

The ECHO

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Volume 69 Issue 4

APRIL 2022

APRIL 2022 CALENDAR

SUNDAY, April 3
10 am Worship & Sunday school
Hopper usher team
Choir Practice following service

MONDAY, April 4
4:30 Dining at Pegg's

WEDNESDAY, April 6
7:00 Choir Practice

THURSDAY, April 7
11:30 Women's Fellowship
5:00 Women's Book Study

SUNDAY, April 10 - PALM SUNDAY
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
10:00 Worship & Sunday school
Weckback usher team

MONDAY, April 11
ECHO INFORMATION DUE

TUESDAY, April 12
6:30 Church Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY, April 13
7:00 Choir Practice

THURSDAY, April 14
5:00 Women's Book Study

FRIDAY, April 15 GOOD FRIDAY
CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED
7:00 Good Friday Service

SUNDAY, April 17 EASTER SUNDAY
6:30 am Sunrise Service
Rob Bohle usher team
8:00 Worship & Sunday school
10:00 Cantata

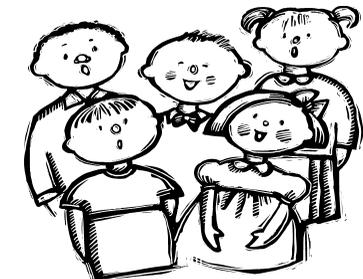
MONDAY, April 18
4:00 Christian Education

WEDNESDAY, April 20
7:00 Men's Fellowship

THURSDAY, April 21
5:00 Women's Book Study

SUNDAY, April 24
10 am Worship & Sunday school
Wakeland usher team
New Member Orientation after service

THURSDAY, April 28
5:00 Women's Book Study

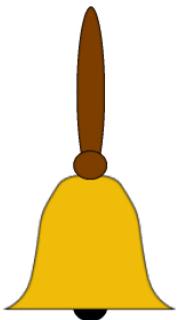


Children's Choir

Children's choir will be returning soon. If you have a child who loves to sing, we would love for them to join us. Please contact Ruth Ann Meyer or Dianne Lowerre.

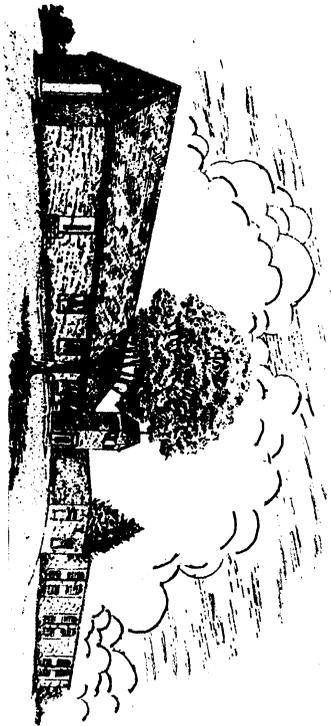
There is also interest in starting a children's bell choir. If your child is interested, please contact Ruth Ann Meyer, Rayna Meyer, or Dianne Lowerre.

More details for these opportunities will be coming.



ST. MARTIN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
7890 Dittmer Ridge Road
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A website I like to frequent asks us to spend some time as we prepare for Easter identifying and expressing gratitude toward God for our own "small r" resurrections.

Jesus' resurrection- with a capital R -is when he rose up from the grave after the crucifixion. We will all share in that resurrection in eternity one day because of our faith in Christ. But the resurrection is not only for the end of life when we leave this world. Resurrection is for every day!

Here are some possible examples of 'small r' resurrections that I can think of: health after serious illness, a relationship transformed, a shaft of sun piercing a depressing day, a new venture late in life. Life and death brush hands in a mysterious dance, and sometimes we catch a heartening glimpse. These are times to thank God for the power of resurrection – new life that is – in the here and now.

The good news remains an unchanging, steady beacon, but the way we receive it is colored by our own experience. We may join half-heartedly in songs and celebration because we're worried about the rent increase, or the price of gas; it's altogether different to sing full-throated alleluias because the biopsy was benign!

How, then, do we live as Easter people? For starters, we can re-wire our negativity, our fearful obsessions that threaten to blot out hope and smother life. Instead, attend to the prophetic message "as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts" (2 Pt 1:19). Of course, we have reasons that tempt us to despair. But we have even better ones to build hope on Christ's promise. Whatever evils this life contains, they don't have a permanent hold on God's beloved.

At some time, we must have received news or an assurance we thought we didn't deserve. The person we loved from afar loves us too; the harvest has been spectacular; despite many setbacks, the children have turned out splendidly; the health scare was groundless. Or even: The health scare was genuine, but we've come to peace with it. This is the season to savor our personal good news, our entryway to the stunning news that we will live forever.

Pastor Scott



The Women's Fellowship meeting was held on March 3. There was 14 ladies and 1 gentleman that attended. A prayer was given by Pastor Scott, followed by a corn beef and cabbage luncheon. Dianne and Tom Lowerre were our guests for Bingo. A short meeting was held. Our next meeting will be held at the church on April 7 at 11:30. A pot luck luncheon will be served . There will be a demonstration by Debby Utterback on facials. Please join us for good fellowship .

Submitted by Tammy Birkenbach vice president



2022 EASTER LILY ORDER FORMS

Easter lilies may be purchased in honor of or in memory of someone from Sunday, March 13 – Sunday, April 3. The flowers are \$15 each. The flowers will be used to decorate the church on Sunday, April 17, and may be picked up after the 10:00 am Easter Cantata Service. You may also give a monetary gift of your choosing in memory of family members or friends. These gifts will be designated to the Alter Fund and used for permanent decorations, and will truly be a continual gift each season.

#___ of flowers you are ordering at \$15 per plants
Altar Honorarium of \$___

Easter Lilies and/or Altar Honorarium given by:

Circle the one that is appropriate:

- In honor of/In memory of: _____

Order forms must be received in the church office or placed in the offering plate

NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, April 3th.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: St. Martin's UCC

***First Rites of Passage: 40 Hours in the Wilderness
A Son/Father Depth Spiritual Retreat for Boys****

Shannondale Retreat Center – Ozark National Scenic Riverways
Friday, June 3, 2022, 6:00 pm – Sunday, June 5, 2022, 2:00 pm
\$150 for son and father together

The general assumption underlying all initiatory rites is that unless a young male is shown real power through a community of wise elders, he will always seek false power and likely will spend much of his life seeking prestige, perks and possessions. The pattern of the monolith of the hero in the Hero's Journey is universal: 1) Separation from business as usual, old roles, dependent affirmation... 2) This moves the initiate into a threshold or liminal space where God can be heard. 3) Here a numinous, mystical, spiritual encounter is possible, desired, required. Wilderness space provides for this. 4) Now the initiate returns to his community with a new identity and a gift for the community, although his primary gift is the man he has become. Dads will be empowered to live in this too.

This long-needed mentoring experience is designed to supplement the support, instruction, preparations, and follow-through for the Pastor's Class and Baptism, typically offered to Chi-Rho age youth (completed grades 5-8). We will empower the youth to "own" their faith formation and encourage a lifelong devotion to Christian companionship and service to Christ and each other by immersing them into the untamed wilderness with Spirit guides. Some activities will involve all and much will be the boys growing together by themselves while Dads and men getting a chance to share, talk, and experience having a young man in their family.

Travelers are encouraged to eat Friday dinner in either Salem or Eminence. Sleeping will be in communal bunks at Timber Lodge unless there is a specific need. Bring linens, toiletries, sunscreen, insect repellent, Bible, and especially a journal. Boys will be given a chance to swim so bring trunks or cut-offs. Sunday worship will be at Shannondale UCC – casual outdoor dress.

*The Rites include all meals, bonfire snacks and materials for a major project to keep. Please come regardless of ability to pay! A male elder may accompany the young man if a dad's participation is not possible. All who identify as men, boys, or non-binary individuals are welcomed here. A few older young men who might serve as peer mentors (and older brothers) would be welcomed with their dads. Boys and men from other congregations or faith communities, the neighborhood, scouting, the gym...will feel wholly welcomed.

For more information, please contact Jack Nobles.



The Christian Education Committee is asking for donations of candy to be used at the Easter Egg Hunt on April 17th after the Cantata Service at 10:00. Please drop off donations to the church office by April 10.



Please join us for worship at 10:00 Easter morning as the choir presents the cantata "This is God". This cantata will bring the good news that Jesus is alive. We are blessed and redeemed by his blood.

The Cross is the Final Word



THE MEGA SALE IS BACK

The Mega Sale is back! But, at a different location. We want to "bring people back to church", so the sale will be held in our Fellowship Hall here at St. Martin's, with overflow to the outdoor slab if mother nature cooperates with us. Sale dates will be on Friday, April 22 & Saturday, April 23 from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm both days. Donations should be brought to the church on Thursday, April 21 or during the week prior. Call Donna Scanlon (314-650-0814) for special drop off arrangements, questions, or for help getting your donations to church.

Tell your friends & neighbors about the sale and the new location.

We'd like everyone to join the Mega Crew this year for whatever day and time you are available because this little event does "take a village" for optimum fun and success.

Thanks & love to all,
Donna Scanlon,
Gary & Gerry Jones



Please come and be a part of Men's Fellowship. The March meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20, in the Conference Room at 7:00 pm.



In April, diapers and feminine products are requested donations. The Peace Pantry appreciates any and all donations throughout the year.



Youth Group

Everyone is looking forward to spring and everything it brings. We are planning our Mission Trip to Bayou La Batre, Alabama. We leave June 26 and return July. We are also looking forward to Canoe Camp in July. It will be nice to have a normal summer again.

We will be getting eggs ready for the Easter Sunday egg hunt that will take place after the 10:00am service.

We are excited to have three new confirmands this year, Logan Spicer, Luke Meier, and Jayden Green. This is an exciting time for everyone as these young people join our congregation and confirm their faith.

Terri Green

Congratulations to Hannah Colabianchi. She will be attending SEMO in the fall.



Congratulations to Anna Belle and Catherine Wakeland who are heading to the State Choir Competition. They receive an exemplary score for their performance in the sibling sextet.

Congratulations to Anna Belle Wakeland for being named Player of the Year for Grandview Girl's Basketball and selected as first team All-conference and All-District.

Congratulations to Catherine Wakeland for being picked as second team All-Conference and All-District. Both of these girls have had a fantastic Basketball Season.



The Church Council met on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 6:30 pm in the Conference Room.

Council Officers had not been finalized until this meeting. The Officers for 2022 are as follows:

- Dianne Lowerre: President
- Debby Utterback: Vice President
- Elaine Brooks: Recording Secretary
- Kathy Hopper: General Funds
- Jim Terry: Funds Manager
- Gary Jones & Rich Koenig: Building and Grounds
- Jack Nobles: Time & Talent
- Kathy Heincker: Mission and Outreach

COVID protocol was discussed. It was decided that masks would be optional at this time and the pews would no longer be marked off. Offering collection and communion will remain the same.

We still need people to hold ServSafe or Food Handlers Certifications. We are also needed one or two kitchen managers. Kathy Hopper and Dianne will look into the best way to do training and receive certification.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

If you are interested in learning more about St. Martin's and would like to become a member of our church family, please join us Sunday, April 24th, in the conference room after the church service. We would love to have you join us.



LOOK WHO IS HAVING A BIRTHDAY 80 + years

- Donna Kniep 4/8
- Bill Cook 4/22

LOOK WHO HAS AN ANNIVERSARY 25 + years

- Kevin & Mechele Moore 4/2 39 years
- Delmar & Margie Weber 4/4 41 years
- Vince & Denise Gudines 4/7 43 years
- Forrest & Barbara Fortner, Jr. 4/15 39 years
- Calvin & Kathy Weber 4/16 45 years
- Ron & Barb Short 4/21 66 years
- Tom & Dianne Lowerre 4/23 45 years
- Tom & Elizabeth Gudenkauf 4/27 26 years
- Roger & Gayle Coleman 4/30 34 years



Asher Noelle Groaning
March 3, 2022
Great Grandparents: Steve & Debby Utterback