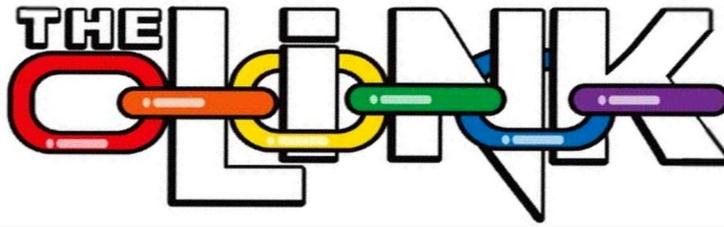




University United
Methodist Church
2818 North University
Peoria, Illinois 61604



*Our Mission ~ Making
disciples of Jesus Christ
by reaching, teaching,
and serving Peoria.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For centuries persons have spoken that Easter is a day to be celebrated and a day to remember what history was revealed on that day. I have long agreed with that thinking. The Holy Week journey to the Easter celebration was an incredible experience at University UMC. In fact, my thought pattern moved me to saying, "My goodness, it really was a miraculous experience!" As I relished in the power of the presence of the Holy Spirit, my heart moved my mind to considering those who missed the moments of affirming the faith in Christ Jesus rising.



How do we like the early followers of Christ continue to answer the call to share this good news? It is we! We are today's "Public Relations Committee" for Jesus.

How are we doing with the sharing of such miraculous news? You and I live in a world which is crying out for justice, full of hatred and divisiveness, war and addiction. More concerning are the many people who self-identify as Christian, but support statements, actions and systems which paint a destruction of miracles. Misogynists, racists, violent, and just plain old cruel behaviors cannot succumb to the miraculous life experiences which Easter represents. As today's followers of Christ and God's "Public Relations Team" working on his behalf through the faith-filled community of University UMC, we need to assess our "Public Relations" work. I am reminded of a statement from author Anne Lamott, "You can safely assume that you've created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the people you hate." It's time to remember the Biblical version of creation: God created each person in God's image. That is the first miracle God gave us. Easter is the miracle of the immensity of God's love given to save us and destroy death forever.

I want Christ to be at the fore front of my life forever. Thus, I must be honest and ask myself, am I living out of the deepest-held values that I profess? Am I honoring the greatest teachers who revealed ways of compassion, inclusion, justice and love lived in service of others? I believe these are the tasks of today's "Public Relation Team" for Christ which must be addressed. We must reveal to others our best selves and God's dream for a better world, seeking to receive and share in the power of the Spirit's steadfast love, tender mercy, abundant life, healing, hope, and ways of justice. We need better ways. We can live better. And when we do, we will give Jesus, God, and the Spirit better "PR." The Easter miracle will continue to break through again---God birthing goodness and love daily in the world.



Committed again to seeking and revealing the Son every day!

Rev. Mary Kathryn Pearce,
Interim Pastor
University United Methodist Church
(309) 231-0925

Worship Time

Sunday Service & Children's Church: 10:00 am



Contact us

E-mail: peoriauumc2818@gmail.com

www.uumcpeoria.org

309/688-3486

Prayers for family and friends

Jim Bishop

Larry Emerick

Max Shelton

Barb Sprick

Pat Wheeler

Dee La Rue

Maury & Jonna Wallace

Bonnie Brown

Jan Deissler



April Birthdays

2 Shirley Dresden, Brian Wilson

3 Gary Millen

13 Maryln Rager

14 Donna Birkhahn

18 Jim Frost

23 Bonnie Mankle

24 Steve Van Winkle

30 Sherry Emerick



April Anniversaries

11 Joel & Jayne Van Ness

17 Joe & Janet McCarty



TITHES & OFFERINGS

ONLINE GIVING ALSO AVAILABLE!

Offerings for March 2024

\$45,952.19



Newsletter Mailing: All articles are due by the last Monday of the month to the office. Thank you!

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

To the family of Jeanné Snow who passed away February 1, we give thanks for her life and witness and for life everlasting!

Is anyone interested in a loveseat?

The loveseat in Mary Kathryn's office is available if anyone would like to take it home. Rough measurements are 5 feet x 36 inches deep and about 40 inches high (see picture).

Both sides recline. Interested parties please contact the office or Mary Kathryn. Thank you!



UWF DATES TO REMEMBER

We are asking for donations for MIDWEST MISSIONS. We will be collecting the month of May with kits to be assembled June 2. Following is a list of items we will be collecting:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Hand towels. (not kitchen towels) | Lotion 8-10 oz. |
| Washcloths | Deodorant |
| Adult toothbrushes (no multipacks) | Shampoo |
| Bar soap. 3 - 4 oz. | |

Look for the green laundry baskets to put items in.

Funsters for April will be dinner at Alexander's Steakhouse starting at 5:30 on the 14th. Reservations will be taken up until April 11th. Please let Donna Birkhahn or Bob Miller know at 309-692-8588 or email dkbuicomp@yahoo.com.

RISE & SHINE! IT'S A

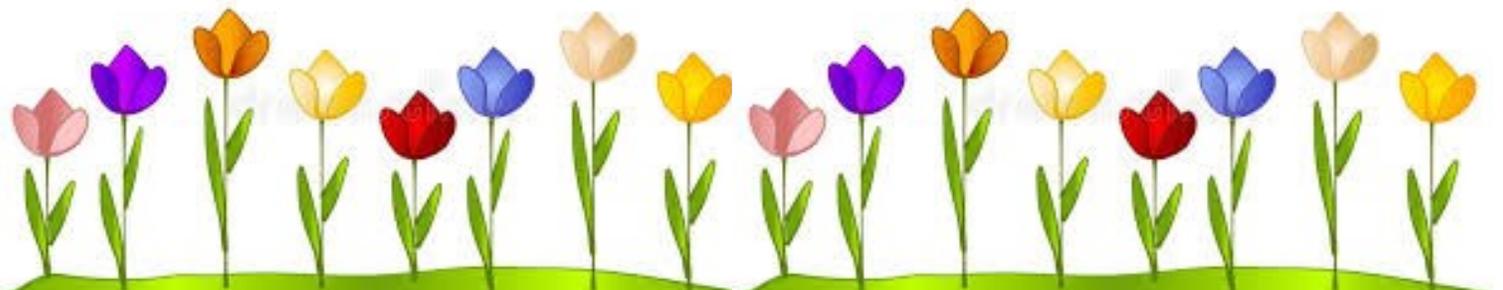
Breakfast Party

TO THANK YOU FOR THE TIME YOU HAVE SHARED
WITH OUR SCHOOL THIS YEAR!

7:30-8:30am Wednesday, May 15

CT Vivian School Gymnasium

Please RSVP by Friday, March 22



*Everyone is encouraged to spread the word that we continue to provide Children's Church each Sunday except the first Sunday of the month.



***Please support upcoming activities by spreading the word, attending and inviting others!**

**A special Thank You to the team of volunteers who made the Easter Egg Hunt event a reality! More than 30 children plus adults enjoyed a special message, Easter Egg Hunt and Instant photo opportunity on a beautiful morning! Volunteers visited with participants and we will follow up with those who provided contact information. At least one parent and child who participated then came to church on Easter Sunday.*

Our efforts to reach out and be a blessing to children and families in our neighborhood do make a difference!



Outreach Continued



*UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



Lunch and Learns Tuesdays at 11:30:

- 4/9 Demarcus Reynolds (Author, DJ, speaker)
- 4/16 Chris Reynolds (Bradley)

Continued

Outdoor Worship Service Sunday 5/2 (rain date 5/19):

- Includes consecration of our new Prayer Mailbox to be installed in the patio area. This is another opportunity to reach out in love and care to our neighbors.
- Enjoy Holy Ground Cafe on the patio that morning surrounded by the beauty of our outdoor garden area!

*ONGOING OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES-Watch for next sessions to be scheduled soon!

Care bags:

- Assembled for giving to persons who approach you for assistance. Our first such activity at the Maundy Thursday service was well received with participants requesting that it be repeated.
- Next session of care bag making to be scheduled in May! (We do have some extra bags available now; see Lorene)

Drive- through Prayer:

- Thanks to Lorene and Von who piloted this event on Good Friday! They reported being "blessed to be a blessing" to a dozen persons during what became a walk- through event. "Von and I both felt humbled, excited and thankful that we were able to touch the hands and lives of hurting people, even briefly this afternoon, to let them know somebody cares."
- We plan to make this an regular activity as we continue to strive to reach out in love and service to our neighbors.

*More information soon!

If you are interested in volunteering your time, ideas for any of these activities, please contact Jayne Ferguson

Outreach Chair

309 256-7495

ejf607@aol.com



IT'S TIME!!

The Administrative Council in January approved the creation of a Vision Team. The primary emphasis to date has been assessing building space and discerning how the space could best be used for future ministries. There has been a time scheduled to "Clear Out and Clean Out" areas of University UMC. Three days have been calendared for there to be a dumpster placed to catch all that is no longer needed but has been lovingly stored for decades in various places of the building. The three days are April 24th-27th. You are invited to come and offer your assistance to enable this project to be successful. And, you are invited to come and label what you specifically would like to claim and remove by Saturday, April 27th. Persons who volunteered to serve on the Vision Team are: Kristen Clark, Alan and Elaine Ferguson, Jan Deissler, Doyle Long, Lorene King, Brian Wilson, and Ann Galick.

Native American Sunday Special Offering

The Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the UMC has had a Committee on Native American Ministries for several decades. CONAM advocates for ministry with and by Native Americans to share the diverse culture, history and traditions of Native peoples. Through this ministry, our gifts enable us to affirm Native Americans and their contributions to society and the United Methodist Church. 50% of all donations collected in recognition of Native American Ministries on April 21st, remain in our conference. IGRC continues to recognize and be thankful for the ministry of Dayspring Native American Fellowship located in East Peoria.

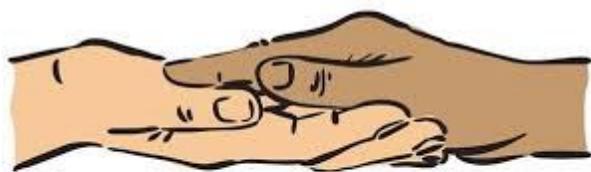


SPPRC News

I am writing to inform you that Christy Kuntz, UUMC Administrative Assistant, resigned from her position -- her last day will be Friday, April 5, 2024. The SPPRC would like to publicly thank Christy for all her hard work. She brought a lot to this position with her creativity, bubbly personality, and great secretarial knowledge and skills. Please join me in praying for Christy as she discovers what is best for her in her life going forward.

We are currently recruiting for a UUMC Administrative Assistant. For further information regarding this position, please contact Kristy Worrell. Resumes, along with a cover letter, can be sent to Kristy Worrell, UUMC SPPRC Chair at worrellkristy@gmail.com.
Kristy Worrell, UUMC SPPRC Chair

CONGREGATIONAL CARE NEWS



Congregational
CARE TEAM

Member Care

We added more names to the list of home-bound members needing special care: Loretta Arnold, Darlene Athey, Karen Larson, Joe and Janet McCarty (temporarily at Proctor Place), Patty Stuart and Maury Wallace. If you would like to join this ministry team, please contact me for a member

assignment. Duties entail checking on your assigned member, regularly by phone or in person; and making sure each one receives a copy of all appropriate devotionals: Upper Room, Advent, Lent, as well as Gift bags for special occasions during the year.

Members of the Team completed the assembly of nearly 2 dozen Easter Gift Bags, and personally delivered them to each recipient's residence. The freshly-baked loaves of bread were greatly appreciated. Thanks to bakers Joanne Barnwell, Sherry Emerick and Renee' Kilduski!

Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 16, at 10:00 a.m. in Memorial Hall. Come join us and share your ideas! By the way, if you notice a visitor at Sunday service, please be sure to offer them a First Time Visitor gift bag. They are on the table directly adjacent to the office.

Holy Ground Café Fellowship

This social time prior to Sunday worship is going strong. Whether you are a member or a guest, please join us for coffee, juice, pastries and fresh fruit, while you make new acquaintances and interact with old ones.

- Lorene King

WORDS Of ENCOURAGEMENT from Team Member Joanne Barnwell

"Spring provides a wonderful reminder to us that we should be living a full life as we are given new life and new mercies every morning! Rejoice! Spring is here!"



UUMC Missions doing rice meal kits with the 4th grade classes at C.T. Vivian School on March 6th.





CONTINUED

The second activity was with the help of congregational participation. Bread for the World letters were signed to Senators Durbin and Duckworth, and to Representatives Sorensen and LaHood; in that order the number of letters were 18, 16, 16 and 8. The request was to pass the Farm Bill with all the nutritional programs intact and full funding. This was followed by a potato bar prepared by Renee Kilduski for the Missions Committee, thank you Renee and all that helped clean up. Also a big thank you to the anonymous donor of the cookies. ~Barb Gurtler



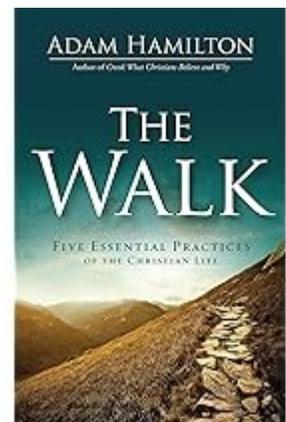
Three reminders: Mt. Calvary food pantry needs food; we still collect aluminum cans, and Foster Village is always grateful for new donations of clothes—infant through teens and anything for babies.

How do we walk with Christ—daily follow him, grow in him, and faithfully serve him? In the Gospels, Jesus modeled for us the Christian spiritual life. The apostles taught it in their writings. And the Church has, through the last 2,000 years, sought to pursue this Christian spiritual life.

In *The Walk*, Adam Hamilton focuses on five essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus' own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament. Each of these practices is intended as part of our daily walk with Christ while also being an essential part of growing together in the church.

In each chapter, Hamilton explores one of these practices, its New Testament foundation, and what it looks like to pursue this practice daily in our personal life and together in the life of the church. Deepen your walk with Christ as we explore the five essential practices of worship, study, serving, giving, and bearing witness to our faith.

This study will begin on Tuesday, April 16th, at 10:00 a.m. for five weeks. Rev. Mary Kathryn will be facilitating the study. The cost of the book is \$10.00 and should be available on Monday, April 8th, in church office.



HAPPY SPRING!