



The Messenger

April 2021

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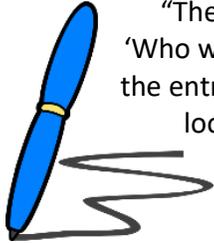
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Worship by Phone: 801-436-3829

PASTOR'S PEN



"They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back" (Mark 16:3-4).

Each of the four gospels tells the Easter story with different details. But one of the observations common to them all is that the heavy stone that had blocked the entrance to Jesus' tomb was already moved out of the way when the women went there to anoint Jesus' body for his burial. Whether the stone was moved by an earthquake, an angel, a young man, or two men in dazzling clothes, we can't be sure. But we surely can trust that the stone was removed from the entrance. The way was opened for the women, and, later the men to see that Jesus' body was gone. As they would learn, Jesus had risen indeed!

In the March newsletter I wondered, "How long, O Lord, until we can return to in-person worship in the sanctuary?" In this April-Easter edition of our newsletter, I'm very happy to proclaim that the year-long impediment has been removed. Research scientists, doctors, nurses, and public health workers have made vaccinations available, and the numbers of COVID deaths and infections have been dropping. Thus, God has cleared the way for us to return to a more-normal life and a more-normal way of worshipping together inside the church.

Please read the ReLaunch and other articles in this newsletter for the exact details. But rejoice with me now that God has not let death be the final word. I encourage you to join us in celebrating this message of life and hope on Easter Sunday and in the weeks ahead.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!
Easter blessings,
Rev. Kim

HOLY WEEK SERVICES



As in past years, we will share some Holy Week services with Community UMC. They are hosting the Maundy Thursday Service (April 1), and FUMC will host the Good Friday Service (April 2). Both services will be livestreamed at 7:00 p.m. The Maundy Thursday Service can be found at <https://community-umc.net/online-worship>. The Good Friday Service can be found at our usual www.facebook.com/ogdenfumc. The bag recently delivered to your home door contained little communion cups (with wafers) for you to use either on Maundy Thursday (online only) or on Easter Sunday (if you worship online at home).

APRIL SERMON SERIES

Beginning on Easter Sunday, Rev. Kim will preach a sermon series called "**Opening the Way**".

April 4—"God's Grand Opening"

April 11—"Open Hearts"

April 18—"Open Minds"

April 25—"Open Doors of Faith"

CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT



With the return of in-person worship, the Children's Ministry Team has decided to hold an Easter Egg Hunt on the church lawn following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. All church children are welcome to come and hunt for candy-filled plastic eggs at the end of the worship service (approximately 11:00).

FRIDAY STUDY

The Friday Study is reading the book *40 Days of Doubt: Devotions for the Skeptic* by Eric Huffman. This group meets by Zoom at 9:30-11:00 on Friday mornings.

RELAUNCH NEWS



Church RELAUNCH

Your ReLaunch Team met on Wednesday, March 17th and decided to start in-person worship on Palm Sunday, March

28, at 10 am. It was also decided to hold two worship services on Easter Sunday, April 4, at 8:00 and 10:00 am. We are limiting the number of those attending each service to 50 individuals, and reservations are required. The Sunday services after Easter will be at the usual 10:00 time and will also require an RSVP. Email or call the church office starting the Tuesday prior to the Sunday you plan to attend. You will receive a confirmation from the church staff that you fit within the allowed 50.

All will need to follow the guidelines listed below if you plan to attend in-person worship:

- Face masks must be worn properly (over the mouth & nose) at all times while in the church building. Ushers will be reminding individuals of this if necessary. This is for the protection of yourself and others. Being fully vaccinated **does not mean** that you do not have to wear a face mask. We stand in unity with our healthcare workers and will lift our mask requirements when they are lifted for these facilities.
- Social distancing will be required in the narthex and sanctuary.
- Hand sanitizer will be available as you enter/exit.
- People will sit in family units or individually with 6 feet of separation from those around them.
- We will be sitting every other pew.
- Singing is still not recommended, though if people are singing, please join in gentle and quiet voices with face masks on.
- There will not be any Fellowship Time in the church. (Please exit the church once it is over and visit with each other in the parking lot.)
- Please continue to send your prayer requests to Rev. Kim prior to the Sunday service. (We will not have open prayer requests during the service). She will also need to be aware of any announcements in advance.
- Fellowship Time at 11 am will still be held on ZOOM with Carolyn Moore hosting.

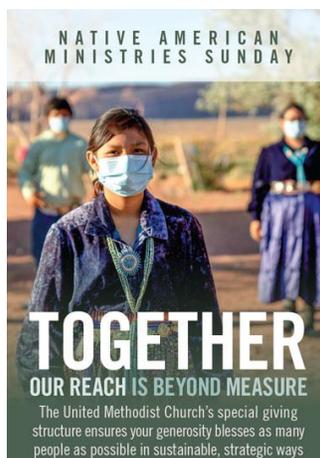
- We will not have a Children's sermon or Sunday School for children at this time.

We will clean the sanctuary before each service. We understand that many of you are ready to return to worship. We also understand that others will prefer to stay home and continue to watch the service on Facebook Live. We will do our best to accommodate both these worship needs. We expect that we will all need to be flexible and offer grace to one another.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions or suggestions. It is the hope of this ReLaunch Team to continue to make everyone at church safe and comfortable. We will continue to meet monthly. It is been a long year not being in worship with you and we hope that when you are ready, you will make reservations to attend. A huge thank you to those that have served on this team this last year: Ray Christian, Peggy & Richard Carr, Ruth McClary, Victoria & Jonathan Hair, Brenda Boren, Austin Barron and Rev. Kim.

David Barron, Chair - ReLaunch Team

NATIVE AMERICAN SUNDAY OFFERING



April 18, 2021, is the designated day for the denomination-wide Native American Ministries Sunday special offering. Feel free to turn yours in any day during the month of April. A "Special Sundays" offering envelope is included in this newsletter for your convenience. In 2019, United Methodists gave a

total of **\$541,784 to this cause**. The Native American Ministries Sunday offering provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians, strengthens and develops Native American ministries and communities, both urban and rural, and supports Native American outreach at the annual conference level.

DIGITAL SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School via Zoom
 10:00 a.m. Worship via Facebook Live
 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time via Zoom
 Youth Ministry TBD

APRIL MISSION EMPHASIS



The mission emphasis for April is the World Service Fund. The World Service Fund is one of the seven apportioned funds for the United

Methodist Church.

The World Service Fund provides financial support to general agencies, which are important to the common vision, mission, and ministry of The United Methodist Church. Through the funding provided by the World Service Fund, agencies support annual conferences and local congregations in living out God's mission for the worldwide Church. General agencies also provide essential services and ministries beyond the scope of individual local congregations and annual conferences through services and ministries that are highly focused, flexible, and capable of rapid response.

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson explained the impact of the World Service Fund using these words: "it is a way in which neighbor helps neighbor, and it helps Christians reach out all around the world. World Service Fund is everything that defines our church. It is the way that we connect together, the way that we become powerful in our response to injustice and to poverty, and to tragedy, and to need." Across the country and around the world, the World Service Fund empowers The United Methodist Church to be Christ's body in the world.

Together, with the help of the World Service Fund, we're sharing God's love with the world. Donations by check can be made to First United Methodist Church, with "World Service Fund" in the memo line.

WORSHIP TECH TEAM NEEDS HELPERS

The Worship Tech Team needs another 2-3 volunteers for their ministry to those who worship online. If you are adept and quick at



computers and would be willing to give a hand on Sunday mornings, please contact the church office. Richard Carr will give you the training you need.

DIGITAL MINISTRIES CONTINUE

Because some of our members haven't yet been vaccinated, have compromised immunity, or can't get to church for other



reasons, we will continue to offer our Facebook Live worship services at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays (along with in-person worship). We will also continue all or almost all classes and meetings on Zoom for the next month, at least. If you aren't able to rush back into the church, please don't feel left out! We will do what we can to keep you in the loop, so you can feel like a full participant. As we move into a hybrid mode (in-person and digital at the same time), some adjustments will likely be needed. Please communicate and offer grace, as you see ways that we can improve our ministries.

YARD CLEAN UP DAY



Our annual spring yard clean-up day will be **Saturday, April 10**, beginning at 9:00 a.m. There's a lot of spiffing up that needs done with lawn, flower beds,

bushes, and trees. Bring your gloves, shovels, rakes, trimmers, etc. We hope to see you here!

BEEKEEPING NEWS

The bees and beekeepers are busy at the hives doing our spring chores. Turns out 3 out of 4 hives survived the winter. A nucleus hive will be purchased to bring us back to four hives. This will arrive in early May. It is a half-size hive that contains one queen bee and workers, plus comb with larvae and honey. The bees have been together for at least a month. We have found this is an easy way to establish a new hive that is strong from the start.



Remember our Beekeeping Ministry website, www.kristenhoney.com, is available 24/7 and 365 days a year. Stop by and order your favorite products or purchase a gift. All proceeds benefit our ministry and others. New items are planned for April, along with a discount promotion for Earth Week. Check us out!

COMMUNITY GARDEN



Plans are being made to once again plant the Community Garden. Come join the fun and learning! Everyone is welcome. We are actively searching for more helpers. We grow vegetables for the

Lantern House homeless shelter and our church community.

A Garden Share program will be offered to distribute veggies to all of you. To get on the email list for activities, email Kristen Bell at:

bellf4m@comcast.net.

There is a proposal to our Mountain Sky District to form a Climate Justice Task Force to address environmental issues in our church communities. Sign the petition by April 15th to support this effort. Contact Kristen at the above email address for more information.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW are planning a NATURE WALK for Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at the Ogden Nature Center at 11:00 a.m., then the women will go to FUMC to eat lunch. Bring your own lunch. We will eat outdoors, weather permitting.



HEADS UP! THE FALL CRAFT FAIR DATE HAS CHANGED. NOW SCHEDULED FOR OCT. 29-30, 2021. Please make sure to correct your calendars.



SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY MAY 22 UNITED METHODIST WOMEN RUMMAGE SALE AND PARKING LOT SALE



SPRING IS HERE! Renewal is all around us. Garages and closets need sorting / cleaning? Bring your items to the Parking Lot Sale. ONE DAY ONLY.

Spaces in the parking lot are rented-- \$20 for one or \$35 for two spaces.

Sellers are responsible for set up and take down, and removal of unsold items. Sellers need to bring their own table, chair, awning/tent. Sellers must be ready in place before 8:00 AM. Some vendors we see at our fall Craft Fair plan to participate. Customers may buy from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. Proceeds from rentals are designated for the five charities in the Ogden area supported by United Methodist Women each year: Ogden Rescue Mission, Your Community Connection (YCC), Family Counseling Center, Joyce Hansen Hall Food Bank, Lantern House. Keep the proceeds of the sale of your items OR donate the proceeds to the UMW.

Contact for space rentals and reservation of spaces: Karen Lee. Send rental fees to Karen by Saturday, May 1, 2021.

BOOK TALK



The Book Talk book of the month is *The Circle* by Dave Eggers. Join us on **Monday, April 12**, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Cheryl at [801-389-9864](tel:801-389-9864) for further

information.

FUMC YOUTH

FUMC Youth would like to thank everyone for their support of the 30 Hour Famine. It was a great success. We will not hold Sunday School on Easter. We will look at beginning a modified in person Sunday School schedule on April 11. The Youth Ministry team is working hard to ensure that youth are provided the best Youth experience while providing a safe environment for all participants. More details about in person Youth activities will be provided shortly. Please contact Austin Barron if you have any questions or concerns.



ANNUAL EASTER FOOD BASKETS



Easter is just around the corner! Lantern House has asked us to help them with their Food Boxes this year, rather than put together bags ourselves. These boxes will

provide 53 families with a full week of meals. These families are no longer staying at Lantern House, as they have already been helped to find housing in the Ogden area.

Lantern House will be including canned items, breads, pastas, cereal, snacks, and other basic staples. They also provide meat items, like hamburger, deli meats, chicken, and turkey. To supplement these boxes, we would provide the funds to buy fresh fruits and vegetables, milk, butter, and eggs. Any funds beyond the amount needed for the families would go to provide single or partnered adults with these same foods.

Know that your donation will make a difference in the lives of these people as they strive to provide their families healthy meals. You can support this mission effort by donating to the church and putting Easter Food Boxes as the destination.

GET YOUR VACCINATION



The sooner everyone is vaccinated, the sooner we will all be able to return to doing the things we want to do—like return to in-person worship and fellowship. So, FUMC encourages you to do your part

for the good of society and our congregation. Yes, some have particular health conditions that you need to discuss with your doctor. But, for most people, vaccination is the way to life and health—for you and for all of us together. After you have received your two doses, please continue to assist those who have not yet had that opportunity. By your example of masking and social distancing, you will encourage others to stay safe.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



The Adult Sunday School Class will continue to meet by Zoom for now. The class is reading and discussing the book *UNconditional? The Call of Jesus to Radical Forgiveness* by Brian Zahnd. Kerry Conrad is leading the discussions. The class will not meet on Easter, April 4. But they will meet on the other Sundays at 8:45-9:30 a.m., allowing time for the students to drive to the church for the 10:00 a.m. service, if desired.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The next UMM meeting is **Monday, April 12th 6:30pm**. Zoom connection information will be in the weekly church email.



WORSHIP BY PHONE

For several months now, FUMC friends have been able to access the audio recording of our worship service by simply dialing **801-436-3829**. Put your phone on speaker, turn up the volume, and listen like you would listen to the radio or a podcast. The audio recordings will be available by 2:00 p.m. each Sunday for the latest Sunday worship service.

Call 1-801-436-3829
to hear our latest sermon



YOUR GENEROSITY IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Proceeds from the United Methodist Women sponsored Bake Sale on March 13, 2021 stand at \$651. THANK YOU to those who donated, those who baked, and those who purchased yummy treats. Reminder: all proceeds from Bake Sales help women, children and youth in the Ogden area. THANK YOU! THANK YOU!