

# Newsletter

*Shannon Pascual, Pastor*

**April 2019**

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## From Pastor Shannon...



### CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED

April is here! I don't know about you, but I am excited that this month has begun. Mainly because we are officially in the season of spring and we can see signs all around us of new life. Flowers and tree buds. Bird nests with babies. Farm yards with lambs and calves.

I think we all have said many times in the last several months that this has been a very, very long winter. One that reminded folks of long winters past. And the phrase 'polar vortex' was even used in the news and the weather forecasts. Definitely something we hope not to repeat any time soon.

As we reflect at the end of the season of Lent and move into Eastertide, we can relate to the winter moving into spring. Lent has been a time for us to ponder the recent past in our church, in our work, and in our families. Where was God seen in the places that surrounded you? Did you find yourself struggling and lost because your relationship with God was cold and dry? Did you get weighed down with busy-ness or sloth because you felt as dark as the brown grass under the snow?

We prayed and prayed for our United Methodist Church as we went to the voting polls in St. Louis, MO. Some of us were very disappointed. Some of us were not.

I believe that now that the vote has been taken it is time to move forward. That's what the vote was termed, "Calling on a Way Forward." As mature Christians, we are often called to deal with life as it is rather than life as we think it should be. We do this through remembering that Jesus Christ is our priority!

His teachings are found in all four gospels but the lessons can be summarized in the two greatest commandments: 'Love God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength' and 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Put yourself in the shoes of your neighbor. You may not agree with their lifestyle. You may not understand why they choose to live so differently than you. But you still need to love them by

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## UPCOMING April & May

Printed below are meetings and services taking place this month and next. Please post this list at home. Ladies, also please see the Women's Page.

### APRIL:

#### Monday, April 1:

- Pastor Shannon in Hamburg for flood relief.

#### April 4 thru April 7:

- Jaime and Pastor Shannon on vacation.

#### Sunday, April 7:

- Phil Buschmann will be preaching in Pastor Shannon's absence. Holy Communion is postponed to Easter Sunday, April 21.

#### Tuesday, April 9:

- Salad Luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Pastor Shannon in Des Moines for required elders meeting.

#### Wednesday, April 10:

- SPRC meeting at 6:30 p.m.

#### Sunday, April 14:

- Palm Sunday procession of palms both services.
- Deadline for ordering Easter lilies for display in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

#### Wednesday, April 20:

- Church Council at 6:30 p.m. unless rescheduled because of Holy Week.

#### Thursday, April 18:

- Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m.

#### Friday, April 19:

- Good Friday service at 7 p.m.

#### Sunday, April 21: Easter Sunday

- Easter Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. led by Youth Group.
- Easter Brunch at 7:30 a.m. sponsored by Youth Group.
- Morning worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. with Holy Communion celebrated at both services.
- Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 a.m.

#### Sunday, April 21 thru Monday, April 22:

- Confirmation Class retreat.

#### Saturday, April 27:

- Southeast District Conference in Mt. Pleasant.

#### Monday, April 29:

- Healing Service at 7 p.m.

### MAY:

#### Thursday, May 2:

- National Day of Prayer service at 12 noon in the sanctuary. Light lunch provided.

#### Sunday, May 5:

- Confirmation Sunday celebrated during 10:45 a.m. service.
- Tentative date of Baccalaureate at Sigourney H.S.

## In this Issue...

Holy Week begins Sunday, April 14 with our traditional Palm Sunday procession of palms during both services ..... 3

Youth Group will have a busy Easter Sunday morning as they lead our sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. and they serve our Easter breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m..... 4

The ladies' Spring Salad Luncheon will take place on Tuesday, April 9. It's not too late to offer food, \$\$, or volunteer help..... 5

A truckload of potatoes delays the Abrams' family moving of household possessions from the cargo container to their home ..... 6

Flood relief, health kits and noisy change offering results are shared by church missions chair Bev Bucklin. .... 7

Flood waters and inclement weather affect our medical missionaries in Zimbabwe..... 8

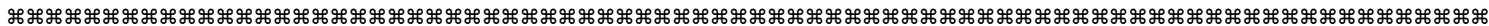
When the devil declares "You are a sinner" Christ interposes, "I will reverse the order." .... 9

Randy Miller goes home to be with the Lord .. 10

## CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT 3-29-2019

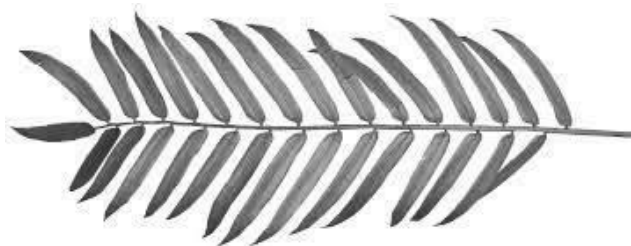
At the end of March, the church will be 25% of the way through 2019 and will have spent had spent 27.8% of our 2019 budget. On March 29, with four March offerings received and one offering remaining, budget income was \$42,164.38. That is 24.4% of the 2019 budget and 97.7% of funds anticipated through March 31.

| Attendance/Giving for March |           |         |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
|                             | S. School | Worship | Budget    |
| Income                      |           |         |           |
| March 3                     | 31        | 73      | \$1208.50 |
| March 10                    | 24        | 92      | \$2213.00 |
| March 17                    | 31        | 73      | \$3864.50 |
| March 24                    | 21        | 81      | \$1958.00 |
| March 31                    | ---       | ---     | \$-----   |



**Sunday, April 14**

## *Palm Sunday*



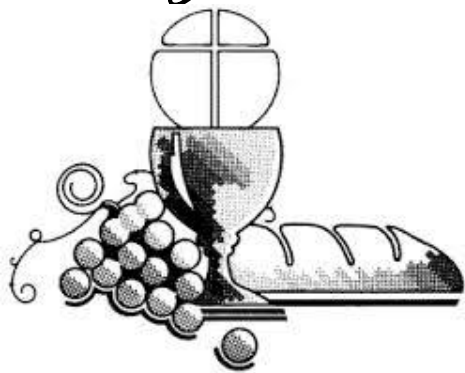
Procession of Palms

8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. services

*Hosanna in the Highest. Blessed is He  
who comes in the name of the Lord.*

**Thursday, April 18**

## *Maundy Thursday*



Holy Communion  
remembering the Last Supper

7:00 p.m. in church dining room

*Do this in remembrance of Me.*

**Friday, April 19**

## *Good Friday*

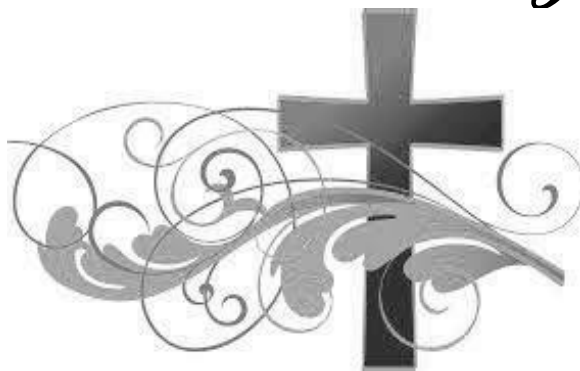


Worship Service

7:00 p.m. in church sanctuary

**Sunday, April 21**

## *Easter Sunday*



Sunrise Service

6:30 a.m. in church sanctuary  
led by Youth Group

Easter Breakfast

7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in church dining  
room prepared by Youth Group

Easter Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.  
in church sanctuary



*By Mary Brainard*

### **APRIL SCHEDULE**

The Youth Group will be leading the Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 21 at 6:30 a.m.

Following that service, the youth group will be sponsoring an Easter breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the church dining room.



## *Easter Sunrise Service*

**Sunday, April 21, 2019**

**6:30 a.m.**

**Sigourney UMC Sanctuary**

*Led by Sigourney*

*United Methodist Youth Group*



### **Small Group Meetings**

**6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**April 3**

**April 17**

**May 1**

### **Large Group Meetings**

**12 – 2 p.m.**

**Lunch Furnished**

**May 1**



**Sunday, April 21, 2019**

**7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

**Sigourney UMC Dining Room**

**Sponsored by Sigourney UMC Youth Group**





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Sigourney United Methodist Women

# *Spring Salad Luncheon*

Tuesday, April 9

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

*Hot Casserole - Salads - Desserts - Beverages*

Free will offering - **Sigourney UMC Dining Room** - Free will offering

# CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED

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understanding their pain and grief, or their sense of victory. Love them into the kingdom any way.

As a church, the congregation of Sigourney United Methodist, we probably have more questions than answers concerning our distant future. But the immediate future looks promising. May we continue to be a church that grows as disciples of Jesus, reaches out to the unchurched, and makes all people we touch, Disciples of Christ.

I invite you to continue your Lenten journey with prayer and self-reflection as you prepare your hearts and minds for the coming Resurrection! At that time, no matter who you are or whose you are, your voice can be one with others. Together we will proclaim, "Christ is risen! Christ is Risen, Indeed!"

*Take care of you!  
Pastor Shannon*

## Confirmation Sunday May 5

Confirmation Sunday is May 5. We will be confirming five young people that morning at the 10:45 service.

The weather has played havoc with our schedule, but the students are learning many things about the Scriptures and the history of the Christian faith as well as the history of the United Methodist Church. They are being required to memorize several recitations such as Psalm 23, the Apostle's Creed, and the Books of the Bible.

Besides the memorization and classroom learning, the students are planning to take a one-day mission trip. The details are TBD but we are hoping to find out more about the Matthew 25 ministries in Cedar Rapids. The plan is to go on Monday, April 22 the day after Easter Sunday. These young people are

very willing to find out more about their own relationships with Jesus Christ and it has been a good year of learning for all of us. Thank you to the mentors who have supported their student.

We invite all worshipers to come the morning of Confirmation Sunday to support the newest full members of our church and greet them in the name of Jesus Christ: Brock Alderson, Autumn Belvel, Matthew Brainard, Levi Dehne, and Sidney Morse.

## From the Abrams Family in Kenya

*We arrived a little over two months ago, and a lot has taken place in a short amount of time. We had some challenges just getting to our new home in a remote area of Kenya. Our household was stored in a shipping container in Nairobi when we arrived. We contacted a man about hiring his truck to haul our things to our new place. He said that would work, and we arranged to meet him at the container to load everything. The morning we were scheduled to move, however, things didn't go as planned. The trucker called us to say the truck had been delayed but was still coming. We continued to the container to pull things out and get ready. After a while, we called him again to see when the truck would be arriving. He kept putting us off and after a little digging by us, he finally said that the truck would not be coming after all because it was full of potatoes. Yes, you read that right, potatoes. At this point the only things we could do was laugh. One colleague of ours commented how you just can't make this stuff up, and she is so right. If we learned anything our first term, it is this: expect the unexpected and just go with it...*

*As we continue to settle in at our new home and station, we have felt God's hand upon our family in so many ways. If we ever need a physical reminder of how great our God is, all we have to do is look out our living room window and see the majesty of His beautiful creation. We have been so encouraged by all of the tangible ways God reminds us of His love and provision...We have found great joy living in community with the people around us. God has given us the gift of home here among the Maasai. We feel a deep sense of peace that this is where God would have our family.*

*Andy, Stephanie, Carson, Jackson, Shayla & Aubrey Abrams*



## **Missions Updates**

**by  
Bev Bucklin**

### **Noisy Change Results**

Southeast District churches have been invited by the district office to raise funds for the kitchen of the Ubuntu Center of Africa University. Our Sigourney UMC fundraiser was a noisy change offering on Sunday, March 10 during which we received \$151.66 for the kitchen project.

*Bev Bucklin, Church Missions Chair*

### **Health Kits (Hygiene Kits)**

Over 1000 Health/Hygiene Kits have been distributed to those affected by flooding in Iowa and Nebraska. So these kits will be in high demand at Ingathering. Don't forget that for these kits we can make good use of any of the following NEW items you might have at home:

- hand towels (15 x 25" up to 17 x 27")
- wash cloths
- bath size bars of soap (no Ivory or Jergens)
- sturdy combs
- adult toothbrushes (in original, sealed wrapper)
- fingernail clippers
- 3" x ¾" inch band aids.

I have a box on the table at the back of the south pews in the sanctuary to receive Health Kit items. Thank you very much!!

*Bev Bucklin*



### **More Flood Relief Efforts**

United Methodists, through the efforts of the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Illinois, have been providing cleanup help for Iowa flood victims.

On Friday, March 15, 2019, Midwest Mission completed not one, not two, but three – yes, three – shipments from their warehouse. The first shipment went to El Rosario, Guatemala in partnership with Food for the Poor. The next two headed to Iowa, where Midwest Mission was able to fill a request for 4,032 UMCOR Cleaning Kits to help those dealing with the statewide flooding in Iowa. Midwest Mission had exactly 4,032 UMCOR Cleaning Kits onsite prepared and ready to go!

The first load went to northeast Iowa in Charles City, IA, and the second load to northwest Iowa in Hinton, IA. While filling the first load, Midwest Mission received an unexpected donation of 33 UMCOR Cleaning Kits from the Mission Committee - UMC Dunes in Grand Haven, MI. These kits were immediately put on a pallet, wrapped up and added to the second shipment for Iowa.

This outreach to Iowa showed God providing in a time of need in both small ways and BIG ways.

The Distribution Center began in 2000 and is a related ministry of the United Methodist Church. The Mission collects, makes, assembles and restores supplies for humanitarian and disaster relief. The work is done by volunteers who come from all over the U.S. to serve. The 30,000 square-foot facility is located on a 10-acre campus four miles south of Springfield, Illinois. It is the second largest of the cooperating depots in the UMCOR Relief Supply Network.

The organization partners with Food for the Poor, Franciscan Mission Warehouse, Christians in Mission and U.S. South Command, which provides humanitarian aid missions in Latin America and Africa.

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## Bev's Missions Updates

*Continued from previous page*

Please continue to pray for those being affected by floods and please consider donating today to help Midwest Mission restock their shelves for the next natural disaster.

### Clean Up Buckets on the Way to Iowa



*Pictured above is a shipment filled with UMCOR Cleaning Kits ready to be sent to Iowa for flood clean up.*

### Weather Devastation Elsewhere

The Midwest here in the United States is not the only location dealing with problems caused by weather conditions. Emmanuel and Florence Mefor, medical missionaries to Mutambara Hospital in Zimbabwe, recently sent word about the effects of a March cyclone where they are located:

*"In the week of March 13 to 18, we experienced the tragic effect Cyclone Idai, which had originated from the Mozambique channel (around Madagascar). It continued to destroy everything on its path in Mozambique, and proceeded to Zimbabwe.*

*"Our District (Chimanimani) and Chipinge, bordering Mozambique, were the most affected with destruction and loss of lives. Houses were crushed, buried partially or completely covered by mudslides. Some families did not escape..."*

*"We are one hour drive west of Chimanimani town (the District Administrative town). Several rivers originating from those mountains, and running down to near and distant communities overflowed their banks. Some of the access road bridges linking the communities were washed away.*

*"Around Mutambara Mission Hospital [where we serve], four bridges were washed away resulting in isolation of most communities. Now following this destruction, patients' access to hospital is difficult. Victims of the cyclone can only reach us by helicopter. Others are airlifted to other hospitals where they are stabilized before being taken to specialists by road.*



*Pictured above is all that remains of the Gonzoni Bridge a quarter mile from Mutambara Hospital where the Mefors serve as medical missionaries.*

*"Electricity, water and food are lacking in addition to medicines. We thank donors who recently started sending medicines and supplies.*

#### **"Prayer Request:**

- That God will console the families that lost dear ones.
- That God will grant the victims quick recovery.
- Restoration of normalcy in the affected areas.

*Emmanuel and Florence Mefor  
UMC Missionary #13990Z  
UMC Missionary #13991Z  
Mutambara Mission Hospital  
#3022286*

missionary  
work





"O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart..."

1 Kings 8:23 NRSV

## GENERAL MEETING

The April General Meeting will be held at Deer View Manor on Thursday, April 11. Marian McCreery will be the hostess.

## SALAD LUNCHEON DONATIONS

Thanks in advance to everyone who has promised donations of food for our Spring Salad Luncheon on Tuesday, April 9. Madonna will have the kitchen door unlocked at 5 a.m. to receive your donations. If you have not yet signed up, we need donations of food, \$\$, and volunteer help. You may leave a message at 641-622-3326.



## THANK YOU

Thank you to all the women of our church for your donations for our funeral dinners. These dinners are a great blessing to the families, and we could not continue doing them without the help of all of our women of the church.

Peg Eversmeyer  
Madonna Shaver



## Spring Salad Luncheon

Tuesday, April 9

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## The magnitude of God's love

It would be spectacular and amazing ... if some king's son were to appear in a beggar's home to nurse him in his illness, wash off his filth and do everything else the beggar would have to do. Would this not be a profound humility? Any spectator or any beneficiary of this honor would feel impelled to admit that he had seen or experienced something unusual and extraordinary, something magnificent.

And yet the love of the Son of God for us is of such magnitude that the greater the filth and stench of our sins, the more he befriends us, the more he cleanses us, relieving us of all our misery and of the burden of all our sins and placing them upon his own back.

Whenever the devil declares: "You are a sinner!" Christ interposes: "I will reverse the order. I will be a sinner, and you are to go scotfree." Who can thank our God enough for this mercy?

—Martin Luther, *Luther's Works* 22, 166-167

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***We express our condolences:***

To the family of  
**Randy Miller**  
who went home to be with the Lord  
on March 23, 2019

Randy is the husband of Jody Miller,  
the father of Derrick and Amy Miller,  
Devin Miller, and Darren and Michelle Miller,  
and the grandfather of  
Maggie, Abigail, Luke and Lucy.



*Do not let your hearts be troubled.*

*Trust in God; trust also in me.*

*In my Father's house are many rooms;*

*If it were not so, I would have told you.*

*I am going there*

*To prepare a place for you.*

*And if I go and prepare a place for you,*

*I will come back and take you to be with me*

*That you also may be where I am.*

*You know the way*

*To the place where I am going.*

*John 14:1-4 New International Version*

We try to stay aware of losses of family and friends of Sigourney UMC. If we have inadvertently missed a family member or friend that you would like to have recognized on this page, please let Sandy know and we will be happy to do so.

## **A new home...**

A preacher who had always feared death felt powerless to comfort others who were facing it. Toward the end of his life, he moved to another house. When all the furniture had been packed, he lingered in the home where he'd raised his children and prepared many sermons.

An assistant interrupted those reflections by saying, "Everything's gone, sir, but the new house is better than this one. Come away."

The preacher never forgot this lesson. God has prepared for his children a home infinitely better than earth — "an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands"

*2 Corinthians 5:1 NIV.*

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