

APRIL 2021



Upcoming Events:

- April 1-30 202 Prayer
- G2 Groups Please see attached calendar
- April 2, **Good Friday**
Office Closed
- April 3, 8:00 UMM
- April 5, **Office Closed**
- April 5, Online Devotion
- April 8, 6:30 Finance
- April 12, Online Devotion
- April 13, **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
- April 13, 4:00 Prayer Team
- April 13, 6:30 Trustees
- April 15, 6:30 Worship Comm.
- April 16-25, **Pastor Tim Gone**
- April 18, Creation Sunday
- April 19, Online Devotion
- April 19, 5:50 Faith Develop.
- April 21, 1:00 Herald's Angels
- April 22, 6:30 Green Team
- April 26, Online Devotion
- April 27, 6:00 Staff-Parish



Worship Services:

Saturdays:

5:00 pm in the Chapel

Sundays:

10:00 am in the Sanctuary

THE HERALD

First United Methodist Church
Dixon, Illinois

Greetings in the mighty name of our RISEN Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

It is always hard to truly know when you will receive the Herald. Some of you get it right away. For others it takes weeks before you see it. So, with that in mind, I am going to celebrate the Resurrection of our RISEN LORD and SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. Good Friday reminds us about God's great love and longing to have us in fellowship with God. So much so that His Son, Jesus chose to die on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. When we say yes to Jesus as our Lord and Savior we are made right with God. Our sins die on the cross with Jesus! Amen! Hallelujah!!

But, the even better news. The news of Easter is that on the cross we die to our old self and are born again to new life! Our lives are resurrected!! We are born again to a new life lived in relationship with our beloved Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Triple Amen! Triple Hallelujah!!

What a difference a year makes. Last year everyone celebrated Easter in the comfort and safety of their homes. This year we had both in-person and on-line celebration of Easter. Our congregation has grown stronger during the pandemic. I want to celebrate your resiliency and trust in God to see you through a difficult time. The pandemic is not over but we are making strides to the new normal that will exist after the pandemic safety protocols are totally lifted.

One of the sustaining events for our congregation was starting our 202 Breakthrough Prayer initiative. We invited you to pray our 202 BTP every day at 2:02pm

We have been praying this prayer for over a year.

**Breakthrough prayer is a petition to God to do new things,
beyond our imagining, bigger than we could possibly do on
our own – without boundaries, without limits.**

Please pray the following prayer daily at 2:02 pm

God of love and power send your Holy Spirit to challenge us to Dream Big and to pray hard for your amazing breakthrough in our lives and in our church.

Fill us with the grace, mercy and power of Jesus Christ. Help us to discern where the Spirit is leading us into a new season of faithfulness and fruitfulness for your Kingdom.

Open the Flood Gates of your amazing love and power to give us the boldness and courage to step into the rushing waters of your overflowing Spirit.

We pray in the mighty power and grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Through this prayer we have invited God into our lives and into our church to do a bold and mighty work. We pray each day for God to use us and our congregation to make God known to our community and world. We started praying this prayer asking God to give us that Big Beyond the Horizon Vision of what our church was going to look like in 10 years. We never made it to the moment of discovering

our 10 year Beyond the Horizon Vision. The pandemic shut down that important work.

When I reflect on the past year I don't think our visioning process was shut down I think that God has been using this time to form our church into God's church. God has been aligning our hearts and souls with God's heart and soul. God was using this time to teach us to trust and put our hope in God. Remember I said that God is in the resurrection business. I believe God has us ready to do something new and exciting that will be big and audacious. I don't know what it is yet but I know as we take the next step in our vision process God will start to unfold God's amazing vision for our church. Remember to keep dreaming big and praying hard for God's amazing breakthrough in our lives and in our church.

I want to spend the rest of this letter outlining the next steps in our visioning process. Our beloved United Methodist Church has been in a struggle for its life. It is most likely that our denomination is going to be split into multiple new denominations that will be aligned theologically. Just before the pandemic started a group of global UM church leaders across the theological spectrum met and developed The Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation Agreement. They felt that it was time for the different groups within the United Methodist Church to go their separate ways. The battles fought at General Conference every 4 years were just getting worse instead of better.

Originally, our General Conference was scheduled to meet in September of 2020 but was postponed until 2021. Now, because of the pandemic it has yet again been postponed until 2022. This has caused much discussion on deciding the future of the church. Most had believed that the Protocol would be passed and the new expressions of Methodism could be started. But, the delays in the General Conference are causing a lot of anxiety and fear for the future.

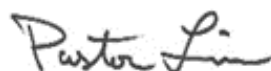
Our first and toughest step is going to be finding out where our church aligns theologically. We will do this through use of the Crossroads survey. Are we a theologically traditional and conservative church? Are we a progressive and liberal church? Or are we somewhere in between? Knowing this is important to our visioning process and to our future. So, starting after Easter we will be talking about the why and how of our church participating in the Crossroads survey. Each person who is connected to our congregation and wants to participate in the life of our church will be asked to participate in the Crossroads Survey. Our denomination is at a crossroads and our congregation needs to know which road we will be taking. As I said there will be a lot more information coming out after Easter.

Once we know and have conversations about what expression of the Methodist Church we will join we will then move onto the Church Assessment Tool (CAT). Six years ago we took the CAT just as I was starting my ministry with you. The CAT will be where we start to see the results of our 202 Breakthrough Prayer start to surface. Through this tool we will begin to see God's preferred future for our church. It will be exciting to compare results of our first CAT six years ago with the new CAT.

Back at the beginning of February 2020 the leadership of the church met for our annual Leadership Summit. At the Summit we started the visioning process using the process from the book God Dreams. We determined our two basic vision templates and then never were able to complete the visioning process to find our Beyond the Horizon Vision. As we move through 2021 I am looking forward to finishing the good work that God has begun in our church.

So, there will be a lot more communication to come. A lot more participation from you. And through it all our beloved Triune God will love us through it all bringing us to a New Resurrected Church. I am excited to see the New Dixon First Church that God has planned for us.

Blessings Pastor Tim

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Lin".



Who: Grace and FUMC Churches, Dixon

What: Mission trip

When: June 14th-16th (Monday-Wednesday)

Where: Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Pawnee (Chatham), IL

Why: To serve God by helping others.

Grace Church has reserved 15 spots in the on site dorm for this trip. As of March 10th, three spots were filled. Here is an opportunity for a mission trip close to home. The cost will be under \$200 per person. Fundraisers are planned to reduce individual expenses. Anyone 10 years or older are eligible. No other group will share the dorm. COVID protocols will apply. Please contact Sandy Burris (phone 815-284-7112) for more information. Gwen Weidman is the contact person at Grace Church. The **deadline** to attend is **April 12th**, so get your reservation in as soon as possible.



Celebrate the risen Savior. Rejoice in eternal life.

Greetings, We are so grateful for your generosity supporting this year's two **Easter Offering** causes: ***Dixon Habitat for Humanity*** and our ***New Fellowship Kitchen roof project***. We are still collecting your gifts throughout April.

Here is an update from the Trustees on the ***New Fellowship Kitchen roof project***.

The Trustees are in the process of getting bids to replace the roof. At the time we sent out the Easter letters we knew we needed a new roof but we didn't have any cost numbers yet. They have received one bid so far and the cost of replacing the old roof with a new roof will be \$23000.00. The last roof lasted 40 years! The new roof will be using thicker and newer materials that hopefully will last even longer.

Again thank you for your generosity.

God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 1 JOHN 5:11

UNITED Methodist Church

FEBRUARY INCOME	\$ 29,506.68
FEBRUARY EXPENSES	<u>\$ 29,471.17</u>
FEBRUARY NET	\$ 35.51



Financial Notes for FEB 2021

Copies of the full financial report are available upon request.

Green Note:

Genesis 2:15—The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

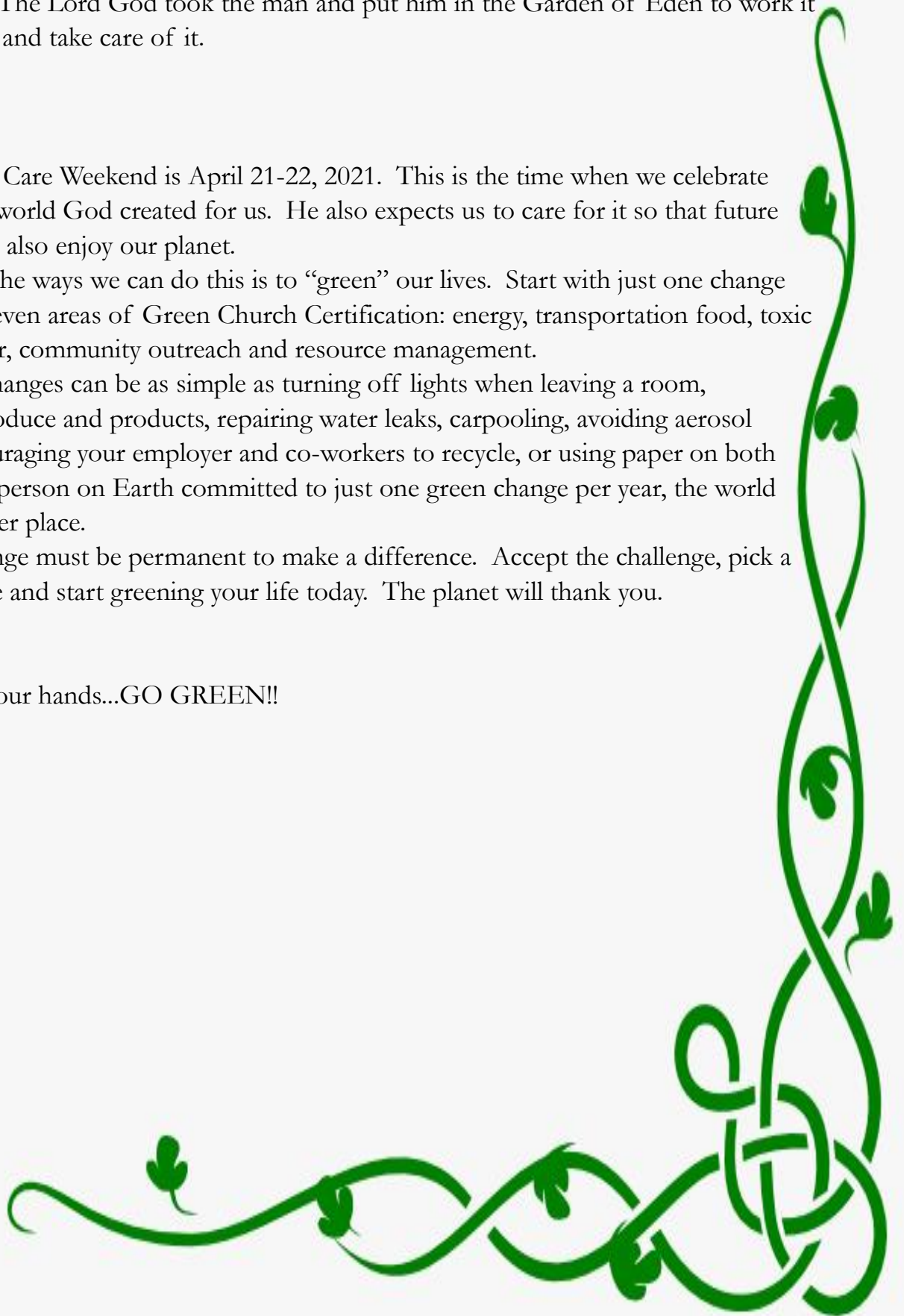
Creation Care Weekend is April 21-22, 2021. This is the time when we celebrate this wonderful world God created for us. He also expects us to care for it so that future generations can also enjoy our planet.

One of the ways we can do this is to “green” our lives. Start with just one change in one of the seven areas of Green Church Certification: energy, transportation food, toxic chemicals, water, community outreach and resource management.

Green changes can be as simple as turning off lights when leaving a room, buying local produce and products, repairing water leaks, carpooling, avoiding aerosol products, encouraging your employer and co-workers to recycle, or using paper on both sides. If every person on Earth committed to just one green change per year, the world would be a better place.

The change must be permanent to make a difference. Accept the challenge, pick a green technique and start greening your life today. The planet will thank you.

The work is in our hands...GO GREEN!!



Greetings in the name of our risen Christ Jesus, Our Savior and Our Light of life!

Yesterday, I was so thrilled to see the bright sunlight coming through the windows of the narthex when I entered the sanctuary to prepare the worship service. While it was not the first time that I saw the sunlight coming through these windows, it looked so much different from the sunlight that I saw last few weeks. It was felt more vibrant and brilliant and I was asking myself what makes it so different from the sunlight that I saw last few weeks?

I found an answer to this question when I saw the same kind of feeling that I had on the smiling faces of the people entering the church and greeting to each other even with their masks covering the half of their faces. Everybody was delightfully talking about the arrival of the spring from the beautiful weather we had outside and regarding the knowledge of the first official day of the spring the day before, that is, Saturday, March 20th. Does this suggest that only the change of season that we can recognize at this time would make us feel so different about the sunlight coming through the windows yesterday?

Surely not. There should be many reasons that make us feel different about what we are experiencing at the moment, like the sunlight coming from the windows of the narthex that I saw yesterday. And I can say that there would be at least two reasons for me to feel the sunlight more vibrant and brilliant yesterday the second official day of the spring this year.

One reason would be surely the physical change of season from the winter to the spring, as it would be for many other people. But, the other more important reason that would make me feel thrilled is the hope of spiritual transformation that the bright sunlight of the spring would signify to me, which I have been seeking through my Lenten journey to the cross following Jesus Christ as the Light to guide us in the darkness not to be afraid of the dark, but to have the light of life, and to shine on us to be the light of the world to let the people in the darkness know God's steadfast love and grace for us through Christ Jesus, as Jesus tells us in John 8:12, and Matthew 5:16,

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." --John 8:12 (NRSV)

¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. -- Matthew 5:16 (NRSV)

All through our Lenten Journey to Easter, I would like all of us to have an opportunity to reflect on our life as Christians regarding a spiritual transformation into the light that Jesus asks us to be in following him and that we have been pursuing through the Lenten journey in the guidance of the Holy Spirit through our relationship to Jesus Christ in his gracious love and humility.

Thus, I pray that we all may be the witnesses of God's steadfast love and grace to the world through our Lenten journey to the cross in the guidance of the Holy Spirit and meet with the risen Christ Jesus as his true disciples in the Easter morning!

May God's abundant blessings be with you through your Lenten journey and Happy Easter!!!

Blessings,

Pastor Young Sun

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
		APRIL			Good Friday 6:30pm - Pastor Jay	8am - UMM, Page 5pm - Worship, F.H.
4 8:30am - Brooks G2 10am - Worship 6pm - Culvers Group	5 OFFICE CLOSED Online Devotions 10am - Stach G2 - 1pm - Staff Meeting 4pm - Pastor Tim G2	6 5pm - 4-H Special 6pm - Macklin G2 -	7 10am - Lynne G2 -	8 6:30pm - Finance, cr 7pm - Matters Circle	9 6:30pm - Pastor Jay	10 5pm - Worship, F.H.
11 8:30am - Brooks G2 10am - Worship 6pm - Culvers Group	12 Online Devotions 10am - Stach G2 - 1pm - Staff Meeting 4pm - Pastor Tim G2	13 NEWSLETTER 4pm - Prayer Team 5pm - 4-H Special 6pm - Macklin G2 - 6:30pm - Trustees,	14 10am - Lynne G2 -	15 6:30pm - Worship	16 Pastor Tim Out of Office 6:30pm - Pastor Jay 5pm - Worship, F.H.	17
18 Pastor Tim Out of Office	19	20	21	22	23	24
Creation Sunday 8:30am - Brooks G2 10am - Worship 6pm - Culvers Group	Online Devotions 10am - Stach G2 - 1pm - Staff Meeting 4pm - Pastor Tim G2 5:30pm - Faith	5pm - 4-H Special 6pm - Macklin G2 -	10am - Lynne G2 - 1pm - Herald's	6:30pm - Green	6:30pm - Pastor Jay	5pm - Worship, F.H.
25 Pastor Tim Out of 8:30am - Brooks G2 10am - Worship 6pm - Culvers Group	26 Online Devotions 10am - Stach G2 - 1pm - Staff Meeting 4pm - Pastor Tim G2	27 5pm - 4-H Special 6pm - Macklin G2 - 6pm - Staff-Parish	28 10am - Lynne G2 -	29	30 6:30pm - Pastor Jay	1

