



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

Catch the Spirit!

www.hebronmethodist.org

MARCH 2023

The Pastor Ponders...

...Why, O Lord?

"...yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation (Habakkuk 3:18)

We're halfway through Lent and I am happy to think that spring is almost here. It's not that we've had such a difficult winter. In fact, by Chicago standards it has been quite mild. I just think that the cold and the gloom and the gray begin to drag us all down a little bit and we will be glad to enjoy the return of longer periods of sunlight, the green of grass and leaves, the sound of the birds, and the return of friends from far off, warm places. It's been a winter of pesky viruses and flu, aching bodies, and the threat of yet another strain of COVID, and a few folks are beginning to feel a little bit depressed and out of sorts. As if that isn't enough, we are bombarded by economic woes, politicians who can't seem to work and play well together, a death toll which keeps climbing whether it's in far off countries due to natural occurrences or war, or right here at home on the streets due to gun violence.

(continued on page 2)

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, March 5th

Special Worship Service with musician Dan Holmes

Tuesday, March 7th

A1C Screening/Diabetes Clinic 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church

To Register call or text: 815-355-5554

Tuesday, March 14th, 21st, 28th, April 4th

Lenten Choir Practice - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 12th

Daylight Saving Time begins - don't forget to change your clocks!

Sunday, March 19th

Church Council 9:00 a.m.

UMCOR Sunday

March Confirmation Schedule

March 12th & 26th 9:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall "Loft"

No Sunday School March 26th

The Pastor Ponders (continued)

Like the people and prophets of old, we are tempted to ask, "O Lord, why?"

On a hill far away, stood an old rugged cross. To stand in the shadow of that cross and to meditate on the suffering, injustice, unfairness, and grief that it represents also causes me to ask, "O Lord, why?" To me, the crucifixion event remains a confusing and unsettling mystery. The necessity of the pain and shame perplexes me. There are no immediate answers.

I've been reading Crucifixion by Fleming Rutledge and also a collection of sermons by the same author. When I first started reading these materials, I found myself sinking even deeper into the morass. However, as I have read farther on in either book, I am beginning to see God's ultimate picture of salvation and hope for God's creation, and am even more in awe of the tremendous sacrifice Jesus made on my behalf and for the good of all of creation. God's power has become even more evident to me during these days of turmoil.

Each Easter, we are reminded of the ultimate answer to our "why?". Christ is Risen! There really is nothing more to be said. The power of sin and death have been overcome. We, just like the world around us, are able to begin abundant, new life filled with fresh possibilities. I wonder what would happen if we all began each day by simply affirming and proclaiming, "Christ is Risen!" My guess is that the day wouldn't be quite as difficult, and perhaps, we just might begin to make and to see a difference in our world.



Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! ***Pastor Char***



Join us **Sunday, March 5th at 10:30 a.m.** for a special worship service led by singer/songwriter Dan Holmes, who brings a gentle Christian message of hope and believes "through the sharing of music, we can celebrate what God is doing in us, for us and through us!" You can learn more about Dan Holmes, his music, and ministry at www.danholmesmusic.com.

Thank you to everyone for donating to our "Soup-er Bowl" Sunday mission! Throughout February, we collected a large variety of much needed items for the Hebron Community Food Pantry. An extra special thank you to Shirlee for her leadership in this effort and to Kris for loading and delivering all the items! Thank you!



Join us for Holy Week

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

April 2, 10:30 a.m.

We will begin our Holy Week observance with an inspirational service of music and scripture, starting with the procession of the palms.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 6, 7:00 p.m.

You are invited to join with members of Alden UMC and St. John's Lutheran Church for Holy Communion, and prayer.

GOOD FRIDAY

April 7, 7:00 p.m.

Service of the Shadows

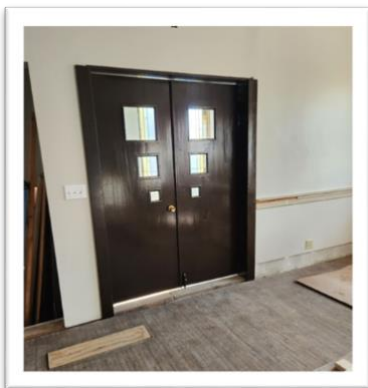
EASTER SUNDAY

April 9, 10:30 a.m.

Celebrate the resurrection!

Building Committee Update

The Wesley Room continues to change every week! The original doors to the Sanctuary have been refurbished and installed in the new entryway to the Wesley Room. The pocket door and the basement door have also been finished and installed. The baseboards, chair rail, trim and handrails will soon all be refurbished and installed to match with the Sanctuary. The last of the demolition work has been completed and a new entryway from the kitchen to the Fellowship Hall is now under construction. The last of the drywall will be completed in the coming weeks. The floor in the Wesley Room will be refinished by the end of the month which will mark the completion of this project! We should be hearing from DME soon regarding the delivery date of the lift.



Cultivating Health Ministries

A1C Screening- Diabetes Clinic

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

2:30 - 5:30 PM

St. John's Lutheran Church

9812 St. Albans St. Hebron 60034

[Registration](#)

Send a text message or call: 815-355-5554



SAVE THE DATE!

**HUMC Bowling Fundraiser
& 50/50 Raffle
Sunday, April 23rd
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Jay's Lanes in Harvard, IL**

More details to follow!

Interested in helping? We will be raffling off 3 goodie baskets and we're looking for donations and/or creative volunteers to put these together. See Shirlee if you are interested in sharing your gifts!



What is an A1C Test?

An A1C test is a blood analysis that measures the average glucose level in the blood for the last 3 months. A1C tests can be used to diagnose diabetes and prediabetes. An A1C test is also the main test used to in the management of diabetes.

No Fasting Needed



Risk Test for Prediabetes

1. If you are a woman, at one time, were you diagnosed with gestational diabetes?
2. Do you have a mother, father, brother or sister with diabetes?
3. Have you ever been diagnosed with high blood pressure?
4. Have you ever been told you have diabetes or prediabetes?

If you responded YES to any of these questions, you may benefit from an A1C screening!



WE VOTED YES!

On February 19, 2023 the members and constituents of the HUMC voted unanimously to adopt our new Welcoming Statement and affiliate with the

Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN). Our journey to becoming a reconciling church started many years ago, but in the last year we formed the RMN Working Group to explore affiliation with RMN, to create a welcoming statement, and to begin education on what it means to be a reconciling congregation. On February 19th after worship, we reviewed the journey we have been on, we read our proposed welcoming statement, and we held a vote by counting of hands. The HUMC Kids then shared some of their thoughts and led us in singing "And they'll know we are Christians by our love." Afterwards, we headed to Fellowship Hall for donuts, cake and coffee. We express great gratitude for everyone who joined in our discussions, education events, workshops and celebrations.

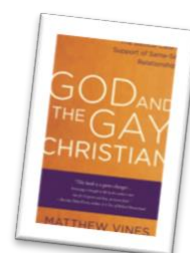


Hebron United Methodist Church is a reconciling congregation.

We believe every individual person is a sacred and valuable child of God. We recognize that we are each on a faith journey and whether an individual's belief is strong, wavering, or non-existent, we gather as friends, grow in faith, and support all people together toward greater love, understanding, and mutual respect. We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.

We invite you to join us as we seek to faithfully live our HUMC vision:
"We will be God's inclusive love."

We are continuing our education program by kicking off our new book club! Our first book will be "God and the Gay Christian" by Matthew Vines. HUMC will be providing these books to anyone who would like to participate. Please let the RMN Working Group know and we will order you a book. The date for the book discussion and an accompanying film will be announced soon!



HUMC Kids

The HUMC Kids are wrapping up their unit on God's Kingdom. We have been exploring what the Bible teaches us about God's Kingdom of love, inclusion and forgiveness through the Parables of Jesus. We even got into costume and did both a Biblical and a modern day interpretation of the story of the Prodigal Son and the Forgiving Father. We will continue to explore the lessons we learn from Jesus' parables over the next few weeks when the HUMC Kids put together their own Celebrate Wonder video projects!



Please note: There will be no Sunday School on March 26th.

HUMC Mission Program

Mission and Outreach are a big part of how HUMC creates pathways that serve and love God's people. We are happy to announce our HUMC Mission Program for 2023! Last year, with HUMC's matching program, we raised over \$8,000 for various missions here at home and around the world. HUMC will continue to match funds (up to \$200) for each of the 6 Mission Links missions selected for this year. In addition to Mission Links, we will also be collecting donations for Special Sundays and for local organizations to help those in need in our own community. To see our Missions and amounts raised throughout the year, visit our [mission page](#) on our website. We look forward to another year of generous service and giving!

HUMC Mission Links 2023

Living the Beatitudes
HUMC selected the following 6 Missions for our 2022 Mission Links Program. All donations made for each of these 6 missions will be matched by HUMC up to \$200. To donate online [click here](#) and indicate in the Note/memo box the name of the Mission. Thank you for your generous giving.

FEBRUARY 19

Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) celebrates that LGBTQ+ persons are a good expression of God's diverse creation and exists to advocate for the affirmation of all of God's children in the Church and the world. RMN is committed to intersectional justice across and beyond the United Methodist connection, working for the full participation of all LGBTQ+ people throughout the life and leadership of the Church. Hebron United Methodist Church is now part of the Reconciling Ministries Network and shares RMN's vision for a transformed Church that ensures justice, equity, and dignity for all of God's children in their diverse intersecting identities.

Helen Roberts-Evans is a missionary of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, serving as director of the Department of General Education and Ministry of the United Church in Liberia. She was commissioned in October 2009, having initially gone to Liberia as a mission volunteer in July 2008. Helen was born in Liberia and her return as a missionary was a lifelong dream.

JUNE 18

African-American Methodist Heritage Center (AAMHC) celebrates telling the stories of the struggles and victories of African Americans called to enhance the mission and ministry of the United Methodist denomination. AAMHC seeks to creatively develop and disseminate, through print and electronic media, discoveries and collections that reveal God at work in the lives of God's people and offer guidance for the future.

Morning Star Mission - Since its beginning in November 1909, Morning Star has had one main goal - to help people in need. Today it is a non-denominational organization based in Joliet, IL, dedicated to relieving the spiritual and physical hunger of the poor by providing food for the hungry, clothes for the needy, shelter for the homeless and the gospel of Jesus Christ for all. Through their Christ-centered programs and services they help people in need by getting to the core issues of what has caused their homelessness. Whether the problem stems from alcohol, drugs, mental health or family matters, their services are developed to reach a way to make a real change in their lives.

AUGUST 12/13

Grace Children's Hospital and Pediatric Clinic, Haiti Caring for and creating hope for children and families suffering from TB, HIV/AIDS, chronic illness is the focus of Grace Children's Hospital in Port-au-Prince. The goal of this project is to provide hospital and out-patient care for children and families with tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and respiratory infections and follow up with clinical healthcare for patients discharged from Grace Children's Hospital and their families. Long-term the project hopes to expand its reach to more families and to educate the community about healthcare and nutrition.

Global Refugee/Migration Response - UMCOR partners with churches that assist migrants of all types with the right to stay, the right to safe passage, the right to welcome and the right to return with dignity. More than 25 global missionaries and Global Mission Fellows are engaged in migrant and refugee ministries around the world. Now more than ever, the church needs to act boldly not only to welcome the stranger but also to change the structures and systems of power that seek to exclude and divide.

SPECIAL SUNDAYS

In addition to our Mission Links giving, the HUMC is providing opportunities to give to these Special Sunday missions:

- Human Relations Day Sunday - January 15
- UMCOR Sunday - March 19
- Native American Ministries - April 16
- United Voices for Children/Holy Can - Fifth Sunday months
- Peace for Justice Sunday - June 4
- UM Student Day - September 17
- World Communion - October 1
- Organ and Tissue - November 12 (no offering)
- and to the Red Bird Mission - (mitten tree) - December 3-17

LOCAL GIVING

HUMC also provides opportunities to give throughout the year to these local organizations:

- Hebron Bed Build
- Hebron Community Food Pantry
- Alden-Hebron Community Vacation Bible School
- A-H Secret Santa Program
- School Supplies Collection for District 19

AUGUST 12/13

Thank you!
\$63 - Human Relations

Thank you!
\$4.25 - United Voices for Children/Holy Can

Click here to donate through HUMC
- please include the mission name in the Note/memo box

Donate to HUMC



Marjorie Virginia Hyer Lopeman



With Deepest Sympathy

Marjorie (Marge) Virginia Hyer Lopeman was born December 19, 1926, in Quincy, Illinois. She passed peacefully on January 18, 2023, in Portland, Oregon at the age of 96.

Marjorie grew up in Quincy, Illinois in a lovely home with beautiful gardens. She graduated from Quincy High School and went to Culver Stockton College. While attending the University of Illinois in Champagne she majored in education and joined the Chi Omega sorority. After teaching in Douglas County, she moved to Hebron in 1949 and lived in the home of Loretta Baron along with fellow single teachers including Martha (Edwards) Tibbitts who became a lifelong friend.

In 1952, the young teacher accompanied other Hebron citizens as the school's basketball team played in the first-ever televised Illinois State Basketball Championship. The Hebron Giants were victorious over Marge's hometown team the Quincy Blue Devils. Several of those team members attended her 90th birthday party in Hebron and remained close to "Miss Hyer" until her death.

Marge married John Cole Lopeman (a dear friend of Wally Tibbitts) in 1952 and had 3 children.

Marge was the first, and at the time only, woman to be a member of the Hebron State Bank Board. She also served as the Village of Hebron Clerk for years and later as Township Clerk after her retirement. Her career as a middle/high school teacher and later a substitute teacher/tutor spanned 30 years and included teaching several generations of families.

When the children were young, she sewed many of their clothes, played bridge on weekends, enjoyed some snowmobiling, boating, along with many summer days of water skiing. In later years Marge's interests grew to include swimming (which she learned after age 50) and golfing (until she was in her late 80's). There were many cross-country trips to visit and celebrate children, grandchildren, and other beloved family members in Florida, Texas, California, Ohio, Oregon, Arizona, and Massachusetts. She also enjoyed the adventure of 2 international trips with friends.

Marge was a longtime member of the Hebron Service Club, on the board and a volunteer with the Hebron Public Library, was a board member and active in the Hebron United Methodist Church. She helped to establish the Hebron Food Pantry, serving as a longtime volunteer.

She moved to Russellville Park Retirement Community in Portland, Oregon at age 91 to be close to her daughter, Linda. While there she made many new friends, played bridge, attended exercise classes, and was active in Community Service. She was beloved by fellow residents and staff.

Marge is preceded in death by her mother and father Marguerite and Roy Hyer, her brother and sister-in-law, Don and Ruth Hyer. She is survived by daughters, Nancy (Lopeman) Dudenhoefer, and Linda Lopeman, and son, Michael Lopeman (Shelly). She was an aunt to Steve (Lynne) Hyer and Cathy (Rich) Warner. She was grandmother to Kelsey and Justin Dudenhoefer, Taylor and Erica Lopeman, and step-grandmother to Jenna and Lauren McGregor.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Hebron Public Library, 9908 St. Albans St., Hebron, IL 60034, or the Hebron Food Pantry, 10206 Seaman Road, Hebron, IL 60034.

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



Sharon Smith's brother, Mike, hospitalized in Atlanta

Joe and Jenn Lalor after losing their home to a fire

***A gift card drive was started by Hebron community members to help the Lalors. Gift cards may be sent to P.O. Box 388, Hebron, IL.*

Deidre Burgar's friend, Sharon's 2 year old son, Kian Nademanee, diagnosed with cancer
April & Paul Lucas' daughter Ashley, recovering from facial surgery

Marge O'Halleran diagnosed with cancer
Dr. Dan and Denise Staten; Dan's friend, Victor; and Dan's friend, Kim, experiencing health problems

Erin Engelhardt's nephew, Jordan, experiencing health problems

James Hampton and his family members experiencing health problems

Karen Vipond's nephew, Mark, diagnosed with cancer

Kris Bottlemey's Aunt Kipp

Alberta Austin and her son, Donny, experiencing health problems

Gordie & Alice Johnson

Harold Bailey; & Juanita Bailey recovering from a broken arm

Roy Bailey

Dick & Jeneil Border and their friend, Holly, diagnosed with cancer

Dave Dickey

Joan O'Halleran and her sister, Shelly Walczak and family on the passing of her husband, John 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 ***

Anyone wishing to send a card see below
Luke Moore

Our former Pastor Jim & Char and their daughter, MaryBeth, experiencing health problems

Our former Pastor Paul & Lynn

Dorothy Peterson

Betty Garrett

Bob Garrett

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 illness; 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.

***Nora Winn, c/o Fair Oak Health Care Ctr.
471 W. Terra Cotta Ave., Crystal Lake, IL 60014

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



Opportunities to Give

Thank you to those who gave so generously to our first Mission Links mission this past month! With our matching funds program, we raised over \$500 for the Reconciling Ministries Network! We also raised \$64.25 through our Noisy Can offering for United Voices for Children. Our "Soup-er" Bowl Sunday collection for the Hebron Food Pantry was a great success! Thank you! To see our full Mission Program for 2023 [click here](#). Here are the upcoming ways you can give this month:

- 1) Special Sunday (March 19) - [UMCOR Sunday](#)
- 2) Local Giving - Hebron Community Food Pantry (baskets in back of church)

[Click here](#) to give to any of these missions through HUMC.



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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE