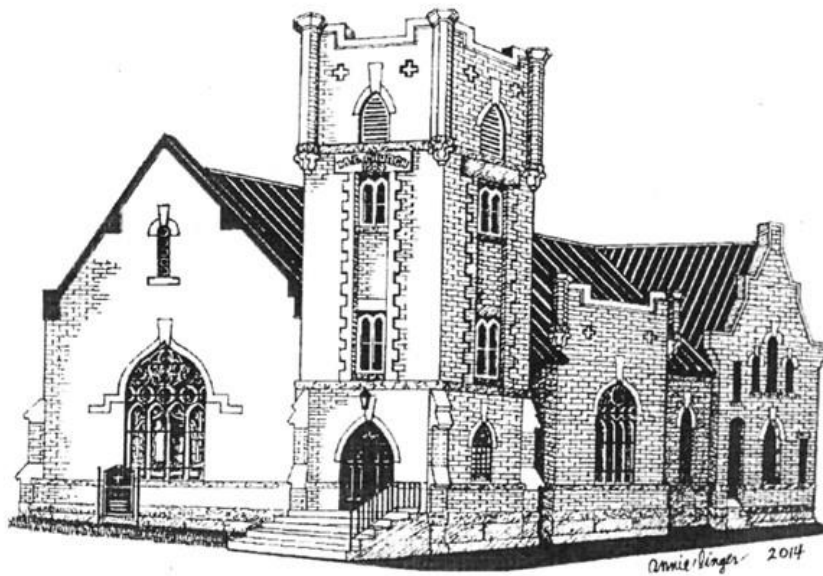


St. Matthew United Methodist Church

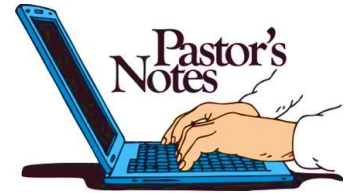


April 2025
Newsletter

PASTOR'S NOTES

Luke 18:31-33

³¹Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. ³²He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; ³³they will flog him and [crucify] him. On the third day he will rise again."



An Invitation to Participate in the Holy Week Story



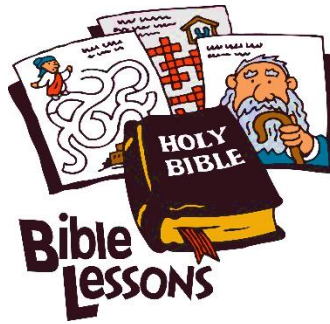
I want to invite you to participate in the story of Holy Week this year. This was the most important week in Jesus' life. This was the week that Jesus accomplished His mission here on earth. There are a number of events to the story and I want to unpack them for you. First off, we have **Palm Sunday**, the Sunday before Easter which remembers Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem. It gets its name because the crowd waved palm branches in expectation of Jesus, the coming Messiah. Join us **Sunday, April 13 at our 8:30 and 10:45 services** for our celebration.

Our next big event is **Holy Thursday, or Maundy Thursday**. This is the remembrance of Jesus' Last Supper with His Disciples. The word *Maundy* comes from the Latin word for Mandate, or command because in the Gospel of John, Jesus washed the Disciples' feet and gave the great commandment to "Love One Another, as I have loved you." In the other 3 Gospels Jesus celebrates the Passover & shares Holy Communion with them. Since we will be having a Last Supper Service with Holy Communion, I prefer to call this Holy Thursday. Join us **Thursday, April 17, at 7PM** for this service of remembrance.

The next event is **Good Friday** which remembers Jesus' crucifixion and death. It is ironic that we call it Good, even though one of the most evil things ever happened to Jesus that day. We can think of it this way: Jesus overcame evil with good by sacrificing His life in order to save the world from sin and death. This service reenacts Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion, death and burial. Join us **Friday, April 18, at 7PM** for this somber service.

Easter is the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection where the women & Disciples find the empty tomb and realize that Jesus has risen from the dead. Our celebration begins with our **Easter Sunrise Service Sunday, April 20, at 7AM** at the foot of the cross in our parking lot. We will then have an Easter breakfast at 7:30AM in our Fellowship Hall. Our regular **8:30 and 10:45 Services** will also celebrate the women finding the tomb empty. In our Gospel Lesson from Luke, 2 angels appear & tell them that Jesus has risen from the dead.

I again want to invite you to come and see all these events of Holy Week. Together they tell with great emotion the last events of Jesus life on earth. The story continues even after His resurrection, and that is why we are here today as witnesses to the presence of Jesus Christ still among us today.



SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR MARCH 2025

April 13	April 17	April 18	April 20	April 20
Palm Sunday	Holy Thursday	Good Friday	Easter Sunrise	Easter
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Luke 22:1-6	Luke 22:47-23:56	John 19:38-42	Acts 10:34-43
Luke 19:28-40	Luke 22:7-22		John 20:1-18	Luke 24:1-12

FREE COMMUNITY DINNER



This month's free community dinner will be on *Saturday, April 26th at 4:00 p.m.* in Fellowship Hall. Everyone from the church is encouraged to attend for fellowship, friends, fun, and food. Volunteers are welcome! Please pray that this ministry will continue to be a blessing to those in need in our community.

OUR NEIGHBOR ITEMS OF THE MONTH



Our Neighbor Items of the month for April are Peanut Butter, Shampoo, and Dish Soap. Please leave items in the bin marked "Our Neighbor" in the annex hallway of our church or deliver them directly to Our Neighbor Tuesday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Thank you for your continued support of this mission.

Ginger Bailey, Scott Walker, Eleanor Kafer, Glen Brown, Sue Caufield, Mike Stout, Janie Tenney, Vickie Heater, Aidan Linger, Amy King, Becky Westfall, Betsy Martin, Bob Bennett, Bobbi Radcliff, Brad Montgomery, Carol Haan, Dave Lewis, Ginny Lamb, Greg Vance, Jim and Mary Anne Lamb, Jimmy Bailey, John Hinzman, Jordan Heckert, Julia Bragg, Karen Rathbun, Pat Reckart, Shirley Burkhart, Sue Brannan, Ruth Macbeth, Robert Lockhart, Phil Rastle, Marvin Murphy, Amanda Brown, Jim Stutler, Barbara Forinash, Sam Bailey, Jim Turner, C.D. Cole



To add someone to the prayer list, please contact the office at 304-269-2428

