

April  
2024

**THE HERALD**  
First United Methodist Church  
Dixon, Illinois

## 7 Sundays of Easter, March through May



### NEW WORSHIP SERIES

*“Encounters with Jesus:  
A 50-day Journey from Easter to Pentecost.”*

<i>March 30-31</i>	<b><i>EASTER</i></b>
<i>April 6-7</i>	<i>I have seen the Lord!</i>
<i>April 13-14</i>	<i>Were not our hearts burning within us?</i>
<i>April 20-21</i>	<i>Peace be with you.</i>
<i>April 27-28</i>	<i>My Lord and my God!</i>
<i>May 4-5</i>	<i>It is the Lord!</i>
<i>May 11-12</i>	<i>They worshipped Him!</i>
<i>May 18-19</i>	<b><i><u>PENTECOST</u></i></b>
	<b><i>(Remember to wear red!)</i></b>

*Our mission is making new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation  
of the world by Faithfully Uplifting the Message of Christ*



# The Shepherd Speaks:

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

He is RISEN!!! He is RISEN INDEED!!! Oh, what a morning, Easter morning that is! On Easter morning, I especially enjoy watching the Sunrise through our east-facing dining room window. Watching the Sunrise over the treetops brings an exhilarating feeling as I am reminded that Jesus Christ rose from the dead and is alive forevermore! He is RISEN!!!

I have heard it said that it is the Easter event that defines us as Christians. Actually, it is the culminating event that defines us as Christians. What defines us is Jesus Christ! His life, death, and resurrection are what define us! We are defined by the totality of Jesus Christ. He is God's only Son. He is Emmanuel, God with us. He has lived our life and walked in our shoes. He is our salvation. He was the perfect sacrifice so that we can live life freely for God. He is our Lord! He is the King of kings who defeats death and leads his people to eternal life. Our Lord and Savior is alive and sits at the right hand of God! Yes, we are Easter people! But more importantly, we are followers of Jesus Christ, Christians!! AMEN!! Hallelujah!!!

From Easter to Pentecost, May 19<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating **Encounters with Jesus**. It will be a 50-day journey from Easter to Pentecost. We will be answering the questions: How did Jesus's post-resurrection appearances change the disciples' lives? How do those Jesus sights still change our lives today? Remember to wear red on Pentecost Weekend as we celebrate the coming of God, the Holy Spirit. We will also be celebrating our confirmands that day. So, mark your calendar!

On Sunday, **April 14<sup>th</sup>**, we will have our **First Town Hall Meeting and Potluck**. I hope you will attend, as we break bread together and hear our first quarterly report from our Leadership Council. A major part of the transition to the One Board model of church leadership is making sure we communicate well with our members. After we have sat down for a meal, members of the Leadership Council will share their thoughts and experiences as we begin this three-year commitment of transition to the One Board model. We will share with you our current financial situation and how it can affect the future work of the church. Then there will be a time of dialogue where you can ask questions and give input to the board.

I am grateful to our Leadership Council and their commitment to perfecting the process that we put in place at our 2023 Charge Conference. It is one thing to have the process down in writing and yet another to experience the actual reality of implementing the new process of leading the church. We have found ourselves tweaking and realizing that we need to add essential information to our guiding principles document. We have covenanted to meet every three weeks in anticipation of one day being able to move back to monthly meetings. It is a work in progress, supported and sustained by prayer. Our goal is to maximize the gifts of our congregation to fulfill our Beyond the Horizon Vision. We constantly remind ourselves that God is in charge and leading us to God-preferred vision for our congregation.

Blessings,

*Pastor Lin*

# Pastoral Perceptions



Greetings in the name of our Risen Christ Jesus, Our Lord and Savior!

Spring has come already but with occasional chilly and snowy weather, it's telling us that winter is still around us, hesitating to leave. When we visit Walmart, we can see the potting soil and various kinds of plants and flower seed already for sale. As we look forward to the Easter week ahead, after our six weeks' Lenten journey, this mix of seasons makes us reflect on the path that Jesus took to the cross and died for our salvation from sin. He defeated the death and rose again to give us eternal life. In other words, Jesus was going through the winter of Lent to the cross and died for us on the cross. He brought us the life of spring through his resurrection by defeating the death of winter, giving us hope for eternal life .

For the last few months, we have lost five members of our beloved family in Christ. My heart was broken for the passing of all these people. They are all my beloved family members in Christ, with whom I have shared my life since starting my first pastoral ministry at Dixon First. I visited many in their homes, sharing our life stories with joys and concerns, and prayed for them to be surrounded by God's love and grace. For others, we worshipped together on Sundays and any other Christian holidays, met at other church events, shared our lives together by serving others in the church, and hugged each other with prayers for their good health and peace. Even though we did not spend a lot of time together, I felt so closely connected to them through the love of Jesus who has called me to serve God and neighbors.

So, just like the loss of others we've experienced the last few years, the loss of these five members of my family in Christ - one right after another within a few months, has made it hard for me to keep my focus on my ministry of the church. This continued experience of grieving has made me reflect on the grief of Jesus' disciples when they saw Jesus' death on the cross. They, too, must have felt devastated and frustrated because they did not seem to understand very well what Jesus told them about His death, His resurrection, His ascending to heaven, His constant presence with us through the Holy Spirit, and His coming back.

**14** "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. (John 14:1-3, NRSVUE)

When they witnessed the resurrection of Jesus on the first Easter, they understood and believed what Jesus said. They could follow Jesus, as Jesus said in Matthew 16:24, by denying themselves and taking up their cross through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Like Jesus' disciples, we can also feel devastated and frustrated in grief for the loss of our loved ones. We might feel that our broken hearts will continue grieving forever without our faith in the resurrection of Jesus. As we listen to what Jesus tells us in John 14 (above) and we trust in the promise of His resurrection, we are to feel peace and comfort even in the midst of the grief. We are surrounded by God's love and peace with hope for eternal life given to us through our faith in the resurrection of Jesus. May God's abundant blessings be with us throughout our Lenten journey and may we rejoice in meeting with our risen Christ on Easter morning! Happy Easter!!!

Blessings,

*Youngsun Lee*



# Green Notes

Submitted by Sandy Burris

## Psalm 24:1a: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it.

Now that April has arrived, we can expect April showers to bring May flowers. Have you ever considered collecting rain water to use on your garden or lawn? Rain water is free and saves on your water bill. You can buy commercially-made rain barrels at stores like Menard's. Some Extension offices have a few for sale. Most cost \$80-\$200 or more. If you are handy with tools, you can make your own rain barrel. There are directions available on the internet. The library may have information as well. Be sure to drain the barrel before freezing temperatures arrive.

There are several other ways to conserve water. Here are a few:

- Turn off water during a task such as brushing your teeth or rinsing dishes for the dishwasher.
- use low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators.
- take a shower instead of a bath. Shower less often.
- wash dishes and laundry on full loads.
- repair faucet, toilet and water heater leaks as soon as possible.

By conserving water, you are saving money and helping the environment. Let's do our part for our planet.

Remember: The world is on our hands. Go green!

Green Tip of the Month: Collect rain water to use on your garden/lawn.



**POWERHOUSE KIDS**  
meet every Sunday at 10AM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
in the Arena Area.  
(ages Preschool to 4<sup>th</sup> grade)



**AGAPE YOUTH**  
meet on the 2nd & 4th Sundays each month at 11:30am  
3rd floor Youth Lounge  
(grades 5th-high school)

**I  
Can  
Say  
"Yes"  
to  
That!**

### First Quarterly Townhall Meeting

on Sunday, April 14th after worship. This is your first opportunity to talk to the One Board and further discuss the

**"I Can Say Yes to That!"** flyer.

**We'll start with a Potluck, then have our meeting.**



#### MARTHA CIRCLE

meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the every month at 9:30AM in the Parlor.

#### MATTERS OF THE HEART CIRCLE

meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:30PM in the Parlor.

#### G2 GROWTH GROUPS

meet on different dates and times each week. Pick up a flyer on the Welcome Table or call the office at 815-284-2849 for more information.

#### UM MEN'S GROUP

meets at 8 AM on the 1st Saturday each month at Fresco on First.

#### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Two groups meet Sunday mornings - one in the Conference room and one in Room 210 at 8:30AM.

WHAT: **ADULT MISSION TRIP OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY**

WHEN: July 22 – 26, 2024

WHERE: MIDWEST MISSION  
1001 MISSION DRIVE – PAWNEE, IL

WHY: MINISTRY OPPORUNITY &  
BUILDING COMMUNITY WITHIN GROUP



The mission of Midwest Mission is to bring the hearts and hands of God's people together to transform resources into humanitarian relief. They are a logistical conduit for Christ's ministry. They receive a request from trusted nonprofits, then prepare items they have and ask supporters for items they need. Volunteers process, revitalize, and assemble the donated items. Then, donations are shipped to our trusted partners to distribute to those in crisis.

If you would like more information about this opportunity, please contact:  
Nancy Wadsworth – 815-677-0119 or Laura Brooks – 779-772-3666.

## Holy Spirit Moments

**Holy Spirit Moments is a place to share when the Holy Spirit is showing up in our lives. This is an opportunity to celebrate and share those divine encounters!**

Have you ever had an urge to do something for God and ignored it? In January of this year during my morning prayer and devotional time this happened to me. The thought came to me that our church needed a way for moms, who have kids from babies to high school age, to get to know other Christian moms. I thought about it for a few days then just forgot about it. A few weeks later the thought came to me again during my prayer time, so I started mulling it over. Knowing how busy moms are with work, kids activities and the busyness of life, how could the moms in our church get to know each other? I thought maybe lunch during the week. I asked a couple of moms who help with PowerHouse Kids Sunday school what they thought. They said they liked the idea and it might be doable to get away from work for lunch. Once again I stopped thinking about it. A couple of weeks later the thought came to me again during my G2 group so I shared the idea with the group. They thought it would be nice to bring the moms together. So after three Godly nudges, I finally decided to arrange a Moms Lunch. I set a date, time and notified the young moms of the lunch. I received many positive responses with the caveat that they would attend if they could get away from work on that day. So it has begun - a monthly Moms Lunch.

May God bless each of our busy moms with strong Christian relationships with other moms of faith.

**Susan Mattes**



### FINANCIAL NOTES for February 2024

Income	\$ 19,693.15
Expenses	\$ 29,816.43
Net/Deficit	\$ (10,123.28)

Debt Carryover from 2023  
\$ -3,736.05



# APRIL 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
C - Chapel CR - Conference Room FH - Fellowship Hall P - Parlor Rm 210	Apr 1 ● 10am Stach G2 - RC ● 4pm Pastor Tim G2	2 	3 Pastor Tim Writing C ● 9:30am UMW Ex. Bd ● 10am Lynne's Small	4 	5 Pastor Tim Day off	6 ● 8am UMM, Breakfast ● 5pm Worship, C
7 ● 8:30am Brooks Bible ● 8:30am Jesus Seek ● 10am Worship ● 2pm Worship @ Her	8 ● 10am Stach G2 - RC ● 4pm Pastor Tim G2	9 	10 Pastor Tim Writing C ● 10am Lynne's Small	11 ● 6:30pm Matters of f	12 Pastor Tim Day off	13 ● 5pm Worship, C
14 ● 8:30am Brooks Bible ● 8:30am Jesus Seek ● 10am Worship ● 11:30am Agape You ● 11:45am Town Hall	15 ● 10am Stach G2 - RC ● 4pm Pastor Tim G2 ● 6pm One Board Lea	16 ● 9:30am Martha Circ	17 Pastor Tim Writing C ● 10am Lynne's Small	18 ● 6:30pm Worship col	19 Pastor Tim Day off	20 ● 5pm Worship, C
21 MOTHERS DAY ● 8:30am Brooks Bible ● 8:30am Jesus Seek ● 10am Worship	22 ● 10am Stach G2 - RC ● 4pm Pastor Tim G2	23 General Conference	24 Pastor Tim Writing C ● 10am Lynne's Small	25 	26 Pastor Tim Day off	27 
28 General Conference ● 8:30am Brooks Bible ● 8:30am Jesus Seek ● 10am Worship ● 11:30am Agape You	29 ● 10am Stach G2 - RC ● 4pm Pastor Tim G2	30 	May 1 	2 	3 	4 ● 8am UMM, Breakfast

For a more interactive calendar, see our website at [FUMCDixon.org](http://FUMCDixon.org) and click on the Events tab.

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First United Methodist Church  
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MARCH 2024**

[www.fumcdixon.org](http://www.fumcdixon.org)  
Facebook: FUMCDixon

Conference website: [umcnic.org](http://umcnic.org)  
District Superintendent, Rev Brian Gilbert  
815-561-8285



**Staff Phone#**  
Pastor Tim Mitchell, 815-440-0278  
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Jody Mitchell, office, 815-284-2849  
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