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Messenger – April 2022

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“Being Yourself”

But now, this is what the Lord says – he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine.” Isaiah 43:1

When I was kid, I knew exactly what I wanted to do with my life – I wanted to be the next Ozzie Smith. As a boy growing up in St. Louis in the 80’s, Ozzie was my hero. He was the All-Star shortstop for the Cardinals who made the most amazing plays look routine. Ozzie is still regarded as one of the best to ever play his position. I did everything I could to try to be like Ozzie. I always asked for his number (1) to be my number. I would dive and slide around the field like Ozzie. I learned how to hold and swing my bat like Ozzie. There was just one little problem – I’m not Ozzie. (While I have many gifts, playing baseball is not one.)



It can be hard to remember sometimes we are not created to be like anyone else. At the time of creation, God did not just put Adam into a Xerox machine and hit the copy button. While it may sound cliché, we are all created to be unique (just like everyone else). When God made me, he wasn’t trying to make another Ozzie Smith. He made Chris. God has a completely different path for my life than for Ozzie’s, and that’s okay.

Isaiah 43:1 is my go-to Bible verse for a little reminder that it is okay to be a little different, a little weird, to be, well ... me. These words play in my head often as God’s reminder He created me with purpose and intention, He has called me BY NAME, and I am his.

We were having a conversation with one of the boys the other day about gifts, and purpose, and direction in life, and all the heavy stuff I still don’t have answers for. At one point, he said something about worrying he won’t accomplish the goals he set for himself a long time ago to be the next Stephen Spielberg. And, as cliché as it sounded, I reminded him God didn’t create him to be the next Spielberg, the world already had one of those. God created him to be him. We discussed some of the things that make him unique and the ways those things are truly part of who he is and how he is going to make a difference in the world.

This got me thinking – someone else probably needs to hear this too! When God created you, it’s because the world needed you. The world needed someone with your gifts, talents, unique perspective, quirks, faults, and foibles. The next time you start comparing yourself to someone else and worrying that you don’t measure up, remember – you weren’t created to be anyone other than you. You are who God needs for this world! He not only made you, but He called you by name, and you are His!

Blessings, Chris

From the Church Board...

Every Wednesday for a few years now, I meet with a group of community leaders (they let me in on grace...) and we have a prayer filled, hour-ish long gathering wherein we solve all the world's problems. We are just waiting on someone to ask for the solutions.

It occurred to me this week that once a year or so, a very organic and honest debate and conversation about tithing is a possible conversation topic. It is interesting the ideas, opinions and solutions which arrive during this moment. To clear the good names of the men involved, everyone has a scripture on which they loosely or strictly base their theory and approach to tithing. If one has an open mind, each of these approaches seems very plausible and reasonable and I could easily back any of the ideas presented.

As we enter into a time of recently unprecedented (40 years or so) economic downturn, our church family, just like our own families, are having to make hard decisions; have difficult conversations and look for ways to cobble together a financial plan to accomplish our goals. Inflation is at a record high I have not seen since the days of Billy Beer and cars large enough to need their own zip code. Our utility bills have doubled while our usage of our church has remained constant; every service we employ has felt the pinch of the global economic quagmire, and rightfully, painfully passed these costs on to us.

That said, Pastor Chris, the Board, and I have all been brainstorming to see where we can cut our budgets, and make our church ends meet. I truly believe your Board, staff and pastor are good stewards of our finances. This can be witnessed every Sunday, and throughout the year and verified by any number of people in the congregation.

After a conversation with Pastor Chris following the early service last week, we made the decision to bring our current issues to the congregation for help. I humbly ask that you talk amongst your families and pray about these issues facing our church family. If it is true that "time is money" then perhaps you can donate some time to help around the church. "...our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness." If you feel called to donate more, increase your tithe, or offer a gift of service, please know that your gifts are deeply appreciated and will be put to the absolute best use possible.

In 2 Corinthians 4: 17-18 we learn not to look at our problems, but at the great, resourceful and abounding solutions provided to us through our faith. "This too shall pass." I have faith that we will see our way through this and come out better for it.

I will end with a heartfelt thank you; blessings to each of you and a reminder from Jeremiah 29:11. Believe, be well and stay safe!

Mike Krohn,

Administrative Board Chair



- Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday worship service on April 10th.
- Maundy Thursday worship service on April 14th at 7:00 pm.
- Good Friday worship service on April 15th at 7:00 pm.
- On Easter Sunday, April 17th our worship services will be at 8:00 am and 10:20 am.

Easter Cards for Elders & Friends



This year again we are asking the congregation to mail out Easter cards or other greeting cards with your own personal Easter greeting. The addresses for the names listed below will be located on the refreshment table or the counter next to the front entrances.

Florence Banion, Jack Bell, Frances Bradley, Virginia Brownfield, Mary Margaret Browning, Ada Gingrich, Ann Hartmann, Margaret Hopkins, Phillis Otis, Bart Riley, Carol Schenck, Leona Schmidt, Helen Taylor, John Tincher, Hessie Watts, and Dorothy Whitten.

We know all the recipients will experience a special Easter blessing because of the thoughtfulness of all those who participate in this endeavor. **Thank you for remembering these special people.**

Blood Drive



Blood and platelet donations continue to be essential to hospital patients. Donors are needed to come together to help others in this time of need. We will be hosting another blood drive the afternoon/evening of Monday, April 25th in our Fellowship Hall. To schedule a time for donating blood go to: redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive. Thank you!

Palm Sunday Dinner



The Education Team will be hosting a carry-in dinner on Palm Sunday, April 10 after the morning worship services. There will be an Easter egg hunt on the church lawn (weather permitting). Each child will receive a bag of candy after the hunt when they return the empty plastic eggs.

This hunt will be followed by a dinner in the Fellowship Hall, sponsored by the Education Team, which will provide the meat for the dinner. To ensure a variety of dishes, families are invited to bring the following dishes to share:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Family names A to F | Salads |
| Family names G to L | Potatoes/Potato Casserole |
| Family names M to S | Vegetables |
| Family names T to Z | Desert |



On Saturday, April 2nd Ann Hartmann will be turning 100. It would be wonderful if we could flood her mailbox with many birthday blessings! Her address is Sylvia Thompson Residence, 3333 West 10th Street, Sedalia, MO 65301. If you would like to give her a call and wish her a Happy Birthday her number is (660) 882-6366.

Church Summer Camps



With summer right around the corner, it's time to start thinking about church camp. There are lots of options and opportunities for church camp available, too many to print. Please contact Pastor Chris or Melissa Baker for information on camp and scholarship opportunities.

Baby Grace Sort and Size

There will be a Sort & Size on April 7th and April 14th from 1:00 to 3:00 at the Annex. Due to the large amount of donations more volunteers are needed. Thank you.

Handyman Project



The Methodist Men wanted to remind the congregation about our Handyman Project which helps those in our church who have items that need to be done around their homes that they can no longer do themselves. It could be such items as changing the batteries in your smoke detectors, putting in new light bulbs or fixing something that is broken. If you need help with household items, please call the church (660-882-6223), or Elvin Farquhar (660-621-7777), and we will be glad to send a handyman to help you.

Congregational Care Team

Part of this ministry's mission is to demonstrate Christ's love by visiting with individuals who are homebound or in skilled care facilities, assisted living facilities, or short-term physical rehabilitation situations. A friendly and caring visitation team member visits anyone with a family member or acquaintance who fits these criteria with a regular visit. Primary caregivers might also receive a welcome break to run errands or just rest and relax while someone else is visiting with their loved one, if arranged in advance. Contact Tim VonEngeln at 314-883-0984, or any other member of the team, to set up a visit. The team includes David Bradley 660-537-1046, Margene Farquhar 660-621-2026, Earl Haller 660-888-9412, Evelyn Rogers 660-537-1724, Cheryl Salyer 660-537-2455.



Eyes and Ears Needed!



If you notice something around the church that needs attention such as (lights, fans, leaks, noises, etc.), please contact the church office immediately (leave a message on the answering machine if after hours) or contact Mike Krohn, Administrative Board, Chair. We want to keep our facilities safe, inviting, usable, and active!

April Birthdays

- 1 Dixie Lloyd
- 2 Ann Hartmann, Trent Maxwell ☺,
Larry Schreck
- 4 John Litton
- 6 David Neff
- 5 Carolyn Brownell, Levi Belstle,
Bill Campbell
- 7 Iris Campbell
- 8 James Lloyd
- 9 Tracy Crowe, Britta Jackson,
Tommy Schnell



- 11 Ben Vanderhoof
- 13 Evelyn Rogers,
Whitney Venable
- 16 Margene Farquhar
- 17 Ada Gingrich
- 22 Chelsea Jackson
- 23 Diane Gettings,
Jim Vanderhoof
- 26 Risa Venable ☺
- 30 Tyler Gregg

April Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting, Lounge Men's Retreat Sagrada Bible Camp	2 Men's Retreat Sagrada Bible Camp
3	4 9:00 am TOPS 8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting, Lounge	5 General Municipal Election Day 7:00 pm Congregational Care Team Meeting, Lounge 7:00 pm - Choir Practice	6 10:15 am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 12:00 Noon Al-Anon Meeting, Lounge	7 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Baby Grace Size and Sort 6:00 pm Praise Band Practice	8 7:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting, Lounge	9 8:30 am UMM Meeting
10 Palm Sunday, Dinner Following Worship Services	11 9:00 am TOPS 8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting, Lounge	12 6:30 pm - NAMI 6:30 pm - Boonslick Ministerial Alliance Community Holy Week Service - Christ Episcopal Church 7:00 pm - Choir Practice	13 10:15 am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 12:00 Noon Al-Anon Meeting, Lounge	14 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Baby Grace Size and Sort 7:00 pm Maundy Worship Service	15 7:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting, Lounge 7:00 pm - Good Friday Worship Service	16 8:00 am - Noon 4-H Club, Fellowship Hall
17 Easter Sunday	18 9:00 am TOPS 8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting, Lounge	19 6:00 pm - Administrative Board Meeting	20 10:15 am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 12:00 Noon Al-Anon Meeting, Lounge	21 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Baby Grace Distribution 6:00 pm Praise Band Practice	22 7:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting, Lounge	23
24 Confirmation Sunday, 10:20 Worship Service	25 9:00 am TOPS 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall 8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting, Lounge	26	27 10:15 am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge 12:00 Noon Al-Anon Meeting, Lounge	28	29 7:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting, Lounge	30

