

First United Methodist Church  
 418 North Rock Street  
 Minneapolis, KS 67467

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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**THE COMMUNICATOR – APRIL, 2018**



*Ada/Minneapolis United Methodist Community  
 Christ's Ambassadors by Inviting, Sharing, Nurturing and Forgiving*

From the Heart of the Pastor!

This week is generally known as Holy Week in Christian circles. It falls between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. One story has it that a Presidential Committee of Naming Holidays met on a Sunday before Easter. One of the members became enlightened and slapped his forehead with his palm and exclaimed, "Next Sunday is Easter!" And that Sunday they were meeting became Palm Sunday! False! Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday with the commemoration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and ends with the resurrection of Jesus the Christ on Sunday morning, Easter Sunday. On those Sunday mornings,, we often focus on the joy. We shake hands. We wave branches. We sing uplifting hymns. We hear hopeful sermons. We smile. We talk about grace and blessings and gratitude. It seems we are very good at doing Sundays. But what happened between the two Sundays is seldom told. Well, sometimes, maybe Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

What happened during Holy Week, in between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday is a microcosm of what goes on with our lives every week in between Sundays. There is need for a Jesus who triumphantly enters into our hearts, work with us throughout the week and then celebrate Easter every Sunday. As clergy and pastors, in our offices and pastoral activities, what we hear about Jesus during those days in between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday is the same as what we hear every day in our pastoral visits and in our offices. It's too bad we do not talk about it too much.

Mark tells us that after Jesus entered the Temple in Jerusalem, He withdrew to Bethany with his disciples. Then, beginning on Monday, came the encounter with the leafy fig tree, the teachings and come Maundy Thursday and Good Friday! What a hectic week! A week of trials and temptation, betrayal and even death on the cross. When our parishioners leave the church on Sundays, they step into a different world altogether. Between Sundays, I personally visit with parishioners; and non -parishioners; regular attendees and those not so regular attendees who are facing struggles that few in their lives understand. Some are injured or sick; hurt or depressed. Others are thriving and prosperous. Some are bereaved and heart-broken. Some are wrestling with doubt while others are connected with the Lord without doubt. They know it!

For me, both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday are important, very important. They give us reason for celebration, the waving of palm branches and the sharing of the flowers, the Easter lilies! I love all that. But the most comforting part of Holy Week is to know what happened in between the Sundays! It is very comforting to know that on Maundy Thursday, Jesus shared a table with the people he loved the most. He washed their feet, and showing that the mark of a true leader is whether they can serve others, What is comforting for me is to know that Jesus still loves those disciples even though he knew that, at best, they were going to abandon him, and at worst, they were going to betray him. And in the garden, alone, heart-broken, Jesus struggles between what he wanted to do and what he knew he had to do. Sounds familiar!

And on Good Friday, it continues! The world turns against him. And those who cheered him on his triumphant entry into Jerusalem are now jeering him on the cross or the crowd has changed. Jesus suffered. He called to a God who does not seem to answer, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me!" Jesus, like me doubts. He feels pain, and loss and grief! And finally he gives up life as we know it.

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This is what happens in between Sundays every week, every month and every year. As a pastor, as human as we are, sometimes we feel hopeless and helpless. But then I am reminded of what Jesus Christ did on Maundy Thursday and on Good Friday. When asked by people who are going through a difficult time, whether they think God is angry because they have doubts, or when they wonder why God does not seem to be answering prayers. Or when they ask if God understands when we suffer, or when we feel alone.

When they do ask, I know where I point them to; I point first not to the Christ of Palm Sunday or Easter, but to the Christ of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday! The One who lived like one of us! Who doubted like one of us! Who loved as one of us! Who suffered as one of us. And who died like one of us! And only after then, do I point to the Christ who rose again, and overcame the worst that the world can throw at him!

I am sometimes worried that we are forgetting the lessons of Holy Week. More churches are canceling mid-week services and church activities due to low attendance and over-scheduled members. I wonder if we are losing that time we once had to sit with Christ in his own human struggles? And I wonder if when we lose that time, do we then lose our ability to learn to sit with others in their struggles, and with ourselves in our own?! We have the capacity to be those people! All we have to do is to be willing to make the journey with him who called. Not just on Sundays, but on the days between. The world has plenty of Sunday morning Christians. It needs a few more of the weekday ones!

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!  
Kennedy Mukwindidza.

**APRIL EVENTS AND SCHEDULES**

**LITURGISTS**

- 1 - Lance Johnson
- 8 - Steve Baccus
- 15 - Steve Baccus
- 22 - Nick Krueger
- 29 - Nick Krueger

**ACOLYTES**

- 1 - Gracen and Braxton Grimes
- 8 - Joel Abell and Braede Weatherman
- 15 - Riley and Ethan Bohl
- 22 - Maddy and Dalton Krueger
- 29 - Paul and Kaleb Ocker

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGES**

- 1 - Dale Henderson
- 8 - Shayla Bailey
- 15 - Tamala Lott
- 22 - Lance Johnson
- 29 - Rosalee Tibbits

**GREETERS**

- 1 - The Andrew Kuder Family
- 8 - Dale & Colette Henderson
- 15 - Dale & Colette Henderson
- 22 - The Peck Family
- 29 - The Peck Family

**NURSERY**

- 1 - Becky McDuffee & Shayla Bailey
- 8 - Becky McDuffee & Rosalee Tibbits
- 15 - Becky McDuffee & Barb Kibler
- 22 - Becky McDuffee, Paul & Kristi Ocker
- 29 - Becky McDuffee & Angel Constable

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 30 - Dr. Ken and Darda Wedel

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 - Doris Davis
- 2 - Vicki Zadina
- 4 - Bret Henderson
- 5 - Tammy Doering
- 8 - Barb Kibler
- 14 - Sarah Griffin
- 15 - Nancy Robbins
- 16 - Corey & Colby Nichols
- 19 - Autumn Knox
- 19 - Austin Constable
- 22 - Angie Darrow
- 23 - Kimberly Bird
- 24 - Donald Serrien
- 26 - Oliver Constable

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES – ADULT**

Adult Sunday School Class meets every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. Following are the lessons that will be discussed in April:

- 1 – He Has Risen
- 8 – The Risen Lord Appears
- 15 – Follow Me
- 22 – The Lord God the Almighty
- 29 – Blessing, Glory, Honor Forever



**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

**April 5 at 7pm:** Work/sew night for Zimbabwe girl's project. Sewers with sewing machines are needed to finish what has already been cut.

**April 7** is the Spiritual Growth Retreat in Hillsboro. Contact Sharon Foust or Gail Eckart for more information, including car pool transportation.

**April 14** at 2:00 p.m. is the Salina District UMW Board Meeting at 1<sup>st</sup> UMC in Mpls.

**April 17** at 6:30 pm is the annual Salad Supper/Guest night in the Fellowship Hall. The Healthy Congregations Committee is partnering with UMW, program is by Dr. Patricia Little on Women's Health. All women of the church and community are invited to bring a salad and a guest.

**April 23** from 12-6pm is the Red Cross Blood Drive at the Minneapolis Catholic Church. UMW is providing food for the canteen. Blood donors are always needed for this life-saving gift.

**MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

**CAMP UPDATE**

With the increase of kids going to camp – which is awesome- and the price increase, we are asking that the parents pay \$50.00 per child to help cover expenses.

Missions is having a silent auction from Sunday, April 1 through Sunday April 8. Please have your items to the church by Friday March 30 at 5:00 p.m. If you are a camp kid or parent of a camp kid, this is a great opportunity for you to contribute!

Second Sunday Dinner is hosted by the Missions Committee. Hot Dogs and Hamburgers will be provided. The Congregation is asked to bring a side dish and dessert. Thank you.

**MOBILE FOOD PANTRY**

All of Ottawa County

Wednesday, April 11, 2018 / 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Wampler Room at the N. side of the Ottawa County Health Center (on 9<sup>th</sup> St.)

Who is eligible: Anyone in need of food assistance.

What is required: Guests sign in with their address and the number in their household.

Limit one visit per household

Guests may only pick up for one household

**FREE!!!**

Health Screenings

Friday, April 20, 2018

Screening 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

All ages welcome

6 months and up

New this year: Hearing screening for small children

Location: The bus parking lot south of 4<sup>th</sup> and Argyle Street in Minneapolis, KS

East side of the Minneapolis Grade School

SPONSORS: Minneapolis Noon and Evening Lions Clubs with the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation

For more information contact Lion Doug Plummer at 785-829-1184 email

[dpplainsman@gmail.com](mailto:dpplainsman@gmail.com) or

PDG Daryl Stone at 785-488-5198 email

[stoney-d@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stoney-d@sbcglobal.net)

**TIES & TIARAS**

**SECOND ANNUAL SPRING GALA**

Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

John Henry Center, Minneapolis, KS

\$10.00/couple

Each additional child \$1.00

785-392-3029 to RSVP and Information

Call 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday

– Church Office

(RSVP requested, but not required)

All children **MUST** attend with an adult

Photographs available for purchase to capture the moment!

Refreshments provided!

Wear your finest!

**THANK YOU NOTE**

Pastor Kennedy,

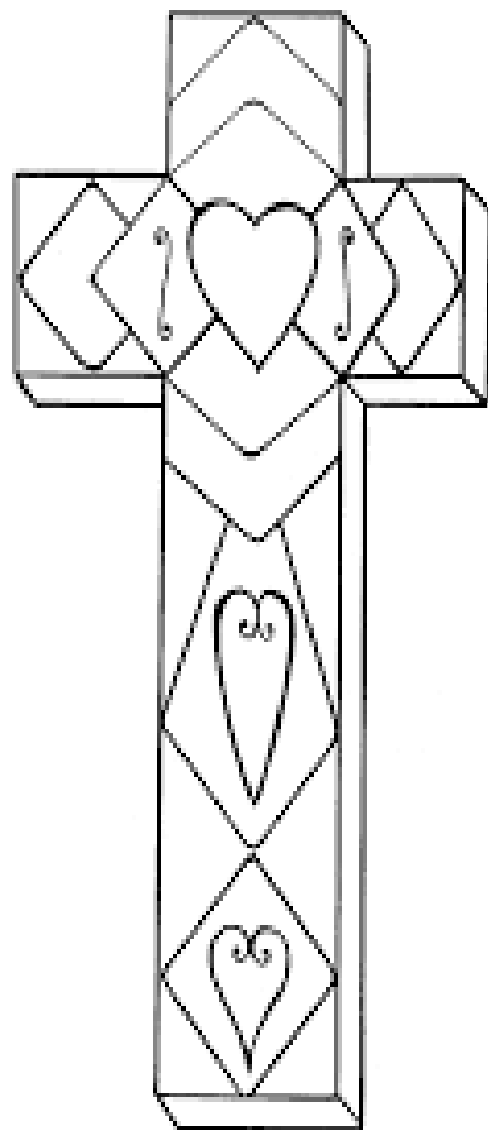
Thank you so much for attending our Missions Presentation on Sunday evening at the Ada Community Center. We really enjoyed visiting with you after our presentation about Haiti.

I pray for you and for ministry in the community around Minneapolis.

Many Blessing to you!

Brian, Lynette, Rickey & Calen  
Global Servants to Haiti

**PICTURE TO COLOR!**



**2018**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter  Silent Auction-----	2 No school Easter Monday -----	3 6:00pm Noah's Ark Board Mtg. -----	4 5:00 pm C of C Mtg. -----	5 -----	6 -----	7 -----
8 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun. Dinner hosted by Missions  Silent Auction Ends ----->	9	10	11 7:00pm Ad Council Meeting. 4-6pm Mobile Food Pantry	12 10:30am OCMA Mtg. @ Baptist Fellowship House	13	14 2:00 pm Salina Dist. UMW Board Mtg.
15	16	17	18	19 9a m- 5pm Piano Guild	20 8:30a 2:00p Free Health Screening	21 6:30 - 8:00 pm Ties & Tiaras
22 12:30 - 4:00 OT County Piano Club	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**Prayer  
to be full of the  
Holy Spirit**

Dear loving Lord,  
I come before you,  
I seek your presence,  
As I am empty without you.  
So here and now, oh dear Lord,  
I ask you to fill me.  
Pour your Spirit into me.  
I open up my heart and soul  
To your tender healing  
And loving mercy.  
Pour out your Spirit, oh Lord.  
Free me, cleanse me, restore me,  
Make me new again.  
Let your grace work in me  
To build my strength  
And to give me clarity.  
Fill me with the peace of Christ.  
Only in you  
Can I receive true rest.  
Only in you  
Can my heart find the heavenly joy  
That Jesus won for me  
On the cross.  
He is risen - and so am I  
By your goodness alone.  
Fill me Lord,  
May your Spirit live in me.  
In Jesus name,  
Amen.

[prayerforsociety.com](http://prayerforsociety.com)

## The Story of Easter

Written By: Louis Andersen '94

The enthused waving of the palms portended glorious things.  
The Galilean on the colt was to be the King of Kings.  
Throngs flocked to the temple courts to hear his wisdom great.  
A champion for the poor was he, and they could hardly wait.  
Fear and anger filled the hearts of the rulers of the Jews.  
This man disrupted status quo and they had much to lose.  
Some silver coins, and Judas said he would his Lord betray.  
They came to dark Gethsemane and led our Lord away.  
"Kill him! Kill him!" screamed the mob, fists shaking toward the sky.  
And Pilate washed his bloody hands and condemned this King to die.  
They spiked him to the rugged cross and waited for his death;  
Yet this King forgave them all while struggling for his breath.  
Can this be all? The King is dead.  
They placed him in the grave.  
If this is all, there's naught to tell of a Lord who came to save.  
But on the first day of the week, at early crack of dawn,  
Women coming to the tomb found the body gone!  
He lives! He lives! The word went out. Christ was no longer dead!  
He walked and talked and startled folks and ate their fish and bread.

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He lives! He lives! The word goes out from faithful far and near.

The story of the Easter morn is one for all to hear.

The resurrected Christ has come, eternal life to give.

We sing, "Because our Savior lives, we know we, too, shall live.



### FRIENDSHIP IS A COZY SHELTER FROM LIFE'S RAINY DAYS

Submitted by Sharon Foust

This affirms the saying that "beauty is in the eyes of the beholder". Beauty doesn't always mean physical beauty, but inner beauty also. May God bless you as you share this with others.

One day a teacher asked her students to list the names of the other students in the room on two sheets of paper, leaving a space between each name. Then she told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each of their classmates and write it down. It took the remainder of the class period to finish their assignment, and as the students left the room, each one handed in the papers.

That Saturday, the teacher wrote down the name of each student on a separate sheet of paper, and listed what everyone else had said about that individual.

On Monday she gave each student his or her list. Before long, the entire class was smiling. 'Really?' she heard whispered. 'I never knew that I

meant anything to anyone!' and, 'I didn't know others liked me so much,' were most of the comments.

No one ever mentioned those papers in class again. She never knew if they discussed them after class or with their parents, but it didn't matter. The exercise had accomplished its purpose. The students were happy with themselves and one another. That group of students moved on.

Several years later, one of the students was killed in Vietnam and his teacher attended the funeral of that special student. She had never seen a serviceman in a military coffin before. He looked so handsome, so mature.

The church was packed with his friends. One by one those who loved him took a last walk by the coffin...The teacher was the last one to bless the coffin...

As she stood there, one of the soldiers who acted as pallbearer came up to her. 'Were you Mark's math teacher?' he asked. She nodded: 'yes.' Then he said: 'Mark talked about you a lot.'

After the funeral, most of Mark's former classmates went to get her to a luncheon. Mark's mother and father were there, obviously waiting to speak with his teacher.

'We want to show you something', his father said, taking a wallet out of his pocket 'They found this on Mark when he was killed...We thought you might recognize it.'

Opening the billfold, he carefully removed two worn pieces of notebook paper that had obviously been taped,

folded and refolded many times. The teacher knew without looking that the papers were the ones on which she had listed all the good things each of Mark's classmates had said about him.

'Thank you so much for doing that,' Mark's mother said. 'As you can see, Mark treasured it.'

All of Mark's former class mates started to gather around. Charlie smiled rather sheepishly and said, 'I still have my list. It's in the top drawer of my desk at home.'

Chuck's wife said, 'Chuck asked me to put his in our wedding album.' 'I have mine too,' Marilyn said. 'It's in my diary.'

Then Vicki, another classmate, reached into her pocketbook, took out her wallet and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group. 'I carry this with me at all times,' Vicki said and without batting an eyelash, she continued: 'I think we all saved our lists'.

That's when the teacher finally sat down and cried. She cried for Mark and for all his friends who would never see him again.

The density of people in society is so thick that we forget that life will end one day and we don't know when that one day will be.

So please, tell the people you love and care for, that they are special and important. Tell them, before it is too late.

Remember, "You reap what you sow". What you put in the lives of others comes back into your own.

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