



# St. Mark's United Methodist Church

April 2025

We live to embrace and serve all with the courage of Jesus Christ to heal and reconcile ourselves and the world.

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## The Season of Lent

Lenten Study is wrapping up with just 3 studies in April. Our theme for this year has been from a book called The Third Day by Tom Berlin. It is looking at resurrection through the eyes of Mary Magdalene, Peter, Thomas, the men from Emmaus, and Paul. Each week walking the journey with each of these characters learning about what resurrection meant to them.

Remaining Lenten studies:

- Wednesday's: April 2 and 9 beginning at 6:00 PM with dinner (provided by Focus Forward) and Lenten study following from 6:30pm – 7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall
- Thursday: April 3 and 10 from 10:00am – 11:00am in the Sanctuary

If you have any questions, be sure to call the office or ask Pastor Alberta.

**You are welcome to join one or both studies as the group discussions will be different.**

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## Special Worship Services During Lent

**7:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

April 17<sup>th</sup> – **Maundy Thursday**

April 18<sup>th</sup> – **Good Friday**

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## United Methodist Men

**UMM will meet the second Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at the church with breakfast beginning at 8:00 AM.** Program will feature Chaplain Educator Rev. Steve Pohlman, manager of chaplaincy and CPE supervisor at St. Luke's hospital (now Unity-Point St. Luke's) in Sioux City for 30 years, retiring in 2010. He will speak about the crash of United Airlines flight 232 in Sioux City on July 19, 1989 when 184 passengers survived and 112 ultimately died. It was the most photographed crash in airline history since it took 45 minutes to land the plane after the three hydraulic systems failed due to one engine exploding. Nancy and Steve moved to Iowa City in June of 2023 to be nearer their children and grandchildren. All are welcome to join us. **Note UMM will meet the second Saturday beginning at 8:00 AM from now on.**

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## United Women in Faith

April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 PM. Program on Earth Day with a business meeting to follow.

**All invited to attend!!**

# Grayye Matters

The Tuesday April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting will be Separated by Jacob Soboroff. Grayye Matters is a monthly book club that meets in the Youth Room at 9:30 AM. **All are invited to attend!**

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## March 2025 Church Council Meeting Notes

The Church Council met Tuesday, March 11, 2024. The following is a summary of the meeting.

### Loving:

We opened our meeting with a prayer, and sharing of joys, concerns, and Glory Sightings.

### Learning:

Focus Forward (Angie Bywater) continued our book discussion on chapters 5 and 6 of "Power Surge." We also began working on a sample Ministry Action Plan (MAP) to see how this applies to ministries within St. Mark's

### Leading:

The various council teams reported the following discussions to the Council:

#### Loving Arms Team:

- The team from St. Mark's is continuing to work with the leadership of Loving Arms to create a positive relationship in our shared space until the time they move.

#### Trustees:

- Continuing repairs and enhancements in the church (furnace) and parsonage (railroad tie removal)

#### Finance:

- Brought a motion to continue the SLI engagement for year 2, with a cost of up to \$8,600. This motion passed at the Council Meeting, noting that we have applied for a grant to help lower this cost.
- Announced that Cory Berwald will chair the Chicken BBQ. Date in June is still TBD.

#### Worship:

- 28 people attended the Ash Wednesday service.
- Lenten dinner/Bible study will be held 5 Wednesday evenings, along with a 5 week Thursday morning Bible study.
- April 13 – Palm Sunday and Confirmation Sunday (led by our 2 confirmands) – fellowship time after this service to congratulate the confirmands.
- Pastor Alberta is looking for someone to help co-chair this committee.

#### Church and Society:

- No report

#### Outreach:

- Sarah Pringle announced that she will be stepping down as leader of the Backpack Program
- Program activities/responsibilities were shared with the Council, to get an idea of the time commitment and impact the program has on the recipients at Grant Wood Elementary
- Council decided that information would be put in the bulletin and newsletter asking for a volunteer to chair this mission project beginning next school year

#### Missions:

- Mission Team decided to donate \$500 from 52 Club funds to the Immigration Law Justice Network.
- It was suggested that information explaining what special offering money goes for be shared in the bulletin and newsletter.
- No special offerings have been identified for Palm Sunday or Easter. It was decided the two confirmands, Izzy and Averie, should designate Palm Sunday's special offering.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Alberta stated the goal for the recent special offering for a person in an abusive situation was not met. However, goal was met using the pastoral care fund, depleting this fund. Dennis will look at putting the pastoral care fund on the special offering calendar.

SPPRC:

- Reported that the new administrative coordinator will begin March 17<sup>th</sup>
- Lou Schooley is receiving a small stipend for her signing during worship
- Looking at ways to recruit volunteers

Discipleship:

- No report – tied in with Focus Forward discussion

Our meeting was closed with a benediction from Boyd Crosby.

For more detailed notes from the committees, please reach out to Rob Rindels at [robrindels@gmail.com](mailto:robrindels@gmail.com) and he will email you committee meeting minutes. We are not able to share the SPPRC minutes due to possible confidential staff information.

Council's May meeting will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.



Rev. Brian Oliver, Golden Valley District Superintendent, has put together a 2025 District Church Prayer List asking us to pray for specific churches and their clergy. The list for April includes:

April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Rochester UM Church and West :oberty UM Church, Pastors Chuck Klink and Paddy Druhl
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Letts UM Church-Riverside and Trinity UM Church, Pastor Marsha Gerot
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Columbus Junction UM Church and Columbus City UM Church, Pastor Benjamin Quint
April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Winfield UM Church-Morning Sun and Kingston UM Church, Pastors Brian Berges and Dane Feenstra



1<sup>st</sup> – Nancy Thayer and Hagen and Torben Opitz    8<sup>th</sup> – Cora Beland    9<sup>th</sup> – Lowell Fenner    10<sup>th</sup> Traci Huffman    11<sup>th</sup> – Ann Fenner and Barb Fisher-Krueger    12<sup>th</sup> – Larry Fountain    14<sup>th</sup> – Leslie Jenkins and Dianne Wasson    16<sup>th</sup> – Rob Beland and Mary Brown    17<sup>th</sup> – Laura Lage    20<sup>th</sup> – David Bywater    21<sup>st</sup> - Carol Preslicka    25<sup>th</sup> – Connor McDowell    28<sup>th</sup> – Ann Showers    29<sup>th</sup> – Ed Krogh, Anton Kruger and Barbara Roark

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## Thank You

A big "Thank You" to my St. Mark's family for all the birthday cards, calls, flowers and good wishes! Your kind thoughts made my special day extra-special. Many, many thanks! Jerine Strommer

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## Free Lunch

This month's day for St. Mark's to provide lunch at the **Free Lunch program is Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**. Pans will be available to pick up Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> for volunteers to prepare Tater Tot casserole (recipe provided). Also needed are bars and cookies.

Please bring these donations to church Sunday morning April 20<sup>th</sup>. There is also the opportunity to volunteer on Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> beginning as early as 10:30 preparing silverware packets, salad and dining room setup and serving food at noon and then cleanup after 1:00. This is a wonderful mission to those in need of a good meal.

Any questions, contact St. Mark's faithful Free Lunch Coordinator, Truda Kruger 319-354-5595.

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## News from our Golden Valley District

### "The United Methodist Church in Changing Times"

The class will be held April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Maquoketa, First UMC from 9-5. This seminar is being facilitated by:

- Bert Watson, a member of the DeWitt UM Church and a retired attorney.
- Clinton County Attorney Mike Wolf will speak on criminal justice.
- Rev. Tim Bonney will speak on regionalization.
- Rev. Eric Schubert will present information on Christian Nationalism.
- Bert Watson will lead a discussion of the current United Methodist Social Principles.

Reading requirement: The current social principles of the United Methodist Church.

A free will offering will be taken for the lunch provided. If interested in attending, please contact the church office, 319-337-7201 or [office@stmarks-umc.net](mailto:office@stmarks-umc.net). We will car pool the 1 hour drive to Maquoketa.

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## Clean Up Day – April 12th

**Mark your calendars!!!** The Trustees have set a date for church and parsonage clean up, April 12 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. You are invited to bring your lawn tools and help prepare St. Mark's church and parsonage grounds for spring and the glory of Easter

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## April Special Offerings

### **April 6<sup>th</sup> – Free Lunch**

The Free Lunch Program (FLP) is one of the “quiet services” in the Iowa City area that strives to do one thing well: provide a free, filling and healthy lunch to anyone who comes. Lunch is provided Monday through Saturday every week. Our church provides that free lunch once a month. Volunteers from our church serve the lunch. The special offering today is to help pay for the food and supplies needed to make the lunch each month.

**April 13<sup>th</sup> – Emma Nugent Scholarship Fund** - Supports a scholarship to a City High senior as we remember and honor of Emma Nugent.

**The Iowa City Animal Shelter** - supports and expands the animal care seeking health, comfort, freedom from fear, and a loving guardian for our Iowa City area animals.

### **April 20<sup>th</sup> – Easter**

### **April 27<sup>th</sup> – Native American Awareness**

United Methodists are called to recognize and honor the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society and church. The United Methodist Church acknowledges a gap in understanding Native American life and culture, while affirming the sacredness of Indigenous peoples, their languages, their unique identities and their contributions to the church and the world. Contributions help develop and strengthen Native American ministries within each United Methodist annual conference and provide scholarships for Native Americans pursuing ordained or licensed ministry.

**Special Offering envelopes are located in the sanctuary door bulletin holders.**

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St. Mark's United Methodist Church  
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Website: [stmarks-umc.net](http://stmarks-umc.net)  
Worship Sunday morning 9:30am