

The Messenger

Volume 20 No. 4

April 2020

The Newsletter of The United Church of Sandwich

*"Passionately united to feed all people — body, mind and spirit —
To the glory of God!"*



Greetings,

On November 21, 1943, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote a letter to his fiancé, Maria von Wedemeyer, while he was imprisoned by Hitler during World War II. In the letter, he talked about a spiritual lesson he was learning from his life as a prisoner. He wrote: "A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes, does various unessential things, and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside is not a bad picture of Advent."

Hope is one of the most priceless things a person can have in their life. Chuck Swindoll wrote, 'We can live several weeks without food, days without water, and only minutes without oxygen, but without hope – forget it.' When we face, pain, hardship or illness, we need the hope of God in our life. We need the hope of the love of Christ with us. Even when it seems that the world has turned upside down, the hope of knowing God is with us and in control is the very thing that keeps us right side up. How do we remember this when we are going through a trial? Easter is here and hope will shine bright as we wake up to an empty tomb. However, experiencing the empty tomb requires us to see the hope today, while in the journey to the cross.



First, remember who you are. You are a child of God. You have been made by the creator, and sanctified by the redeemer. This means you are an heir to the kingdom of God. You came from God and you will return to God. This is who you are!

Remember the words of Jeremiah 1:5. 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart'. 1 Peter 2:9 says, "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" This is who you are. I have hope, because of who God has made me to be as His servant.

We have hope because of whose we are. More importantly than who we are is whose we are. We are God's. God is the foundation of our existence. God is the foundation of our hope. We have confidence because our confidence is in the Lord. We have strength because God is the source of our strength. God always overcomes and we participate in the victory. We know that the final victory belongs to God. He wins! My hope is in His victory. It is through God's love that I share in this victory. As Vice President of the U.S., George Bush represented the U.S. at the funeral of former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev. Bush was deeply moved by a silent protest carried out by Brezhnev's widow. She stood motionless by the coffin until seconds before it was closed. Then, just as the soldiers touched the lid, Brezhnev's wife performed an act of great courage and hope, a gesture that must surely rank as one of the most profound acts of civil disobedience ever committed: She reached down and made the sign of the cross on her husband's chest. There in the citadel of secular, atheistic power, the wife of the man who had run it all hoped that her husband was wrong. She hoped that there was another life, and that that life was best represented by Jesus who died on the cross, and that the same Jesus might yet have mercy on her husband.

As we continue through the trial of the COVID19 pandemic, and the trials caused due to this pandemic, *HOPE* is the most valuable resource that you can hold in your life. It cannot be bought, but is freely given. You cannot put a price tag on *HOPE*, but it is priceless to those who possess it. *HOPE* is a gift from God for you in this moment and there is no better time to discover *HOPE* than in the Easter story. Easter gives me *HOPE*. The funeral of Good Friday turned into the celebration of Easter. Tragedy turned into triumph. Fear turned into *HOPE*. That *HOPE* is mine and that *HOPE* belongs to God. My prayer is that you find your *HOPE* in God this Easter!

God Bless,
Rev. Tom Bourke



Sunday Scriptures and Themes for April

April 5 Mark 1:9, 2 Corinthians 5:14-19 ~ A Time of New Beginnings *Wilderness Time*

April 12 Matthew 27:15 ~ Easter Through the Eyes of Barabbas

April 19 Matthew 13:20-21 ~ What's At Stake *Rooted*

April 26 Psalm 11:19-22, 25 ~ Don't Go It Alone *Rooted*

HOW TO ATTEND CHURCH ONLINE

GET OUT OF BED AND GET DRESSED

it will put you in the right mindset for worship

GO THROUGH YOUR NORMAL SUNDAY ROUTINE

minus the "hurry up, we're late" part

GATHER TOGETHER AS A FAMILY

no multitasking; worship is a family activity

STREAM TO YOUR LARGEST SCREEN IF POSSIBLE

it will feel like you are really "there"

SING ALONG LOUD AND PROUD

it may feel weird, but it also feels weird to the people leading worship in an empty room

PREACH WITH THE PREACHER

say amen, clap, shout and take notes; have a time of prayer at the end; make your home a sanctuary

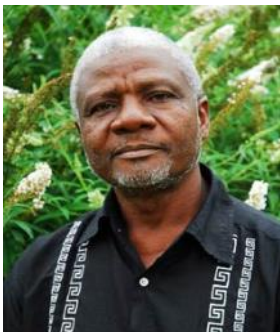
Bible Quiz

Three of the Gospels tell that when Jesus was crucified, darkness covered the earth from noon until three in the afternoon. Which Gospel does not mention this event?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John



Answer: D (See Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, and John 19.)



MISSION OF THE MONTH

Missionary Albert Willicor

Dr. Albert Willicor is a native of Liberia and has been the Chief Medical Officer of Ganta United Methodist Hospital in Ganta, Liberia for over a decade. A distinguished surgeon and hospital administrator in Liberia, Dr. Willicor also has experience as a leading OB/GYN in the Republic of Guinea. He serves with his spouse, Angeline, who is a nurse at the hospital in Ganta. E-mail: alb.wcor@yahoo.com.

Thank You, Missions Committee



APRIL

Meetings & Activities Suspended

In response to the Federal guidelines from the CDC and Health Experts, **our Bishop has called for a suspension of all in-person worship services, as well as all meetings, Bible Studies and gatherings until such time as the recommendations are lifted.**

Ways to stay connected:

We have set up a new Facebook Page. The link is below. Please go to the page and hit 'like' and 'following'. We will use the page to give updates and messages. We will also post the video Sermon every Sunday at 10:00am. We plan on posting video devotionals, special music, and prayer throughout the week. This will help you to continue to worship and continue to grow in your faith.

<https://www.facebook.com/United-Church-of-Sandwich-2020-108453870774983/>

We have also set up a Youtube Page. When a video is posted on Facebook, an email will also be sent out to our church family with a link to watch the video on Youtube. A Youtube account is not needed and the video can be watched on any device from any location.

We will be using the 'ZOOM Cloud Meetings' App. Through ZOOM, you can connect...

On Your Tablet, PC, or Smart Phone through Video Chat

On Your Phone by calling a number and joining the conference call. I will be on video chat so that you may see and hear me as I share the devotion. I invite you to explore which way to connect is best for you. Below are the instructions for joining via each method.

On the Computer through Video Chat:

Click on the link

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6123355334>

When asked, enter the Member ID: 612 335 5334

(You should give yourself extra time for your computer to download the Zoom Program onto your computer.

On your Tablet or Smart Phone:

Go to the App Store on your tablet or Phone and search for 'ZOOM Cloud Meetings'. Download the app. On the app will be an option to 'JOIN'. When it is time, click on 'Join' and when you are asked for your member ID, enter: 612 335 5334

By calling on your phone through a conference call:

Call the Number: 408-638-0968

When Prompted for Meeting ID Number, enter: 612 335 5334 and then hit #

When asked for Participant ID, just hit #

The office will be maintaining normal office hours for the time being, and the sanctuary will be open during office hours for personal prayer and reflection.

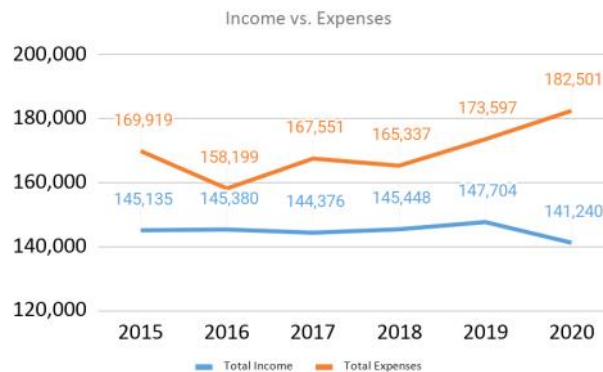
Please call the church office with any updated email addresses or if you know of anyone that would benefit from this information.

I also want to lift up the importance of staying current with your pledge/giving. The church will continue to have bills and payroll to meet even with Sunday worship postponed. Please mail your giving envelopes to the church or consider going to online giving. Recently the finance committee has changed our E-giving site to Tithe.ly. We have found this site offers lower fees than our previous site and is user-friendly! Given our recent turn of events in the world, Tithe.ly can offer a safe and convenient way to make donations to United Church of Sandwich. It is easy to sign up! Go to the following link: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1248867> to get started! If you are uncomfortable with e-giving or mailing your envelopes to the church, the office will be open or drop them off during our office hours (M-F 9:00am-1:00pm). We appreciate your support and know that together we will weather the storm around us. Any questions or concerns please feel free to call me.



Financial Outlook 2020

On Sunday, March 8th the Finance Committee made a presentation to the congregation regarding the financial outlook for 2020. The overall theme presented is that our income although steady is not keeping up with the rising expenses of our church. The following chart shows the trend for both income and expense for the last 5 years. 2020 income has been budgeted on the conservative side based on pledges given.



The budget for 2020 is as follows:

Tithe & Offerings	\$131,600
Other Income	\$ 9,640
Total Income	<u>\$141,240</u>
Apportionment Payable	12,500
Other Expenses	<u>170,001</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$182,501</u>
Deficit	(41,261)
Remaining 2019 Fair Profits	<u>11,746</u>
Budget Shortfall yet to meet	<u>\$(29,515)</u>

The finance committee is working on ideas to meet this shortfall and ways to provide long-term income. However, we are open to any and all ideas from the congregation. We also need volunteer power when considering these ideas and options for us. We are a strong and united church! Please work with the finance committee to help resolve our ongoing budget issues.

50th Anniversary Update

Due to the COVID-19 virus it has been decided that we will be postponing our Celebration until August 16, 2020. We are very concerned for the health and welfare of all those who would be attending. We pray that by August we will no longer have to worry about the virus. The committee will keep you updated as we go along. If you have any questions, you can direct them to Pam Nehring, Sarah Stevens or Pastor Tom. Stay in, stay safe & be healthy. God Bless

APRIL FOOLS' DAY

Best known as a day for practical jokes, can be used in more beneficial ways, too. It can be a day of faith and fun - a day to thank God for the joyous times of life, for the days of laughter, for funny stories, for the antics of children and for other things that bring smiles to our faces.

Here's one for you:

What is it called when shapes play pranks on each other? GEOMETRICKS!!

What monster plays the most April Fool's jokes? PRANKENSTEIN!!



United Church of Sandwich is a United Methodist Church and the connectional nature of our denomination is vital to our identity. Below is a link to the Northern IL Conference newspaper. Our Newsletter will begin to share the news of the UMC with you to give you the opportunity to learn and discover the events and opportunities of the UMC at large. Please contact Pastor Tom if you have any questions on any topic you read. He would be happy and honored to connect with you.

<https://files.constantcontact.com/62925eb8001/c458dfc1-d3ad-496c-8b62-37c178f46739.pdf>

OUR LIVING HOPE

Easter is a time to rejoice because of what God did for us in sending his Son. Jesus is our living hope. Read . Peter 1:3-4 (NIV) below. Then find the **bold** words in the crossword search.

"Praise be to the **God** and **Father** of our **Lord Jesus Christ**! In his great **mercy** he has given us **new birth** into a **living hope** through the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an **inheritance** that can **never perish, spoil** or **fade** — **kept in heaven** for you . . ."

P	R	A	I	S	E
P	E	R	I	S	H
B	I	R	T	H	A
K	E	P	T	U	S
L	O	R	F	A	D
E	V	E	A	R	G

R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	J	E	S	U
H	E	A	V	E	N	I	N	H	A	D	L	I	V	I	N
I	G	S	P	O	I	N	H	E	R	I	T	A	N	C	E
C	H	R	I	S	T	L	O	R	D	P	R	A	I	S	W

H	O	P	N	S	E
H	O	P	E	P	L
L	I	V	V	O	I
J	E	S	E	I	V
E	V	E	R	L	I
S	U	F	F	E	N
U	T	A	S	I	G
S	O	D	O	E	T
A	M	E	R	C	Y

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Liturgists

04/19 Donna Ostrye
04/26 John Hallaron

Greeters

04/19 Monty & Betty Reiners
04/26 Jim & Bonnie Bernhardt

Ushers

04/19 Ron & Kim Henrich
04/26 Reid & Deb Heinekamp

April Communion Ministers

Matt & Joanna Olson, Bonnie Miller

APRIL Birthdays & Anniversaries

04/01	Barb Bark
04/02	Katelyn Bedford Matthew Olson
04/03	Lori Davis
04/05	Jenna Henrich
04/12	Deb Seymour
04/13	Gwen Fox
04/17	Nate Heiman Mark Jerabek
04/20	Paul Pearson
04/21	Carole Strock
04/22	Laura Olson
04/23	Ed Reeder
04/27	Pat Hallaron
04/28	Christine McMahon

04/16 Marilyn & Louis Steenwyk

If anyone's birthday or anniversary has been missed please contact the church office. Thank You



DEADLINE:
Newsletter Articles
April 21

CONTACT information



Thank you to those who have filled out the member information cards. If you haven't, please send any email, phone number, or address updates to the church. Especially, at this time they have been very helpful in keeping everyone up to date and connected.



If you would like to add a touch of beauty to the worship with a gift of flowers or donate bread for Holy Communion, sign up



sheets

NEWSLETTER HELPERS



If you would like to be added to the church email prayer list please contact the church office or Pastor Tom. If you are unable or uncomfortable leaving your home we have church members who are able to make necessary trips to pick up basic home and food staples. We want to be in support for you and know that you are family and are not alone. If you are one able to make short shopping trips for members, please let Pastor Tom know and you will be added to the resource list of people to call. Thank You!



2020 Easter Flowers



Dick & Barb Bark Azalea, in memory of their parents

Tom & Pam Nehring Azalea, in memory of their parents and grandparents

Jennifer Bauer Lily & Azalea, in memory of Donna Way, Virginia Way

Caroline Byram Paul Lily

Carole Cronin Azalea, in memory of Aunt June Brooks

Mischelle Reiners Azaleas, in memory of John Reiners, Steve Reiners

Phyllis Davis Azalea, in honor of family

Kevin & Linda Duy Lily, in memory John Lies, Leroy Duy

Monty & Betty Reiners Lily & Azalea, in memory of Robert & Lucile Morel, Larry & Marjorie Reiners

Gwen Fox Lily, in memory of John Fox

John & Pat Hallaron Lily & Azalea, in memory of Stanley & Winifred Hallaron, Leo & Helen Hutter

Donna Reiss Lily, in honor of many UCS friends

Ron, Kim, & Jenna Henrich Azalea, in memory of Anna Henrich


Sarah Stevens Azalea, in honor of family

Delores Lies Azalea, in memory of her husband, John Lies

Carole Strock Azalea, in honor of family

Jim & Connie Mitchell Azalea, in memory of family

Thank you for sharing your memorials and honorariums with us. You may pick your flowers up independently after the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service on Easter Sunday.




PUZZLE
Picturing the *Lord's Supper*
Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples as a symbol of the new covenant.

Directions: Use the picture clues to fill in key words from Luke 22:19-20, NIV

And he took _____, gave _____ and _____ it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my _____ given for you; do this in _____ of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This _____ is the new _____ in my blood, which is _____ out for you."

LUKE 22:19-20, NIV

Let light shine out of darkness...



2 Corinthians 4:6

The United Church of Sandwich

512 E Lions Road
Sandwich, IL 60548-2147



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE MESSENGER — APRIL 2020

The United Church of Sandwich

512 E Lions Road, Sandwich, IL 60548-2417

Church: (815) 786-9243

Email: ucssandwich@frontier.com

website: www.unitedchurchsandwich.org

Sunday Schedule

Worship 10:00 am

Adult Sunday School 8:45 am

Children's Sunday School 9:00 am

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Pastor: Rev. Tom Bourke

Office Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

or by appointment

Email: tombourkejr@gmail.com

Mobile: 630-699-2474

Church Staff

Secretary: Donna Reiss

Tuesday–Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Choir and Chimes Director: Kevin Duy

Organist/Pianist: Carol Larson

Ministers and Missionaries: All Members

We are passionately united to feed all people –
body, mind and spirit – to the glory of God!

Leadership Team 2020

Church Council Chair	Ken Young
Recording Secretary	Chris Bagwill
Treasurer	Linda Duy
Payroll	Pam Nehring
Financial Secretary	Pat Hallaron
Finance/Stewardship Chair	Pam Nehring
Staff/Pastor Parish Relations	Gwen Fox
Lay Leader	Sarah Stevens
Trustee's Chair	Matt Olson
Annual Conf. Delegate	Bonnie Miller
Missions/Evangelism Chair	Phyllis Whitehead
Memorial/Endowment Chair	Carole Strock
United Methodist Women	Myrtie Warren
United Methodist Men	
Fair Stand Chair	Reid Heinekamp
Worship & Music Chair	Deb Seymour
CYM: Joint Youth Coop Rep.	Joanna Olson