

April 2021

The MESSENGER

A publication of Steele Memorial United Methodist Church

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HOW^{you can}
HELP

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

The Red Cross Blood Drive will be at Christ the King Lutheran Church on April 30, and July 28, from 1:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. The Church is located on Rt. 60 across from the Big Lots Plaza.

HOLY WEEK CALENDAR

Members and friends of the community are invited to attend the **Maundy Thursday worship** as we share in the memorial of Jesus' Last Supper. Join us on Thursday, April 1, 7 p.m. at Steele Memorial United Methodist Church! (Live streaming will be an option for those unable to be present.)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Moving ahead following Easter, the Church will make a shift in the order of our **Sunday schedule, with Sunday School classes meeting at 9:40 a.m. and worship at 10:45 a.m.** Sunday School is optional among the different classes right now, so please check with teachers to confirm whether you are meeting in person. Covid-19 protocol of social distancing and wearing masks must be observed.

The new schedule begins April 11 – and for those who typically tune in for our live streaming, please note the change in schedule to 10:45 a.m.



IT'S TIME TO COME HOME!

Steele Memorial Church has opened its ministry for children's church, and we have child-care in the nursery. It's time to come home for worship!

We will keep you safe. Wear your face mask. It's no different than a visit to the doctor's office or to the grocery store. You are safer here! So come on home to worship with us!



ANNOUNCING THE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

Members of the Wesleyan Covenant Association, (WCA), announced last month the formation of the Global Methodist Church, an alternative association of Churches with an orthodox Wesleyan background that will serve as a new denomination following our next General Conference in 2022.

WCA President Keith Boyette and Bishop Robert Hayes answered questions about the Transitional Leadership Council, the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline, the potential timeline for a convening conference for the new de-



nomination, and other important information in a recent podcast. While The Global Methodist Church is still not officially launched as a new denomination, the formation of this body provides annual conferences, churches, clergy, and laity with a more detailed look at what a new traditional Methodist denomination will look like when the *Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation* passes at the next General Conference. The next General Conference will not happen until 2022 due to travel restrictions still in place because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

FROM THE PASTOR

Reflections from the Pastor:

“He arose from the dead...!”

It’s part of the creed which expresses what we believe. We believe in the preposterous!

And just as amazing is the miracle that happens within us: We too arise from the dead! And I’m not talking about that time when our bodies breathe their last breath. Christ brings new life into our dead spirits when we join Him at the cross.

We who were once dead in our sins should experience the power-filled life of God’s Spirit within us! The Apostle Paul wrote to us in the bible about his own experience: **My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.** (Galatians 2:20)

Christ lives in me! That is the spiritual reality for Christian believers – because of Easter! The power of God working through the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most incredible miracle ever!

The Bible reminds us that we were “dead” people because of the sin nature within us. And if we dare to remember, there was a time when we lived in sin, controlled by our sin nature. Read Ephesians 2:1-6 with me. The first paragraph describes all humankind who lived in the world; the second paragraph reports the fantastic new birth brought to us from God!

¹Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ²You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil – the commander of the powers in

—continued on page 3

THE CHALLENGES OF EVERY YEAR

Every year has its challenges. We won’t soon forget 2020! In fact, professionals from every discipline will share facts, figures, and trends on the unique year, 2020, for the next fifty years! There will be quirks that mark a generation who endured some of the most severe symptoms of the pandemic, both physically and emotionally.

But let’s not fall into the trap thinking 2021 will be without its own set of complexities and challenges. With Christ in our lives, we dare to be optimists! We dare to believe in overcoming the tragedies of this world!

If you’re having trouble finding your footing with faith and hope, or if you’re among the many around us who are struggling with depression, please contact your pastor or a professional counselor for direction in these most unusual times



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the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

⁴But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much, ⁵that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) ⁶For He raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.

Already we have a place in the heavenly realm! Already we have citizenship in heaven and a place at God's table!

Are you able to confirm how different you are because of your devotion to Jesus? Do you have a new sense of hope and optimism

because you are no longer "subject to God's anger?"

Rich in mercy and with a depth of love that is beyond anything we've ever known, God pours into our hearts a different kind of love, joy and peace, patience, kindness, and so much more. We can know that there is a new presence or a new force within our soul.

But we can still be troubled; the old sinful nature is defeated, but not dead within us. We may still feel the tug to do our own thing, to serve our selfish desires. But don't be disheartened. Every Christian experiences the ebb and flow of temptations and sin from time to time. Just know that if you have a heart for God – you will be led by that passion to Him, continuing in a posture of prayer and confession, humbled before the God who reclaims our lives from darkness and death!

Thank God for His Easter miracle!

- Pastor Kevin



MAUNDY-THURSDAY

What is Maundy Thursday, the Thursday of Holy Week all about? The word "Maundy" is a shortened version of the Latin word *mandatum*, which means commandment.

At the Last Supper, Jesus gave his friends a new commandment. He told the disciples, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (John 13:34, NRSV).

As Christians gather to eat and share Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, we should make a special effort to exhibit our love and respect for one another. Let us seek out people whom we don't naturally have affection for and express our wish that the living Christ may dwell in them and bless them.



OFFICE HOURS

The Church Office will be closed Friday April 4th in observance of Good Friday



NEWS FROM THE HIVE

The Busy Bees are looking forward to some nicer weather! April's Bible story is Noah's Ark, the Bible verse is: "Philippians 4:6 *Do not be anxious about anything.*" and our mission project is collecting school supplies for Royal Family Kids Camps, a summer camp for children who are in the foster care system.

Fall registration is underway and we still have a few spots open in each class. All of our Bees have been enjoying the fenced in yard and getting lots of outside play time during the spring weather! We hope everyone is staying safe and healthy!



ANOTHER KIND OF EASTER LIFE-GIVING STORY:

[This letter comes from the Lifewater Mission which the Church has sponsored]:

I can't wait to tell you this story of change you made possible. This is the transformational impact experienced by a young grandmother named Kyalimpa in Kakumiro, as recorded by Lifewater field staff.

Kyalimpa shook her head in disbelief when recalling what life used to look like in her small Ugandan village. They had moved there 10 years ago, and immediately regretted it. The only water source was a swamp 7 kilometers away, a journey that took 6 hours round trip. They traveled that distance every 3 days, fetching water that was unsafe. There were no latrines in the village. Though her family had moved to Kakundwa village for the fertile land, the trips for water and the waterborne diseases left little time or energy to actually reap a harvest. There was not enough produce to eat, let alone sell for an income. Her children dropped out of school to help in the fields. Kyalimpa shared, "I had given up hope of ever enjoying life. The water circumstances of my village were suffocating and squeezed every dream from us."

God saw Kyalimpa's despair and worked through you to meet her needs! Kyalimpa's village now has clean water, everyone is healthy, and their harvest is bountiful. Her grandchildren are all in school. Her eyes glisten with delight as she shared about her renewed hope she never thought possible.

"I have just started dreaming at 55, all thanks to the safe water we got. I have just started living. I'm excited for my grandchildren who will live better lives. I'm so happy!" she exclaimed.

This is what this mission is all about. Praise God for bringing us hope when we thought all was lost!

-Kara Tipton, Regional Donor Relations



Celebrating
-WITH-
you



Emery Ann Anuskiewicz was presented for Christian Baptism Sunday, March 28, 2021. Emery was born December 29, 2020. She is the daughter of Nick and Megan Anuskiewicz. Emery was attended by many of her family and friends.

Lori Martin and Adrew Stanley were united in Holy Matrimony Sunday, March 21, 2021 in Barboursville. Andrew is the son of Kim Schmidt

April 2021

WEEKLY EVENTS

ReFit	M-W	9:30 AM
Cub Scouts	M	6:30 PM
Scouts	M	7:40 PM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Maundy-Thursday Service 7:00 PM	2	3
4 Easter Worship Service 10:00 AM	5 Trustees Meeting 7:00 PM	6	7	8 Finance Meeting 6:30 PM	9	10
11 Morning Worship 10:45 AM	12 Administrative Council Meeting 6:30 PM	13	14	15	16	17
18 Morning Worship 10:45 AM	19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23	24
25 Morning Worship 10:45 AM	26	27	28	29	30	

Birthdays & Anniversaries

April 18

JR Johnson
Chris Kelley
Madison Call
Debbie Lingenfelter
Nick Anuszkiewisz
Addalynn Brier

April 19

RaeLynn Brier
Randy Taylor
Daniel Berry
Rosie Wooddell

April 20

Joni Jenklins
Pam Dutton
David Hedrick
Becky Chenoweth

April 21

Aaron Gallion
Rachel Pickett
Sarah Howard
Mollie Bannister
Debbi Canady

April 23

April 24

April 25

April 26

April 28

April 29

April 30

April 1	Mandy Null
April 3	Louetta Jimison
April 6	Bill Weekly
	Amy Jarvis
April 7	Tennessee Justice
April 8	Maggie Chenoweth
April 9	Kennedy Fisher
April 11	Susan Wagoner
April 12	Whitney Stead
April 14	John Cummings
April 15	Denver Stevens
April 17	Greg Gesner
	Eddie Smith



Chris & Amy Jarvis
April 9th



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