



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

Catch the Spirit!

www.hebronmethodist.org

APRIL 2025

The Pastor Ponders...

...How Are Things in Your Garden?

For as the earth brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.
(Isaiah 61:11)

The first Sunday in April, we are planning to have a hymn sing during worship, so start considering a favorite or two you might like to sing. I've found it is fairly common for #314 *In the Garden* to make the Top Ten, especially during the Spring/Easter season. It may have something to do with the fact that the daffodils are beginning to sprout, rhubarb is peeking up through the dirt, and the farmers are out preparing the fields or planting crops, that causes me to want to go dig in the dirt, or at least dream of the beautiful garden that just might spring up in my back yard.

The image of the garden is prominent in scripture. In the opening chapters of Genesis, the garden is the home of all of God's special creatures – birds, fish, animals, humans – as well as a place filled with abundant delights – flowers, food, and clear, running water. The garden provided welcome shade during the day, and a place where the humans walked and talked with their Creator in the coolness of the evening.

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Mark your Calendars

Sunday, April 6th
Hymn Sing Worship Service

Thursday April 10th
Winter/Spring Productive Aging
Chair Tai Chi 9:30 a.m./Lenten Study 10:15 a.m.

Sunday, April 13th - Palm Sunday!
Choir meets 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 17th
Maundy Thursday Community Worship Service
at Alden UMC 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service, April 18th 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 19th - 3:00 p.m.
Easter Egg Hunt at St. John's/VBS Fundraiser

Sunday, April 20th - Easter Sunday!
Choir meets 9:30 a.m.
Bring a flower to celebrate the day!

Sunday, April 27th
Mission Links: UMCOR
AED Refresher Training after worship

**SAVE THE DATE for the
HUMC Centennial Celebration!**
July 5th & 6th
More information coming soon!

The Pastor Ponders (continued)

Throughout history, gardens are places where folks rested, studied, picnicked, bathed in the cool waters, and worshipped. Gardens were places where one spent quality time with one's beloved. While gardens were sometimes used as places of burial, they still may have been places of beauty and peace, much as cemeteries are today. In the Bible, references to gardens often symbolized fertility and blessing, hope, promise, and prosperity.

Jesus could often be found in the garden teaching and praying. It was in the garden that Jesus asked his disciples to watch and pray with him that final evening. It was to a tomb in a garden that Jesus' body was taken following his crucifixion. And it was in the garden that Mary encountered the resurrected Christ for the first time ever. The garden symbolizes blessing, hope, and new life.

On Easter, we fill our chancel with beautiful flowers reminding us of the delightful garden of Genesis and the lovely garden that first Easter morning, God's promise of new life, and love, and hope, and blessing. (You can be part of creating HUMC's Easter garden. Look further in this newsletter.)

Where is your "garden"? Where do you find rest, recreation, God? As we are finishing the season of Lent and approaching Easter, I invite you to spend some quiet time in the garden, walking and talking with God, finding a little peace, letting God's Spirit fill your soul, enjoying the delights of God's world around you and giving thanks.

And God walks with me, and God talks with me, and God tells me I am God's own; and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known. (UMH #314)

May you find hope and blessing, peace and renewal, *Pastor Char*



FREE! Annual Community FREE!

You're Invited!

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 19th - 3pm Sharp!

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****

St. John's Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 19th at 3:00 p.m. This event is free, but donations for the A-H Community Vacation Bible School program will be accepted! Please consider supporting our VBS program!



Palm Sunday
Sunday, April 13th
10:30 a.m.

**Maundy Thursday Community
Worship Service at Alden UMC**
Thursday, April 17th
16532 IL-173, Harvard, IL
7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service
Friday, April 18th
7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 20th
10:30 a.m.



Let's create an Easter Garden! On Easter Sunday, we invite you to bring a flower, plant or bouquet to place on and around our altar! Let's fill our Sanctuary with color, newness of life, and hope on Easter morning!



Cultivating Health Ministries



Our 6-week Productive Aging session for Winter/Spring is coming to a close on Thursday, April 10th. If you haven't attended and would like to come to our final Productive Aging session, please feel free to join us! We begin with a 40-minute Chair Tai Chi class led by Stephanie Claussen at 9:30 a.m. Then at 10:15 a.m. Pastor Char Hoffmann will lead us through the final chapter of Adam Hamilton's *24 Hours That Changed the World*.



Save the date for our AED refresher course at HUMC! On Sunday, April 27th at 11:30 a.m. after morning worship, Sharon Smith will provide AED training for anyone who needs a refresher class. Come learn how you can save a life!



N.O.W. TEAM

Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another. Ephesians 4:32

As I read this verse it reminds me of people who feel as though they are on the “outside looking in.” We all have the opportunity to extend our kindness and forgiveness to not only the people we know but to strangers, and to people we might normally shy away from. A kind word, a smile, a compliment - when done with sincerity will make a difference in someone’s day. To borrow the words of Justin Bieber:

“Forgiveness is for everyone; is for free; is for friendship; is for today; is for forever; is for the forgotten; is for your enemy; is for your past; is for your present; is for your future; but most important forgiveness is for Him.” As it is written in Luke 23:34: *“Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.’”*

May everyone have a blessed Easter.
Shirlee and Alberta. co-chairs of Nurture





We received the following card from our District Superintendent, Rev. Wendy Hardin Hermann:

Dear Pastor Char and Hebron UMC,

Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity in paying 100% apportionments in 2024! Your commitment to our United Methodist Connection is an example to all, and a way of living out the hope we know in Jesus Christ! I look forward to being with you over the July 4 weekend to celebrate the 100th anniversary of your sanctuary. Thank you for being a witness to the love of Christ in Hebron, for 100 years and even more!

*In Christ-
Wendy*



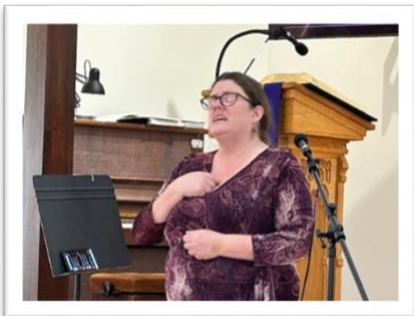
A big thank you to Zeke Nickels for repaving the church property driveway!



HUMC KIDS



Our Sunday School and Church Works classes have been busy preparing for Holy Week! Our intergenerational choir has been rehearsing special music planned for Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday! We have continued to enjoy special music by our children during our Sunday worship services this month. We also very much enjoyed Special Music from our congregation! Candy Wasicak sang with sign language this past month and we look forward to hearing from her again at the Good Friday service.



Please mark your calendars for our HUMC Kids/Youth's final mission fundraiser for their Kids Helping Kids mission program! **After worship on May 18th** they will once again host a Craft Auction! Lunch and bidding paddles will be provided! Don't miss out on this fun event which will help raise funds for tools needed for the construction of Never Say Never playground going up this summer! This date will also mark the final day of another amazing Church School year!

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



The Klein family on the passing of Adam's father, Sol
Shirlee Correll's friend, Lori, diagnosed with cancer
Stephanie Kasten's friend, Mary, experiencing multiple problems
Kris Bottlemy and family on the passing of Aunt Kipp
Harold, Juanita and Roy Bailey
Sandy Rutherford, experiencing health problems, and Rose as she cares for him
Karen Vipond's friend, Bob Athey, going through cancer treatments, and her brother George, diagnosed with cancer
Marj O'Halleran experiencing health problems
Dale Walker's friend Sandy's mom on her diagnosis of cancer
Dan Staten's son, Nick
Alberta Austin at Alden Terrace ***Anyone wishing to send a card see below***
James Hampton; his mother, Marjorie; and his brother-in-law, James, experiencing heart problems
Dave Dickey
Joan O'Halleran, recovering from surgery
Katelyn Winter Sampson
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 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 & safety for all those who defend & protect us

We pray for peace for all countries during these trying times of war and unrest. 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, women, men 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 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. Wendy Hardin Hermann, our Bishop Dan Schwerin, 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.

***Alberta Austin
c/o Alden Terrace
803 Royal Drive, Rm. 602
McHenry, IL 60050

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP SUNDAYS AT 10:30 A.M



Opportunities to Give

Thank you to everyone who gave in March to our missions! We collected \$205.00 for UMCOR Sunday and \$50.20 for United Voices for Children. Thank you! [Click here](#) for our Mission Links Program 2025. Upcoming ways you can give this month:

- 1) Mission Links - [UMCOR Where Most Needed](#) (HUMC will match up to \$200) - April 27th
- 2) Local Giving - VBS Easter Egg Hunt & VBS Fundraiser - April 19th
- 3) Local Giving - Hebron Community Food Pantry
(any Sunday in February- baskets in back of Sanctuary).

Monetary donations to restock the pantry's meat supply will also be accepted and appreciated!

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



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