

Epistle

*Inspired by God's love, we:
offer a spiritual oasis,
teach one another to serve,
and reach out to encourage
others to know Christ.*

March 2018

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

During the season of Lent, we are taking inspiration for many of our worship services from the spiritual called "Deep River."

*Deep river, my home is over Jordan
Deep river, my home is over Jordan
O don't you want to go to that Gospel Feast
That Promised Land, where all is peace?
Deep river, I want to cross over into campground.*

The spirituals are a type of religious folk music that come out of the time of slavery in the United States. Slaves would slip away together to hold their own worship services, and from these gatherings, the spirituals were born. The words of the spirituals lift up many themes, including God's liberating hope for all people, the hope of freedom and eternal life to come, and the belief that all people (of all races) are made in the image of God. The themes of freedom and hope continue to have meaning in our own time, as people seek hope in the midst of grief, or freedom from addiction, compulsion, or sinful

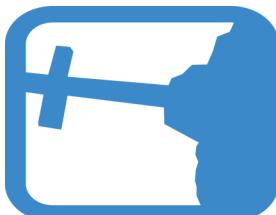
behavior. These timeless religious themes continue to speak to us today.

During this year of music, we will allow music to open our hearts to God in a special way. Our first concert of the year will inspire us with another style of Lenten Refection: vespers. Coming from the Latin word for evening, vespers are a worship service held near the time of sunset. They traditionally have a gentle, peaceful, and reflective tone, allowing a time for meditation and reflection at the close of day.

Please make plans to join us and bring friends, as **Hymnus Angelicus** sings vespers with our congregation on **March 4th at 4:00 pm.**

How is God speaking to our hearts during this Lenten season? Is there something from which we need to be set free? Is there a new way that God is calling us to grow spiritually? As we prepare for the celebration of Easter, may Lent help us to grow in love of God and love of neighbor.

VESPERS
[noun] an evening prayer service



HOLY WEEK

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

Sunday, March 25th

10:30 am

- ◆ Worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, March 29th

7:00 pm

- ◆ Worship with Communion

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, March 30th

7:00 pm

- ◆ Music, visual reflection and scripture for the Stations of the Cross

EASTER

Sunday, April 1st

- ◆ You and your family are invited to Easter morning worship at either 8:30 or 10:30 am on Sunday, April 1st.

At 9:45 am we will have family-friendly fun and activities including an EASTER EGG HUNT, BALLOONS, BRUNCH, a turn at the GUESSING JAR AND CHILDREN'S FACE PAINTING.

Invite friends and family to join you on this day!



Special



EASTER OFFERING

It is the tradition of Saint Paul's UMC to give special offerings in celebration of Easter and Christmas. This generous giving above and beyond our ordinary pledges allow for extra support for the mission of the church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This year's special Easter offering will go toward three areas:

- ◆ **Literacy Resources for Garlough School**

Our partnership with Garlough School is making a significant difference in the lives of many children. In addition to nutrition through Sheridan Story, parent support through help with Parents In Education (PIE) nights, and teacher appreciation with an annual luncheon, this year we also have Reading Buddy volunteers in many classrooms, volunteering to work with literacy. To increase our literacy efforts, we will also donate expanded literacy resources to the Garlough library, including Spanish-language books to encourage parent-student reading in homes with Spanish-speaking parents.

- ◆ **Camping/Retreat Scholarships**

Our confirmation program is growing, and we are happy to have more students going on a confirmation retreat at Camp Koronis this year. The special offering will help support that retreat and partial scholarships for other United Methodist camping opportunities during the summer.

- ◆ **General Fund**

Part of the Easter special offering will go toward support of the general budget expenses at Saint Paul's United Methodist Church.

CHRIS' CORNER

elpizosfire@gmail.com

651-925-4172

Yet to be

Many years ago one of my spiritual mentors remarked about faith, *"If you will live a life of faithfulness to God, you will remain focused on the road ahead and not the road behind..... don't drive into the future with your eyes firmly fixed in the rear view mirror. Faith is in the future. Nostalgia is in the past."*

Strong words for sure. Now I believe for one that we should appreciate and acknowledge the ways we have been shaped and helped by the past.

But yes, faith is about the future. This is part of the reason I have devoted my

life to working with young people. Most of their lives are YET TO BE, so to speak. Their lives are an undiscovered country of potential, possibility and hope. And since I love exploring, I enjoy discovering with them the good things that God is waiting to reveal in and through them.

This thing we call Christianity has not always been like it is today. What we think of as church/faith/religion actually started out as a seed. A very tiny seed. Insignificant compared to the well established religions of its day in the ancient world. A very minor, Jewish only sect, in a very localized part of the



Roman empire with predominantly male leaders. A seed. There was nothing wrong with it, per se. It was a start, a beginning, a spark. But there was so much, much more to come. So much flourishing waiting to come into bloom and to be revealed. I sometimes wonder what the early apostles would think of what they helped to start? Could they have envisioned a global faith? A faith that welcomed ALL people, even Gentiles? Gasps! A faith that affirmed the equality of BOTH genders in their worth, calling and gifts? Astonishing! Could the early apostles have even imagined

everything we take for granted? I have no delusions about the state of Christianity today. For as

much as we have grown and become, for as much good as has been done in the name and for the cause of Christ, for as big and far reaching and for all the strides we have made, we still have LOTS of serious problems and issues to face. LOTS of opportunities for growth. One of the things we learn from children is that they will NOT stay the same. We don't bemoan that. We rejoice in it actually, because usually those changes mean growth, maturity, wisdom and a deeper understanding about who they are in the world and what they are meant to do.

My constant prayer. The drum I always seem to beat. The hope that is always in my heart is that WE (all of us) can continue in this momentum of love started at the Christ event. That seed that is continuing to grow in the hearts of our young people today. That spark this is spreading like a fire of hope. We have grown beyond our ancestor's wildest imaginations, I believe. Yet there is so much more YET TO BE.

**FAMILY MINISTRY
MARCH CALENDAR**

- Mar. 4: Hymnus Angelicus concert 4:00 pm
- Mar. 11: Kidz 2gether Worship Potato Bar Mission Trip Fundraiser after worship
- Mar. 18: VBS Information meeting after worship
- Mar. 14: Confirmation 6:00 pm
- Mar. 25: Bible Bucks Store 9:30 am Wilson Baby shower after worship
- Mar. 26-30 Spring Break
- Mar. 29: Maundy Thursday
- Mar. 30: Good Friday

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families nurture lifelong disciples of Christ



CONFIRMATION

Feb 2018 : Things we learned about the "Church"

The "Church" is not a building or structure but the people that serve, worship and love God and each other.

The early Church grew quickly and gained numbers by living like their founder Jesus taught them. In the history of the Church there have been many splits over disagreements about doctrine. Some of those splits have caused the church harm and other times it has given birth to new opportunities.

The church is made up of flawed and broken people who experience God's grace and who seek to continue to improve.

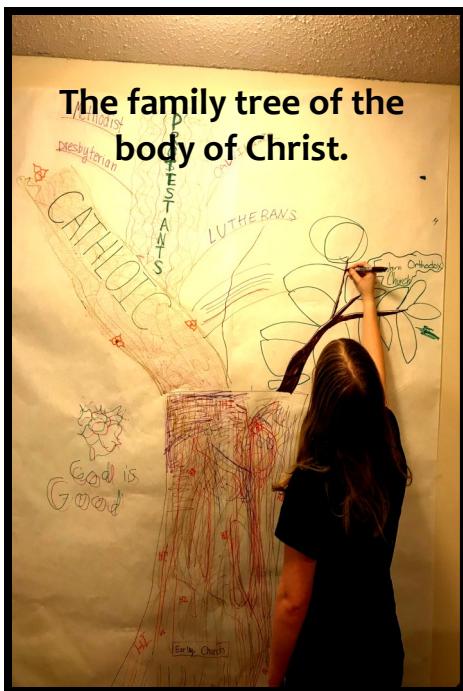
Confirmants at St. Paul's are on a path of discovery and learning about the Christian faith in the Methodist tradition.

SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is returning to St Paul's UMC, June 25th-29th! This year's theme is "*Hero Central*". An information meeting will be held on March 18th immediately after worship. Contact the Director of Family Ministry and Mission, Chris Archer for more details on how to sign up your children to attend and for adults to volunteer.

CAMPING

United Methodist Camping opportunities are available for Summer 2018. Check out the camping options online at <https://www.campminnesota.org/> or find one of the catalogues located around the church. You can also speak with Chris Archer at elpizosfire@gmail.com or 651-925-4172. Scholarships may be available!



2018: A YEAR OF MUSIC

St. Paul's UMC

700 Wesley Lane, Mendota Heights MN 55118

Free, but tickets are required. Call, 651-452-5683.



HYMNUS ANGELICUS Lenten Vespers

Date: March 4, 2018

Time: 4:00 pm

Don
Irwin,
pianist

Date: April 28,

2018

Time: 7:00 pm

UNITED IN PRAYER DAY 2018, MARCH 17th, 9:15 am-1:30 pm SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, 11 WEST BERNARD ST., W. ST. PAUL

If you practice centering prayer or would like to learn more about this form of Christian meditation, come to Salem Lutheran Church in West St. Paul on Saturday, March 17th, from 9:15 am to 1:30 pm. They are part of an ecumenical, world-wide network of Christian meditators who seek to live ordinary lives with extraordinary love. The morning will feature Fr. Thomas Keating talking about "Human Evolution" from his video *God is Love*. The morning will include discussions, meditation, hospitality and lunch. Free will offering. No RSVP necessary. For more information, contact Louise, lenesdahl@comcast.net.

UMCOR SUNDAY MARCH 11th

Gifts to UMCOR Sunday (previously known as One Great Hour of Sharing) lay the foundation of all United Methodist Committee on Relief work by covering the costs of doing business. This means all contributions designated to specific programs can go 100% to those programs because UMCOR'S basic expenses are covered. Look for special giving envelopes in the pews.

SUCCESSFUL LEARNING

Helping
young
students
find success



**SMALL
GROUPS**
United with
purpose



GARLOUGH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Reading Buddies

A testimony-An investment in joy:
"The hour I spend at Garlough Elementary each week helping my reading buddies is one of the best investments of time I have made. Not only do I experience the joy of helping another in a small yet important way, I see the joy in my reading buddies eyes and hear it each week in their thank you and

pleading for me to return next week."

Have an interest in being part of the mission to help make a difference in a young person's life here in our community? Talk to Chris Archer, The Director of Family Ministry and Mission. Contact him at elpizosfire@gmail.com.

UMW CIRCLES

Rachel

Rachel Circle will meet on March 19th, 7:00 pm, at Barb Jorgenson's home. Questions? Contact Barb Jorgenson, 651-414-0054.

Rebekah

Please consider joining Rebekah Circle on March 21st at 11:00 am at church. Questions? Call Beda Lewis at 651-554-3600.

Ruth

Ruth Circle will meet March 19th, 12:30 pm, at church. Questions? Contact Nancy Kane, 651-457-8376.

UMW SPEAKER

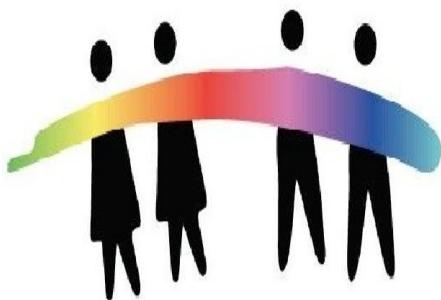
On Monday, April 2nd, St. Paul's UMW invites everyone to hear Sister Janine Rajkowski speak on acupressure and massage practices. Her presentation at church (6:30-7:00 pm) discusses how these two practices can heal stress (physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual). She is the owner of *Center for a Balanced Life* in West St Paul. Refreshments will be offered. All are welcome!

MEN'S GROUP

There will be no meeting in March. Questions? Contact Dick Robinson, 651-207-8643 or dickrobinson2@msn.com

REACHING OUT

Living our faith and connecting with our neighbors



The Minnesota FoodShare Campaign brings together various community organizations, businesses, and faith communities to help stock nearly 300 food shelves statewide. St. Paul's UMC is currently collecting food and money for FoodShare March Campaign. Last year, *Neighbors* finished 2nd in the state for collecting food/money! We are a big part of this service! Every can and dollar helps.

With your help, we hope to meet our church goal of filling five (5) barrels with food items and collecting cash donations of \$500 by April 8th. For donations of money, make the check payable to St. Paul's and write "Neighbors"

on the memo line. You may place it in the Sunday collection plate or in the donation box in the narthex.

This year, Chris Archer, The Director of Family Ministry and Mission has said that if we meet our Minnesota FoodShare goals this year that he would do one of three things.

- ◆ Shave off all of his facial hair for a month (not including eyebrows).
- ◆ Color his hair for a month. Color to be determined by the congregation.
- ◆ Wear suits for four (4) straight Sundays from mid-April to mid-May during worship.

The congregation will have a chance to vote each week during Minnesota FoodShare collections, Feb 26th- April 8th. Voting will be done by blue card each week. *You must be in worship to vote.*

MISSION TRIP SUMMER 2018

This summer St. Paul's UMC will be returning to Spirit Lake Ministry Center to work with our native brothers and sisters in North Dakota. This will be an intergenerational mission trip, taking both youth in our confirmation program and also older adults. It will offer many different kinds of mission activities including things for the highly skilled and mostly unskilled. The dates of the mission trip are June 10th-15th and costs about \$400. It is fun and within a day's drive from the Twin Cities. You're invited!

Can't go but want to be supportive ?
Attend the Potato Bar Fundraiser on March 11th after worship.



Want to go with us "in spirit" because your flesh can't attend this year?
Become a prayer partner.



Contact Chris Archer, The Director of Mission at elpizosfire@gmail or 651-452-5683.

ADULT EDUCATION, BERTLESEN LIBRARY

SUNDAYS, 9:30 am

A Crazy, Holy Grace; March 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th

This four (4) session DVD-based study is based on author Frederick Buechner's essays on pain, the loss of a loved one, letting go, peace, and the healing power of memories. Buechner is a highly influential writer who has won awards for his poetry, short stories, novels, and theological writing. You are invited!

ADULT EDUCATION WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP

Beginning on Wednesday, February 21st, noon, you are invited to discuss David Brook's book, *The Road to Character*. Brooks writes a column for the New York Times and teaches at Yale. This is a best selling down to earth book on achieving true character. Owning a book is not necessary, though public libraries and mail orders are available. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at noon. Bring a sandwich. Charles Duddingston will lead the program, which will run for several Wednesdays.

FINANCIAL REPORT

There are many ways to financially contribute to our congregation. If you are 70 ½ or older and have a Traditional or Roth IRA, the new tax law continues to allow Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD). A gift of a QCD is sent directly from your IRA to a qualified charitable organization such as Saint Paul's UMC. The QCD is not considered income and is not subject to income tax up to the limit of \$100,000. In addition, the gift of a QCD will satisfy part or all of your annual Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA.

This option may become more important during the 2018 tax year with the increase in the standard deduction. Many, who previously qualified to itemize, will now use the standard deduction and thus their charitable contributions will not be an itemized expense. A contribution from your IRA allows you to make a contribution to our congregation and to maximize your tax advantage.

To make a gift to church, instruct your IRA custodian to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA and they will send a check directly to Saint Paul's UMC. If you have questions about the process, feel free to contact one of us.

As always, be sure to check with your tax and financial advisers to understand how the new law applies to you.

*Dale Fletcher and Kae Jewell
Finance Committee, Co-Chairs*



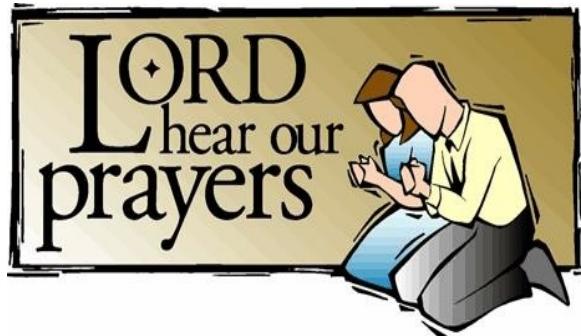
LUKE AND MELISSA WILSON BABY SHOWER SUNDAY, MARCH 25th AFTER WORSHIP

All of the Saint Paul's UMC church family is invited to a baby shower, celebrating the baby-to-be of Luke & Melissa Wilson. The shower will be held following worship on Sunday, March 25th at 11:45 pm.

Luke and Melissa already have the large pieces of baby furniture (crib, car seat, high chair, etc.), so we will focus on showering them with disposable diapers, baby clothes, and books, as well as showering the family with our blessings and well wishes.

Their registry can be found at www.babylist.com, then search by Luke and Melissa's names.

Join us to celebrate new life on the way!

**Please pray for the following:****Joys:**

Stephen Frame's Boy Scout Eagle Court of Honor on January 28th

Deaths:

Tuako "Sue" Oyangi, mother of former member, Mari Eggum, January 16, 2018

Health Concerns:

Those sick and hospitalized with the flu

Ben Pressnall as the doctors come up with a plan for prostate removal due to cancer

Barb Helmken's friend, Mary, diagnosed with breast cancer; Irma and Herb with multiple health issues

Don Halver's brother, Gene, recovering from broken hip surgery

Nancy Grinager's sister, Liz recovering from successful cancer surgery, and sister-in-law, Dedra, diagnosed with cancer

Cheryl Anderson's Tai Chi instructor, Keith, recovering from stroke and paralyzed

Loye Eckman's Norwegian cousin's husband, Joern, recovering from cancer surgery

Norma Deitner's great granddaughter and Carol Rix's grand niece, Kalia, continued healing after heart surgery

Diane Edgell's sister and Willis' sister-in-law, Darlene, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer

Chuck and Dawn Everling's friend, Jane, in home hospice care with cancer

Willis and Diane Edgell's niece, Tracy, with cancer

Jo Reck's friend, John, recovering from triple bypass surgery and for his wife, Paula; friend, Walter recovering from a kidney transplant

John Moffitt, Jerry's twin, dealing with pain after hip surgery last winter

Yeen Chong's co-worker, Clara, with leukemia

Jo Daugherty and Della Relation for health concerns and continued healing

Additional:

Victims of the Florida school shooting

The Felton family as they grieve the loss of Craig

For Jerry Moffitt's daughter, Kristin, as she prepares for a 5 year teaching assignment in Switzerland this fall

Jude Rikala's sister lost her house in a fire

For addicts still suffering

For jobs

For all who mourn

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

Education Hour for All 9:30 am
Worship: 10:30 am

2nd SUNDAYS SCHEDULE

Education Hour for All: 9:30 am
Kidz 2gether Worship: 10:30 am
Brunch: 11:30 am

Communion will be offered the 1st and 2nd Sundays of every month.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - noon

CHRIS' OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIR:

Leslie Watkins

ST. PAUL'S STAFF:

Pastor: Rev. Amy Jo Bur,
pastor@stpaulsmn.org

Director of Family and Mission Ministries, Chris Archer,
elpizosfire@gmail.com

Director of Music Ministry,
Lane Skoglund-Anderson,
laneleskoglundanderson@gmail.com

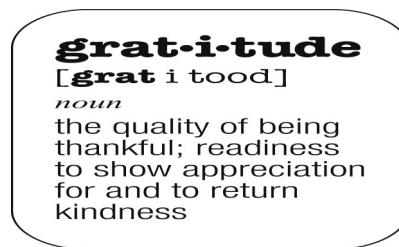
Administrative Assistant: Diane Pelinka, info@stpaulsmn.org



Sue Kratsch
shkratsch@gmail.com

Jessica Kamish Gaviorno
1900 Alaskan Way #402
Seattle WA 98101

Paul Swanson
1266 Gorman #202
West St. Paul MN 55118



Our sincere thank you for the generous donation you made to us in January 2018. Your donation of 113 pounds of groceries to our food shelf is greatly appreciated. Many of your neighbors will benefit as a result of these gifts given from your heart. Thank you for being part of the Neighbors' family! With gratitude,

*Beth Skwira, Dir. Of Dev.
Neighbors Inc.*

Thank you for your gift received on 12/27/17 of \$400 to the General Board of Global Ministries through the Advance.....100 percent of your contribution will support the missionary community in honor of Quynh-Nguyen....(full letter on bulletin board) Grace and Peace,

*Roland Fernandes
General Treasurer*

Thank you for your generous gift of \$400 in December. I have just received a notice of your gift from Global Ministries. What a blessing! Thank you for taking your time to welcome me to your church to share my ministry and giving to the Vietnam mission. I still remember the blessed time with your church last September. I pray that you are all doing well in this long winter. May God bless you for your warm heart for mission! Again, thank you and blessings,

Quynh (Nguyen)

Thank you for your financial contribution of \$1,000 on January 27, 2018 to The Sheridan Story. Your partnership will enable The Sheridan Story to continue to make a positive impact in the fight against child hunger.(full letter on bulletin board)

Rob Williams, Exec. Dir.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 11th!				1	2	3 <i>8:30 am Fit Moms 4 Life</i>
4 9:30 am Education Hour for all w/ Adult Ed— 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion 4:00 pm Hymnus Angelicus Concert	5 <i>10:00 am Music Together</i>	6 <i>6:00 pm Yoga</i>	7 12:00 pm Wednesday Book Group 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir <i>6:30 pm Al-Anon</i>	8 <i>10:00 am Quilters</i> 2:30 pm HCI Prayer Team	9	10 <i>8:30 am Fit Moms 4 Life</i>
11 Daylight Saving Time Begins 9:30 am Education Hour 10:30 am Kidz 2gether Worship w/Communion 11:30 am Potato Bar fundraiser <i>4:30 pm Music Together</i>	12 <i>10:00 am Music Together</i> 6:00 pm Church Council Mtg	13 <i>6:00 pm Yoga</i>	14 12:00 pm Wednesday Book Group 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir <i>6:30 pm Al-Anon</i>	15 10:00 am—2:00 pm Loose Threads	16 Newsletter Deadline	17 <i>8:30 am Fit Moms 4 Life</i>
18 9:30 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship w/ Mission Moment 11:30 am VBS info mtg <i>4:30 pm Music Together</i>	19 <i>10:00 am Music Together</i> 12:30 pm Ruth Circle, church 7:00 pm Rachel Circle, Barb Jorgenson's house <i>6:45 pm 4H</i>	20 <i>6:00 pm Yoga</i>	21 11:00 am Rebekah Circle, church 12:00 pm Wednesday Book Group 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir <i>6:30 pm Al-Anon</i>	22	23 4:00 pm Youth Lock In	24 <i>8:30 am Fit Moms 4 Life</i>
25 Palm/Pasion Sunday 9:30 am Education Hour w/ Bible Bucks Store 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Baby Shower	26	27 <i>6:00 pm Yoga</i>	28 12:00 pm Wednesday Book Group 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir <i>6:30 pm Al-Anon</i>	29 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship	30 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship	31 <i>8:30 am Fit Moms 4 Life</i>
April 1 Easter 8:30 and 10:30 am Worship 9:30 am Brunch, Egg Hunt, other fun!	2 <i>6:30 pm UMW Speaker</i>	3 <i>6:00 pm Yoga</i>	4 12:00 pm Wednesday Book Group 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Chancel Choir <i>6:30 pm Al-Anon</i>	5	6	7 <i>8:30 am Fit Moms 4 Life</i>

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

700 Wesley Lane
Mendota Heights MN 55118

Phone: 651-452-5683
Email: info@stpaulsmn.org

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Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
The People of the United Methodist Church®



HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, March 25th
10:30 am
♦ Worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, March 29th
7:00 pm
♦ Worship with Communion

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, March 30th
7:00 pm
♦ Music, visual reflection and scripture for the Stations of the Cross

EASTER

Sunday, April 1st
8:30 am and 10:30 am
♦ Worship
9:30 am
♦ Brunch, Egg Hunt, and other fun things!