



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

Catch the Spirit!

www.hebronmethodist.org

MAY 2023

The Pastor Ponders...

...What about kids and faith?

How are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? Romans 10:14b

Many of the churches that I have served have shared space with a preschool, so I spent a portion of my time researching education and activities for that age group. Suggestions from the National Association for the Education of Young Children included a variety of activities to give our youngest kids a foundation in basic skills such as math, science, and literacy. They also included setting the lessons in activities which included music, building relationships, and living a healthy lifestyle. Environments for learning, included the home, childcare centers, school, and the community. I found it interesting that no mention was made of a worshipping community or the spiritual development of children – a reminder that the teaching or practice of faith is one of those “hot button” issues in the public school environment. (Last week’s news reported that there is a bill working its way through the Texas legislature which *(continued on page 2)*)

Mark your Calendars



CHURCH PROPERTY WORK DAY

Saturday, May 6th 9:00 a.m.

Confirmants, family & friends come spruce up the church property.

Lunch will be provided to all helpers!



Saturday, May 6th 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Celebration of Life for Marge Lopeman
Hebron Public Library

Sunday, May 14th

Last day of Sunday School

Mother's Day

Mission Links: Helen Roberts-Evans

Sunday, May 21st

Church Council 9:00 a.m.

Baptism for Mateo Bugar

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

May 7th Confirmation Class 9:00 a.m.

May 21st Confirmation Test 9:30 a.m.

TBA - Rehearsal and wrap up

June 4th - Confirmation Day

The Pastor Ponders (continued)

would require public schools to place large posters of the 10 Commandments in every classroom. Personally, I feel that the practice will have little to no impact on the thinking, behavior, or faith practice of anyone—God personally wrote them on tablets of stone [doesn't get more permanent or important than that], and humans still chose to disobey them. It does call into question the meaning of religious freedom, separation of church and state, and where God is supposed to be in the midst of this.)

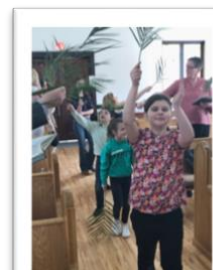
The reality is that 1) most folks, religious or non-religious, report some sort of connection and importance with God, the spiritual, or “other” in making meaning in their lives, making choices and decisions, and improving their health and well-being; 2) most students are aware of the religious practices of their fellow students because of clothing, dietary needs, holiday observances, or something else; and 3) assistance programs and other activities are often attached to faith-based organizations. So, if we truly are paying attention to the needs of young children and their families, and the importance in shaping the learning and development of our kids, at least something should be said about the importance of exposing young children (and others) to spiritual experiences.

In the “olden days,” it was easy to assume that the belief and practice of the faith would be automatically acquired by our kids. With the exception of the great “Protestant/Catholic divide,” we all basically believed the same thing about God and the faith, went to church on Sundays, attended Church School, Youth Group and other activities because that's what almost everyone in town did. Not so today. Our communities are made up of folks who are Protestant, Catholic, Muslim, Jewish, agnostic, practicing, lapsed, and everything in-between. Churches are competing with sports, shopping, employment, and a variety of other activities in which folks engage on the weekends. Not everyone believes the same things about God, the practice of faith, or the importance of either in our day-to-day living. The world is changing. However, one of the things that I believe should not change is that human beings, no matter how young or old, are beloved children of God and, as such, are required to give God the recognition and thanks that God deserves, and that we are also required to treat other people (as well as everything on our planet) with the dignity and respect they deserve as beloved creatures of God. Our children need to have the opportunity to learn those things and it's up to us to be intentional about providing opportunities for them to do so. When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was, he replied, “Love God and love others.”

It has been a joy to serve Hebron United Methodist Church where we take the spiritual development of our kids seriously. We provide a super church school program, encouragement as we support the kids' participation in worship, and excitement that we will be welcoming several youth into membership of our church at Confirmation on June 4.

So, as this year's Church School comes to a close, I'd like to give a special word of thanks to Stephanie Claussen for all of the love and effort she puts into teaching (and Bob for his patience and understanding), Shirlee Correll for helping the kids to feel comfortable in leading worship, Jeff & Debbie Arnold for providing snacks (especially cocoa), the kids for the blessing they have been, and the rest of the HUMC folks for their encouragement and support of our kids. Please pray for VBS which will take place the first week in June (and it's great outreach for those who don't have a church home) and for those who are planning for Church School 2023-4.

Blessings, *Pastor Char*



Building Committee Update

Our new lift has passed inspection and is in full working order, fulfilling a long-time goal to make our church wheelchair accessible! Thank you to all who donated, planned, and facilitated this project! We are closing in on the final steps of the Wesley Room project as well. The lights in the Wesley Room have been installed and what remains is to finish the floor and install the new carpet in the entryway. We will mark this project "complete" very soon!



N.O.W. Team - Nurture

Words can never express how grateful and blest we are to be part of such a caring, loving, and generous family. Your support, hard work, and prayers in everything; from construction /maintenance projects, participation in worship, supporting mission projects, encouraging children, to praying and keeping in contact with our friends and family that can't be with us on Sunday, is appreciated. You are all a blessing.

May you feel safe and protected in the arms of God's love. **May** you relax with the knowledge that you are loved and cared for. You are a necessary part of God's universe....and you are truly cherished!!

Shirlee and Alberta, Nurture



N.O.W. Team - Outreach

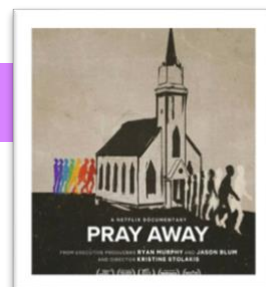
Our mission for May is to support Missionary Helen Roberts-Evans. She is the director of the Department of General Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church in Liberia. Helen was born in Liberia and her return as a missionary was a lifelong dream. Her work includes meeting needs in the areas of teacher training, scholarships, resources, new school construction, and school building and renovation and repair. "I am thankful," Helen says, "I have the joy of working with hundreds of Liberian children at church and school. I want to share the love of Christ with each child because I know that His love brings peace and gives strength to overcome life's challenges." Helen is a member of Sherman United Methodist Church in Evanston, IL. If you wish to find out more about Helen Roberts-Evans and her journey back to Liberia, check out the Mission page on our website or [click here](#). Thank you in advance for your generosity!

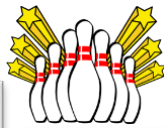


RMN Working Group

Thank you to everyone who attended our educational event on April 30th! If you missed the viewing of the film "[Pray Away](#)" by director Kristine Stolakis, we encourage you to watch this moving documentary available anytime on Netflix.

The RMN Working Group is planning our next event for the end of June. Plans for our Pride Sunday celebration are also underway and if you have ideas we'd love to hear from you! Pride Sunday will be on June 11th and all are invited to join the RMN Working Group after worship to caravan to Woodstock Pride Fest 2023.



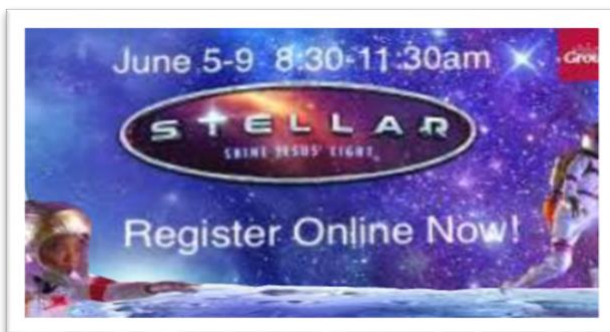


We had a great time at our Bowling Fundraiser 2023!
Thank you everyone who helped raise nearly \$700!



HUMC Kids

"I'm convinced that there is nothing that can separate me from His love!" were the lyrics the HUMC Kids sang on Easter morning! We have spent the past month learning about God's love, His greatest gift, and the Greatest Commandment. We have also been learning about the mysterious ways in which Jesus revealed himself after the resurrection and how he continues to do so even today in our own lives. I am always seeing and experiencing the love of God when I teach and learn from the kids during Sunday School. It is hard to see the year come to an end (May 14th is our last day), but we will continue to see one another during our summer worship services and during Vacation Bible School! The Alden-Hebron Community VBS will take place at St. John's Lutheran Church in June from the 5th-9th 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. [Click Here](#) to register as a participant and/or volunteer!



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



Erin Englehardt's friend, Dan and his wife Beth, as he deals with the effects of Parkinson's
Kris Bottlemy's Aunt Raynie recovering from a fall

Sharon Smith's brother, Mike, as he goes through PT

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 in recovery from cancer
James Hampton

Karen Vipond's nephew, Mark, in recovery from cancer; her sister, Molly, recovering from spinal surgery; Marty Dade, diagnosed with cancer; Ron Dadina, recovering from open heart surgery

Alberta Austin and her son, Donny, experiencing health problems

Gordie & Alice Johnson

Harold Bailey, hospitalized with a blood infection; and Juanita Bailey as she goes through PT

Roy Bailey

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

Dave Dickey

Joan O'Halleran and her niece, Heidi, for successful cancer treatments

Dave & Joan's neighbor, Bill Hodges' family on his passing

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 (*to send a card: Nora Winn c/o Fair Oak Health Care Ctr. 471 W. Terra Cotta Ave., Crystal Lake, IL 60014*)

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.

The Family of Marge Lopeman invites you to

A Celebration of Life

Hebron Public Library
9908 St. Albans St., Hebron, IL
Saturday, May 6, 2023
1:30 - 3:30 pm
Light refreshments will be served

Contact Linda Lopeman at
lopeman@lclark.edu or
503-705-2812 with any
questions

Please bring a memory and/or a photo of Marge to share with her family and friends. Your memories may be from her years on the Library Board, the Food Pantry, the Service Club, Hebron United Methodist Church, as a Bridge partner, your teacher or simply a friend.
We look forward to seeing you!

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

We raised \$201.00 for Native American Ministries Sunday and collected coins for Noisy Can/United Voices for Children this past month. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously! To see our full Mission Program for 2023 [click here](#). Here are the upcoming ways you can give this month:

- 1) Sunday May 14th - [Mission Links Missionary Helen Roberts-Evans](#)
- 2) Local Giving - [Alden-Hebron Community Vacation Bible School](#)
- 3) 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