



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

Catch the Spirit!

www.hebronmethodist.org

APRIL 2022

The Pastor Ponders...

...How Can We Be Good Stewards of God's Creation?

*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it.*

(Psalm 24: 1)

Last Sunday, I was talking with a couple of folks and we were reminiscing about growing up in the McHenry/ Ringwood/ Wonder Lake/ Hebron/Wisconsin area and how most of the space was wide open back then. When I was serving churches in the burbs, I used to enjoy driving out this way to visit friends or up to Wisconsin to visit our daughter, especially when the sight of freshly tilled fields or the fragrance of manure announced the official arrival of Spring. Instead, I am saddened by the fact that many of the formerly wide open spaces are now festooned with the evidence that they are not about to be wide open any longer. Subdivision signs and stakes with fluorescent pink, yellow, and orange flags dot the landscape. Front loaders, bulldozers, and dump trucks sit at the ready. I know that in a short amount of time, what used to be a pleasant get away into the corn fields and bean fields will come to an end.

(Continues on page 2)

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesdays, April 5th & 12th
Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.

Tuesdays March 29th & April 5th
Lenten Small Group Discussion/Study



Schedule for Holy Week:

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

April 14 - Maundy Thursday Community Service at Alden UMC 7:00 p.m.

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

April 16 - Community Easter Egg Hunt - St. John's at 3:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, April 24th

Church Council 9:00 a.m.

Festival of Creation Service - 10:30 a.m.

This special worship service will partially take place outdoors. Don't forget to bring your gardening gloves and a sack lunch!

Sunday, May 8th - Mother's Day & Bible Sunday

10:30 a.m. Worship - Bring your favorite Bible along with your favorite memories of sharing Bible stories with your mother or other women in your life. We will be gifting new Bibles to our new readers in Sunday School on this special Sunday.

**Last day to order your Easter Lilies is April 10th*

The Pastor Ponders (continued)

Sometimes I wonder if all this progress is really progress. I wonder where all of the food to feed the multitudes will come from as we continue to build houses and shopping malls on what is some of the richest soil in America. I realize that I probably won't be around when the real crisis comes, BUT my grandchildren will.

In Genesis we are told that God made the humans and put them in the garden to be God's stewards – to till the soil and to tend to all of God's special creatures – the animals, the plants, the forests, the land, and other people. Throughout scripture we are told that good stewardship goes beyond just taking care of the land or of our material possessions, it means caring for our abilities, emotions, time, and talent, all of our lives and all of the lives of others. What affects the well-being of one part of God's creation, affects us all.

I missed Earth Hour on Saturday, March 26 when we are supposed to turn lights and other electrical conveniences off for an hour. I keep thinking it is during the Earth Day celebration on April 22, so maybe I'll turn everything off for an hour that day instead. I'll continue to reuse and recycle as much as possible. I will be as kind and gentle as I can to the lives around me. I'll spend some time relaxing and enjoying the great outdoors. – Speaking of which, Sunday, April 24 we will be observing the Festival of God's Creation by singing a hymn, reading scripture, praying, and then venturing out to clean up, prune, and care for the plants and property outside the church building. Wear outdoor clothes and bring gloves, gardening supplies, and a sack lunch as we practice good stewardship and appreciate God's creation outside.

Wishing you all the joys of Spring!

Pastor Char



Easter Lilies

We will be returning to an HUMC Easter tradition this year by offering Easter Lilies in honor of those we love or in memory of those we miss. If you would like to order an Easter Lily, please fill out an order form at the church on April 3rd or April 10th. Lilies will be on sale for \$12 each and will be delivered to the church for all to enjoy on Easter Sunday. If you will not be at HUMC in person, you may email the church at churchoffice@hebronmethodist.org and we will contact you with order information.



Laity Zoom Gathering for Prairie Central

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Jeffry Bross leads a regular online meeting with other lay members and leaders of our district to engage in important conversation and connection. This month the Laity Zoom Gathering will discuss "Why I am staying in The United Methodist Church" and it will provide a framework, utilizing the denomination's campaign, #BeUMC and other information that moves the discussion from division and what is wrong with others to the positive impact of being in a grace-filled connection. Because of Holy Week, the regularly scheduled meeting has been moved to Thursday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m. Please email the church for a link to join this meeting. As a primer to this meeting, [click here](#) to read this statement by the Ginghamburg UMC.



RMN Working Group - Reasons to Reconcile

Reconciling Ministries Network is a network of United Methodist churches and groups who have been working for the past 36 years to seek justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Here at HUMC we have put together a committee, the RMN Working Group, to explore and lead HUMC through the steps for joining the RMN. As promised in last month's article, we will be providing the "Top 10 Reasons to Affiliate with Reconciling Ministries," starting with the first three reasons below:

1. Extend God's fully inclusive love and unconditional welcome - inviting LGBTQ people into affirming spaces in which all can worship, serve, and find a faith community.

2. Challenge the default that the UMC is anti-LGBTQ and clarify the position of our ministry. Make our position clear on LGBTQ justice and inclusion set apart from the denomination as a whole.

3. Help our current neighbors, new residents, and out of town guests find us. RMN connects people and churches. Being listed in the RMN registry of inclusive churches is important. It allows prospective visitors to find Reconciling Churches and Communities by state and is widely used. Because of the harm the institutional Church has done to LGBTQ persons, **visiting a church is a risk that requires courage**. No matter how welcoming and affirming a church may be on the inside, LGBTQ friends will never experience that affirmation if it's not first expressed through an intentional, outward invitation. We place our welcome mats on the outside of the building, not just the inside.

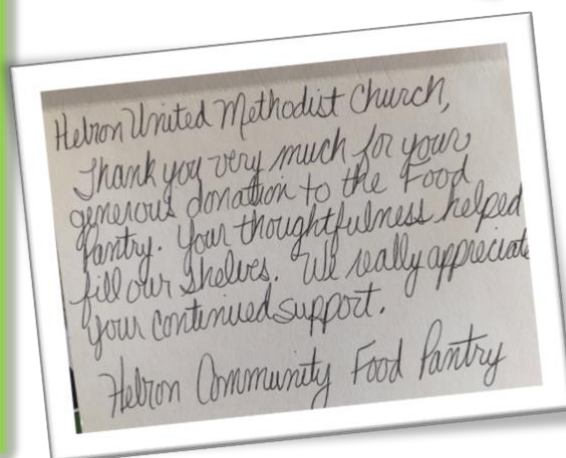
Our RMN Working Group is crafting together a Welcoming Statement that will become part of our "welcome mat." When it is written, we will be presenting it to our congregation for feedback later this Spring.

Opportunities to Give

Thank you to those who gave so generously to the Hebron Community Food Pantry, to the Community Easter Egg Hunt, to UMCOR Sunday, and to UMCOR- Ukraine. Here are ways you can give this month:

- 1) Special Sunday - No Special Sunday for April
- 2) Mission Links - UMCOR-Ukraine
 - *HUMC will match up to \$250 in donations received for UMCOR-Ukraine
- 3) Local Giving - Donations for VBS will be accepted during the Community Easter Egg Hunt or anytime. Donations make it possible to offer this five-day program to the Hebron area community for free.

More information on our 2022 Mission Program check out our website at www.hebronmethodist.org.





3 Age Groups – 0-3yrs, 4-6yrs & 7-9yrs (4th Grade)

Take a quick pic with the Easter Bunny after the Egg Hunt!

St. John's Lutheran Church - 9812 St. Albans Street, Hebron IL

Donations accepted to support the A-H Community Vacation Bible School Program



Alden-Hebron Community VBS
Alden United Methodist, Hebron United Methodist & St. John's Lutheran Churches

Happy Birthday!

Ron Coulman 4/1
Dale Walker 4/1
Nick Nelson 4/2
Adam Garrett 4/7
Myrna Hoeft 4/8
Rebekah Reins 4/20
Erin Engelhardt 4/21

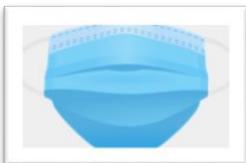
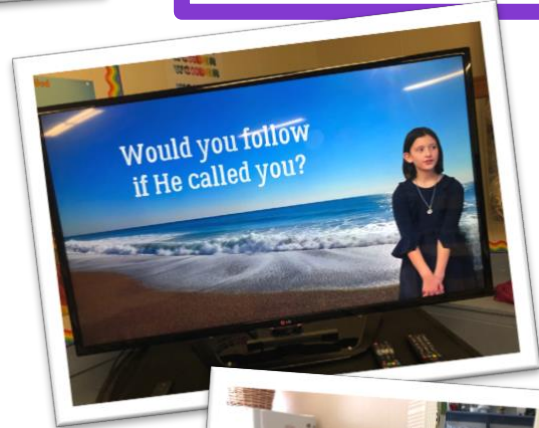
Happy Anniversary!

Steve & Chela Johnson 4/5
Deidre & Lucas Bugar 4/21



HUMC Kids

It was a joy to complete and share our video projects on the stories and miracles of Jesus with our congregation in March. We are now journeying through Lent and learning that Lent is a special time of year when we prepare for Easter and focus on our connection with God. Last Sunday we learned about the Last Supper, made unleavened bread which we shared, and sang a hymn together before walking outside "to the garden" to pray. The HUMC Kids prayed for their friends, families, pets, peace and for warmer days ahead. We look forward to celebrating Palm Sunday and Easter (we are learning a new song to share Easter Sunday). Don't forget to save the date for the Community Easter Egg Hunt at St. John's Lutheran Church in Hebron on Saturday, April 16th at 3:00 p.m!



Our Church Council reviewed our mask guidance at the March Council Meeting. HUMC will be moving forward as "mask optional." Thank you!

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



Lucas, Dee and Frankie Burgar on the passing his mother, Mariana

Former Pastor Kay Dillard, diagnosed with lung cancer

Roy Bailey's co-worker, Cody, experiencing health problems; Roy's sister-in-law, Tammy, recovering from surgery

Karen Vipond's nephew, Mark, diagnosed with cancer

Shirlee Correll's father-in-law, Gene, now on Hospice care

Alice Johnson's friend, Nancy, receiving experimental cancer treatment; and on the passing of her brother-in-law, Lee Haines

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

Roy Bailey

Dick & Jeneil Border

Dave Dickey

Joan O'Halleran

Katelyn Winter Sampson

Nora Winn at Fair Oaks Nursing Facility

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

Luke Moore

Our former Pastor Jim & Char

Our former Pastor Paul & Lynn

Dorothy Peterson & her family

Betty Garrett & her family

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 peace between Ukraine and Russia. Surround those affected by this and all conflicts with your precious love. 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 offcqueen@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

Cultivating Health Ministries

We'd like to give a special thank you to the doctors, nurses and staff of Cultivating Health Ministries who came out to Hebron earlier this month to provide FREE A1C screenings, FREE glucometers and blood pressure machines, and FREE training for better health management! We have been getting wonderful feedback from the 30+ individuals who attended this health event. St. John's Lutheran and HUMC are looking forward to providing more health programming later this Spring!



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

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