

REFLECTING THE PULSE OF THE PARISH

THE PARISH PULSE

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH April 2018
350 27th Avenue SW Cedar Rapids, Iowa 319-364-3188

April Birthdays

3 Nancy Showalter
5 Brenna Pilkington
9 Neal Johnson
18 Peggy Johnson
19 Jim Booth
21 Carol Vest

Anniversaries

6 George & Pat Pealer
17 Bob & Marlene Sirowy
20 Bob and Rosie Grady



United Methodist Women News

April 5, Thursday
General Meeting @ 1:00 pm
Program: Tour Asbury House
Joyce Hotz, speaker (retired missionary)
Hostess: Bev Parizek

April 13 9:30 am
Jessie Circle
Reader and Hostess: Glenda Hyde



Annual Spring Rummage and Bake Sale
Set up - Thursday, April 18 @ 9:30 am
Sale - Friday, April 19 - 8 to 5 pm
Bag Day - Saturday, April 20
8 to 12:00 am
Please bring gently used items
Tuesday and Wednesday - 9 am to 3 pm.



**Please join us
for breakfast
Easter morning
at 7:00 am.**
**Proceeds go to the Kids
campership fund**

**Pancakes, Ham, Eggs,
Breakfast Casserole**

Bishop Laurie's Message for Holy Week 2018

During this Holy Week, as you relive the events of Jesus' last days, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ lead you on a journey not only to the cross, but to the empty tomb. May you, too feel the agony of Jesus' passion and the triumph of his resurrection. But most of all, I pray that you will be moved to witness to the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior by your words of love, your deeds of mercy, and the hope that empowers you to make a difference in the world.

God bless you, *Bishop Laurie*

Membership in United Methodist Women

Who is a Member?

A member of UMW is anyone who commits herself to the PURPOSE and chooses to belong. UMW celebrates an inclusive membership and welcomes all women who want to become members.

Being a member of the United Methodist Church is not required nor is there any minimum age requirement. Out of a commitment for mission locally and globally with women, children and youth, UMW choose to participate in meetings, prayer, financial giving, study action and service.

United Methodist Women is a community of women who nurture and encourage one another in their spiritual growth, personal leadership and transformation. As a member, you accept the challenge to expand concepts of mission.

Acts 17: 11

*Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character
than those in Thessalonica,
for they received the message with great eagerness
and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.*

Dear Friends,

In the book of Acts, a group of new Christians in northern Greece is mentioned. Paul, Silas and Timothy had fled from Thessalonica to Berea and were preaching and teaching in the local Jewish synagogue. Luke, the author of the book of Acts, compared the reception to the gospel by the Thessalonians to that of the Bereans.

The phrase "be a Berean" has come to be an encouragement to dig into the scriptures and make sure that what is preached is based on solid Bible doctrine.

In last month's newsletter, I asked for ideas for a short-term study. Over time, I'll try to use all the ideas. For the first one, I'm inviting you, on three Sundays coming up - April 22 and 29, and May 6 - to meet in the Wesley room to discuss the sermon that was given during worship...to "be a Berean". There won't be any prep necessary, only to have listened to the sermon. This will give us an opportunity to talk further about the text, ask questions and also to help me know what spoke to you.

On **April 22**, we will talk about doubting. (John 20:24-30) as Thomas doubts that the Lord has risen.

On **April 29**, the passage of scripture (John 21:15-17) focuses on the risen Jesus interacting with Peter who denied knowing Jesus on the night that Jesus was arrested.

On **May 6**, we will look at Luke's summary of Jesus' ministry and the events leading up to His Ascension to heaven. (Acts 1:1-11).

I hope you will attend. I look forward to learning how the Sunday message impacts you and ways that I can better present the Bible message.

Serving Christ with you,
Pastor Diane

We give because much has been given.

On April 15 you will have an opportunity to enable vital ministries that change the world, one life at a time. All of us giving together allows United Methodists to do together what we cannot do alone.

One Great Hour of Sharing (UMCOR)

Together we can reach children, families and communities who have experienced devastation in the wake of disaster.

United Methodist Student Fund

Together we educate students so they can make a difference in the world.

World Communion Fund

Together we enable national and international graduate students to change the world.

Human Relations Fund

Together we extend a helping hand to those in crises so they can overcome formidable obstacles.

Native American Ministries Fund

Together we empower local spiritual development and educate Native American seminary students to serve God faithfully.

Peace with Justice Fund

Together we spread the gospel of peace and encourage cooperation locally in the United States and globally.

The Sunday after Easter is sometimes celebrated as Holy Humor Sunday. It's rooted in the comments of early church theologians that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. They referred to it as "Risus paschalis -the Easter laugh".

Special plans are being made for worship on April 8. The choir will be attired differently. There will be special music and some fun surprises. You are invited to (appropriately) dress in something that makes you happy. Maybe wear something that supports your favorite sports team. Or something extra colorful. Or a crazy hat.

If you have a favorite (clean) joke, you could share it during announcement time.

If there's someone you've thought about inviting to church, this might be a fun day to do that.

Questions? Ideas? contact Pastor Diane.

Sermon texts for April

April 8 - Holy Humor Sunday -
Psalm 30:1-5, and Psalm 100

April 15 - Luke 24:13-35, Psalm 105:1-4

April 22 - John 20:24-30, Psalm 105:5-10

April 29 - John 21:15-17, Psalm 106:1-3

Cosmopolitan reports that a recent survey pegged Reese's Mini Peanut Butter Chocolate Eggs as the most popular Easter candy, knocking Peeps out of first place.

Why isn't Easter on the same date every year?

Jesus' death and resurrection occurred at the time of the Jewish Passover. Historically, Passover is celebrated on the first full moon following the vernal equinox (first day of spring). Jesus rose from the dead on the 'first day of the week' which is Sunday. So, the date of Easter is always the first Sunday after the first full moon following the first day of spring. The earliest that Easter can be is March 22 and the latest is April 25. The day that we celebrate as Easter, the day the Jesus rose from the dead is steeped in historical religious significance.

Rev. Diane Townsley
319-551-3648 Cell

International French
Ministry

Rev. Patrick Munyakazi
431-8319

Business Administrator

Sharon Busch

364-3188

Office hours: T-F

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Choir Director

Alice Lindsey

Custodian

Nicole Day

Nursery Attendant

Laura Booth

Asbury House

Manager

Jeff Kapparos

**Gen*er*ous
Showing a
readiness to
give more of
something
than is
expected.
Liberal in
giving.**

Easter Is The Most Important Event For Christians

In 1 Corinthians 15: 12-19 Paul is sharing with us the meaning and importance of Easter

Now if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how is it that [c] some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised; 14 if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain [useless, amounting to nothing], and your faith is also vain [imaginary, unfounded, devoid of value and benefit—not based on truth]. 15 We are even discovered to be false witnesses [misrepresenting] God, because we testified concerning Him that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised, either; 17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless and powerless [mere delusion]; you are still in your sins [and under the control and penalty of sin]. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If we who are [abiding] in Christ have hoped only in this life [and this is all there is], then we are of all people most miserable and to be pitied. (AMP)

This is very a good scripture that every Christian should know and use to defend their faith. Christianity is unique because of the teachings and works of our master Jesus Christ. His speeches were so persuasive and transformed many lives. Jesus Christ told his followers that he came to die so give we can live. He did what no others religious leaders could do; He died and rose from the dead. He is alive. We celebrate Easter to remember that event. That why the apostle Paul is reminding us through this word that we should be proud of our master and faith. Easter is the essence of Christianity. Without Easter, our faith will not have any meaning. With the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have salvation, power, hope, and eternal life. My prayer is that this Easter celebration should be a life-changing experience for all of us. I think we should have a specific date for Easter that might help us to give more importance to it than others celebration.

Happy Easter

Pastor Patrick Munyakazi