

Christ United Methodist Church

Spring Newsletter 2014

Message from the Pastor . . .

“and they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid” Mark 16:8(NRSV)

This scripture verse is by far one of my favorites . The reasons why it is one of my favorites is that I find it authentic, I find it stark, I find it hopeful, very human and full of mystery!

It's authenticity (beyond being the earliest recorded ending for Mark's gospel) lies in its stark ending, which is brilliant, because it leaves us wondering what happened to the women who visited the tomb, what happened to the gospel message? It leaves us hanging, intentionally. We know from our perspective 2000 years, hence, that the gospel message did get out. We are given some hints about how that may have happened because a few verses before this it says that the “young man “ in the story tells them that they came looking for the “crucified one” but “he is not here, he has been raised”. He then tells them that they are to go and tell the disciples, and Peter, “that he (the Risen One) is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.” The gospel did spread in spite of these very human people and their very human fear. It is this dissemination of the message through human beings, like these women, who sometimes fail, that gives me hope. It does so because it means that God's purposes are not entirely dependent on me. There is some mystery about how God

works through us. There continues to be mystery in how people's lives are touched and healed and transformed by God through our relationship with each other. There continues to be mystery for me in how God gets the message of grace, love, compassion and inclusion to those who need to hear it, through people like you and me. But my hope shines even more when I realize that if God trusts people like you and me, even though we do have fear, even though we do not always follow through with what we are called to do, still God trusts us with this great good news!

So as we enter this Easter season I encourage you to nurture hope for our new Leadership Team as we learn together how to be church in a whole new manner. Nurture hope as we venture into new ministries, as we connect with our community of Portage in a way we never have before. Nurture hope as we become more and more invested in the gospel message of outreach, hospitality, stewardship and grace.

Finally I want to invite you to include in your hope, this special Easter opportunity for giving. This offering will provide us with funds to continue to meet our commitments to ministry beyond our own congregation, ministry that reaches around the world. May your Easter find you celebrating the mystery of the love the Holy One. (Those who receive this electronically can pick up an Easter Offering envelope at the church building.)

April—May
2014

Inside this issue:

Holy Week Events	2
Native American	2
Lectionary Readings	3
Ice Cream Social	3
Bike for Sight	3
Mother Child Banquet	3
April Celebrations	3
May Celebrations	4



Holy Week, April 13-19, 2014

HOLY THURSDAY, April 17, 2014

Thursday, April 17, 2014, at Christ United Methodist Church, the evening will begin with a carry-in meal at 6:30 pm. We will gather in the fellowship to share food and stories. The about 7:15 we will proceed to the sanctuary for a time of prayer, mediation and song. Please let the church office know if you plan on attending.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 18, 2014

I am happy to announce that the Bowling Green Ministerial Association has set the Good Friday Community Service on April 18, 2014. It will be called "A Good Friday Pilgrimage" and will feature four distinct worship experiences joined by processions between the churches following the cross. Everyone is invited to come to any of the sections or all of them. This will enable those churches who have their own worship that day to also participate in at least one or two sections of the community event and give working persons the choice of day-time or evening. Persons who are unable to walk the distances are welcome to come to the service(s) only. The processions will take place rain or shine, so participants may want to bring an umbrella.

(1) The Pilgrimage will begin at Noon at Trinity United Methodist Church 200 N. Summit St. where the congregations will join in the Proclamation of the Passion Story and The Ten Reproaches: Christ's Lament Against His Faithless Church. (2) around 12:45, those who are able, will walk from Trinity to First Presbyterian Church, 126 S. Church St, following the cross. (3) At 1:00 p.m. we will remember the Seven Last Words of Christ at 1st Presbyterian. Seven churches will present short pieces of scripture, prayer and music. (4) At @ 1:45, those who are able will follow the cross from the Presbyterian Church to St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 150 S. Enterprise. (5) At 2:00 p.m. we will observe the Stations of the Cross at St Aloysius. (6) When the service is over the procession will return to Trinity, where presumably people have parked their cars. (7) At 7:30 p.m. the procession will resume from Trinity to St Mark's Lutheran Church, 315 S. College Dr. This is a longer walk and it will be twilight. (8) At 8:00 p.m. we will have a candlelight Tennebrae/Service of Darkness at St. Mark's. Reverend Helen K. Dukes, 2014 President, **Bowling Green Ministerial Association**

EASTER SUNDAY, April 20, 2014

Our Easter celebration begins with a Sunrise Service at 7:30 am, so that we may welcome in this blessed morning. Breakfast (hosted by Vicki Cramer & friends) will begin around 8 am. Then we will gather again for worship at 9:30 am, celebrating in song, prayers and centered around the theme of "My Cup Runs Over"

Native American Ministries, May 4, 2014



PLEASE GIVE TODAY. YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS. Your financial gift empowers local outreach and educates Native American seminary students to serve God faithfully. The United Methodist Native American Ministries Sunday offering also helps preserve a rich cultural heritage. Thank you for your generous gift.

Native American Ministries Sunday reminds United Methodists of the contri-

butions made by Native Americans to our society. The special offering benefits Native American outreach within annual conferences and across the United States and provides seminary scholarships for Native Americans.

United Methodists relate to **Native American Ministries Sunday** by learning about and reaching

out to Native Americans in their communities and by encouraging Native Americans to consider becoming pastors and nurturing them in their journey.



Sermon Shaping Lectionary Readings: April

April 6	Matthew 10:40-42	
April 13	Luke 22:14-20, 39-42	
April 20	Psalm 23	
April 27	Becky Growhewski	
May 4	Becky Growhowski	
May 11	Acts 2:42-47	The Way
May 18	John 14:1-14	The Truth
May 25	1 Peter 3:13-22	The Life
	John 10:10-11	



ALTAR FLOWERS FOR EASTER

The District Men sold Easter lilies, hyacinths, and tulips again this year to support the Ministerial Scholarship Fund.

The flowers are to be picked up after Easter worship service, Sunday, April 20, 2014.



◆ Bike for Sight, Saturday, May 10, 2014, Portage Lions Club

Registration will be open from 8:00-10:00am at CUMC, and utilizes the entire length of the Slippery Elm Trail between Bowling Green and North Baltimore, Ohio. Registration fee is \$8.00 and for more details go to the www.portagelions.org.

◆ Mother Child Banquet, Wednesday, May 14, 2014.

Again this year the men will cook and serve the meal. Reserve your seat for this wonderful, annual event. A program will follow the meal, and as in the year's past, will be very entertaining. Theme details and time line will be posted on the website and the church bulletin.

Birthdays, Anniversaries of Christ United Methodist Church Members

BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

1 Richard Gill	20 Kristen Allen
3 Helen Bowen	21 Alissa Jacobs
4 Emilie Garn	Austin Jacobs
5 Mel Amos	22 Jim Holloway
6 Jay Canterbury	Holly Espen Pultz
Fran Hottinger	Kristy Wulff Akdemir
9 Mark Canterbury	23 Bob Boltz
10 Matt Avery	24 Amanda Amos
Andy Fitzwater	Travis Frank
Jason Hasselbach	Dawn Snow
Zachary Hasselbach	25 Jerry Bateson
Josh Holloway	Angie Hoadley
Ruth Troxell	27 Jean Espen
	28 Cathy Finkhousen
	Nancy Gillian
11 Mike Berry	
13 Corrine Bressler	29 Nancy Keys
Bonnie Schatzke	30 Tom Beckett
14 Herb McMaster	
17 Carter Earl	

ANNIVERSARIES IN APRIL

23	Kathy and Tom Holloway
27	Teri and Melvin Amos
30	Linda and Richard Canterbury



Please mark your calendar for this year's Ice Cream social Monday, May 26, 2014, beginning at 5 PM.

Birthdays, Anniversaries of Christ United Methodist Church Members

BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| 4 | Aaron Cramer | 22 | Rex Lee |
| 5 | Hannah Espen
Tom Curtis | 23 | Carolyn Keys
Gary Wulff |
| 9 | Daniel Amos | 24 | Cindy Yeasting |
| 12 | John Keys | 25 | McKenna Hunt |
| 14 | Jacob Boltz | 26 | Amanda Holloway
Kevin Keys |
| 19 | Joel Yeasting | 27 | Doris Herringshaw |
| 20 | Adam Garn | | |
| 21 | Graycyn Foster Amos
Alden Carney
Brian Cramer | | |



ANNIVERSARIES IN MAY

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------------------------|
| 5 | Cindy and Larry Gerken
Evelyn and Amada Perez |
| 21 | Alyce and Tom Roller |
| 25 | Hope and David Fawcett |