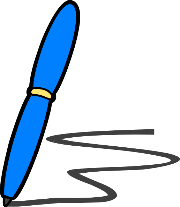
**PASTOR’S PEN**

**The Messenger**

First United Methodist Church

1339 W. 400 N., Marriott-Slaterville UT 84404

*Web: fumcogdenut.org ~ Email:* [*ogdenfumc@aol.com*](mailto:ogdenfumc@aol.com)

 “Then Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again . . . ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised’” (Mark 8:31 and 16:6).

The Gospel of Mark focuses a lot of attention on the fact that Jesus was going to suffer, die, and rise again. In each of chapters eight, nine, and ten, Jesus foretells those coming events, and chapters 11-16 (six full chapters) are completely about the events of Jesus’ final week. From that volume of coverage, it’s pretty obvious that the events of Holy Week are a big deal in the Christian story.

Like others who have died in pursuit of an important cause—Martin Luther King, Jr.; Mahatma Gandhi; Bishop Oscar Romero—Jesus’ martyrdom brought a poignancy to his teaching and work. Jesus’ death on the cross spotlighted his unique relationship with God.

Sometimes the Christian gospel is summed up to imply that the crucifixion of Jesus was required by God, to satisfy divine justice. I prefer, however, to believe that God was always ready to offer love, grace, and forgiveness. Over and over again in Old Testament times, God forgave the people and raised them up to new life. God could have done that again without a human sacrifice.

What needed to change was not God’s mind, but ours. When we look at the cross and see Jesus’ suffering and death, what changes is our hearts. We see how much Jesus believed in his work of teaching, healing, and caring for the least and lost. We see how much hardship Jesus was willing to endure in the faithful pursuit of establishing God’s kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. We see that he was willing to risk his own life in order to bring his concerns to the attention of the authorities. And we see how much Jesus relied on and believed in God’s eternal strength and constancy, even when his own mortal life was fading away.

Fortunately, Jesus’ faith in God didn’t die out on the cross or in the tomb. Jesus’ earliest disciples came to believe in and enact his resurrection. They picked up where Jesus left off and continued both his teaching and his implementation of God’s kingdom. They healed the sick and advocated for the poor and disadvantaged. They welcomed women, children, sinners, outcasts, and foreigners. They reached across language and cultural barriers and gathered people into communities of faith. They instilled in them a resurrection hope that could overcome and rise above whatever terrible things might happen.

The Easter faith that was born out of Jesus’ death was a conviction that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. In life and in death, God’s forgiving mercy is at work in us, changing our minds and resurrecting our hearts, so that we can rise up and participate in God’s purposes which continue forever and ever.

Easter blessings! Rev. Kim



**PLANNING AHEAD**

April 12 – Farewell Party for Troyers, 5:00PM @ FUMC

April 13--Yard Clean Up Day

April 14—**Palm Sunday. Kids come at 9:45AM**

April 18—**Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30PM @ CUMC**

April 19—**Good Friday Service, 7:00PM @ FUMC**

April 20—Children’s Easter Egg Hunt 10:00AM

April 21—**Easter Worship, 10:00AM**

May 5 – Native American Ministries Sunday Offering

May 12 – Mother’s Day and UMW Sunday

May 26 – Heritage/Memorial Sunday

May 31 – June 1 – UMW Sponsored Rummage Sale

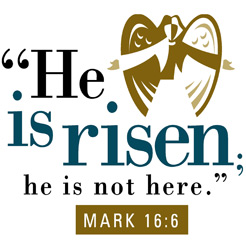
**MAUNDY THURSDAY MEAL-WORSHIP AT CUMC**

 FUMC and CUMC are teaming up again for Holy Week services. On Maundy Thursday, April 18th, we’ll gather at 6:30 p.m. (to about 8:00 p.m.), in the Fellowship Hall at Community UMC for a Seder Meal and foot washing/communion service. We will remember the Passover that brought Jesus and his disciples together for the last time in that Upper Room.  We will go through the Passover ritual with the responses and the sharing of the meal.  We will have enough for all to have a taste and be fed but not necessarily become “full”.  There will be a basket for any donations to help cover the cost of the meal including lamb.  Community UMC is located at 163 W. 4800 S. Washington Terrace, just west of Bonneville H.S. Everyone is invited to attend.

**GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP AT FUMC**

First UMC will host the Good Friday Service at 7:00 p.m. on April 19. Community UMC members and friends will worship with us. The service will focus our attention on the final hours of Jesus’ life. Both the Chancel Choir and the Bell Tones will provide music, and the service will include a dramatic reading called “Things We Thought We Knew.”

**INVITE FRIENDS FOR EASTER WORSHIP, APRIL 21**

Easter is always a special time to worship God, as we rejoice in Christ’s victory over death and lift our voices singing, “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today.” Many people are more open to an invitation to church on this big day of the year, so please reach out to friends, relatives, work associates, and neighbors and invite them to attend worship with you. In addition to an Easter sermon, we’ll have music by the Bell Tones and Chancel Choir, and Abegail Faz will play her trumpet. It’s a service you won’t want to miss!

**BEEKEEPING MINISTRY NEWS**

**** Our three FUMC beehives have survived the winter! The next tricky stage is insuring they do not run out of honey stores before the spring nectar and pollen sources start producing. We beekeepers sometimes help with this by giving the bees a sugar syrup and pollen patties to tide them over. A plan has been made to purchase three more small colonies of bees called a nucleus hive or "nuc" for short, to get us back to six hives for 2019.   
 We are also looking forward to traveling to four elementary schools, for a total of eight classrooms, to share beekeeping knowledge with the children in April and May. We welcome others to join us--you will learn right along with the kids!   
 Our next business meeting is Monday, April 1st (no fooling!) at 6:30 where we will discuss plans for upcoming activities.

Questions? Contact Kristen Bell at: bellf4m@comcast.net

**PROJECT S.W.I.F.T.S**

**Sustainable Water Initiative--Food to Share**

Project SWIFTS is getting a start by focusing on our local community connections. Our teams are working on meeting with Marriott-Slaterville city officials to see how they can support our proposed drip irrigation system. Others are meeting with our adjoining neighbors to see if they might have an interest in joining in on our project for their properties. A document is being drafted to use as an educational tool to share the scope of our project with others. And finally we are getting educated on grant writing through a workshop given through Weber State. We are off to a great beginning!  
  
Our next meeting to discuss Project SWIFTS and getting started with Garden plans, will be on Thursday, April 25th, 7:00-8:00 pm.  
  
Questions? Steve & Kristen Bell: [bellf4m@comcast.net](mailto:bellf4m@comcast.net)

**GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION**

 The entire United Methodist Church is still reeling and asking itself what happened Feb. 23-26 in St. Louis. There certainly is no simple answer. The easiest thing to say is that, by a margin of 53-47%, the delegates—including a large number from conservative Africa—voted for what is known as “The Traditional Plan.” The Traditional Plan retained and strengthened the language from our 2016 Book of Discipline that prohibits the ordination of homosexuals and the performance of same-sex weddings. Of course, it’s all much more complicated than that, and many aspects of the Traditional Plan were ruled unconstitutional prior to the conference and likely will be ruled so again when the U.M. Judicial Council meets, April 23-26.

But the waters will still be quite muddy after the Judicial Council makes its ruling. In the U.S., where it is widely understood that about 2/3 of American delegates voted against the Traditional Plan, the new more-restrictive rules (deemed constitutional) will go into effect January 1, 2020. In other countries, however, the new rules won’t go into effect until May 2021. In between those two dates, there will be another General Conference in May 2020, which could change the rules yet again.

Also, many United Methodists are saying that they will not abide by the more-restrictive rules, should they be deemed constitutional. The Western Jurisdiction has declared it will continue to operate with openness and provide a spiritual home to all people. United Methodist churches in the Baltimore-Washington Conference placed an ad in *The Washington Post* stating that they will not restrict LGBTQ persons in their ministries. A very long list of clergy in the Michigan Conference signed and sent a letter to their bishop stating that the decisions made at General Conference have “inflicted great harm” on their church members and their families, and that they “refuse to accept the United Methodist stance that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.” Instead, the Michigan clergy “affirm the rich diversity of sexual orientations and gender expression as part of God’s good creation.” Even the United Methodists in Germany sent out a statement that “the stipulations in the Traditional Plan are not acceptable” for the church in their country.

So, it seems that the most obvious thing that happened at General Conference 2019 is that the divisions that previously existed in the denomination are widening evermore. Because of these rifts, there have been many conversations that some factions might leave. But it seems like no one wants to take that first step away from a denomination that we have all loved. So, for now, we all will continue to offer the love of Christ as we know it in our own places of ministry. As for our First UMC, please pass along the message that ALL are welcome here!

**REV. KIM WILL BE AWAY**

Rev. Kim will be gone to Chicago April 8-11 for her work with the Mountain Sky Conference Board of (clergy) Pension and Health Benefits. You can send her emails and texts, but if you need emergency pastoral care during those days, please contact Rev. Gary Haddock, who will be on call. Rev. Gary’s cell phone is 970-371-5129.

 Other times this spring, Rev. Kim will be away for her research project on the feasibility of developing a faith-based senior living community on property next to FUMC. She is gone March 25-31 to the University of Southern Indiana to learn about Minka houses for seniors. On that same trip, she’s visiting the United Methodist Wesley Manor continuum of care retirement center in Louisville, Kentucky.

May 6-12, Rev. Kim will travel to Ft. Myers, Florida, for the annual meeting of the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries. Members of that group are CEOs and staff of various United Methodist institutions like hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted living centers.

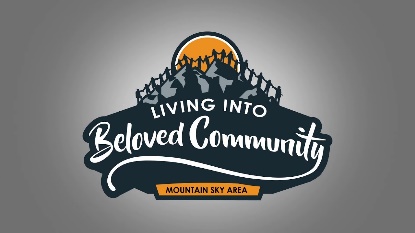
During both the March and May trips, Rev. Olga Hard will be preaching (Mar 31 and May 12) and providing pastoral care. Rev. Olga is recently retired (from Mountain Vista UMC) and lives in West Jordan. She will be in the FUMC office on Wednesdays of those weeks, and she is on call by phone (719-892-0295) or by email: [olgahard@earthlink.net](mailto:olgahard@earthlink.net) . Please let Rev. Olga know if you need her attention.

Please note that the expenses for Rev. Kim’s research trips (and for substitute clergy) are paid for through the $15,000 Reflective Leadership Grant she received from Duke University, to be used in 2019-2020. The purpose of the grant is to give her times away from regular pastoral duties so that she can imagine and envision the future for our church. All this is hypothetical research at this point. No decisions have been made by the church. Rev. Kim is giving regular reports to the Trustees and Staff Parish Relations Committee. When Rev. Kim is done with her research, she might prepare a proposal for FUMC members to consider and vote upon, but that is still a very future and tentative possibility.

**APRIL MISSION EMPHASIS**

**IS THE**

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPECIAL OFFERING**

     April's Monthly Mission Emphasis is our yearly giving to the Bridge of Love Special Offering of the Mountain Sky UMC Conference--our conference. Every year one or more needy causes are selected, based on the theme, "Living Into Beloved Community", for giving during annual conference. The specific giving areas will be announced later.

Examples of previous giving have been, buying a fire truck for a remote community, aiding displaced people, helping food challenged organizations, etc.  So, won't you open up your hearts and your wallets to help our Mountain Sky UMC annual conference give a boost to those in need?!

Thanks! Questions. Comments. Talk to Chris Hicks, Lay Leader and laity representative to annual conference. [czh1957@gmail.com](mailto:czh1957@gmail.com)

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS**

 The UMW ladies are invited to meet on Tuesday, April 23rd at 11:00AM. We will be touring the Ogden Rescue Mission and then having lunch at the Longhorn Steakhouse.

**FUMC YOUTH NEWS**

**Youth Schedule**

Apr 7th – Mission Meeting

Apr 14th – Lantern House

Apr 20th – Easter Egg Hunt

Apr 21st – No Group

Apr 28th – Youth Fundraiser Lunch

**FUNDRAISER LUNCH FOR YOUTH**

The youth will be offering lunch after worship on Sunday, April 28th. We will take a free-will offering and all money raised will go toward the youth’s mission trip to Atlanta in June. Lunch will be a super salad bar with dessert.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019**

 Join the fun at Roar! Life is wild…God is good VBS! It will be held June 3-7 from 5:00-8 p.m. each evening. At Roar!, kids will explore God’s goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life. The week will be filled with wild music, fascinating gizmos, high-energy games and amazing Bible stories. This epic African adventure engages the whole herd – children ages 3 years old through 6th grade. Register online at [fumcogdenut.org](http://fumcogdenut.org/). You won't want to miss the "mane" event this summer!

Want to volunteer? The following opportunities are available. If you are interested, please contact Brenda at [b.boren34@gmail.com](mailto:b.boren34@gmail.com) or 801.866.9698.

**Crew leaders** -  Crew leaders will take 5-6 elementary children through 4 stations during the course of the evening where you’ll learn important Bible truths and have a lot of fun! And you won’t be alone. You’ll have a youth helper assigned to your crew and will travel to your stations with 2-3 other crews.

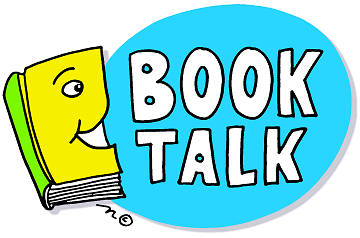
**Youth crew leaders**-  Youth crew leaders bring the excitement and energy to our VBS that helps the children get excited about learning the Bible truth for that day. You’ll be placed in each crew to help the crew leaders guide their children from station to station. You’ll get to play with the kids and participate in helping them do the activities planned each day.

**Decorating Team** - If you want to be involved in VBS, but can’t help out during the week, this could be the perfect job for you!  As part of the decorating team, you are responsible for bringing Roar to life for the kids. We have ideas and need folks to implement them. Decorations need to be up and ready by June 1. Watch for details on decorating workdays in May.

**Actors** – We need actors for the Bible Adventures station. Help bring the Bible stories to life!

**Meal Preparation** – We are in need of groups to provide a light meal each evening during VBS. If your group is interested, contact Dawn Avery at [dsavery2@q.com](mailto:dsavery2@q.com).

**BOOK TALK**

The Book Talk book for the month of April is *House Rules* by Jody Picoult. Join us on Monday, March 11, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Cheryl Thompson for our book discussion.  Contact Cheryl at [801-389-9864](tel:(801)%20389-9864) for further information.

**EASTER EGG HUNT**

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 20 at 10:00 a. m . All children ages 2 years old – 6th grade are welcome. Join us for crafts, treats, and all those eggs full of surprises. Invite a friend!

**CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED FOR EASTER EGG HUNT**

We need your help in filing the eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt! We have enough plastic eggs but invite you to take home some empty ones and bring them back filled with candy. Please remember to use only individually wrapped candy. Bags contain 24 eggs and are available in the narthex. Please return filled eggs to the church no later than Wednesday, April 17.

**UNITED METHODIST MEN NEWS**

 The UMM are meeting Monday, April 8th at 6:30PM. For more information contact Tim Stenner or Mitch Boren.

Applications are now being accepted for the William H. & LaDean Stobaugh Scholarship. The UMM runs this scholarship to help pay for some of the expenses of going to college or a technical school. The application is available on the church’s website under the UMM menu and must be delivered to the church office or UMM President, Tim Stenner, by June 30th.

**YARD WORKERS NEEDED**

On Saturday, April 13, beginning at 9:00 am, FUMC members and friends are invited to help with the Spring Yard Work Day.  We want to get everything spruced up before Holy Week.  Please bring your own gloves, rakes, brooms, shovels, etc.  Soon, we'll also need weekly lawn mowers, plus we'll need volunteers to care for the flower and shrub beds around the church and parking lot.  Please consider what you can do to help!

**MISSIONS CORNER**

 Greetings from Angol, Chile. Angol is in the ninth of fifteen regions of Chile. When I first arrived in Chile as a Long-term Volunteer in 1997, I had no idea what God was going to do with me, although I knew it would be something wonderful. I was working for the first three years at an Agricultural School in the Lower Andes. The school was started by Stan Moore, a GBGM missionary and was designed to educate the indigenous people in the area. The Aymaran children (high school age) would come from many Andes communities, some having to travel for many days to get to school. The name of the School was Kusayapu. It was located in the town of Pachica in the 1st region.  Although the School had no running water or electricity, I loved working with the kids and living in that small mountain pueblo.

The school and the town both had generators that would turn on at six in the evening and then turn off at nine. Also, the school had a great solar panel system that was donated and set up by a group in the States.

After three years working as a volunteer, I felt God pushing me to do something more permanent. I applied to GBGM for missionary status. I was accepted as a full-time missionary in 1999. At that time, I moved to the City of Iquique where I worked and lived for ten years. In 2009 I moved further south, at the request of the Bishop to another Agricultural school, “El VERGEL”. This is where I live now. I worked at the school for eight years, then at the new Bishop’s request I have been put in charge of restoring a Methodist camp.

The plans I have for the camp are to restore it to the point where I can receive church groups. I also want to make the camp the Headquarters of the youth of the Methodist Church of Chile. Eventually the camp will be run by them, with Pastoral guidance. My plan is to put emphasis on Ecological ways, teaching how to take care of Mother Earth.

I would also like to start an Emmaus community here in Chile. I hope to invite the Emmaus community from Mexico to Chile to help start the program here.

I have three more years to be a missionary with GBGM. I look forward to wonderful things happening in my next three years of work here in Chile.

Peace,

John Elmore

**THE UNITED METHODIST MEETING OFFERED NO CLEAR WAY FORWARD.  WHAT NOW?**

Excerpts from a March 13, 2019, article by Rev. Anne Burkholder, Assoc. Dean at (United Methodist) Candler School of Theology

    February’s special General Conference of the United Methodist Church was more of a pivot point than the finale in the denomination’s long debate about the inclusion of LGBTQ persons in the life of congregations and ordained leadership.  The assembly adopted by a 438-384 vote the “Traditional Plan,” which excludes LGBTQ persons from ordained leadership and prohibits ministers from officiating at same-sex marriages.  But the plan’s major enforcement provisions were ruled unconstitutional by the church’s Judicial Council, making the results of the vote far from decisive. Furthermore, the UMC has another general conference looming in May 2020 at which this year’s vote could be overturned and another approach could emerge.

    The debate is also shaped by the fact that the UMC is a global church. It includes not only the 54 annual conferences in the United States—clustered into five jurisdictions—with a total of about 7 million members, but also 75 conferences—clustered into bodies [known as “central conferences”—in the Philippines and countries in Europe, Eurasia, and Africa](http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/central-conferences), with about 5.7 million members.  Many General Conference delegates come from countries where being gay is illegal or where gays are persecuted. In the United States, support for LGBTQ inclusion has gained steadily since 2014, when the Pew Research study found that 60 percent of United Methodists in the country supported same-sex marriage.

    Seven parts of the Traditional Plan were ruled unconstitutional by the Judicial Council both before and during the special meeting.  Three of these measures attempted to create procedures within the Council of Bishops for disciplining bishops who flouted the rules. These measures were ruled unconstitutional because they would allow bishops who file complaints about other bishops to be part of the group that determines the penalty—in effect, allowing bishops to be both prosecutor and judge. The Judicial Council also ruled that in trying to turn the Council of Bishops into a global committee for disciplining bishops, it trampled on the existing episcopal structure, in which bishops are elected from various jurisdictions and are accountable to disciplinary procedures in their respective jurisdictions.

    Four other elements of the plan would have required bishops and annual conference boards of ordained ministry to certify that their members and ordination applicants are not “self-avowed practicing homosexuals.”  The Judicial Council ruled that this provision improperly made sexuality more decisive than any other criterion in assessing a candidate for ministry.

    In April, the Judicial Council will review the Traditional Plan yet one more time. It may decide that the plan itself is now out of order in light of the fact that, having been stripped of enforcement provisions, it is no longer the plan that delegates voted for.

    If the Traditional Plan does go into effect—which would happen in January 2020—it would specify penalties for ministers who officiate at same-sex unions or marriages. It would also prohibit bishops from consecrating LGBTQ bishops and from commissioning and ordaining LGBTQ persons. The plan also tightens up legal procedures for addressing such cases.

    In that event, UMC churches in conservative parts of the country are likely to see more formal complaints and church trials. But jurisdictions in other parts of the country, where there is widespread opposition to current prohibitions, will see little change. They are likely to continue—or expand—their current practice of disobeying the rules against the inclusion of LGBTQ people.  Nothing in the Traditional Plan as currently constituted prevents those acts of disobedience. Members of individual jurisdictions are still responsible to those jurisdictions, not to a global enforcement body.

    Many conservatives are disappointed with how the Judicial Council stripped the plan of enforcement mechanisms, and some will leave the denomination. Others will continue the fight for more traditionalist elements and for favorable terms for leaving the denomination. It is unlikely that they will try to change the church’s constitution—they know they lack the votes for that. Amendments to the constitution require a two-thirds vote in General Conference as well as a two-thirds aggregate vote of all delegates in all annual conferences.

    Judging from speeches on the floor and post-conference statements, I suspect that the sleeping giant of UMC centrists in the United States has awakened.  Conversations among leaders won’t begin in earnest until after the Judicial Council’s April ruling, but I expect centrists to explore the possibility of expanding partnerships with progressive jurisdictions and to recommend new legislation in 2020 —including a plan for the formal division of the church, at least in the United States.

    Perhaps in the months ahead the Holy Spirit will intercede with a new vision for unity in the midst of diversity. Or perhaps some form of healthy division will emerge.

**EASTER FOOD BAGS**

Once again this Easter (Sunday April 21), you will be given the opportunity to sponsor an Easter Food Bag that will brighten our sanctuary on Easter Sunday as well as helping those in need.  You can sponsor a food bag in honor or memory of someone or a group.  Each bag will contain enough food for three suppers for a family of four.

On Palm Sunday (April 14), the youth and children will put together the food bags for the families in need.  Then on Easter Sunday, the food bags will surround the altar.  After Easter Sunday, the food bags will be given to the Lantern House Homeless Shelter where they will distribute them to families in need in our community.

 If you wish to sponsor an Easter Food Bag, fill out the form in the Sunday bulletin and put it in the collection plate. Deadline for sponsorship will be Sunday, April 7.

I/We would like to sponsor an Easter food bag: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to the church office no later than April 7th.**



**SUMMER CAMPS AT PINECLIFF**



Pinecliff Camp is located 18 miles east of Coalville, UT, about a one hour drive from Ogden. Costs are listed below. Camperships (scholarships) are available. Contact Brenda Boren for more information and registration forms.

Junior High Camp: (Grade 6-9) June 5-9, 2019

Fee before May 15th $180.00

After May 15th $215.00

Elementary Camp: (Grade K-6) July 15 to 19, 2019

Fee before July 1st $180.00

After July 1st $215.00

High School Camp: (Grade 9-12) July 22 to 26, 2019

Fee before July 1st $180.00.

After July 1st $215.00

**FAREWELL TROYER FAMILY**

Jack and Carolyn Troyer are moving to Montana to be closer to their son and his family. Grandchildren are a big draw! FUMC will have a going away party for them on Friday, April 12, 5:00-8:00PM. Drop in during that time and wish them well on their new adventure. Thanks to Ray and Betty Christian for hosting this event.



**NOTE OF THANKS FROM**

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Thank you so much for your donation to the St. Martha’s Baby program. You made a lot of new moms and their babies very happy!

Deborah Nielsen

**THANK YOU**

Donna Quiroga reports that she is now half-way through her chemo treatments. She appreciates all the prayers and cards.