



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



Catch the Spirit!

www.hebronmethodist.org

APRIL 2024

The Pastor Ponders... ...What is General Conference?

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2: 4-5)

For the last several Sundays, we have been praying for all of the delegates to The UMC General Conference which will be held April 23 – May 3, 2024 in Charlotte, NC. Normally, General Conference meets every 4 years, however a couple of factors have had an impact on the frequency of when the delegates have come together recently. Challenges surrounding LGBTQ+ legislation caused the Council of Bishops to suggest that voting on these resolutions be held at a special session in 2018/19. Many will recall that, at that session, the voting indicated a move in the direction of further exclusion of LGBTQ+ siblings and penalties to pastors and churches for acts such as ordaining or officiating at weddings of LGBTQ+ persons. Again, the Bishops asked members of the UMC to hold a moratorium on enforcing the penalties until further discussion at the 2020 General Conference. A resolution on procedures for dissenting churches to disaffiliate was also addressed.

(continued on page 2)

Mark your Calendars

Sunday, April 14th
9:00 a.m. Confirmation
Native American Ministries Sunday

Sunday, April 21st
9:00 a.m. Church Council
HUMC Kids/Youth Craft Auction
after worship to benefit Hebron Animal Clinic's
Compassion Fund

Sunday, April 28th
9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class
RMN Book Club & Pronoun Workshop
after worship, light lunch provided

April 23rd - May 3rd
UMC General Conference, Charlotte, NC

Sunday, May 5th
Tufo School of Music
Commencement Musicale
2:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 12th
9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class
Mother's Day
Last day of Church Works/Sunday School

Sunday, May 19th
Pentecost
Confirmation Day 10:30 a.m.
Reception after service

The Pastor Ponders (continued)

Due to COVID, the 2020 General Conference never happened, and while there has been some legislation enacted to address budgetary issues and other administrative tasks to keep the denomination running, legislation regarding our stand on LGBTQ+ persons and other topics could not be debated. So, technically, this 2024 General Conference is really the 2020 General Conference and the delegates elected to attend in 2024 basically will be those elected for 2020.

General Conference is the highest body of The UMC and sets the official policy and speaks on behalf of the denomination. It is tasked with revising *The Book of Discipline*, *The Book of Resolutions*, and amendments to the Constitution. It also elects members of the Judicial Council and sets the budget for the next 4 years. *The Book of Discipline* (UMC Constitution) requires 600 – 1,000 delegates (½ clergy, ½ laity) from around the world to be in face-to-face attendance in order to properly meet. Any member of The UMC may submit petitions to be acted upon. Legislation which is voted in becomes effective January 1 or the following year.

At this General Conference, delegates will be debating regionalization, changes to the clergy retirement plans (in the US), and language in *The Book of Discipline* and policy regarding our LGBTQ+ siblings, among other things. All of these topics, plus other issues, and the fact that 25% of UMC churches in the US have disaffiliated will have a significant impact on the budget for the coming years, including how we fund UMCOR, missionaries, our seminaries, and other agencies.

I know that this is a lot to assimilate, much of it might appear to be in a totally foreign language. Please feel free to ask me or Kris Bottlemy (HUMC Lay Member to Annual Conference) about questions you may have. www.resourceumc.org is an excellent place to go for information, now and throughout General Conference. Please continue to keep General Conference and our delegates in prayer.

Blessings,
Pastor Char



All this year, the HUMC Kids/Youth have been working on a special mission project called "*All God's Creatures*" which kicked-off on Rally Day back in September 2023. They held a pet food drive to fill the Pet Pantry in Hebron, they collected food and monetary donations for the Valley of the Kings Sanctuary and Retreat, they visited the Valley of the Kings with the HUMC congregation to raise awareness of these special animals in need, and they held a cookie sale to raise funds for Pets for Vets in the Chicagoland area. They have worked all year to raise over \$1,400.00 so far!

The HUMC Kids/Youth will now be holding their final fundraiser for their *All God's Creatures* mission project. On April 21st after worship, you are invited to pick up a bidding paddle and participate in the **All God's Creatures Craft Auction!** Our HUMC Kids & Youth have been working hard to create unique, homemade crafts of God's beautiful creatures. These homemade creations will go up for auction and be sold to the highest bidder! All proceeds from this event will go to the Hebron Animal Clinic's Compassion Fund so that a pet in need here in Hebron can receive care they may have not otherwise have been able to receive.

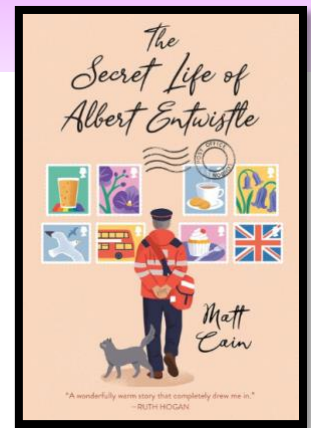
Come support our HUMC Kids/Youth and have some fun!



G.R.A.C.E. - Book Club April 28th

There is still time to order and read our Book Club selection for this spring! *The Secret Life of Albert Entwistle* by Matt Cain is a fictional and uplifting story of love and second chances. Our book discussion will be held Sunday, April 28th after worship and will include a light lunch. Since we did not have time to do our pronoun workshop at our last event, we will begin with that and then continue on with our book discussion. Whether you have read the book or not, we hope you join us for this fun event!

Also, mark your calendars for Pride Sunday on June 9th. Are you interested in helping to plan this special service? Contact one of the G.R.A.C.E. team members to join us for our next meeting or email churchoffice@hebronmethodist.org



Native American Ministries Sunday - April 14th

Native American Ministries Sunday is a very special day that United Methodist churches across the country celebrate every year. With a special offering on April 14th, we honor and empower the Native Americans in our church community. The struggles of First Americans are often invisible. As a result of historic and ongoing institutional racism, our Native communities experience high rates of poverty and suicide. As United Methodists, we have vowed to seek reconciliation with Native Americans and are committed to represent their community in a way that befits their proud heritage. The offering we will collect on April 14th specifically supports Native American seminarians, strengthens, develops and equips Native American rural, urban, and reservation congregations, ministries and communities and annual conference Native American Ministries.



The Power of Easter

I don't know all of the specifics as to how the engine on my car works. But I do know the basics of upkeep for my vehicle. Where the gas and oil go plus how to keep the washer fluid filled and based on my experience, I expect that the car will start when I turn the key. Once started and the transmission engaged, it will take me where I need to go. I depend on that power every time I get into the car. I haven't seen the risen Christ, nor have I touched him as Thomas did. But based on my experience, I know that Christ can supply all I need for my life. Every day I depend on that power demonstrated by an empty tomb on Easter morning. Best of all, the saving power of Christ is never in short supply. Unlike my car, I don't have to refill the Lord with needed fluids and maintenance items. I just need to believe and everything the Lord gives you and me is free for the taking. Blessed are those of us who have not seen and yet believe. What more could any of us ask for.

I look forward to praying with each of you in church this Easter season.

Peace and Blessings, Your brother in Christ,
Roy Bailey

HUMC Youth & Kids



Our Youth Overnight Lock-in the first weekend of March was a GREAT success! We played games, had pizza, competed in Marshmallow Olympics, belted out an eclectic playlist during our open mic night, watched a movie late into the night, and then woke up to a pancake breakfast! We also participated in some time for prayer, reflection and discussion which was very moving and inspiring. The younger kids are now calling out for "their turn!" We look forward to doing this again! A big thank you to Pastor Char for her endless energy!! Thank you also to Steve and Chela who provided the pancake breakfast.

We had a beautiful Holy Week and Easter! The HUMC Kids and Youth helped sing and pass out Palms on Palm Sunday, and on Easter they joined their voices together to sing The Lord's Prayer. Thank you HUMC Kids & Youth for your participation every week, but most especially during this special time.

Don't forget, April 21st is our final fundraiser for our All God's Creatures mission program! See those details on Page 2 of this newsletter!



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 shortly, so please check back on our website at www.hebronmethodist.org for upcoming information and events.

April/May Confirmation Schedule:

Sunday, April 14th 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, April 28th 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 12th 9:00 a.m.

Confirmation Day will be on May 19th!

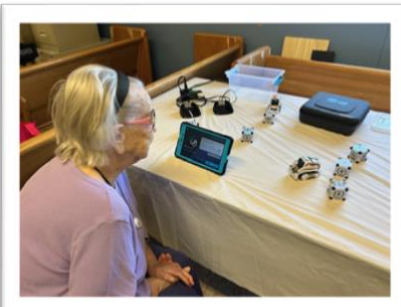


We will be updating our Church Directory in April/May! We'll be reaching out to you soon for updated photos and contact information.





Our Winter/Spring Productive Aging session completed its final two meetings in March. We studied passages in the Book of Revelation and the Book of Philippians, incorporated some prayer into our stretch and strengthening class, and enjoyed our surprise activities which included a S.T.E.M. Fair and a tea tasting. We very much enjoyed our time together this session and we'd like to thank Pastor Char for leading our Scripture study and to Lynda Rohe and the Harvard Community Senior Center for their partnership in this program. Plans for our June/July summer session are underway!



Thank you to all our singers who participated in the Lenten Choir/Praise & Worship Team! We were blessed by the music they shared throughout Holy Week and especially on Easter Sunday! Our choir rehearsals are now on pause until the fall season, but for anyone who would like to provide special music throughout the summer, please contact Stephanie, Shirlee, or email churchoffice@hebronmethodist.org



The pupils of the Tufo School of Music cordially invite you and your friends to attend their 64th Annual Commencement Musicale Sunday May 5, 2024 2:00 p.m. at the Hebron United Methodist Church



On March 10th we welcomed the Kasten Family as our newest members to HUMC! We are overjoyed to have them as part of our church family!

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

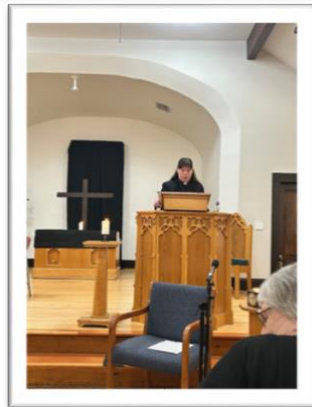
Holy Thursday



Palm Sunday



Good Friday



VBS Egg Hunt at St. John's



Easter Sunday!



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



The Heide family on the passing of Dorothy and John
Dan Staten's son, Nick
Kate Johnson, recovering from surgery
Alberta Austin, in rehab after being in the hospital, and her son, Donny, experiencing health problems ***Anyone wishing to send a card to Alberta see below
Erin Englehardt's co-worker, Pat Kerney, diagnosed with esophageal cancer
James Hampton, his mother, Marjorie, his aunts, Barbara Jean and Deborah, both diagnosed with cancer, and his brother-in-law, James, facing possible surgery
Karen Vipond's nephew, Mark, recovering from cancer and her niece, Sharon, recovering from a fall
The family of John Button who recently passed away
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
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

***Alberta Austin, c/o Alden Terrace of McHenry, 803 Royal Dr., McHenry, IL 60050

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

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 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 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 March! We received \$84.88 for United Voices for Children, \$159.00 for Repair the Harm Campaign, and \$185.00 for UMCOR! We also received many donations for the Hebron Community Food Pantry during our Community Maundy Thursday service. Thank you! Here are the upcoming ways you can give this month:

- 1) HUMC Kids/Youth Mission - Craft Auction for the Hebron Animal Clinic - April 21
- 2) Special Sunday - Native American Ministries Sunday - April 14
- 3) Local Giving - Vacation Bible School
- 4) Local Giving - Hebron Community Food Pantry

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



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