Christopher on March 2nd. Proud grandparents are Jackie's parents, Joe and Shelly Gibson.

Those for whom we pray:

Eric Gabriel
Diana Grace
Maggie Buie
Nancy
Jim
Linda
Howard and
Sue Keller
Tom Snell & Family
Betty Lou Finn

The Dykema Family
Brooke Copeland
Aimee Swanson
Faith Buie
Bill Kousoulas
Mike Milyanovich
Sam Rucker and
Cris Woodin
Don Clayberg
Mary Ann McDowell

Sherry Probasco
Ray Larson
Addey Foster
Bernard and
Vonnice Fuller
Lois Cullison
Pat
Nancy Miller

We extend our sympathies to the family of:

Rev. Gary Curl

The Service Personnel and Their Families

Cpt. Mark Browning,
*SGT Ben Bushno
SGT Shaune Clark
SGT Matthew Einhorn
PFC Timothy Einhorn
PO1 Frank Incapreo
SSG Christopher Isabel
Lt. Col. Garrett Slack
SFC Matthew "Scott" Stewart

MMN1 Frank Huftalin
*LT Matthew Herbaugh
PVT Trevor Bassett
PO3 Samuel V. Bell
CPT Ed Richter
SGT Brock Grimaldi
E4SPC Alexis Jones
E3PFC Max Keller
A1C Brock Larson

*Maj Steve Haack
SPC Caden Grimaldi
PV2 Rachel McMillion
*CPL Joshua Caraballo
SPC Sutit Jackson
PV2 Liam Keller
E-5 PO Hayden Royer
E-3 Amanda Royer
**indicates deployed personnel*

thank you

Words cannot express how thankful we are for the SUMC community. For the expressions of sympathy and for the assistance provided us during our moment of sorrow, from cards and notes of condolences to the many people involved in creating a meaningful celebration of life service we are grateful. To the staff members for helping to organize the service, music and slideshow, to the pastors for giving encouraging and thought provoking words and for the kitchen crew for serving the luncheon, we thank you. The generous contributions many have sent in memory of Warren Lowe, will assist in creating more accessible entries throughout the church grounds. We are truly grateful for your friendship, support and prayers.

With gratitude,
The Family of Warren Lowe



April 2023 Worship Schedule

ALL SERVICES WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE ONLY

Saturdays at 5:00pm; Sundays at 8:30 & 10:00am

www.facebook.com/SUMCIllinois/ or www.youtube.com/results?searchquery=sycamore+umc

Sunday, April 2 – Palm/Passion Sunday

"This is the day that the Lord has made. For us. Because of us. It could be argued that out of all these high and holy days, this one is the most ... human. "Well, of course," you might think. This week is a divine and human encounter; in fact, we might argue it is THE divine and human encounter. This is true; but hear me out. This day, this slash day, this Palm/Passion Day is the most human day of this whole event."

Liturgy of the Palms

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 27:11-54

Thursday, April 6 – Maundy/Holy Thursday

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you should also love one another" (John 13:34 NRSV). This means that part of what we need to do here is to help people understand what this kind of love means. When Jesus says, "as I have loved you," he is pointing back to the washing of the disciples' feet. The command is to serve in loving ways. This isn't about an emotion or a feeling toward others; it is an act that we can perform.

Exodus 12: 1-14; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26; John 13:1-7; 12-17, 31-35

Friday, April 7 – Good Friday

A Christianity that is about nothing more than a guarantee of personal forgiveness and a life of eternal bliss is the antithesis of what Christ came to do – it is selfish, escapist and unloving. It removes us from any cost and deceives us into believing that all we have to do is agree to a set of ideas and sit back until we get to heaven. Good Friday does not leave us with this delusion, however. Jesus confronts selfishness and self-protectiveness at every turn.

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12; John 18:1 – 19:42

Saturday, April 8- Easter Vigil

If resurrection is just about a miraculous event that happened to Jesus long ago, or if it's only about something that happens to some people at the end of time, then it has little real value, no matter how fascinating it may be. But, of course, resurrection is about far more than this. It's the promise of God's life available to us both now and forever. And it is the call for us to follow Christ by becoming life-givers and agents of resurrection in our families, communities, and our world. What a glorious and miraculous challenge!

Job 14:1-14; Psalm 31:1-4; Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66

Sunday, April 9 – Easter Sunday

You will see him, that's the message of Easter. You will see him, the living one, the alive one, him. And in that seeing, you'll be able to breathe deeply again. Happy Easter.

Jeremiah 31:1-6; John 20:1-18

Sunday, April 16- Second Sunday of Easter –Only One Service @ 10am.

Spring Cantata – "Once Upon a Tree"

Sunday, April 23 – Third Sunday of Easter

Today is a day for testimony. We need to remind ourselves and one another that we have indeed been set free. Maybe we can talk about what we've been set free from. Maybe we talk about obstacles overcome. But the simple fact of freedom is what we focus on today. The more compelling part of the story ought to be what happens after you have been set free.

1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

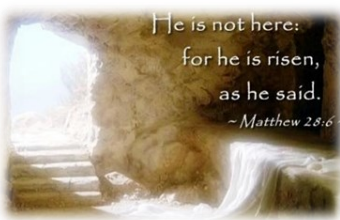
Sunday, April 30th- Fourth Sunday of Easter

How many ways can we present the 23rd Psalm? Let's sing it; let's pray it; let's read it; let's recite it together. So many know this psalm and love it; it is a heart song for many of us. Lean into it. Why do these six verses speak so profoundly to us and become something we want to hold on to?

Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2: 19-25; John 10:1-10

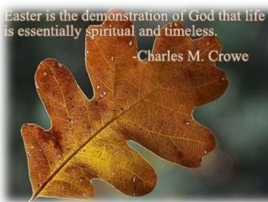
WORDS FROM OUR PASTOR

Friends in Christ,



Many of us long to burst outside after the unusually and unpredictable winter. In few weeks spring will arrive and Easter is around the corner, yet the turn of seasons has not overwhelmed us with expected warmth. Finally, the grass and trees soon will be awakened from their cold-lengthened slumber and the landscape will be looking greened very soon. And soon we will be awakening with sounds some announcing the new season, others letting us know that winter is over.

What awakens you? What sounds do you hear? What might alert you to the joy of new life in our midst? In few weeks is the awakening moment of our Christian faith. Christmas may be the sentimental season which warms our spirits in the middle of winter, but Holy Week and Easter are the moments in our faith calendar which wring us through the angst, pain and death of Christ and spits us out in front of the empty tomb. It ought to wrench our faith out of its comfort zone and stir our hope and imagination. Holy Week should shake us to the core with its drama, its import and its resurrecting result. The power and might of God are at no time more evident than in that week. Christian author Annie Dillard writes: *"It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews"*. (Annie Dillard in *Teaching a Stone to Talk*). Dillard has captured the power of Holy Week, in fact the resurrection drama and worship we celebrate every Sunday.



As we journey, the month of April reminds us that Easter is *more than just one day*. Easter is an "every Sunday" celebration during which we come together to receive the fruit of the cross and resurrection of Jesus—the forgiveness of sins and the certainty of eternal life with God. Easter is also an "every day" celebration in which we live each day trusting in God through Christ, knowing that Jesus is "the resurrection and the life" (Jn 11:25) for us.

So *what* do we do now as we go forth from the empty tomb? Let us follow the example of the first witnesses of the empty tomb. After the two angels reminded Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women that Jesus had risen, Luke tells us that "they remembered the words, and *returning from the tomb they told all these things* to the eleven and to all the rest" (Lk 24:8-9, emphasis mine). They went forth from the tomb changed by the resurrection of Jesus. They went forth from the tomb to bring an "every day" witness of God's power death. So *where* do we go once, we leave the empty tomb? Let us follow the example of Jesus' first disciples. After Jesus walked through locked doors to appear to the eleven disciples and to show himself to Thomas, seven of the eleven disciples went back to their fishing business (Jn 21:1-14). They went back to their vocations or stations in life and took the witness of the resurrection with them. They lived in the joy of the resurrection of Jesus while carrying out the daily, ordinary labor and responsibilities given to them.

Similar to the women at the empty tomb and the eleven disciples, we are "every day" witnesses and participants in the resurrection of Jesus. We believe! We have the hope of eternal life. We have the joy of the resurrection *living* inside of us. Also, like the women at the empty tomb and the eleven disciples, we have vocations or stations in life that God has given to us as gift. Most of us are not fisherpersons, but all of us have one or more of these callings: spouses, parents, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, grandparents, employees, retirees, friends, and neighbor. Each of these callings comes with a set of duties and responsibilities. As Easter People, by God's grace we wrap the daily duties and responsibilities of our vocations in the joy, love, peace, and forgiveness of Christ. And, more than likely, others will take notice and God will bless your faithful work by giving you opportunities to "tell all these things to all the rest" (Lk 24:9).



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Now, we go forth from Easter Sunday and the celebration of the empty tomb free as God's forgiven children in Christ. Now we go forth empowered by God's Spirit living and active within us to live in the joy of the resurrection as "every day" witnesses.

With the joy of Easter, yours in Christ'

Luis F. Reyes,
Lead Pastor

A note about Security/Closed Doors & Accessibility Doors Openers

Dear Friends,

As was announced on the weekend of March 25 & 26 our doors openers for accessibility are installed and are in operation. They are located at Door 1 (Worship Entrance) Door 2 (Main Office) and Door 4 (Commons South End) and at Concourse & Commons Bathrooms.



The other big change is that during preschool hours doors to the building will be closed/locked. A door security system was installed on the doors in-between the main office foyer and the hallway and will remain locked from 7:30-3:30 each day. EVERYONE ENTERING THE BUILDING DURING SCHOOL HOURS MOST GO TO THE MAIN OFFICE TO CHECK IN.

Please be aware this new security measure will be in place as of Monday, April 3 after the preschool's Spring Break.

A word of appreciation to our Board of Trustees There have been so many concerns about security and what to do here. If you have questions, please talk with our staff members at the office and know Jim and Debbie will gladly assist you.

Thanks to our board of Trustees for their continued work of making our facilities fully accessible and secured and their continued consideration of the wellbeing and safety of our children and staff.

Blessings & peace,
Pastor Luis

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION – THE EASTER CELEBRATION

The Easter Season is one of joy and celebration. We celebrate the good news that, in Christ's death and resurrection, we are continually being made new by God's love and saving grace (John 20:1-18 and Luke 24:1-12). In his essays "We Are Witnesses", Reverend Dr. Derek Weber, writes about being grateful for God's gifts of forgiveness and a new start. He urges us to use our spiritual gifts and monetary blessings as a testimony to God's glory. He asks if we are ready to dedicate ourselves and our offerings through Christ our risen Lord to share this season's message of love, hope, and transformation.



God offers us life that overcomes death, light that overcomes darkness, and hope that overcomes our deepest despair! What response could we offer? Our tithes and gifts, yes; but our minds, hearts, bodies, and witness as well. For us, the challenge is to understand who we are and what kind of person we long to be in this world. May our hearts overflow with love and compassion for the poor, the oppressed, and the forgotten. May our bodies carry us out of the tombs of isolation to engage our neighbors as sisters and brothers. May our witness be the "Alleluias!" we take with us to bring hope to everyone we meet!

You may share your gifts of celebration and gratitude through on-line giving at www.sycamoreumc.org/giving; text to: 8158959113 and put the word GIVING in the message line; mail a check to the church office at 169 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, Illinois, 60178; or put your gift in the offering plate during a weekend service. Thank you for your generosity.

Attendance Matters! Whenever you participate in any church activity (ie: Bible Study, Youth Group, Sunday School, Worship, Committee Meetings, etc.) please use one of the following ways to check-in:

1. Text "Checkin" to the church line: (815-895-9113). Tap the bubble you receive and follow the prompts.
2. Scan QR Code using camera on cell phone (if present).
3. Use in-person Check-in Kiosk at the Resource Center.
4. Manually use Pew Pads or Attendance Sheets.



If you have difficulties please see a staff member to get pointed in the right direction.



Food Pantry Needs

This month's featured items are canned, meats, canned pasta, canned fruit and toilet paper and of course monetary donations are always welcome. Let's remember that there are those who don't know where their next supper will come from.

Hope Haven Meal Assistance Needed for April

Prepare or buy just one course or the entire meal to feed 50 people! Deliver your contribution to Hope Haven in DeKalb or drop it off at the church by 3:30 on Monday. **Please call the church (815-895-9113) to let us know which delivery option you will be using. Sign-up on the Welcome Center in the Concourse or by calling the church office at 815-895-9113.**



Meals on Wheels for May

Would you be interested in delivering meals during the month of **MAY**? It only takes about an hour or so of your time beginning about 10:45 a.m. Call Debbie at the church office to sign-up today!



Genealogy Interest Group meets on the 4th Thursday of each month



All are welcome: beginners and experienced researchers (I call "tree climbers").

Sycamore United Methodist Church, Commons Room, 6:30 P.M.

Please enter through the South door (#4).

Join us to share successes and "brick walls".

Do you use DNA results to find family members? Have you tried the colorization feature now offered in Ancestry? Have you hired an expert to help with your research? Have you found your family on the 1950 census that was just released? What are your favorite tools; Newspapers, Findagrave, Family Search, etc.?

We meet monthly to share and encourage each other. Hope to see you there.

COMMUNION

Going forward communion will be served by intinction where you will receive the bread (bread will be gluten free) and dip the bread into the chalice. If you prefer you can take a filled disposable communion instead of intinction. Pre-packaged communion elements will always be available for those who prefer that option.

If you are watching from home please have communion elements available (i.e. crackers, bread or juice) so you are able to participate.



Sycamore United Methodist Church



DRIVE-THRU CHICKEN DINNER
from The Dirty Bird

April 19, 2023

Pick-up from 4:30-6:30pm

Tickets: \$15.00

Purchase tickets online by texting
"Drive-thru" to 815-895-9113

Hosted by the Kishwaukee Sunrise Rotary



Tickets are also available in the church office.



Please put a lid on it!

....you're welcome to bring your coffee or beverage into the sanctuary but please be considerate and make sure it's covered. We love children so feel free to bring a snack for your toddler into the sanctuary if you need to.

REFUGEE GOOD NEIGHBOR TEAM

Our 2 families are doing well, each are adjusting to their new life in different stages.

The Somali family are having a bit of culture shock, as the 5 women had lived most, if not all their lives in refugee camps in Africa. America is a totally new experience for them, such as shopping in grocery stores or a Target, can create a few challenges. Things we take for granted, like putting on seat belts or opening doors is new to them! Our team is helping them as best they can. They have been helped with finding a more cost affective cell phone plan, trips to grocery stores, and the resale shops to find items either free or for little cost. The have taken English classes provided by World Relief. They have their Social Security numbers and state id's and several have begun working. The youngest is in school. Establishing friendships has been difficult because of the language barrier. We have faith as time goes on things will improve.

The Venezuelan family are adjusting much quicker. The children are really enjoying school and friendships being made. All 4 members of the family have their Social Security cards and state id's. The parents will be interviewing for jobs soon. Both parents are taking English classes through World Relief and we see improvement. Our team has taken turns taking them to lunch when we visit. They like trying the different foods available.

We had a special Sunday with the Osto Yrtiago family when we brought them out to attend worship at SUMC. They were warmly welcomed by all and Pastor Luis especially made the effort by speaking in Spanish several times during the service. They were brought to the altar so the congregation could pray for them. After the service, Katie and Cliff Lo hosted a lunch for the family, Pastor Luis and Norma and team members. A fun time was had by all.

Happy news was shared with Helen Maurer from a previous refugee family, Jolie and her husband welcomed a new baby boy, Shema Joshua.

If you are interested in volunteering and joining our Good Neighbor team, please leave your contact info in the church office or email office@sycamoreumc.org and someone will reach out to you to let you know of ways you can help.

Susan Mossholder and Vance Moore, team members

SING A NEW SONG!



"What is your life worth giving up/living for?" That question is asked by the disciple Luke as he is writing his Gospel. That question is one for us to ask ourselves as well. The choir will present "Once Upon a Tree" on April 15 and 16. We have been singing excerpts from it during the Lenten Season as well. Maybe you've caught some of the songs and lyrics. Maybe the songs have made you stop and reflect? The story of Jesus is often called the greatest story ever told. But it's more than a story. It is life changing, as Luke will tell us, as he's writing about the events of Jesus life in his narrative, (Gospel). Please join us as we tell (and sing) our Story, Once Upon a Tree.

Holy Week and Easter season is soon upon us. There's a whole lot happening with our music and arts department. Our children's choirs will be singing on Easter at both 8:30 and 10:00 Services. The Chancel choir will be leading services Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday. Our praise team will be leading the Easter Vigil Service and with worship on Good Friday. Choir cantata is April 15 and 16. And, our beloved Handbell Choir will ring on April 23rd.

As we move later into the spring there is still many opportunities for YOU to get involved. Maybe you play an instrument? Maybe you love to sing? Maybe you've been wanting to do something, but the time just wasn't right? Let me invite you to join any one of our groups or contact me or catch me on Sunday morning. Would love to talk with you!

Until then, I'll be seeing YOU....in the MUSIC!!!

Study Starting Soon

Prayer takes many forms!

Come explore several types of prayer.
Wednesdays 11:15-12:15pm – In-Person
Thursday 7-8pm via Zoom
Running April 19/20 to May 24/25

Do you want to draw closer to God? Is your prayer life feeling stale? Is your life so busy that taking time to connect with God is at the bottom of your priority list? If you answered yes to any of these questions, consider joining Pastor MaryLou as she helps participants explore some of the spiritual practices described in the short book **Prayer Practices for Disciples: Creating a Life with God**, published by the Upper Room. The text presents favorite prayer practices used by Upper Room staff in all sorts of

settings. The group will share their new and not-so-new experiences of how different forms of prayer help them draw closer to a loving God who longs to be in relationship with each of us.

When: **Wednesdays, 11:15-12:15, April 19 – May 24, in person**

Thursdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m. via Zoom, April 20 – May 24

(No mid-week gathering 5/10 or 11; a labyrinth walk in DeKalb 5/20 and/or 21)

To register text the church number (815-895-9113) the words below:

- In Person: "PRAYERCLASS"
- Zoom: "PRAYERCLASSZOOM"

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Relationships. That's why we're all members of the Sycamore United Methodist Church. We're on a journey of relationships. There are signposts along this "journey of" that I'd like to discuss with you.

Signpost #1: Only Paul talks about spiritual gifts. The Greek word he uses is *charis* which means "grace," with the plural of that being *charismata*. This reminds us that all these are gifts from God. I think of them as "grace gifts" – unmerited blessings and undeserved gifts freely bestowed upon us to help us grow in our relationship with God and our call to discipleship and ministry. We can take no credit for these "grace gifts." They are solely from our triune God. They are the first equipping tool God gives us.

Signpost #2: Grace gifts are granted for two reasons – one being personal and the other being community. Personally, grace gifts enable us to serve God using these gifts. On the community side, these gifts allow us to work for the common good, to band together with others to better our congregation and the community in which we live. Along with prevenient grace, I believe God has already placed in each community of faith – the grace gifts, skills, passions, and experience necessary for the community to partner together enhancing our relationships with God.

Signpost #3: Discernment of God's call to us? There are only three constants in life – death, taxes, and change. Our spiritual grace gifts are constantly changing as we, in different stages of our lives, attempt to discern God's will for us. It's never static. There are times when the call is clear and precise - the two by four right between the eyes. There are also times when we struggle for clarity and direction as God whispers to us. We wonder if God is withholding discernment from us. These times hold unique opportunities for us to see how God has equipped us in a variety of ways to fulfill that call. God is always doing something, whether offering discernment or using that time to prepare us for what is to come. These are the times when we need to put our spiritual gifts to work to remind us of our constant connection to God.

Signpost #4: Love is the universal spiritual gift. If you ever feel the need to understand what love is all about, reread 1 Corinthians 13. Paul lays it out for us. He makes it clear that all our spiritual gifts are nothing without first having Love. Paul uses the term *agape* – the Greek working meaning "unconditional love." It is *agape* love that God has for us. God calls us to express a godly love towards others for the common good. Our grace gifts are given to us for the express purpose of doing just that. God has demonstrated unconditional love for us and calls for us in turn to demonstrate unconditional love towards others - all our neighbors, all the time.

Buzz Wheeler,
Minister of Congregational Care

ABC PRESCHOOL MINISTRY NEWS



The spring weather brings so many changes to the world around us. With the new growth taking place all around us in our world it reminds me of how blessed we are here to witness daily the growth, both physically and emotionally in all the children here. I thank all the families for sharing their children with us here at ABC Preschool.

The annual Easter Eggstravaganza will be taking place the week of April 3-6. We will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt and teach the children about the real reason behind the Easter season in a gentle and kind way.

Spring Sing has been scheduled for April 20 beginning at 6:30 pm. We will hold the sing in the Sanctuary and fellowship in the Concourse.

We thank Sycamore United Methodist Church for all your support of ABC Preschool. We look forward to working together on many projects during the year.

Blessings,
The ABC Preschool Staff

DESTINATION: DISCIPLESHIP!



Spring brings new life and things are sprouting here at SUMC. Our Visioning Team is working tirelessly to determine our five core values and create a new mission & belief statement. The newly formed Discipleship Team is hard at work developing language and an Intentional Discipleship System (IDS) to help determine how we are growing in our faith as individuals and as a congregation. In the coming months, you will hear more about this process as it evolves.

You will also hear new language springing into conversations that has been carefully chosen to make discipleship more accessible and remind us that spiritual formation is a lifelong pursuit. So, I thought it helpful to pull on my teaching roots with a mini glossary.

Here are some terms you might hear:

- 1.Children's Education = Children's Spiritual Formation
- 2.Adult Education = Adult Spiritual Formation
- 3.Member = Disciple

We have identified three areas that the Discipleship Team will focus on to help us blossom. Small groups will be formed to help support and sustain each other in our journey of faith. Adult Spiritual Formation will facilitate programs and events to expand our understanding of God and spiritual practices. And Children's Spiritual Formation will focus on developing ways for kids to tap into their inherent capacity to connect with God and one another.

While change can be challenging, we know that God is in **ALL** things working for good. God is in Lent, the time we remember that Jesus wandered in the wilderness for 40 days and nights. God is in the crucifixion that granted forgiveness to us all. And God is present in the resurrection that happens not only on Easter, but in those resurrection moments to remind us that **HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL** with the rising of our brother, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. May those moments flourish in this new season of our year, our lives, and our church.

Blessings Abound,
Becca Rome

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

- Small Groups** are being formed and we are looking for people to be organizers. We will offer you training and resources to ensure your success, all you need is a willingness to share and listen. Please contact Becca if you are interested in leading or joining a small group.
- Adult Bible Study** continues to meet on Monday nights from 6-7pm in the lounge.
- Prayer Practice Study** is coming! Pastor MaryLou will lead us in this 6 week exploration of different ways to pray. Classes will be held on Wednesdays 11:15-12:15 in person or Thursdays from 7-8pm via Zoom beginning on April 19th or 20th. To register text the church number (815-895-9113) the words below:
 - In Person:text "PRAYERCLASS"
 - Zoom: text "PRAYERCLASSZOOM"

KIDS CORNER:

- Sunday School** meets weekly during the 10 am service. Nursery available at both 8:30 and 10am.
- Christian Kids** in grades K-5 (MS can be helpers) are invited to join in faithful fellowship and service. We meet weekly from 4-5:30pm. Pick-up at North Grove, North, and West Schools is available. The cost for the semester is \$35 to offset the cost of snacks. Click the link to register your child: <https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=4c545e26-042c-4482-8953-28a8642c47c5&envId=p-EnpCOn6a4EGn4NxAc0h-pQ>

APRIL 2023 EVENTS CALENDAR

The deadline for the May issue of The Messenger is April 20th

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 9:00 AM Titans Baseball 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
2 Palm /Passion Sunday 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 10:00 AM Children's In-person Sunday School 11:00 am LIFE Missions Souper Sunday Fundraiser 2:00 PM Girl Scouts 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Grp	3 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 6 7:00 PM Staff Pastor Parish Relations Comm.	4 5:00 PM Titans Baseball 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 3 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal 6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study & Dinner	5 12:00 PM AARP Tax Preparation 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Lenten Soup Supper and Service 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Crew 360	6 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM TOPS 5:00 PM Titans Baseball 5:30 PM Visioning Team 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 2 7:00 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service	7 3:00 PM Ecumenical Good Friday Service 7:00 PM Good Friday Service led by youth 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal	8 9:00 AM Titans Baseball 5:00 PM Easter Vigil
9 Easter Sunday 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 9:30 AM Continental Breakfast 9:30 AM "The Mystery of Easter: for kids	10 Church offices closed 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal 7:00 PM Discipleship Committee	11 9:30 AM Mary Circle 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 5:00 PM Titans Baseball 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal 6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study & Dinner	12 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team 11:45 AM DeKalb Area Clergy Meeting 12:00 PM AARP Tax Preparation 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30PM Children's Choirs 6:00 PM LIFT Dinner 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	13 7:50 AM B.A.D. (HS Breakfast & Devotion) 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM TOPS 5:00 PM Titans Baseball 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 5 7:00 PM Handbell Choir	14 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal	15 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 9:00 AM Titans Baseball 5:00 PM Spring Cantata
16 Spring Cantata 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service (1 service only) 10:00 AM Children's In-person Sunday School 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Grp	17 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 6 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal 6:30 PM Worship Comm.	18 5:00 PM Titans Baseball 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 3 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal 6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study & Dinner 7:00 PM Leading Ladies	19 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team 11:15 AM Prayer Class 4:00 PM Christian Kids 4:30-6:30 PM Drive-thru Dinner from Dirty Bird hosted by Kishwaukee Sunrise Rotary 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Confirmation Class of 2023 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Crew 360	20 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Visioning Team 5:00 PM Titans Baseball 6:00 PM Girl Scout Leader Meeting 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 2 6:30 PM ABC Preschool Spring Sing 7:00 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Prayer Class via Zoom	21 1:00 PM ABC Preschool Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Children's Theater Rehearsal 7:00 PM Pack 141 Pack Meeting	22 9:00 AM Titans Baseball 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
23 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 10:00 AM Children's In-person Sunday School	24 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 12:30 PM Food Pantry 6:45 PM Congregational Care Groups	25 1:00 PM UWF Missions Team 5:00 PM Titans Baseball 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4 6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study & Dinner	26 11:15 AM Prayer Class 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	27 7:50 AM B.A.D. (HS Breakfast & Devotion) 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM TOPS 5:00 PM Titans Baseball 6:00 PM Genealogy Grp. 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 5 7:00 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Prayer Class via Zoom	28	29 9:00 AM Titans Baseball 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service
30 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 10:00 AM Children's In-person Sunday School 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Grp.						