



APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER
ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
10207 Lincoln Trail, Fairview Heights, IL
618-397-6323
Website: www.stjohnfairview.org
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Pastor Rosemary Captain

Secretary Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri. 9am – 3 pm

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I enjoy the month of April. Yes, there are showers. Yet there are also colorful flowers sticking their buds out after a long winter. This year April is also the month of **Easter**, my favorite day in the church year. Yes, Christmas was when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, but **Easter** has so many enduring implications for Christians.

Jesus defeated death and continues to live in his words and guidance for us as we strive to live our lives as God has intended. "Jesus lives and so shall I." Celebrating a birth is one thing. Yet a life lived without sin and completely devoted to God's will, is another thing.

Every Sunday we come to worship, we hear a little bit more of the story of Jesus. Hopefully every week we learn a little bit more about how to continue the story of Jesus by hearing and studying the words, the healing, the compassion, and the love of this Son of God. That's better than the grandest gift we could ever receive on Christmas.

Peace and blessings in this season of light and life. Pastor Rosemary

OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP:

Sunday April 14 – PALM SUNDAY. The Choir will share their gifts of music.
Don't forget the Pancake Breakfast 8:30 – 9:30 before worship.

Thursday April 18 – MAUNDY THURSDAY – 7 pm in the Sanctuary.
LISTENING FOR GOD IN THE STORIES OF OUR TRADITION
HOLY COMMUNION by Intinction.

RITUAL OF STRIPPING THE SANCTUARY

Friday April 19 – GOOD FRIDAY – 7 pm in the Sanctuary. SERVICE OF TENNABRAE

Saturday April 20 – EASTER VIGIL – 7 pm at Lebanon St. Paul United Church of Christ

Sunday April 21 – SERVICE OF RESURRECTION, WORD, AND SACRAMENT



AMONG OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



April Birthdays:

4/1 Trisann Underwood
4/2 Brenna Cohlmeier
4/11 Madison Brown
4/18 Tom Miller
4/24 Stacie Pickens
4/27 Becky Riess

April Anniversaries:

4/26 Tiffani & Brad Eisenhauer # 16



Condolences: to the family of Don Akridge. His visitation and service will be April 4.

Prayer List: Tom Petroff, Dave Seneczyn, Roger Fox, Eric White, Sandy Fort, Stacey Bunetic, Ethan Reiss, Gary Carr, Craig Meyer, Becky Ballad, Hap Horner.

Shut – Ins: Darleen Bax, Terry Kissel, Ardella Morris, Alice Stidham, and Jacque Mantle.

NOTES AND THANK YOU'S

Dear Emmaus Homes Friends,

Thank you for your donation to Emmaus Homes! Many people with developmental disabilities find it hard to live independently. With your gift, Emmaus is able to provide services so that each Emmaus client can be in control of their own life and live like you and me.

We have noted that your gift has been given in memory of Rev. Kevin Weaver. He was a kind and gentle man and will be missed by all who were loved and served with him. Notification of your gift will be sent to his wife, Debbie.

With your help, we are able to continue to provide services in memory of Rev. Weaver. Thank you! Sincerely, Lisa Key, Chief Development Officer. Gift amount: \$228.00



Pennies For Mission: the month of April will go to the Fairview Heights Food Pantry.



EASTER GARDEN OF MEMORIES

It's time to order LILIES for the altar or give a memorial for Easter. Ruth will be taking orders or memorials in the narthex for the next couple of Sundays. Lilies will be \$10.00.



EVENING CIRCLE

The Evening Circle met for our regular meeting Monday, March 18th. As is our custom in March, which is our last meeting until September, we dispersed the funds from our projects throughout the year. Thanks to your generosity this year we were able to give to the following: DuBois, Hoyelton, FH Food Pantry, OCWM, Kindercottage, camp scholarship, and the building fund. In April the ladies will meet at the Hop House in O'Fallon for dinner and fellowship at **6 p.m.** on April 15.

The Evening Circle meets the third Monday of the month and all ladies of St. John are welcome. Hope to see you all in September!

CHOIR NOTES

There is no music as joyful as Easter music! Choir will sing that Sunday of course, as well as on Palm Sunday. Just as the birds can't resist singing in the spring, we hope you are moved to sing. Join us!



PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Palm Sunday, APRIL 14, 2019

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

All you can eat, pancakes, bacon, and fruit salad
Drinks: coffee, juice and milk
Free will offering - \$5.00 offering would be appreciated,
but any contribution is welcome.

Kids 12 and under free!

**Come and enjoy a wonderful breakfast with family and friends!
Hosted by the Christian Education Committee and
Sunday school families.**

Sunday school families – please contact Becky Riess for
fruit donation and helping with the breakfast. Thank you!



SLEEPING MATS FOR THE HOMELESS

(Demonstration at fellowship time, April 7)

There is always a need. We were able to make over 200 kits for young women in Peru. This time the need is more local – sleeping mats for the homeless made from plastic shopping bags. We have a lot of plastic bags at church. There are three different jobs that need to be done:

1. The bags need to be folded and cut into strips.
2. The strips need to be joined into a continuous piece of plastic for crocheting.
3. The mats need to be crocheted using only a chain stitch and single crochet. You will need a crochet hook, size N, or something close.

Instructions for making the mats can be found on Youtube and many websites. [Here is a sample pattern:](#)

1. Flatten the plastic bag and straighten any of the bags creases. Keep folding bag vertically (from left edge to right edge) until the fold is approx. 1 inch wide.
2. Cut off the top handles and the bottom seam. (Put unused scraps in a bag to recycle at grocery store drop-off).
3. From top to bottom of folded bag, cut 1 1/2 inch strips across vertically (left to right). Each strip should be a loop when opened up. (If any strip has an opened end, tie a very small knot to make it a loop).
4. Hook the loops together with a basic “larks head knot”. This is done by overlapping two of the loops end-to-end, then pulling the top of one end through the middle intersection of the two loops. Repeat this step.
5. Roll the looped strips into a ball of “plarn”.
6. Using size N crochet hook, or something close, crochet 60 chain stitches (approx. 3 ft wide). Continue to crochet rows of single crochet stitch until the sleeping mat is approximately 6 feet long and 3 feet wide.
7. Crochet a chain stitch of plarn long enough to attach to one end and tie up the rolled mat. This serves as a carrying handle.

**Be sure to visit fellowship hour on April 7
for demonstrations of each of these steps!**



OUR CHURCH WORKERS FOR APRIL

USHERS:

Sunday, April 7 – Janice Petroff & Barb Whitaker
Sunday, April 14 – Ginny Ganschinietz & Sue Ganschinietz
Thursday, April 18 (Maundy Thursday) – Wayne Schlosser
Friday, April 19 (Good Friday) - Wayne Schlosser
Sunday, April 21 (4 ushers) - Wayne Schlosser, Tom & Jan Miler,
& Judy Schmitt`
Sunday, April 28 – Lew Thomasino & Sue Williams

LITURGISTS AND READINGS:

4/7 Barb Whitaker – Isaiah 43:16-21 Philippians 3:4b – 14

4/14 Eileen Gammon - PALM SUNDAY – Isaiah 50:4-9 Philippians 2:5-11

4/18 Wayne Schlosser – MAUNDY THURSDAY
Exodus 12:1-14 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

4/19 Wayne Schlosser – GOOD FRIDAY (Pastor will send list to Wayne)

4/21 Jan Miller – EASTER SUNDAY
Acts 10:34-43 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

4/28 Sue Williams – Acts 5:27-32 Revelation 1:4-8



STAND UP FOR KIDS:

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and a time to acknowledge the important role that communities play in protecting children. As a child welfare agency since 1947, Caritas Family Solutions advocates for children, especially those impacted by abuse and/or neglect, and we hope you can help. This month and throughout the year, we encourage everyone to “Stand Up for Kids” and play a role in making Southern Illinois a better place for children and families. Learn more at caritasfamilysolutions.org/bluekids or call 618-213-8746.



FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

If you have not had the opportunity to worship with us on Sundays since Ash Wednesday, we have been discussing the word “Salvation.” I’ve been suggesting a different way of thinking about salvation as more than what happens when you die. This basic idea came from the writings of Marcus Borg.

Many people grew up in the churches that had a common framework of “heaven and hell” Christianity. Salvation as “going to heaven” affected their understanding of its sibling terms saved and savior. Because the obstacle to going to heaven was sin, to be saved meant being saved from their sin. Savior referred to Jesus dying for their sins in order to make their salvation possible. Many thought that was what church and religion were all about. Going to heaven?

Even as children they worried about whether they had believed in Jesus enough and behaved as they needed to in order to be saved. Salvation was laden with anxiety, incorporated as it was within a fear-based Christianity. For some, the threat of hell had been used in emotionally abusive and manipulative ways to control their behavior. Then there’s the idea of who is in and who is out. Who will “get into heaven” and “who won’t?”

Is there another way to think about the word “salvation”? What does the Bible say? The people in ancient Israel did not believe in an afterlife. So, the idea of salvation being about after we die, would not be mentioned in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, *salvation* is occasionally about an afterlife – but most of the time it is not. So also *saved* and *savior* are not primarily about being saved from our sins so that we can go to heaven.

Salvation can also mean being liberated from bondage, or rescued from peril, or deliverance, such as **deliverance from blindness to seeing again, deliverance from infirmity to well-being, deliverance from fear to trust, deliverance from injustice to justice, deliverance from violence to peace.**

On Sundays we have talked about salvation as rescue from fear, from addiction, from economic oppression, from racism, etc. We also discussed salvation as change, which Jesus called us to do in Luke 13:3, 5. There are many other ways to think of salvation, such as salvation as trust and confidence, salvation as promise, salvation as acceptance, salvation as pardon. Perhaps you have thought of more ways.

Marcus Borg summarizes all this in one sentence, "Salvation is the twofold transformation of ourselves and the world."

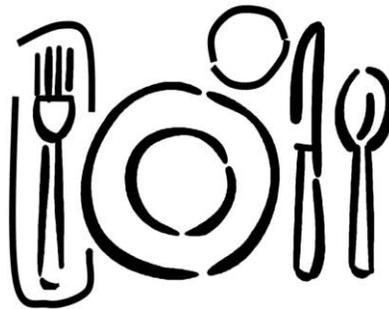
Personally, I like to think of salvation in these ways that are present here and now, as I live; not what happens when I die. However, your thoughts may be different. I respect that. I like to "research" some of these "churchy" words to find options; what makes sense to me and my heart. What will make my faith stronger? What can I anchor my trust in God on?

**Something to ponder on your Lenten journey.
Peace, Pastor Rosemary**



LOOKING FOR SOMEPLACE TO HAVE LUNCH ON SUNDAY APRIL 7?

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ANNUAL CHICKEN DINNER



All you care to eat! Dine in or carry-out

11 am – 3 pm

Adults \$11, Children under 10 \$5, Children under 2 – Free

123 East Dee Street, Lebanon, IL

April

2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 6 p.m. Light Supper 6:30 p.m. Lenten study	4	5	6
7 10 a.m. Service of Word & Sacrament Followed by Fellowship Time	8	9	10 5 p.m. Church Council Meeting 6 p.m. Light supper & 6:30 p.m. Lenten study	11	12	13
14 8:30-9:30 Pancake Breakfast 10 a.m. Worship	15 Evening Circle 6 p.m. at Hop House for dinner	16	17	18 Maundy Thursday service 7 p.m.	19 Good Friday Tennabrae Service 7 p.m.	20
21 10 a.m. Easter Service & Sacrament	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10 a.m. Worship	29	30 Region 9 meeting 7 p.m.				

