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Messenger – April 2023

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“Hope Springs Eternal”

“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.” Isaiah 1:18

It’s Thursday afternoon, about 2:15, and I am anxiously awaiting one of my favorite moments of the year – Major league Baseball’s Opening Day. The beginning of a new season brings all kinds of great things: the smell of fresh cut grass, crisp new uniforms and rookies making their debut, players playing for a new team, managers getting a shot at their dream job, and parents pulling their kids out of school to watch the spectacle of it all. In Cincinnati, they have the traditional Opening Day parade through the city as they celebrate another season of baseball’s oldest franchise. And in St. Louis – the Clydesdales open the season making a lap around the field, Cardinal’s Hall of Famer’s are celebrated along with the club’s 11 World Series Championships, and all the current coaches and players are paraded along the warning track to the cheers of 40,000 plus adoring fans.

While I love the spectacle of Opening Day with all its pomp and circumstance, its celebrations of tradition and excitement for what is to come, the best part is the hope. You see, at this point, with no official games in the books, every team is undefeated, every team is in first place, and every team has a chance of bringing home a championship. What a team did last year doesn’t matter. Their record in the preseason is wiped away. Even the predictions of all the pundits and prognosticators matter little today. Everyone comes in with a completely clean slate, on equal footing, with nothing but hope to guide the way.

In just over a week, we are going to celebrate the most important day of the Christian year – the miracle of Jesus’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Easter Sunday is, if you will, our Opening Day. Because of Christ’s victory over death, because of Jesus’ death AND resurrection, our sins are wiped clean. Our past - our mistakes, our errors and failures, everything that we’ve done we wish we could undo or redo – all of that is gone and our future is defined by nothing but hope! That is why we will gather to celebrate.

And unlike some sport (I can’t believe I’m writing this), our Good News isn’t just exciting for people in one city, or fans of one team or one sport. This is the Good News, this Opening Day, this clean slate is for all people. As the prophet Isaiah said, “though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow.” It is in this Opening Day that we find the hope that truly springs eternal.

I look forward to gathering with you as we celebrate the new season Christ offers for us on Easter Sunday.

Blessings, Chris

From Our Board:

This month we are going to begin asking for pledges and funds to pay for our new HVAC system - installation of which should begin in the next week or so. We recently signed the paperwork for the \$115,000 loan to cover these expenses, and now comes the work of paying it off. This month, we asked Maryellen McVicker to share a story from our church's past about how we've come together to overcome debt, to inspire us as we seek to grow into our future. We hope you enjoy her stories of our past as much as we do.

#### THE QUEST FOR FUNDS

The current Sanctuary of Nelson Memorial United Methodist Church was dedicated on Sunday, February 11, 1917 by Methodist Bishop Eugene R. Hendrix. The magnificent new building was almost twice as large as the one it replaced and featured the Akron Plan which means it had a sloping floor with pews arranged in a semi-circle radiating back from the alter. The plan was first used in a Methodist church in Akron, Ohio and quickly became popular in all denominations because it helped the acoustics in a pre-microphone world. What is now the east wing had large partition doors and was Sunday School classrooms which could be opened up and filled with chairs for overflow crowds. The original budget for the new church was \$30,000.00 but the church had ended up costing about \$35,000.00. The congregation was now in debt.

Bishop Hendrix preached a rousing sermon and gave the benediction. He then remained standing and reminded the congregation that it was time to eat, but the ushers were going to lock the doors (which the ushers did) and the congregation was going to remain in the Sanctuary until the \$5,000 owed had been raised. He then opened the floor for verbal pledges. The Bishop accepted larger and larger verbal commitments from the audience as stomachs grew more and more hungry. Within 30 minutes the entire \$5,000 had been pledged (would be worth well over \$100,000 in today's money), the doors were unlocked, and people went home to their meals. The building was debt free.

We now face church debt. As members well know, our HVAC system is beyond repair requiring the church to borrow funds to replace this necessity. We need members to step up like they did for Bishop Hendrix to close the funding gap. The Administrative Council is working diligently to install a new system at the best possible price, but it will still be pricy. Thank you for thinking about how you can help us close this gap and be debt free once again!

Maryellen McVicker



- Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday worship service this Sunday.
- Maundy Thursday worship service on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- Good Friday worship service on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.
- On Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> our worship services will be at 8:00 am and 10:20 am.

**Palm Sunday Dinner**



The Education Team will be hosting a carry-in dinner for Palm Sunday, April 2nd, after the morning worship services. There will be an Easter egg hunt for the children while the food is being put on the serving tables and readied for the dinner. Each child that participates will be given a bag of wrapped candies.

To ensure a good variety of foods, we request the following distribution:

- Family names A to F      Dessert
- Family names G to L      Side Dish
- Family names M to S      Meat Dish
- Family names T to Z      Salads

**The Boonville Ministerial Alliance Annual Easter Community Service**



The ministers of our community will lead us in worship on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at New Life in Christ Ministries, 521 Main Street. The Holy Week Message will be given by Pastor Tad Schuldt. All are welcome to Come!

**Church Cleanup/Work Day**



Everyone is invited to join in for some Spring cleaning around the church on April 8. We are going to wipe down the pews, straighten up the common areas and get the church ready for company on Easter Sunday. Please join us at 8:30. Donuts will be provided.

**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, Ada Gingrich, Margaret Hopkins, Bart Riley, Carol Schenck, Leona Schmidt, Gene and Donna Reagan, 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.**

## Family Ministries Pizza & Bowling



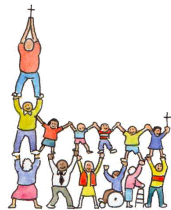
Mark your calendars now to be a part of the Pizza & Bowling Party on Sunday, April 23. We will meet at Muddy Mo Pizza in Glasgow, MO for lunch around 1 and then go to the bowling alley in Glasgow around 2. Everyone is invited. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of the Sanctuary or in the East Wing so we can order enough food.

## Christian Movie Night



On April 23 we will begin holding a monthly Christian Movie Night. More information will be coming shortly. If you have ideas for movies you'd like to share, please let Cindy Koch know.

## 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.

## 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.

## Directory Update



Thank you to everyone who has updated their contact information and photos. We are almost done tracking down the last few people and getting those last updates completed. Stay tuned for information about when our new directory will be available in print, and also available electronically via an app (it's really cool). Thank you to Sandy Farris and Mike Thomas for all their hard work on this project!

## 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
- 8 James Lloyd
- 9 Britta Jackson



- 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

## April 2023 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<b>2</b> Palm Sunday  6:30 pm - Foundations Small Group, Gordon's Home	<b>3</b> 9:00 am - TOPS  8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall	<b>4</b> General Municipal Election Day  6:30 pm - The Boonslick Ministerial Alliance Annual Easter Community Service, New Life in Christ Ministries Church  7:00 pm - Choir Practice	<b>5</b> 10:15 am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge  12:00 Noon Al-Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall	<b>6</b> 7:00 pm - Maundy Worship Service	<b>7</b> 7:00 pm - Good Friday Worship Service  8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall	<b>8</b> 8:30 am - Church Clean Up/Work Day
<b>9</b> Easter Sunday  	<b>10</b> 9:00 am - TOPS  8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10:15 am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge  12:00 Noon Al-Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall	<b>13</b> 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Baby Grace Size and Sort  6:00 pm Praise Band Practice	<b>14</b> 8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:00 am - TOPS  8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall  6:00 pm - Leadership Development Committee Meeting	<b>18</b> 7:00 pm - Choir Practice	<b>19</b> 10:15 am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge  12:00 Noon Al-Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall	<b>20</b> 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Baby Grace Distribution	<b>21</b> 8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 1:00 pm - Family Ministries Pizza & Bowling Spring Outing - Bowling & Pizza  Christian Movie Night, Fellowship Hall - TBA	<b>24</b> 9:00 am - TOPS  8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall	<b>25</b> 6:00 pm - Administrative Board Meeting	<b>26</b> 10:15 am - Women's Bible Study, Lounge  12:00 Noon Al-Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall	<b>27</b> 6:00 pm - Praise Band Practice	<b>28</b> 8:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting, Fellowship Hall	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>						



