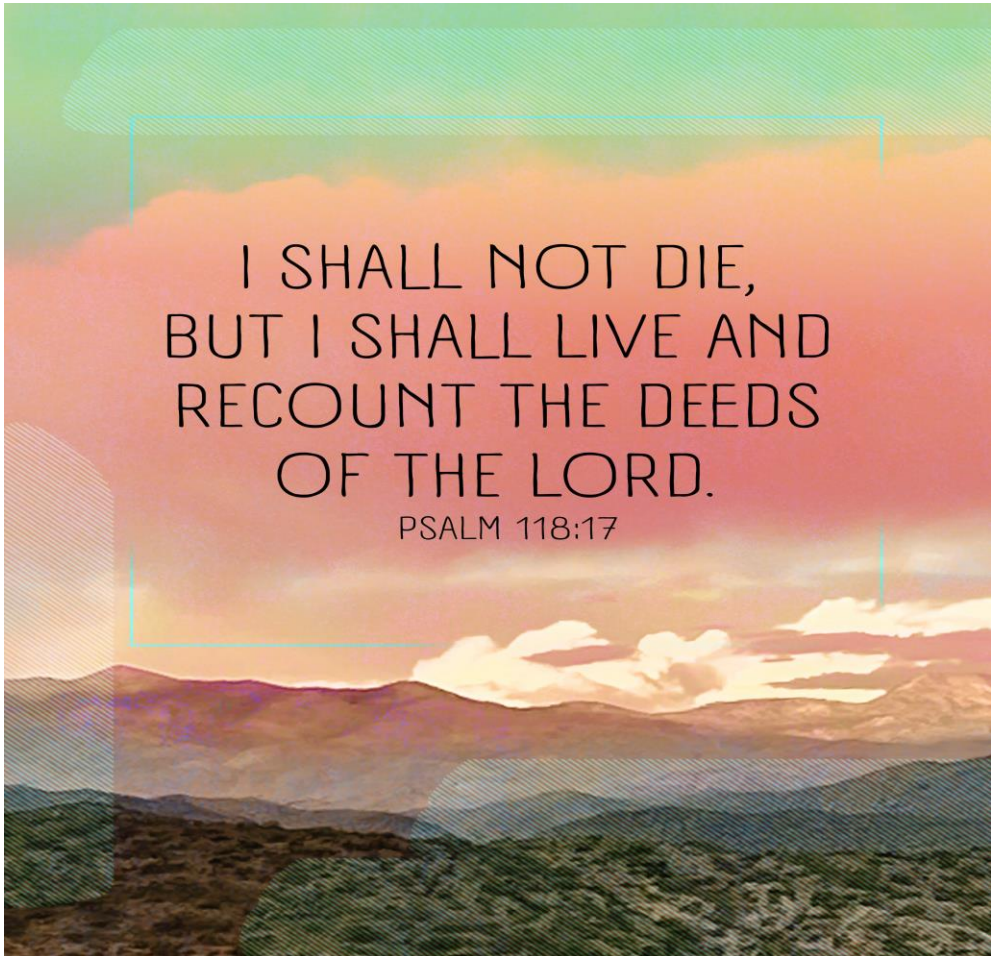


The Word



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March 2024

Ministers Musings

*Christ be with me, Christ within me; Christ behind me, Christ before me;
Christ beside me, Christ to win me; Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me; Christ in quiet, Christ in danger;
Christ in hearts of all who love me; Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.*



These words are a translation, by C. F. Alexander, of part of a song known as St. Patrick's Breastplate. There are a number of translations around; the hymn/poem is attributed to St. Patrick, the bishop of Ireland in the fifth century. I am not Irish as far as I know, but I do love green. And I do love St. Patrick. This hymn of his is a beautiful and powerful declaration of his steadfast faith in God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each section begins with a bold statement of faith, "I bind unto myself today" the power of God, the faith of the church, the beauty of the world around us, the story of Jesus, etc. And then there is this interlude, which I included above, recognizing and celebrating the presence of Jesus Christ in our daily life, every day, all around us. There is truth here, friends. Truth to get you through the tough days. We aren't at this alone; Jesus Christ is behind us and before us, within our hearts and in the hearts of all the people who love us. This is why I celebrate St. Patrick's Day with joy. Because at the end of a long, lonely winter, in the middle of the blustery, soggy Lenten month of March, we are reminded of the ancient wisdom of a hero of our faith. Sixteen centuries after Patrick's life and ministry, the words of his poetry still ring true. Jesus Christ is with us, wherever we go, in whomever we meet. So find a green shirt, grab a green hat for the day, sing a verse of When Irish Eyes Are Smiling, listen to the Pogues, and celebrate St. Patrick on March 17, basking in the good news that we are always in the presence and power of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Please keep each other in prayer. So many of our members are going through tough medical times – surgeries, Covid, RSV, etc. Hold your friends in prayer.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Cathy

Highlights of February Parish Council

The February meeting of Parish Council opened with Pastor Cathy sharing a poem by a UCC pastor for Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Day. Cathy also made assignments for devotions for the rest of the year.

The Topic of the Month was a discussion of the Sacred Site Grant Program led by Barb Jones. We are eligible for this grant since we are part of the Town Square which is on the National Registrar of Historic Sites. Barb confirmed this with the NYS Historical Registry. The application was made in 1973. This grant is meant for capital improvements to the building and is geared toward exterior restoration projects with priority given to essential repairs. It is a matching grant that will require a lot of preparation work. They would fund up to half of a project cost and are averaging \$16,000 per award. It makes sense to pursue applying by the January 15, 2025 date in order to give us time to get the necessary paperwork done. Gideon and the Trustees will continue to do some work on gathering estimates and information about repair of the stone front steps, but a working committee will probably be necessary to put the grant together.

It was reported by Eloise Henault that the Play School's advertising banner will be going up this spring across Main St. They will be holding a bake sale at the St. Patrick's Day parade on March 23rd and would appreciate donations. Their next board meeting will be February 26th.

Both the January Secretary's report and the Treasurer's reports were reviewed and approved by the council. In addition, there were some minor changes to the minutes from the Annual Meeting and they were approved as well.

Finance Committee chair Stephanie McCann reported that we have received an annual \$3000 grant from The O'Connor Foundation to be used for program expenses not salaries. Finance met on the 8th of February. It was decided that we would wait to take an investment draw until March. We will continue with Faith Giving on the last Sunday of each quarter. Finance approved Trustees to purchase a new computer for live-streaming using undesignated memorial funds. The finance committee discussed the Sacred Sites grant at length as well as re-working our church facilities form to try to capture more donations for expenses.

Gideon reported that Trustees approved the purchase of a new laptop for live streaming, using undesignated memorial funds. It also approved the purchase of some new decorative Easter banners with these same funds. There was a lot of discussion about the Sacred Sites grant and using it for the front stonework. The Trustees reviewed the building use form and began making edits and discussing many different options for suggested donations for certain rooms being used. Specifically, they are concentrating on McIntosh Hall and the Harder Room. It is likely they will develop different rates depending on how long the room is needed for, and what groups are using it. More details will follow. New Smoke detectors and CO detectors were installed at the parsonage and a kitchen cabinet drawer was replaced. Jim has been troubleshooting the faulty electric heat unit in the parsonage living room.

Barb Jones reported that SPR is meeting on February 20th and will welcome new members to their committee. She reported that staff recognition and coffee hour went well and was appreciated.

Pastor Cathy reported that she spent a lot of time last month working on the Annual report, narrative budget for 2024 and gathering the statistics for the Methodists and the Presbyterians. Kids Club has been continuing and Sandy Russell has been helping in the absence of Carol Greene. 16 people attended the Ash Wednesday Service. Thursday morning book study continues and is going well.

NOW reports included: Fred Onasch (Witness) reported that Coffee with Pastor is good for getting the word out as well as the Men's breakfast that Fred and Rick continue to attend. Pastor Cathy reminded us about our handing out of hot chocolate on the square during the St. Patrick's Day parade last year so it was decided we would try it again. Carol Greene will help organize it and we could use 3-4 people to help on March 23rd when we distribute it to the parade goers.

Evelyn (Worship) reported that we had 2 baptisms in January. She has started keeping records by taking pictures each Sunday of the altar and special events during worship. She intends to keep a binder with photos and service information for each Sunday.

Outreach - Edie was not at the meeting to report but she is continuing to keep the Food Pantry well supplied so they are prepared for their Monday and Thursday hours. The February food giveaway went very well, and 70 boxes of food were

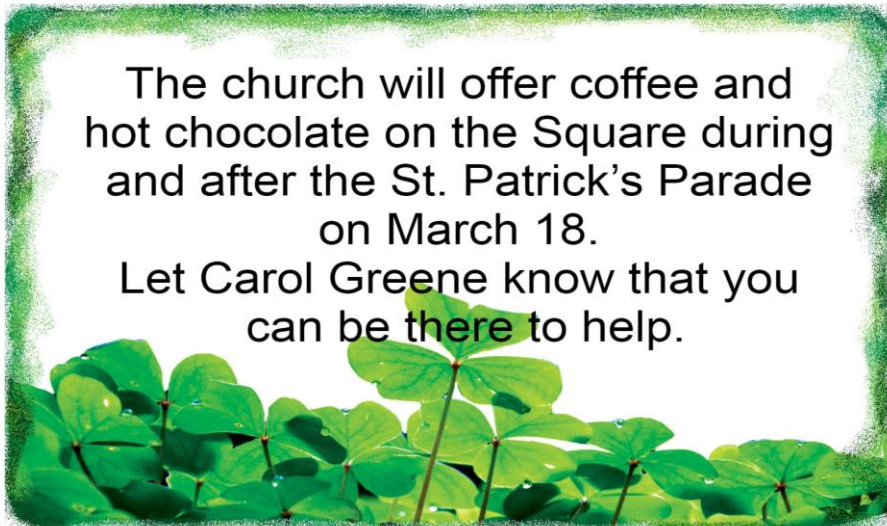
distributed. Someone who had received a box has attended church twice since the giveaway. The date for the next giveaway has not been determined yet but a strong possibility will be the end of April when we will be able to get assistance from the SUNY Delhi students during their workday.

Pastor Cathy brought forward to council building use requests that needed to have forms filled out but handling them this council meeting was important to allow the events to happen. On 2/22 and 3/21 the Delaware County Pride parent support group is asking to use our building. Also, on April 6th Pastor Cathy is asking for use of McIntosh Hall for her 60th birthday party. Both requests were approved with the understanding that the paperwork would be submitted to Deb and added to the calendar.

Our meeting was closed in prayer.

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

~Carol Greene



Food Mission

The food pantry continues to be busy. We are still helping 40-50 people a month feed their families. While a large portion of our food comes from the food bank in Hamden Laura and Gary also shop at Aldi's when needed and I tend to shop once or twice a week at Price Chopper for perishables, Donations continue to come in, go right on the shelf and are quite often gone the next time or 2 that we are open. Some of the items on the following list are an example of that.

- Jelly
- butter
- cooking oil
- canned carrots or beets
- mandarin oranges or pineapple
- rice or instant mashed potatoes
- canned tomatoes - diced or crushed
- any fresh produce
- coffee

Although this is a mission of our church and we receive great support from UM there are many non-members who also volunteer and lend their support to make this mission possible.

Women's Open Circle

Women's Open Circle will meet Thursday, March 14th at noon in the Harder Room. Bring your own lunch, beverages and dessert will be provided.

Daylight Savings Begins

Turn clocks ahead 1 hour before bed on Saturday, March 9th! Daylight Savings time begins at 2 am on Sunday March 10th.



Lenten Offering

The war in Ukraine is now entering its third year. Thousands of Ukrainian families have fled their homes in search of safety. United Methodist churches in nations around Ukraine are part of the church's response to the work of welcoming and caring for refugees from the war. Our Lenten offering this year will go to United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and their work of resourcing these churches. Any offering noted as a Lenten offering will be included in our donation.



Employee Recognition

On Sunday, January 28 the Staff-Parish Relations Committee recognized the gifts, hard work, and dedication of staff members and how vital they are to the Missions and Ministry of the church.



(L) Fran Ackerly listens while Ron Frisbee (R) speaks about the different roles Fran has as an employee of The United Ministry before presenting her with a small gift in appreciation for all that she does. Fran holds 2 staff positions: Bookkeeper and Custodian.



Deb Kearney (L) listens as Carol Greene (R) describes her role as the Church Secretary and how it has evolved over the years, from typing and answering phones to including social media, worship presentations, and live streaming our worship service every week.



Pat Nabinger (R) listens while Glenn Reynolds (L) tells us how Pat started as a member of the Choir, becoming our Organist in 1989, then became Director of Music when Sandie Reynolds retired from that role. As Director of Music, Pat chooses music for each worship services, plans special music, plays the organ for our services, directs the Chancel Choir and the Kids' Club Choir.



Bible Quiz



What does the newly risen Jesus tell his disciples — twice — when he appears in the locked room where they are hiding?

- A. "Love one another as I have loved you."
- B. "Peace be with you."
- C. "The last shall be first and the first shall be last."
- D. "I am risen!"



Answer: B (See John 20:19, 21.)

Play School News - March 2024

Fundraiser Event: Play School is planning a **Bake Sale on Saturday, March 23rd from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at the St. Patrick's Day Parade.** We will be set up in front of Main Street Cards and Gifts. Please, any donations of baked goods or monetary donations are welcome to help out a great cause - Play School! Please notify Pam Savage at (607) 746-6869 or a member of the Play School Board if you'd like to help out. Thank you for your support! **Play School -- Growing Strong Together**

Pre-registration for the 2024-25 school year is now being reviewed for any changes and a wait list is available. Families will be contacted with detailed information on the upcoming school year soon. Please contact Pam Savage at playschool.umod@gmail.com for more information.

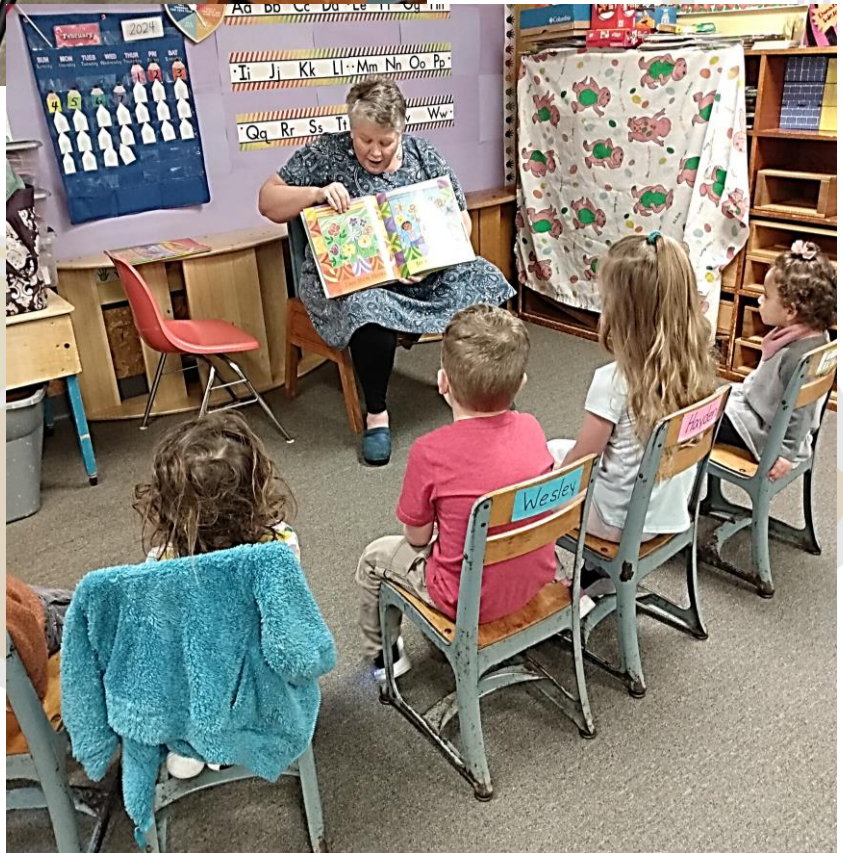
The children are so excited to come to school each morning and they are learning a lot. During the month of February we had fun with Groundhog Day and predicting what will happen - will he see his shadow or not, I Love..., fun Valentine's Day projects with Miss. Tasha, and a great class party, dinosaurs, stories, and games. We will go into March geared up for St. Patrick's Day, outdoor play, and Spring! We will continue our letters of the week and fun topics. We are also looking forward to inviting community members into the classroom to share their special gifts and talents with the children. If you would like to share something with our class, please contact Pam Savage at playschool.umod@gmail.com and we can plan a date.

Continued Thanks to everyone who has donated to Play School and has shared their time and support! This has truly been a blessing for the children's learning, growth and development!! They are so curious to see what we are going to learn about next! It's amazing to see!!

Wishing you all continued health and happiness!

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Savage, Play School Director







PLAY SCHOOL PROUDLY PRESENTS

CATCH US AT THE
PARADE FOR OUR...

F O U R T H A N N U A L
ST. PATRICK'S DAY
BAKE SALE

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 FROM 10 AM - 2 PM
OUTSIDE MAIN STREET CARDS & GIFTS
LOCATED AT 96 MAIN STREET IN DELHI

ALL BAKED GOODS AVAILABLE BY DONATION
ALL DONATIONS BENEFIT THE PLAY SCHOOL PROGRAM



Stewardship Note: Faith Giving

Sunday, March 24th will be our first Faith Giving Sunday of this year. Special envelopes will be available and collected during worship. If you are unable to attend on that Sunday, you can still contribute before or after that date, but be sure to clearly mark "Faith Giving" with your contribution, or save for the next date (Last Sunday in June)!



God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8)



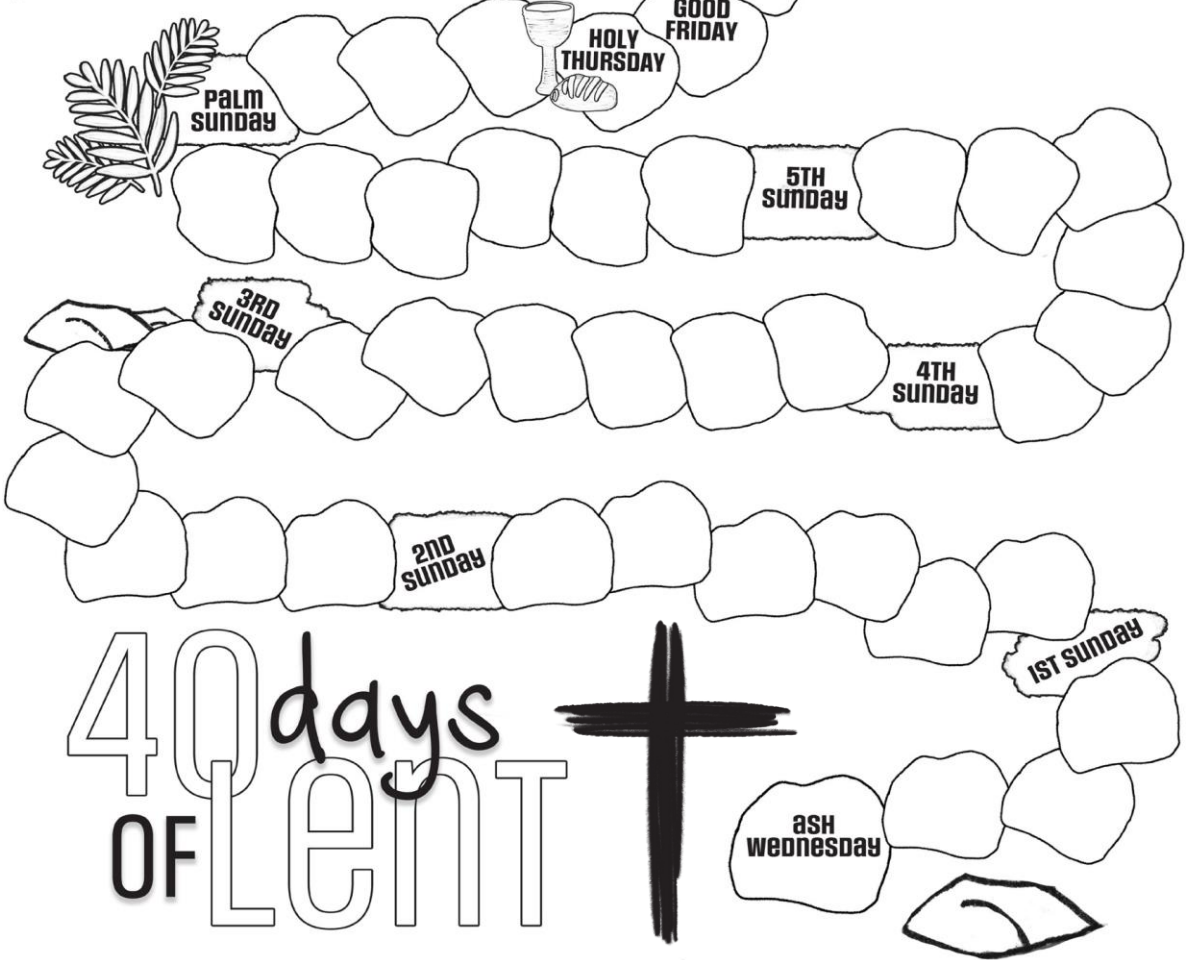
Member in the News

Longtime member of The United Ministry, **John Bramley**, was recently featured in local newspapers as a recipient of 2 awards from the National Weather Service.

John Bramley, a dedicated Cooperative Weather Observer, has been awarded the prestigious 'John Campanius Holm' Award and the Length of Service 'Dick Hagemeyer Award' for his outstanding commitment to weather observations. John has served as a Cooperative Weather Observer since February 12, 1965, recording and reporting weather data. He took a break from observing as he moved out of the area and later returned as a COOP observer in 2016 and has been reporting ever since for a total of 45 years.

The Dick Hagemeyer Award is presented in honor of Dick Hagemeyer (1924-2001), whose career in NOAA spanned 51 years, the last 20 as Director, Pacific Region. Early in his career, he served as Cooperative Program Manager and was an ardent supporter of the Cooperative Observer Program. This award was presented to John Bramley for serving 45 or more years as a Cooperative Weather Observer.

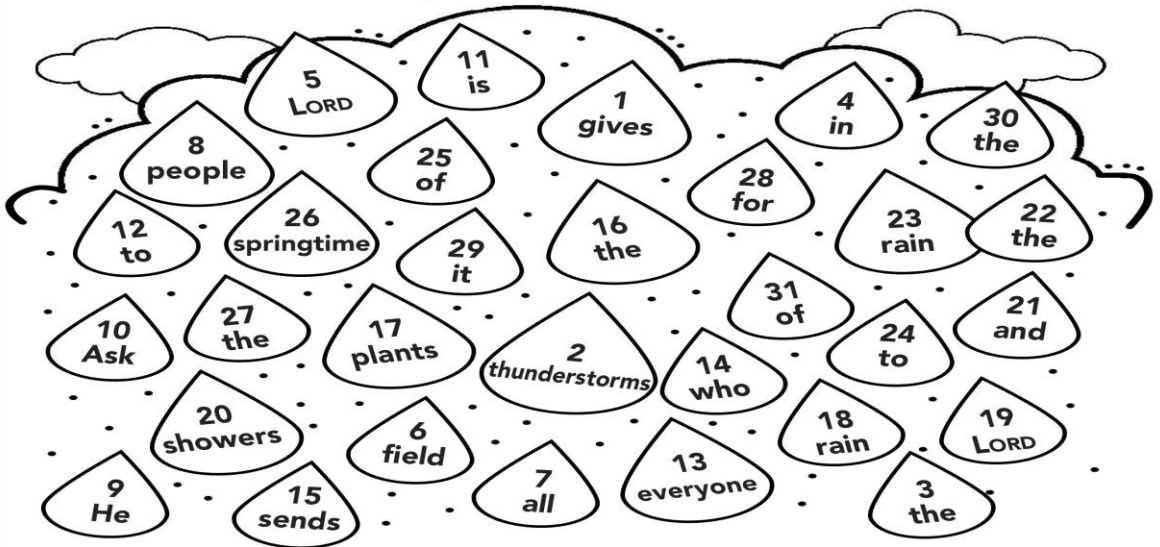
Coloring Page



Puzzle

Puzzle!

Complete a Bible verse about spring by writing the word from each raindrop on the correct numbered line below.



_____ 10 _____ 16 _____ 5 _____ 28 _____ 18

_____ 4 _____ 22 _____ 26 _____ ;

_____ 29 _____ 11 _____ 3 _____ 19 _____ 14 _____ 15

_____ 27 _____ 2

_____ 9 _____ 1 _____ 20 _____ 31 _____ 23

_____ 12 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 21 _____ 17 _____ 25

_____ 30 _____ 6 _____ 24 _____ 13

Zechariah 10:1, NIV

Answer: Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORD who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone. Zechariah 10:1, NIV

Easter Plants Order Form



We are planning an arrangement of lilies and pink/red azaleas decorating the sanctuary for our Easter Worship service, and we are also offering the option of donating to the Food Bank. Donations for the Food Bank are also in memory or in honor of loved ones or special events in your life. We have ordered 6, large Azaleas (\$29/ea), 6 small Azaleas (\$21/ea), and 15 white Lilies (\$18/ea) to be sponsored. **Order by Sunday, March 24!** Please fill out the form ***exactly*** as you would like the dedication to read:

Plant(s) for the Sanctuary

In Memory/Honor of _____
(circle one)

By: _____

In Memory/Honor of _____
(circle one)

By: _____

\$ _____ for _____ **lily** plants at **\$18.00 each.**
\$ _____ for _____ **Lg. Azalea** plants at **\$29.00 each.**
\$ _____ for _____ **Sm. Azalea** plants at **\$21.00 each.**
Or: _____ I will supply my own plants

Food Bank Donation made

In Memory/Honor of _____
(circle one)

By: _____

In Memory/Honor of _____
(circle one)

By: _____

Total \$ _____ donation to Food Bank

Plants may be picked up after Easter worship.



Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday, March 24

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 24, we will read the stories of that last week of Jesus' life. We will celebrate Jesus with the waving of palms, and we will hear of his passion. Plan to be at worship.

Maundy Thursday, March 28

We will celebrate Jesus' Last Supper with the disciples in scripture and with communion on Thursday night at 7:00.

Good Friday, March 29

At noon the churches of St. John's Episcopal, First Baptist, First Presbyterian, and United Ministry will join in the Walk of the Cross. We begin here at the United Ministry and end at Woodland Cemetery, about 90 minutes later. On the way there are readings and hymns and thoughts about the day.

Sunrise Service, March 31

"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 the river early on Easter morning. At 6:45 am, on Easter, March 31, we will gather at Hoyt Park, for a short, joyful celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Please join us!

Easter Sunday Morning Worship, March 31

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!

MARCH Birthdays

Phil Jensen	3/6	Patti Kruppo	3/17	Rozlyn Burrows	3/24
Natalie Anderson	3/6	Bonnie Hamilton	3/18	Laura Mills	3/27
Phoebe Fisher	3/7	Bob Russell	3/20	Chuck Hill	3/28
John Sandman	3/14	Pam Vogt	3/20	Cyndy Harder	3/28
Nikki All	3/14	Lynn Hoffman	3/23		



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

- Mar 3 Wyatt Frisbee
- Mar 10 Girl Scout Troop 61045
- Mar 17 Kazmierskis 'Welcome Spring!'
- Mar 24 Nabinger/Mills
- Mar 31 _____

Flowers

- Mar 3 _____
- Mar 10 _____
- Mar 17 _____
- Mar 24 Tom Pandick
- Mar 31 Easter Lilies/Plants

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

Word and Worship

Sunday, March 3

Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

Sunday, March 10

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

Sunday, March 17

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12

Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Sunday, March 24

Palm/Passion Sunday

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47

Thursday, March 28

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17,
31b-35

Sunday, March 31

Easter Sunday

Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Mark 16:1-8; John 20:1-18

Lectors - March

Mar 3 *Fred Onasch*

Mar 10 *Liz Frisbee*

Mar 17 *Edie Campbell*

Mar 24 *Many Readers*

Mar 28 *Ruth Kazmierski*

Mar 31 *Carol Greene*

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Worship:

10:30 am Sundays

Office Hours:

Tue – Thurs – 9am – 4pm

Sun – 9am – 1pm