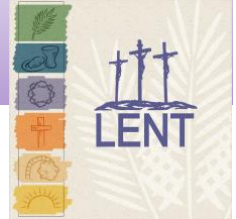




Hebron United Methodist Church  
9811 Main Street, P.O. Box 323, Hebron, IL 60034



# Catch the Spirit!

[www.hebronmethodist.org](http://www.hebronmethodist.org)

MARCH 2024

## The Pastor Ponders...

...What is the purpose of praying  
the Stations of the Cross?

*The king will answer, "Whenever you did it for  
any of my people, no matter how unimportant they  
seemed, you did it for me."  
Matthew 25:40 (CEB)*

Some of you may have attended a Roman Catholic Mass or participated in an event at a Catholic retreat center and noticed several crosses hung on the wall several feet apart in the worship space or located at intervals along a path outdoors. This is known as The Stations of the Cross, or the Way of the Cross, and was brought to the Vatican and to churches so that those who were unable to undertake this pilgrimage in the Holy Land could still have a meaningful spiritual experience.

Most of the time there are 14 of these "stations" scattered throughout the space, each one depicting an event that took place during Jesus' final journey to the cross. Sometimes there are scriptures or artwork hung in these locations as well. Station #1 = Pilate condemns Jesus. Station #2 = Jesus accepts his cross. Stations 3 – 10 recall other encounters and suffering. Station #11 = Jesus is nailed to the cross. Station #14 = Jesus' body is laid in the tomb.

*(continued on page 2)*

## Mark your Calendars

**Saturday, March 2nd begins 5:00 p.m.**  
Youth Overnight Lock-in at HUMC

**Sunday, March 3rd**  
Repair the Harm Campaign begins

**Tuesdays in March - 7:00 p.m.**  
Choir/Praise & Worship Team meets

**Wednesdays March 6th & 13th - 9:30 a.m.**  
Productive Aging meets

**Sunday, March 10th**  
Daylight Savings Time begins  
Church Council 9:00 a.m.  
UMCOR Sunday



**Palm Sunday, March 24th - 10:30 a.m.**  
Confirmation 9:00 a.m.

**Holy Thursday, March 28th - 7:00 p.m. at HUMC**  
Join with Alden UMC & St. John's Lutheran Church  
for Holy Communion and prayer

**Good Friday, March 29th - 7:00 p.m.**

**Easter Sunday, March 31st - 10:30 a.m.**  
Celebrate the Resurrection!

## *The Pastor Ponders (continued)*

Recently, some have updated or repurposed the “stations” to add new or a broader meaning to the practice. Some groups have chosen not to include all of the stations in their time of reflection. Participants, either individuals or a group, stop at each station to meditate and pray, thus sharing in Jesus’ journey to the cross for themselves in an attempt to deepen their understanding of Jesus and their faith.

While I was serving in Villa Park, the Catholic Church hosted a walk through the village on Good Friday based on the Stations of the Cross. Folks took turns leading the procession carrying a large wooden cross. At each “station” we read a scripture verse followed by a paragraph calling folks to a particular attitude or action based on the verse. We sang a short hymn and then journeyed on. Following the last station, everyone returned to the church for a lunch of bread and soup and a time of fellowship.

One of the things I found most meaningful about this journey is that the “stations” were carefully selected to call us to prayer and action. We stopped at the Police Station, Fire Station, school, medical building, playground, War Memorial, etc. and as we read scripture and meditated on Jesus suffering, we reflected on how we could love and serve others as Jesus asked. As a community, we prayed for those who protected us, or educated us, those who were sick, those affected by violence, and we also prayed for peace. Regardless of our denomination, or some of our differences in practice, we found a way to come together and to witness to our faith.

It is good to remind ourselves from time to time that we are not the perfectly loving creatures that God intended for us to be. But it is also good to remind ourselves that, because of Jesus’ life, teachings, death, and resurrection, we have the potential and the power to be better versions of ourselves than we currently are. I invite you to spend some more time during this Lenten season to reflect on how much God loves you. Read the story of Christ’s suffering and death. Join with our siblings in Christ on Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday worship. AND THEN, come and joyously celebrate the Easter Resurrection and New Life!

Blessings,  
Pastor Char



We are having an HUMC Youth Lock-in at the church beginning at **5:00 p.m. Saturday March 2nd through Sunday worship**

**March 3rd** for our HUMC Youth (middle/high schoolers)! We will engage in fun, learning activities and fellowship, and Pastor Char

will be leading a Confirmation class for our upcoming Confirmands that will also serve as a great review for our post-confirmation youth as well. Kids will bring a sleeping bag and pillow, and any other overnight necessities. Confirmation kids also must bring their Confirmation Binders and Bibles. All Youth may leave their mobile devices at home as we will be “locked-in” from all outside distractions! Dinner, snacks, drinks and breakfast will be provided. We will have two adults (Pastor Char and Stephanie Claussen) staying overnight at the church with the Youth. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us! We are looking forward to this adventure!



In the month of March we will be collecting donations to the Repair the Harm to Children Campaign. HUMC has pledged to give \$1,350 this year.

Please consider making a donation to this important campaign. To learn more, [click here](#).



March 10th is UMCOR Sunday! Funds received on this day will join with those of millions of other United Methodists to help UMCOR cover the costs of doing business so that 100% of donations received for emergency appeals go directly to communities in need. For more information, [click here](#).

## N.O.W. Team - Mission Program 2024

Our mission at Hebron United Methodist Church is "To create pathways to serve and love God's people." Our N.O.W. Team along with the Church Works class have put together the HUMC Mission Program for 2024. We will continue our goal of being a Mission Links church by giving to Mission Links projects and Special Sundays throughout the year. For 2024 we have selected 7 Mission Links projects and any funds raised for these 7 missions will be matched (up to \$200) by HUMC. Our first Mission Links project in February was for Reconciling Ministries Network which raised \$497.00 with matching funds!

We are excited that this year our Church Works class will be creatively tracking our mission work and progress. Check out our new Mission Wall in the Wesley Room which has all our 2024 Mission Projects ready to grow! For every \$10 raised, our Church Works class will be adding a leaf to the Mission branches. We look forward to this new year of giving! To learn more about our Mission Program, [click here](#).

*Special thanks to Bob Claussen and Lucas Bugar for sharing their gifts to create our new Mission Wall!*



Thank you to everyone who donated a book written by a Black author during Black History Month! These books will be donated to the Hebron Public Library as it continues to expand its resources to include a diverse range of voices and authors. We are very happy to be a part of this effort!



A big thank you to everyone who donated items for "Soup-er" Bowl Sunday/Month! We collected two car loads of items for the Hebron Community Food Pantry and we are so grateful for everyone who participated in this mission. A special thanks to Kris and Sharon for transporting all the donations to the food pantry, and to Shirlee for organizing this "Soup-er" food drive!



## Cultivating Health Ministries

We will once again be partnering with Cultivating Health Ministries and St. John's Lutheran Church in 2024 to provide A1C Screening/Diabetes Clinic and other important health programs in Hebron, IL. Our next A1C Screening date will be announced soon, so please check back on our website at [www.hebronmethodist.org](http://www.hebronmethodist.org) for upcoming information and events.



## HUMC Youth & Kids



Our HUMC Kids and Youth continue to learn and grow in this Lenten season. We are learning about Holy Week and how we see Jesus as fully divine and fully human in these final days of his life.

Recently, the HUMC Youth have been collaborating together to form a group they call "Worship Team Assemble!" We are very proud and grateful for the work they do each Sunday morning to prepare the pews, bulletins, communion, microphones/sound board, HUMC Kids clipboards, and mission envelopes. They have also put together a Mission Wall which will track our mission projects throughout the year!

### March Confirmation Schedule:

Saturday, March 2nd 5:00 p.m. (Lock in)

Sunday, March 24th 9:00 a.m.



## Muddy Shoes?

I once read an old joke about two Israelites who were following Moses across the bed of the Red Sea just after God parted the waters. One comments to the other, "Can you imagine what this mud is doing to our sandals? They're probably ruined."

Many of us are like that person in the story; we're so filled with worries that we completely miss the miracles and blessings all around us. We get stuck on things like the poor weather, the drip in the kitchen faucet, difficulties at work and/or at home, the insensitive or impatient driver on the road or the customer in line at the pharmacy who is in a hurry. At the same time, we take for granted or even ignore the many blessings we receive each and every day - love from family and friends, a warm and dry place to live, the security of a job or pension, and the freedom to worship God as we wish.

James 1:17 says "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." God is able to do more than all we ask or imagine. Faith focuses not on the problems of the moment but on the many blessings in each day. You are invited to join us in church this Lenten Season to be renewed and reminded of all God has and continues to do for us all.

Peace and Blessings,  
Your brother in Christ,  
Roy Bailey



There are two meetings left in the winter/spring session for Productive Aging: *Love God - Body, Mind, Spirit*. We have been studying and memorizing verses from Psalms, Exodus, and Ecclesiastes, and will be studying Scripture from the New Testament in the remaining weeks. We've connected these lessons with movement in our strengthening class and with our surprise activity which varies each week. So far, we've planted flowers, took a watercolor art class, tested our music trivia knowledge, and competed in some friendly party games. We have new people joining us every week, so please come March 6th and/or March 13th for our final meetings! Plans for our summer session are underway!

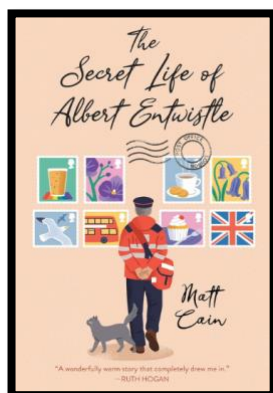


Some seeds you plan, plant and nurture, others just sprout and surprise you! We have a wonderful intergenerational puzzle club that has sprouted in our church! All ages have been enjoying this "unofficial program" and we are so thrilled that this is becoming a new tradition here at HUMC. Thank you to those who have been anonymously donating puzzles to our growing collection!



We will be updating our Church Directory in April/May! We'll be reaching out to you soon for updated photos and contact information.





Happy 1st Anniversary HUMC! We celebrated one year of being a Reconciling Congregation on February 18, 2024 with a special worship service and reception (with rainbow cookie decorating!). We heard from the RMN Working Group - now called G.R.A.C.E. - about the journey of Growth, Reconciliation, and Acceptance our church has undergone, of the Community we have built, and the Education we have received and continue to receive to become a more inclusive church. G.R.A.C.E. is a new group, open to anyone, who would like to continue this journey. We will be meeting soon to plan our Pride Sunday worship service and upcoming education events. If you are interested in joining please reach out to a G.R.A.C.E. team member or email [churchoffice@hebronmethodist.org](mailto:churchoffice@hebronmethodist.org).

A big thank you to everyone who attended the RMN Book Club & Workshop on January 28th. Our discussion on *Transforming* by Austen Hartke was very eye opening and meaningful - and lengthy! We did not have time to do our Pronoun Workshop at this gathering so we will save it for the next Book Club event which will take place **Sunday, April 28th after worship**. Our next book is an uplifting fictional story inspired partly by the author's own experiences: *The Secret Life of Albert Entwistle* by Matt Cain. Find the book online or let someone from G.R.A.C.E. know if you'd like to borrow a copy.



**Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> - 3pm Sharp!**

3 Age Groups - 0-3yrs, 4-6yrs & 7-9yrs(4<sup>th</sup> Grade)

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

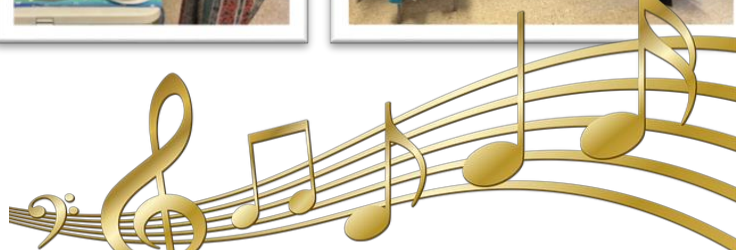
St. John's Lutheran Church - 9812 St. Albans Street, Hebron IL

**\*\*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

St. John's Lutheran is once again hosting a FREE Easter Egg Hunt on March 30th at 3:00 p.m. Donations will be accepted to support our community Vacation Bible School Program. Anyone interested in helping to prepare the eggs for this hunt, head to St. John's on Sunday, March 10th at 11:00 a.m. Pancakes will be served!



*The pupils of  
Tufo School of Music  
cordially invite you and your friends to attend their  
64th Annual  
Commencement Musicale  
Sunday, April 28, 2024 3:00 p.m.  
at the Hebron United Methodist Church*

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



Family and friends of Kris Bottlemy's Aunt  
Raynie who recently passed away  
Kate Johnson, recovering from an injury  
Debbie Arnold's friend recovering from a broken  
ankle

Alberta Austin, experiencing a health problem,  
and her son, Donny, experiencing health  
problems

Erin Englehardt's co-worker, Pat Kerney,  
diagnosed with esophageal cancer

James Hampton, his mother, his family on the  
loss of several members

Karen Vipond's nephew, Mark, recovering from  
cancer; John Button, experiencing health  
problems

Roy Bailey

Harold and Juanita Bailey; Juanita's friend,  
Betty Recob's husband, Jim, recovering from  
cancer surgery

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

Glenn Hoffmann recovering from cellulitis

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

Our former Pastor Paul & Lynn

Dorothy Peterson

Betty 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;  
and Israel during this trying time of  
war. Surround those affected by these 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 all children who have been victims  
of abuse.

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](mailto: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 during Worship/Confirmation and Youth meet at 9:00 a.m.



## Opportunities to Give

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously and worked so hard to support our missions in February! We received \$497.00 for Reconciling Ministries Network! We also received many donations for the Hebron Community Food Pantry as well as a handful of new books for the Hebron Public Library. Thank you! Here are the upcoming ways you can give this month:

- 1) Repair the Harm Campaign - entire month of March
- 2) Special Sunday - UMCOR Sunday March 10th
- 3) Special Sunday - Noisy Can Sunday/United Voices for Children - Easter Sunday March 31st
- 4) Local Giving - Vacation Bible School Easter Egg Hunt Fundraiser

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



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