

Hebron United Methodist Church
9811 Main Street, P.O. Box 323, Hebron, IL 60034

Catch the Spirit!

www.hebronmethodist.org

MARCH 2022

The Pastor Ponders...

...How Shall We Observe Lent This Year?

You are dust, and to dust you shall return.

(Genesis 3: 19)

Repent and believe in the gospel.

(Mark 1: 15)

As we approached the Lenten season in 2021, COVID restrictions were still in place and our sanctuary/worship space had yet to be completed to the point of being able to comfortably and safely use it. As a congregation, we remained scattered and waiting, much as the early people of Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years before reaching the Promised Land. However, worshipping together as the Body of Christ, especially during the holiest of seasons (Lent/Easter, Advent/Christmas) is an important part of who we are as followers of Christ. And so a few of us worked to find ways in which we could better connect during this time.

We began with an on-line worship service and an in-person imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday so that we could remember our story and our traditions, if only in a small way. During Lent, several of us joined in a
(Continues on page 2)

****Mark Your Calendar****

Wednesday, March 1st

Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service, March 2nd

HUMC at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 3rd

RESCHEDULED A1C Screening-Diabetes Clinic
at St. John's Lutheran Church 2:30 - 6:15 p.m.

To register call or text 815-355-5554

**March 13th - Daylight Saving Time Begins*

Tuesday, March 15th, 22nd, 29th

Lenten Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 22nd

N.O.W. Meets 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, March 27

Church Council 9:00 a.m.

Special Sunday Mission: UMCOR

Mark your Calendar for Holy Week:

April 10 - Palm Sunday 10:30 a.m. HUMC

April 14 - Maundy Thursday Community Service
(time and place TBA)

April 15 - Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m. HUMC

April 16 - Community Easter Egg Hunt - St. John's

April 17 - Easter Sunday 10:30 a.m. HUMC

The Pastor Ponders (continued)

Lenten Study on ZOOM, further connecting us and helping us to engage with the story. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services were held on line with quite a few folks providing leadership for the services. Palm Sunday, Holy Communion, and Easter were celebrated in person within the limitations that were in place at that time. And, beginning with Pentecost, we have had the joy of being able to worship in person, in a beautiful new space, every Sunday! Praise be to God!

In a way, the folks at HUMC are very familiar with what it means to wait, to prepare, to endure the liminal space between what was and what is to come. We know the sadness and disappointment, the trials and tribulations, the doubt, as well as the patience and the perseverance it takes to reach a distant, and on some days, blurry goal. We know what it means to make choices – what should stay, and what needs to go, what we should change, what we need to add. And, through it all, we remained faithful to God and aware of God's presence, God's faithfulness, God's encouragement and empowerment. And, what celebrations we have had the past couple of months!

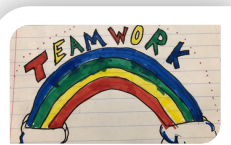
Our journey is very similar to the Lenten journey we are invited to take each year. Sometimes this journey is difficult as prayer, reflection, abstaining from things we desire, naming ourselves before God (our faults as well as our strengths) often raises things we don't want to name or deal with. However, sometimes there are times of joy as we realize just how much we are forgiven and loved by God, how much God wants to heal us, what a gift we can be to others as we share what we have (kind words, deeds, giving of our resources – food, money, etc.). And we know, as Christians, on this side of the cross, there is a wondrous and awesome celebration which awaits us at the end of our journey. Easter, with its promise of healing and new life, stands to greet us at the end of our Lenten expedition.

Wishing you a holy and blessed Lent!

Pastor Char

Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

A special thank you to Natalie Elverman and Margie Moore for the beautiful Volunteer Appreciation baskets that were handed out on February 13th to thank all the talented and hardworking volunteers who make HUMC the place and space it is. Everyone who received a thank you basket had more than enough treats and sweets to last the whole week through! Thank you Natalie and Margie, and all our wonderful HUMC volunteers!



RMN Working Group

The HUMC Church Council voted this month to officially recognize the RMN Working Group as an HUMC committee and it approved the process that our RMN Working Group has put together over the next few months to journey toward becoming part of the Reconciling Ministries Network. We will present "Reasons for Reconciling" once a month during our worship service and in this newsletter. As part of our process, we will be writing a Welcoming Statement and invite anyone interested to join us for our first writing session on March 11th (contact churchoffice@hebronmethodist.org). Once this statement is ready we will share it with HUMC for further feedback and refinement this Spring.

N.O.W. Team - Nurture

“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.” Proverbs 11:25

A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated items to our “Almost Non-Soup Soup-er Bowl Sunday” collection which will be donated to the Hebron Community Food Pantry. Starting this month we will have two (2) baskets at the church to collect items for the Food Pantry. Items collected will be taken to the Food Pantry on a monthly basis. As the saying goes, “Sharing is caring.”

On March 27th we will be taking up an offering for UMCOR Sunday. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to respond with extravagant grace. Through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) we are able to make a difference in the lives those who have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change. This offering understates the “cost of doing business,” allowing UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go towards that project. Our sustaining gifts on this Sunday lay the foundation for UMCOR to share God’s love with communities everywhere.

Words cannot express our appreciation for the generosity of everyone’s time, talent, and treasures during these last several challenging years. In the song Think About His Love by Walt Harrah are the words, “Think about His love, think about His goodness, think about His grace that brought us through....so great is the measure of our Father’s love.”

God bless all of you,
Shirlee and Alberta, Nurture Team

Opportunities to Give

We are kicking off our 2022 Mission Program! Each month HUMC will be providing Opportunities to Give through the following programs:

- 1) Special Sunday Offering
- 2) Mission Links (beginning in April)
- 3) Local Giving

More information on our 2022 Mission Program will be available on our website later this month. In the meantime, please consider giving to any of the following missions for March:

- Special Sunday: UMCOR Sunday March 27th
- Local Giving:
 - Hebron Community Food Pantry (monetary or supplies)
 - Community Easter Egg Hunt (monetary donations only to go toward candy needed for this event)



To complete our 2021 mission promise, the HUMC matched the amount of funds raised for Mission Links in 2021. The Church Council voted to donate these funds to the Never Say Never Playland in Lake Geneva, WI. The \$2,350 given by HUMC will go toward building the "Wavy Bridge" and two ramps in an inclusive playground designed to meet the needs of children in our area no matter their ability or disability. They have raised \$217,000 toward their goal of \$520,000. If you'd like to give or learn more about this great project, go to

www.neversayneverplayland.com.

Daily Devotion for Lent 2022

A few have shared that one of the things that made Lent meaningful to them in 2021 and helped to hold us together as the HUMC family was Bible reading and prayer which we were to use as part of our daily devotion.

For 2022, I would like to invite us to read Isaiah 58: 6 – 9 and spend some time in reflection on what this means for us today. -*Pastor Char*

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator^[a] shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.



Happy Birthday!

Alex Arthur 3/19
Minka Roecker 3/22
Jeff Arnold 3/30
Tally Moore 3/26

Happy Anniversary!

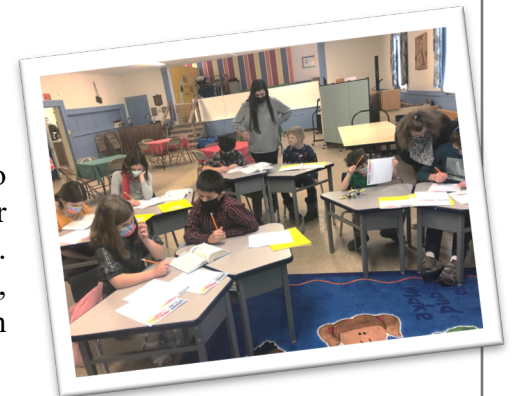
Sharon Smith & Kris
Bottlemy 3/25



Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for being with us this Lenten season. During this time, help us to prepare our hearts and minds for Easter. Teach us to trust you and to love you. Gracious God, we give you thanks because you are always with us, guiding us and loving us. Forgive us when we forget your presence. We give you thanks for your promise to always take care of our needs. Forgive us when we forget and are reluctant to let go of our resources. Help us to be generous and to freely share our gifts with others. We give you thanks for loving us, no matter what. Forgive us when we don't act with kindness, justice, or compassion. Help us to love others as we have been loved. Help us to witness to those who have not heard of your love. Listening God, we know that you hear us when we pray. Help us to talk with you more often. Bless us on this journey. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

HUMC Kids

Our HUMC Kids have continued to work diligently on their video projects which will "be a wrap" next week! We then turn back to our Celebrate Wonder curriculum for our units on Lent and Holy Week. Please note that there will be no Sunday School on March 20th. Also, save the date for the Community Easter Egg Hunt at St. John's Lutheran Church in Hebron on Saturday, April 16th!



Dear Lord, please hear our prayer for the following...



Nora Winn and her family on the passing of her brother, Thomas Fletcher

Alice Johnson's friend, Nancy, receiving experimental cancer treatment

Lucas Bugar's mother Mariana Bugar who has been diagnosed with brain cancer

Sue Stear

Kris Bottlemey's brother, Jon, experiencing health problems

Alberta Austin

Wendy Schaid's friend, Alberto, diagnosed with cancer, and his family

Alice & Gordie Johnson

Harold & Juanita Bailey

Dick & Jeneil Border

Dave Dickey

Joan O'Halleran

Katelyn Winter Sampson

Pastor Char & Glenn's daughter-in-law, Julie, and her family, as they deal with the effects of MS

Nora Winn at Fair Oaks Nursing Facility

Luke Moore

Our former Pastor Jim & Char

Our former Pastor Paul & Lynn

Dorothy Peterson & her family

Betty Garrett & her family

Arlyne Mummer

We pray for peace in Ukraine and for the protection and security for those who are no longer safe there.

We pray for all who have suffered as the result of natural disasters.

We pray for protection and safety for all those who defend and protect us.

We pray for the victims and families of all who have been affected by and from violence.

We pray for the return of goodwill and unity among all people.

We pray for all those affected by COVID-19 and its variants and their families; and we pray for the safety of all medical staff and personnel during the care of all patients.

We pray for our church, the Village of Hebron, and all leaders - local, state and national; our church leaders in Hebron, our Prairie Central District Sup't., our Bishop and the entire UMC.

We pray for the names in our hearts that they will be kept safe from harm. God bless us all. Amen

If you wish to have someone added to our Prayer List please contact Shirlee on our Nurture Team at (815) 648-5009 or at offqueen@aol.com.

During a mental health crisis, anyone can call the 24-hour National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255. Veterans crisis line is 800-273-7255.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP SUNDAYS AT 10:30 A.M. / SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 A.M.

We livestream our Scripture Lesson and Sermon on most Sundays around 11:00 a.m. on Facebook @9811MainStreet



You are invited to begin the Lenten Season with us. Join us on **Wednesday, March 2nd at 7:00 p.m. for our Ash Wednesday Service** and imposition of ashes. We will begin a Lenten Bible Study on March 15th. More information will be forthcoming on our website.

You are also invited to join us for Holy Week:

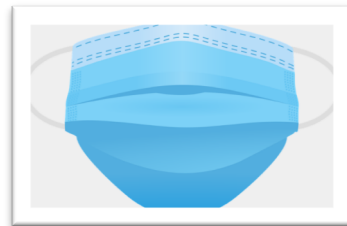
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Our Church Council will be reviewing our mask guidance at the upcoming council meeting in March. For now, we kindly ask everyone to continue wearing masks in the building and only remove masks when briefly eating or drinking.

Thank you!



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

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