



United Methodist Church of Owatonna

April 2024

Greetings Brother's & Sister's in Christ,

In worship last Sunday I shared this story and feel it is worth mentioning here:

In the book *Unfinished Business*, Halford Luccock told a story of the little town of Flagstaff, Maine. The town was to be flooded as part of a large lake for which a dam was being built. All improvements and repairs in the whole town were stopped. What was the use of painting a house if it was to be covered with water in six months? Why repair anything when the whole village was to be wiped out? So, week by week, the whole town became more and more bedraggled, more gone to seed, more woebegone. Then Luccock added by way of explanation, **"Where there is no faith in the future, there is no power in the present."**

God asks us to be forward leaning - to look to the future with faith and hope. A message that is timely for these weeks of Easter (the weeks following Easter and before Pentecost). For this is a time of renewal and hope! Just as "April Showers Bring May flowers" we too must face the rain (or snow) before we can see the hope bloom.

I have had times in my life when I have struggled to see a bright future and been uncertain of where God is leading me. I wasn't one of those kids who knew at a tender young age what they wanted to be when they "grow up." Growing up in the 70's in my rural United Methodist Church I had never seen or even heard of a "woman" pastor. Yet when I look back from then to now I can see where the hand of God guided me to this place and this time. I can see the path laid out and that has given me the faith to trust God with my next steps.

The same is true for Owatonna United Methodist Church! Seeds of hope have been planted, new members, new visitors, new ideas, and new ministries are all beginning to bloom. This "Easter" season is a good time to grow into our new life –to face forward, ready to go where God is leading. Join us for worship this month –come and see all the good things God is doing. We will be focusing on the epistle of John, not one we usually dive into but it holds the keys to how we live.

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God" (I John 3:1); "Since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another" (I John 4:8).

Blessings Pastor Lisa

United Methodist Church of Owatonna

815 E University
Owatonna MN 55060
507-451-4734 (Main Office)
Email: oumcoffice1@gmail.com

Website: www.owatonnaumc.org

Find us on Facebook:

Owatonna United Methodist Church

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday
8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

9:15 a.m. Connect Club

Livestream: www.owatonnaalive.com & Facebook



Pastor: Lisa Vick

Church Phone: 507-451-4734

Cell: 612-558-5316

E-mail: pastoroumc@gmail.com

Minister of Music: Mary Hitzeman

Phone: 507-451-4734

E-mail: maryhitzeman@gmail.com

Administrator: Karen Nirk

Phone: 507-451-4734

E-mail: oumcoffice1@gmail.com

APRIL WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

April 1-6: Marian Miller; Christ Minske; Michele Minske; Glen Moen; Kayle, Andrew & Madison; Mary Monson

April 7-13: Pam Mount; Barbra Green; Steve & Amy Mussman; Bill Nespor; Sam & Maggie Ochocki: Troy; Loren & Mary Olson; Shirley Olson

April 14-20: Audrey Parker; Joyce Parker; Phillip Parker; Daniel Peach; Jeffery & Sheri Peach; Dorothy Petersen

April 21-27: Judy Phillips; Michelle Pittman & Tony Pyatt: Grace Pyatt; Tom & Patricia Raetz; Margaret Randall; Howard & Pat Rethemeier; Arlene Rhodes

April 28-May 3: Jeremy Saufferer; Joseph Saufferer; Caitlin Schneider; Chelsea Schneider; Mitchell Schneider; Todd & Susan Schneider: McKinley

WHY WE PRAY? As Christians, we should be reminded to ask for God's guidance and pray over our friends, family and members of our congregation. Please just take a minute or two daily to have a conversation with God. You can be on a walk, driving, getting ready in the morning...there is never a time that doesn't work for God. He always has time to listen to your prayers!



Pastor Lisa Vick is available for home visits and counseling when requested, as well as hospital visits when informed. Remember that the hospital does not inform us of your admission. Pastor Lisa can be reached at (612) 558-5316.



Council of Stewards

Meeting Date:

Sunday,
April 14th, 2024
10:05 a.m./Matthew
Room



**Craft
Day**

April 19th, 2024
In the Fellowship Hall
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Newsletter Deadline

For May's Newsletter

Monday, April 15th, 2024



April Birthday's

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Adeline Schroht | 4/2 |
| Curtis Hortop | 4/3 |
| Karen Kanne | 4/4 |
| Jean Krause | 4/4 |
| Loren Olson | 4/6 |
| Sandy Emry | 4/6 |
| Tammy Loquai | 4/9 |
| Bret Huisenga | 4/10 |
| Dylan Hortop | 4/10 |
| Allan Miller | 4/10 |
| Jack Kleeberger | 4/15 |
| Diana Johnson | 4/15 |
| Donna Kading | 4/16 |
| Michell Schneider | 4/18 |
| Sherry Lehigh | 4/22 |
| Mary Monson | 4/22 |
| Mitchell Beck | 4/23 |
| Karl Steckelberg | 4/23 |
| Donna Froman | 4/27 |
| Daria Stransky | 4/29 |

Howard & Mary Van Binsbergen
 Michael & Rhonda Guthier
 Karl & Nancy Luiken

Meeting dates:

* *United Women of Faith Board Meeting:*
 None for the month of April

* *Charity Circle Meeting:*
 Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.
 in The Fellowship Hall
 (Barbara Green: Hostess)

* *Faith Circle Meeting:*
 Wednesday, April 24, 2024
 at 9:00 a.m.



Join the *KnitWits* in the Matthew Room every Thursday at 4 p.m. to enjoy needlework, conversation and fellowship. Brenda Ambe is a great resource for knitting challenges and will be present to assist with projects.



Join the UWF for coffee in 2024 April 10, 2024

They meet at Hy-Vee on the second Wednesday of every month at 9:00 a.m. What could be better than coffee and fellowship in the morning? Please know that ALL ladies of the church are welcome to come to any UWF event.



~Notes from The Choir Loft~



Greetings from the Choir Loft! In April we start with the 2nd Sunday of Easter and end with the 5th Sunday of Easter.

2nd Sunday of Easter, Communion Sunday, April 7

Our anthem today is "Walk by Faith!" written by J. Paul Williams, with music composed by Joel Raney. The words relate examples of strong faith from the Bible – Noah, David, Moses, Esther, Deborah and Hanna. We are encouraged to "walk by faith, and not by sight," which reflects today's St. John scripture story about "doubting Thomas."



3rd Sunday of Easter – Native American Indians Sunday, April 14

Our centering hymn today is a prayer from the Cherokee Nation - "May the warm winds of heaven blow softly on your house. May the Great Spirit bless all who enter here." Today's anthem "Day of Arising" reflects the Easter message in the scripture from St. Luke.

4th Sunday of Easter – April 21

Both Psalm 23 and the St. John scripture focus on Jesus and the good shepherd. The Chancel Choir will sing "Shepherd Me, O God", with words and music written by Marty Haugen, who was born in Wanamingo, Minnesota. Although he was raised in the Lutheran Church and graduated from Luther College, his first job was as a worship leader in a Catholic parish in Minnesota in 1973. He began composing there in response to the quality of some of the music he was required to lead.

5th Sunday of Easter – April 28

Today's anthem "Christ Is the Vine" by Marilyn and James Biery quotes scripture from St. John with Jesus saying, "I am the vine, you are the branches." The anthem goes on to add "growing in unity with each new strand," and "nurtured and pruned by the vinegrower's hand."

James Biery is an American organist who is Minister of Music at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan. He was Director of Music at the Cathedral of St. Paul in St. Paul, Minnesota from 1996-2010. He and his wife, Marilyn, shared the organ and conducting duties at the Cathedral.

~Mary Hitzeman



3-Care Centers in 3 hours on Thursdays!



Pastor Lisa would like to invite family members who have a loved one in an Assisted Living/Nursing home to join her when she leads worship the month of April.

Or if you want to join her to visit with the residents, she welcomes you to come and join in on the fellowship.

Thursday, April 4th: 2:00 p.m. Bridgewater
3:00 p.m. Birchwood Cottages North Building
3:45 p.m. Birchwood Cottages South Building

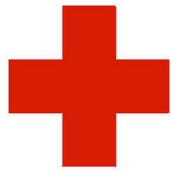
Thursday April 11th: 2:00 p.m. Valley Terrace (FKA Valley View)
3:00 p.m. Ecumen-Brooks Memory Care
3:45 p.m. Ecumen-Brooks Assisted Living

Thursday April 18th: 2:00 p.m. Benedictine Living Community
3:00 p.m. Traditions 2 Senior Community & Memory Care

Thursday April 25th: 2:00 p.m. Ecumen-Countryside
3:00 p.m. Timberdale Trace-Asst. Living
3:45 p.m. Timberdale Trace-Memory Care

Blood Drive: Thursday, April 25th, 2024

Please join us for our Blood Drive from Noon to 6:00 p.m.



There is a national blood shortage! The American Red Cross is asking for your help to restock the blood banks! You could be someone's hero, simply by donating life-saving blood!

**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life

Please go online to sign up
to donate:

redcrossblood.org

If interest in volunteering, please contact the church office. There will be sign up sheets in the Narthex the first Sunday of April.

Please share with friends and family and let's get all those slots filled to provide life-saving blood!

Pastor Lisa's April Sermon Series Information

Our Easter Season Series is **How Shall We Live?**

The season of Easter, or Eastertide, can be difficult to navigate. On the one hand, there is the ongoing unexplainable joy of Resurrection and the hope of new life. On the other hand, there is the inevitable feeling of "So, what?" as we notice that the world seems pretty much unchanged or perhaps even worse. This is exactly where we need to begin this series: "So, what? Christ is Risen!" That was our shout on Easter morning. "So, what?" "What difference has it made, is it making, and will it make in our lives day by day?" That is the question we are asking in this series for the beginning of the Easter season: How shall we live? To guide us through this series and to help us answer this vital question, we have the Epistle of John. Perhaps it's a surprising choice for some, but these letters can give us insight on life after Easter and how we might be witnesses to the kingdom, even as we wait for the fulfillment of the promise. We invite you and your congregation to explore what it means to be the church in a messy world as we consider how we shall live.

April Mission



We are always in need of monetary donations and gift cards of all varieties and can be sent directly to [Rachel's Light](#) or contact a donation coordinator through the form below or at donate2rachelslight@gmail.com .

Spring Wish List:

We are in need of the following items to keep out home running smoothly.

Questions can be directed to donate2rachelslight@gmail.com

- * Kwik Trip Gas Cards
- * Pots and Pans (new/gently used)
- * Silverware, sharp knives (new/gently used)
- * Bleach
- * Zip lock baggies (all sizes)
- * Brush/Combs (new)
- * Tampons
- * Pads
- * Shavers
- * Kleenex
- * Shampoo/conditioner
- * Body Wash
- * Fitted mattress covers (new)
- * New Socks (kids and adult)
- * New underwear (kids and adult)
- * Bras (all sizes)
- * New/gently used sheet sets (twin & queen size)
- * Clorox Wipes
- * Toothpaste (kids/adults)
- * Toothbrushes (kids/adults)
- * Paper Towels
- * Toilet Paper
- * Laundry Soap
- * Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- * Floor Cleaner
- * Postage Stamps
- * Cork Board (new)
- * 3M Strips
- * Deodorant
- * Disinfectant Cleaner
- * Gift Cards (Fleet Farm, Kwik Trip, Target etc..)



What's Happening in our Conference:

General Conference will be April 23-May 3! If you want to know more about what is happening use these resources:

[ResourceUMC's General Conference webpage](#) and [UM News](#). The Minnesota Annual Conference [Facebook page](#) will have regular updates as well. Also we will be posting update on our Owatonna UMC Facebook page.

Delegate Rev. Carol Zaagsma has asked us to remind our churches to get General Conference news from these official sources.



Earth Day is Monday, April 2nd, 2024

Earth Day

Word Search Puzzle



C O M P O S T E J N H R R S
 K L U A U L O Z O N E V F U L
 W F E K E N N I S E L N D E W V P
 I C K A R W T X T C O N A T U R E
 L D S S N U G N Y T O L W L A L N
 D N D Z L A U B Z Y H I V Q C H V
 L W I L R L I O O O K T I Y Z A I
 I Y O E O P Z R U P J T C E G B R
 F P T V K Q T G T V Y E V E Y I O
 E A R K O L C M M H R R R G N T N
 W Z X C A P W C D T E E O A P A M
 O T V B E A R T H S T L E T Y T E
 E P O H W O T N N A O C F G T K N
 P L A N E T W O M C O H R P R E T
 G R I T P F C I E U T E S J E A Y
 H C A W D T L R A I N F O R E S T
 A P R I L C S M G E M J G A S D R



- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|------------|
| APRIL | ENVIRONMENT | PLANET |
| CLEAN AIR | GLOBAL | POLLUTION |
| CLIMATE | GREEN | RAINFOREST |
| COMPOST | HABITAT | RECYCLE |
| CONSERVE | LITTER | TREES |
| EARTH | NATURE | VOLUNTEER |
| ECOLOGY | OCEAN | WATER |
| ENERGY | OZONE | WILDLIFE |



April Scripture Writing Plan



Each of the scriptures below takes ten minutes or less to copy out. Commit to spending ten minutes each day listening to God's voice as you simply copy these texts out of your Bible.

Day 1- Matthew 16:24-28
Day 2- John 11:25-26
Day 3- Matthew 21:1-11
Day 4- Luke 23:26-30
Day 5- Luke 23:33-38
Day 6- Luke 24:36-49
Day 7- Psalm 25:1-6

Day 8- Psalm 25:7-14
Day 9- Psalm 25:15-22
Day 10- Proverbs 3:3-12
Day 11- Colossians 3:22-25
Day 12- Romans 3:21-26
Day 13- Psalm 16:1-5
Day 14- Psalm 16:6-11

Day 15- Romans 2:1-4
Day 16- Isaiah 66:12-14
Day 17- James 5:7-11
Day 18- Isaiah 43:1-3
Day 19- Psalm 66:8-12
Day 20- Hebrews 4:15-16
Day 21- 1 John 5:1-5

Day 22- 1 John 5:6-12
Day 23- Psalm 105:1-5
Day 24- Psalm 106:1-5
Day 25- Colossians 3:1-3
Day 26- Hebrews 12:1-2
Day 27- Matthew 6:25-27
Day 28- Matthew 6:28-34

Day 29- John 14:1-4
Day 30- Psalm 150:1-6



Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.
Psalm 119:18

Writing
Scripture

Verse:

Scripture:

Thoughts & Notes:

Writing
Scripture

Verse:

Scripture:

Thoughts & Notes:

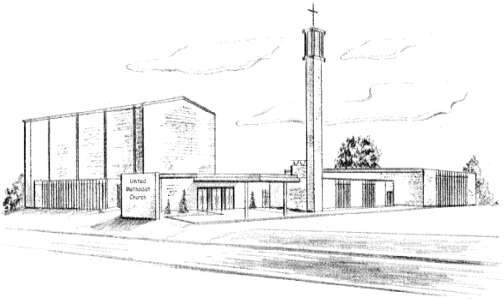
APRIL
Showers
BRING MAY
Flowers

April

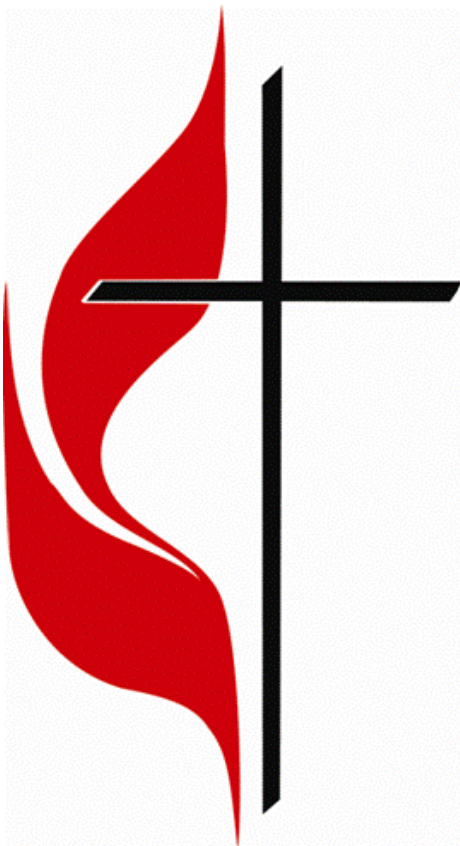


| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| | 1 | 2 * Pastor Lisa: Ministry Lunch- eon at OCC @Noon | 3 | 4 * KnitWits @ 4 p.m. | 5 | 6 |
| 7 * Worship w/ Communion @ 9:00 a.m. *Connect Club @ 9:15 a.m. | 8 | 9 * PEO Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. in the FH | 10 Coffee at Hy-Vee @ 9:00 a.m. | 11 * KnitWits @ 4 p.m. | 12 * Pastor Lisa on vacation though the 17th → | 13 Vacation→ |
| 14 * Worship @ 9:00 a.m. * Connect Club @ 9:15 a.m. * Council Meeting @ 10:05 a.m. in the Matthew Room → | 15 * Newsletter Deadline! * Pastor Lisa on vacation through the 17th → | 16 Vacation→ | 17 Vacation—* | 18 * KnitWits @ 4 p.m. | 19 * Craft Day 9 a.m.-4 p.m. In the FH | 20 |
| 21 * Worship @ 9:00 a.m. *Connect Club @ 9:15 a.m. | 22 Passover Begins Earth Day | 23 * Charity Circle @ 2:00 p.m. in the FH | 24 * Faith Circle @ 9:00 a.m. in the FH Administrative Professional's Day | 25 * KnitWits @ 4 p.m. * Blood Drive @ Noon to 6:00 p.m. in the FH World Malaria Day | 26 * Wedding: Jodi & Holly @ 4:00 p.m. National Arbor Day | 27 * R. Benjamin's Services: 12:30 p.m. Organ Prelude 1:00 p.m. Service 2:00 p.m. Recep- tion in the FH |
| 28 * Worship @ 9:00 a.m. *Connect Club @ 9:15 a.m. | 29 | 30 | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Owatonna United Methodist Church
815 E University Street
Owatonna MN 55060
oumcoffice1@gmail.com
Pastor Lisa Vick
(507) 451-4734



Return Service Requested



**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GATHER IN CHRIST'S NAME
GROW IN GOD'S LOVE
SERVE ALL PEOPLE**

~APRIL~

Sunday worship services
are available 24-7 on

www.owatonnalive.com

You can also watch live on
Facebook at 9 a.m. Like our page to keep
up to date on events at OUMC!