

# Windows of Faith



First United Methodist Church  
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## Pastor's Perspective

As we near the end of the season of Lent and prepare to remember all the events of Jesus' last week leading to his crucifixion, we mark his entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. This year that falls on April 14. It is a strange kind of day with the rousing, parade-like atmosphere while lying beyond is the arrest, trial, and crucifixion. I saved a reading about Palm Sunday from a Word Alive! Bulletin cover a few years ago. I share it with you for reflection.

*"The message of Palm Sunday seems full of contradictions as we look back on it today. It was a day when great crowds cheered and praised God as Jesus rode peacefully into Jerusalem. How then could the Crucifixion be less than a week away? The people of Jerusalem were celebrating and proclaiming Jesus a king, and yet within only days they would be jeering and calling him names. What special meaning could this very intense event hold that Palm Sunday has become so sacred to us down through the ages?"*

*The people of Jerusalem cheering alongside the road that day mostly saw in Jesus the arrival of the long-expected king they felt was promised from God to restore the earthly glory that had once been theirs. Because their expectations were focused on the establishment of an earthly kingdom, they were blind and deaf to the real message of Jesus. Palm Sunday, the final Sunday of Lent before Easter, calls us collectively as the church and individually as Christians, to examine our expectations before God. What do we see and hear in our hearts as the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem is again proclaimed?"*

*Do our expectations, like theirs, focus on worldly visions of glory and grandeur, or do we hear the Lord's call to submit our lives to God and spiritually journey with Jesus toward the Cross? Do we stubbornly expect God to provide us success in all we would choose to be about, or are we prayerfully seeking the Lord's will and direction for our lives? Admittedly these are hard and demanding questions, but the call to honestly and truly examine our faith may well be the very thing that makes Palm Sunday so real and important to many who would seek to follow and serve Christ."*



### April Birthdays

- 3 - Wil Cagley
- 4 - Bryan Bittner
- 5 - Madalyn Steidinger
- 8 - John Herr
- 9 - Richard Aberle
- 9 - Mary Lu Haab
- 10 - Marjorie Maley
- 11 - Mark Aberle
- 11 - Tyler Webster
- 16 - Lexi Meiss
- 17 - Tom Mies
- 17 - Ray Householder
- 21 - Sarah Morris
- 23 - Katherine Schweizer
- 23 - Brad Schmidgall
- 24 - Chris Lane
- 25 - Kayla Livengood
- 25 - Todd Young
- 25 - Laura Janssen
- 26 - Kelly Friedman
- 27 - Krystal Bittner
- 28 - Ryan Ifft
- 30 - Jackson Livengood

### April Anniversaries

- 29 - Mr. & Mrs. Dean Moser



### May Birthdays

- 5 - Jim Tipton
- 6 - Raymond Mishler
- 7 - Shannon Brown
- 9 - Chris Dameron
- 11 - Dylan Webster
- 12 - Maribeth Mies
- 12 - Janet Kilgus
- 13 - Sarah Tipton
- 15 - Kathryn Bahler
- 15 - Shelley Schahrer
- 16 - Ellie Grant
- 18 - Florence Voigt
- 24 - Sam Herr

### May Anniversaries

- 12 - Mr. & Mrs. Richard Roy
- 25 - Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Kurth



Please keep the following people in your prayers:  
 Brent Edelman, Jordan Broquard, Robert  
 Freeman, Wanda Kupferschmid, Dist. Supt. Jim  
 Barnett, Jamison Davis



Clark Lindsey Village, Urbana-  
 Ray Householder  
 Evenglow, Pontiac -  
 Walt Kohlman  
 Fairview Haven Nursing Home-  
 Joyce Crews                      Jim Steidinger  
 Joan Steidinger                Warren Ulfers  
 Dean Moser                      Lucille Moser  
 Meadows Mennonite Retirement Community-  
 Glen Oakland  
 Good Samaritan, Pontiac-  
 Janet Metz  
 Accolade Healthcare, Pontiac-  
 Mary Lynne Bailey  
 Meadows at Mercy Creek, Bloomington-  
 Florence Voigt                Eli Aupperle



Nursing Home Ministry

The Fairview Haven Communion Service will be  
 held Sunday, Apr. 14, at 2:00 p.m. in the  
 Independent Living dining room. All are welcome!

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

**Executive Committee** - Tues., Apr. 9, 1:00 p.m.  
**Mary Martha** - Tues., Apr. 16, 7:00 p.m.  
 (meet at Fellowship Hall)  
 Hostesses - Linda Mack and Kathy Cook  
 Program - Kathy Cook  
**Susanna** - Tues., Apr. 23, 12:00 p.m.  
 (meet at Fellowship Hall)  
 Hostess and Program TBD  
**SOS** - Thurs., Apr. 25, 6:30 p.m.  
 (meet at Pam Krominga's home)

**UMW NEWS**

Happy anniversary! On March 23, 1869 in  
 Boston, MA, Clementine Butler and Lois Parker  
 informed 6 women of United Methodist  
 Episcopal Church about the desperate health  
 care and educational needs of women in India.  
 Their call to action raised funds to send Isabella  
 Thoburn, a teacher, and Clara Swain, a doctor to  
 India.

The meeting in March led to the  
 formation of the Women's Foreign Missionary  
 Society, the first of many Methodist Women's  
 mission organizations to address the injustices  
 imposed on women and girls in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.  
 UMW is their successor and we celebrate 150  
 years of changing the lives of women, children  
 and youth.

The Fairbury UMC is honoring our  
 Foremother's Legacy by donating \$189.60 to the  
 Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign. Also, our  
 Vermilion River District will be celebrating the  
 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary during their Spring Gathering  
 in April. Each UMW group is encouraged to offer  
 the names of the women in our past and present  
 time, who through their compassionate work,  
 have empowered women and communities around  
 the world. These names will be offered up during  
 the district gathering.

**UNITED METHODIST MEN**

The United Methodist Men will meet on Sunday,  
 Apr. 7, at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast at Diner 24.

# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Maundy Thursday Communion

Thursday, Apr. 18 - 8:00 p.m. Living Last Supper



Cross Walk

Friday, Apr. 19 - 11:00 a.m. starting at  
Presbyterian Church



GOOD FRIDAY Evening Worship (at Chenoa Methodist)

Friday, Apr. 19 - 7:00 p.m. Service of Tenebrae  
("Darkness") which is a service of meditation on  
the passion of Christ which includes readings,  
hymns and candlelight.



Easter Morning Sunrise Service

Sunday, Apr. 21 - 7:00 a.m. (Breakfast to follow)



EASTER

Morning Worship

Sunday, Apr. 21 - 9:15 a.m.

## April Lay Servants

Liturgist - Apr. 7 - Keith Dunahee

Apr. 14 - Bette Thomas

Apr. 21 - Calvin Jackson

Apr. 28 - Sheryle Atkins

Greeters - Apr. 7 -

Apr. 14 - Roger and Christine Beasley

Apr. 21 -

Apr. 28 -

Altar Flowers - Apr. 7 -

Apr. 14 - Ryan and Kay Shiflett

Apr. 21 - Easter Lilies

Apr. 28 - Kathy Cook

Children's Message - Apr. 7 - Sarah Morris

Apr. 14 - Pastor Ann

Apr. 21 - John Herr

Apr. 28 - Pam Krominga

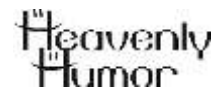


We will have Blessing Bags available for you to gather items from April 1-20 to donate to the Food Pantry. You may give a monetary gift if you prefer. The bags will be blessed during worship on Easter Sunday.



## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Paper bags, boxed potatoes, canned fruit



We will celebrate Holy Humor again this year on the Sunday after Easter, April 28. The theme will be Let Go, Let God. However, since it sounds a little like Lego when you say it quickly, we are inviting everyone to create decorations made out of all those Lego and Duplo blocks you may have sitting around your house. You can make whatever you want--a church, cross, tomb, something from nature, Jesus--whatever you dream. All participants will be acknowledged in worship that day. ALL AGES get to play! If you want to create and need blocks or if you have blocks to spare, contact the church office so we can match folks up.



## Church Camp Season!

Registration is open for all summer church camp programs. You can pick up a brochure at church. Remember that we will pay 100% for first time campers, 75% for second year, and after that 50% each year. We will also help with the cost if friends want to go too!