

The Word



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April 2023

Ministers Musings

⁵“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”... ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:55, 57)

Death is at the heart of the good news of Easter. The celebration of resurrection is preceded by Jesus’ death, but our focused interest in the day comes, at least in part, because of the impending nature of our own death. A death to which Easter says no. Nope. Not something to worry about. Christ’s resurrection means that God’s love is victorious over even death itself. Death has no victory, because our life in God’s love keeps on keeping on. And that love holds us because we are part of that love – that’s why the church talks so much about loving each other, loving our neighbor, loving even our enemies. Because we belong to each other, we are bigger than only ourselves. It’s what Wendell Berry was talking about in one of the poems for Easter Sunday from our Lenten devotions:

*The tomb is empty. There is
no death. Death is our illusion,
our wish to belong only
to ourselves, which is our freedom
to kill one another.
From this sleep may we too
rise, as out of the dark grave,
(from IV, 2003)*

We are part of a whole, part of the community of love. So come celebrate Easter with all of us; be part of the worship, part of the joy, part of the excitement of Christ’s resurrection. And then, stick around. We’re celebrating love’s victory over death all year long!

I will be away at a continuing education week-end April 21-23. The preacher for Sunday worship on the 23rd is not confirmed yet, but there will be worship and good news proclaimed.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Cathy

Highlights of March Parish Council

The March meeting of Parish Council opened with devotions. As the Topic of the Month council continued discussion on how to increase mission presence and opportunities for people to give. Discussed having mission “spotlight” of the quarter starting with Play School (spring), NAMI (summer), Food Pantry (fall), maybe EVAN (winter). All of these missions depend on our building and the intent is to raise awareness in the congregation of the missions that we have.

Eloise Henault reported that Play School had a very successful bake sale on March 18th raising \$690, all through donations. A bottle drive is planned for April 23rd, bottles can be dropped off at church or at the recycling center (Dutch’s Redemption). Play School will be have a banner across Main Street for a week in April and May to encourage registrations. Currently they have 10 children registered for Fall. Their next board meeting is April 12th.

Laura Clark presented the Treasurer’s report for February. Laura explained areas with * that indicate the percentage spent is higher than expected for this month but will balance out by the end of the year. Fuel oil was one area that was over budget, but we still have \$6000 left from a donation for oil to help with that expense. Fran and Laura have a meeting to go over the NYSEG bills. It was also explained that “pastor pension pass-through” is the money that Pastor Cathy pays in vs what gets paid out and has no impact on the budget.

Gideon reported that Trustees meeting had to be postponed this month due to snow but is meeting 3/21/23. They will be try to plan a work day on April 22nd to coordinate with the SUNY Delhi Community Service Day. They will also discuss the Memorial Fund at their next meeting.

Stephanie McCann stated that Finance met this month. A contract between Pastor Cathy and the church to pay back the HSA funds and correct the payroll error in 2022 is currently being finalized and will be signed and sent to District Superintendent Monk. The agreement will show reconciliation from 2022 salary error and HSA payments from 2021 and 2022. Discussions are continuing as to ways to increase stewardship. Carol reached out to Rose Niles for guidance and will report back on programs that she will offer to conduct. We received \$627 in donations from the Bach concert on Sunday. This will be split between Curt and

the church. We also received \$24 in donations for coffee and hot chocolate at the St. Patrick's Day parade (even though we were giving it away)

Barb Jones reported that SPR met and talked about some of the PC goals particularly around communications. They discussed ways to get word out: newsletter, bulletin etc. about the committee and its function. They would like to recognize church staff more during church and will keep talking about that. Staff evaluation process will happen in June. They also reviewed policies and liaison system. New liaisons are Ron/Fran and Barb/Cathy.

Pastor Cathy talked about Kids Club and that they are enjoying the curriculum. Currently the theme is compassion. Thursday morning book study has just begun a new book, "Choose Wisely". Coffee with Pastor will continue at the diner through the end of April and then go back to outdoor farmer's market. She will be going to Kirkridge, April 21-23 and will be filling the pulpit. For Holy Week we will have a Maundy Thursday service, Good Friday 12pm Walk of the Cross with other churches in town, a Sunrise Service possibly with other churches and Easter Sunday worship. Pastor Cathy, Carol and Ruth V. gave away hot chocolate and coffee on the square during and after the parade. Pastor Cathy suggested we might want to get a banner or branded tablecloth for United Ministry to use for tabling in the future. Pastor Cathy/Deb will look into this with the possibility of using memorials from Susan Woodworth, designated for signs.

Cathy Johnson discussed the possibility of a potluck dinner. It was decided to plan it for the 16th of April when the children are singing. Coffee hours are going well but we are still looking for people to help.

Edie reported that we are doing a food giveaway on April 15th.

Fred proposed a draft letter to send for those who haven't been to church in a while. Final language was decided on and Pastor Cathy agreed to have cards made so Fred could complete this task.

Gideon was asked to look into the missing sign from the end of the sidewalk. Carol indicated that the Food Pantry grant has been submitted but we won't hear until the beginning of May. Pastor Cathy mentioned that sound still isn't good for live stream and sound person wasn't available. Deb is working on it.

One building use application was approved.

Our meeting was closed in prayer.

Any questions about anything that goes on at our council meetings? Please feel free to contact myself or any member of council.

Carol Greene



Ruth Vredenburg & Pastor Cathy make ready to hand out hot chocolate during the St. Patrick's Parade



Chelsea Johnson had a rapt audience for her Children's Sermon on March 12

 **CAN
& BOTTLE
DRIVE**


**Play School
Fund Raiser**

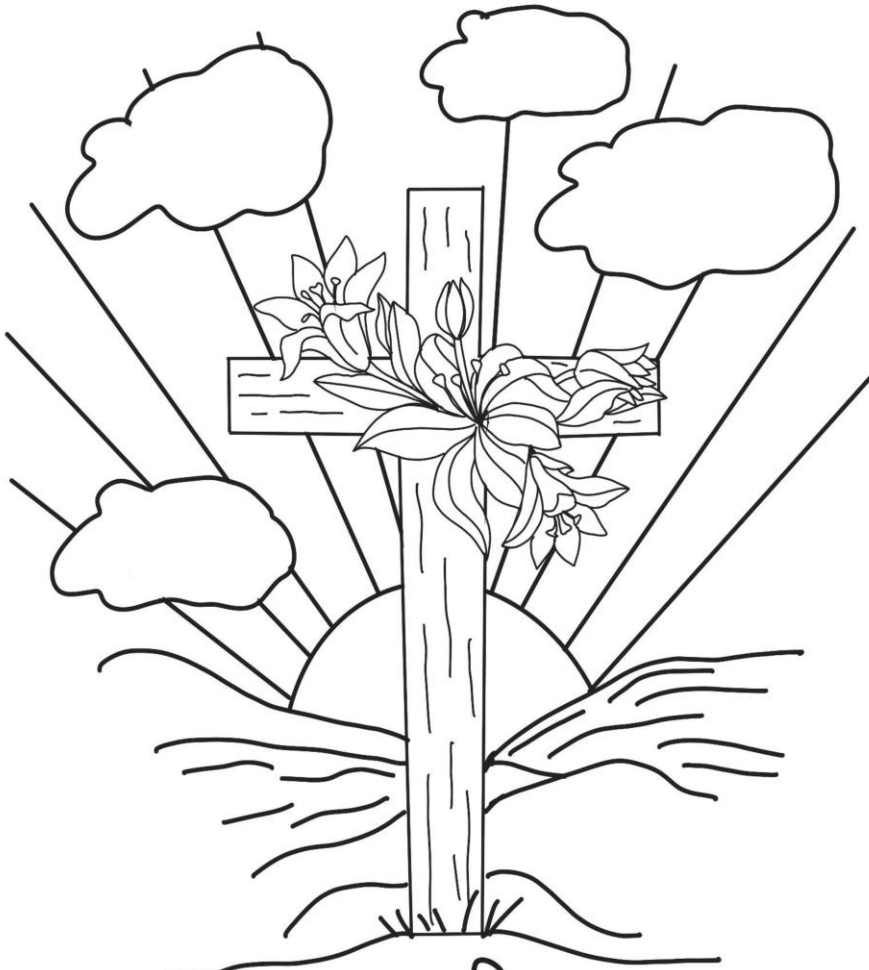
Sunday

April 23

1 - 4 pm



March 12 was Girl Scout Sunday and Coffee Hour was hosted by the girls of Troop 61045.



He is Risen

PUZZLE

SEEING AND BELIEVING

Until Thomas saw Jesus' nail scars with his own eyes, he doubted the resurrection. What did Jesus tell Thomas?

Directions:
Use the code to fill in the vowels and complete
John 20:29, NIV.



"B _ c _ _ s _ y _ _ h _ v _ s _ _ n m _ ,
00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

y _ _ h _ v _ b _ l _ _ v _ d ;
00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

bl _ ss _ d _ r _ th _ s _ wh _ h _ v _ n _ t
00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

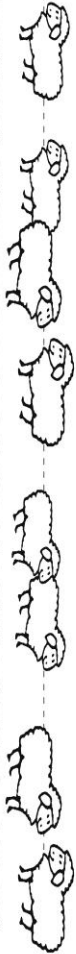
s _ _ n _ nd y _ t h _ v _ b _ l _ _ v _ d ."
00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

JOHN 20:29, NIV

Puzzle!



Starting at the capital A and ending at the period, find the words to Isaiah 53:6. In the letter maze below, words can appear forward, backward, up or down. Not all letters will be used, and some words may be split. But you won't need to lift your pencil off the page!



AllwelikesebelieveIwraywecommandsodotherighteousnessof
gospeltohsrevelastarjethestimonynasalordrtheiniqulty
rightasisepraisedsilfooaputowwawayapasaahumcomnersfo
heavenouerisagoneadogivisicaruotgetcorlaidoirasonsus
returncaphaventrustedeallturnedresponsesnhtruths.lla

Answer: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29, NIV

Isaiah 53:6, NRSV
Answer: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of all.



Food Pantry

The food pantry is in need of canned tomatoes, stewed, diced, whole peeled, crushed and/or sauce.



Women's Open Circle

Women's Open Circle will meet on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at noon in the Harder Room. Bring your own lunch and dessert and beverages will be provided.

Poluck



Play School Update - April 2023

Bake Sale Fundraiser Event Update: Play School held a bake sale fundraiser event on March 18th at the St. Patrick's Day Parade. The event went very well in front of Main Street Cards and Gifts. We started out slow but as the parade time came, members of the community came out. We raised \$651.00 dollars on Saturday plus a \$40.00 donation on Sunday bringing our total deposit for the fundraiser to \$691.00. Thank You so much for your kindness, help and support!!! Thank you, Will, for the use of your Main Street location.

Pre-registration for the 2023-24 school year is now available, please contact Pam Savage at playschool.umod@gmail.com for more information. Student registration for the 2023-24 school year is open with hope to get the student registrations needed by the July deadline. Families that we currently have on the Play School list will be notified and registration forms will be sent. If you know of anyone interested in preschool, please share our information with them. We would love to continue to offer this wonderful program for many more years to come!! Call 746-2191 ext. 206 or email us at

playschool.umod@gmail.com

Can and Bottle Drive: Play School is in the planning process to host a Can/Bottle Drive with the help of Dutch Redemption on Sunday, April 23, from 1-4pm. More details to come soon. Dutch redemption is keeping our account open and allowing us to continue to bring in any additional cans and bottles. The account is under Play School, so if you would please continue to save your empty cans and bottles to donate to Play School, it would be greatly appreciated!! Growing Strong Together!!

For April: We will celebrate Easter, continue our letters of the week, Spring, numbers, stories and writing our names. We have a donation of trees/shrubs for the children for our Earth Day Unit from the Delaware County Soil and Water District. We also have community members coming in to do a germ/hand washing unit, and Easter Egg Hunt. We are also looking for any other community members to share their special gifts and talents with the children in the classroom. If you would like to share something with our class, please contact



Chrystal Savage	4/1	Carol Farley	4/10	Martha Vink	4/18
Ralph Dandignac	4/4	Jim Ockenfels	4/12	Fran Ackerly	4/20
Renee Apthorpe	4/5	Beth Hildreth	4/12	Tom Briggs	4/25
Cathy Schuyler	4/6	Delaney McCann	4/14		



Coffee Hour Hosts & Flowers for the Sanctuary



Have you signed up to host Coffee Hour yet? Coffee, tea, lemonade, and paper goods are supplied. Cookies are optional. Sign up on the sheet on the Bulletin Board or call the church office to pick your date.

Would you like to commemorate a loved one or special event in your life? Garden and wild flowers are always welcome! If you are uncomfortable creating the arrangement, call the office and we can make the arrangement for you.



Coffee Hour

Apr 2 _____
 Apr 9 _____
 Apr 16 _____
 Apr 23 _____
 Apr 30 _____

Flowers

Apr 2 _____
 Apr 9 _____
 Apr 16 _____
 Apr 23 _____
 Apr 30 _____

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board outside the office.

Word and Worship

April 2023

Sunday, April 2

Palm/Passion Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66

Thursday, April 6

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17,
31b-35

Friday, April 7

Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

Sunday, April 9

Easter Sunday

Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 114
Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10

Sunday, April 16

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 23

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

Sunday, April 30

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25; *John 10:1-10*

Lectors

April 2 Palm Sunday – Many Readers

April 6 Maundy Thursday – Carol Greene

April 9 Easter – Cathy Johnson

April 16 Fred Onasch

April 23 Ruth Kazmierski

April 30

Holy Week and Easter Worship

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday, April 2

On that day when he rode into Jerusalem, the crowds greeted him with shouts of 'Hosanna!' Only a few days later, they cried "Crucify!" On Sunday, March 25, we will read the stories of that last week of Jesus' life. We will celebrate Jesus with the waving of palms and we share a story of remembering. Plan to be at worship.

Maundy Thursday, April 6

Jesus ate with his disciples one last time on Thursday evening. We will commemorate that meal with worship that includes communion and a Tenebrae (darkening) reading of the passion story from Matthew's gospel.

Good Friday, April 7

At noon the churches of Delhi Village will join in the Walk of the Cross. We begin here at the United Ministry and end at the entrance to the Cemetery, about 90 minutes later. On the way there are readings and hymns and prayers.

Sunrise Service, April 9

"On the first day of the week, early in the morning, the women went to the tomb..." We will follow the women's example and go to Hoyt Park early on Easter morning. At 6:30 am, on Easter, April 9, we will gather on the banks of the river for a short, joyful celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Please join us!

Easter Sunday Morning Worship, April 9

There will be joy! There will be much singing and celebration as we rejoice in the news of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead! I hope you will be there!

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