



The Beacon

Volume 10 No. 4

APRIL 2021



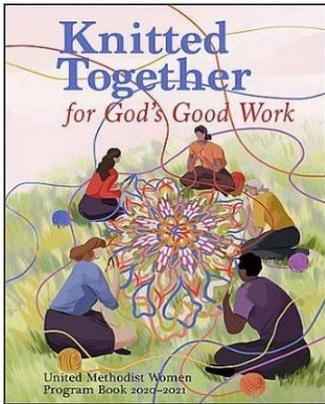
EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP 10 AM

Welcome back to in-person worship ...

A safety protocol will be followed with masks, hand sanitizing, and social distancing in the church building. Upon entering the building, please sign in with the usher.



Pastor Melody Olin's Good Friday message will be posted on Facebook.

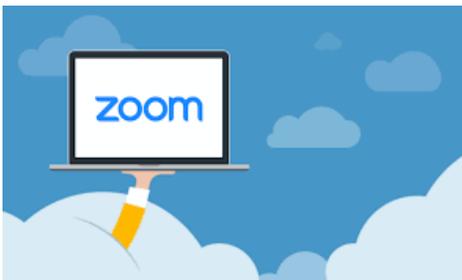


**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
EMPIRE UNIT**

April 13, 2021 Meeting at 11:00 am
Program - Business Meeting

Bring a sack lunch!  *Fellowship!*

Empire United Methodist Church - Vision Statement:
A community who goes out, serving in love, sharing Christ.
“Go, Serve. Share Christ.”



BIBLE STUDY THURSDAYS 2:30 pm

(via iPad, Cell Phone, Laptop,
desktop & computer)



We will begin a new study on April 8, The Books of Ezekiel and Daniel by Linda B. Hinton.

The study begins with Ezekiel’s call and prophecies and moves through Daniel’s exile and visions. Some of the



major ideas explored are the fate of Jerusalem, prophecies against the nations and against Egypt, restoration and fulfillment, God’s servants in Babylon, and the end-times. The



study is done on ZOOM weekly and will help students strengthen their understanding and appreciation of the Bible by enabling them to engage the Scripture on three levels: (1) What does the Bible say? (2) What does the passage mean? (3) How does the Scripture relate to my life? The meaning of the selected passages is made clear by considering such aspects as ancient customs, locations of places, and the meaning of words. The simple format makes the study easy to use.

Contact Tom Petersen if you would like to participate in the weekly ZOOM Bible Study Class.



APRIL 2021 - UMCOR

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters – be it famine, hurricane/tornados, war, flood, fire, or other events—to alleviate suffering and to be a source of help and hope for those left most vulnerable. UMCOR provides relief, response, and long-term recovery grants when these events overwhelm a community’s ability to recover on their own. UMCOR also provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development. By donating to **UMCOR Sunday** [which funds administrative costs], you enable UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of designated gifts, will go to support designated PROJECTS.

When forwarding your donation, please note: UMCOR Sunday on the memo line. Make your donation by check payable to: Empire United Methodist Church Attn: Treasurer PO Box 261 Empire 49630

The United Methodist Church's special giving structure ensures your generosity blesses as many people as possible in sustainable, strategic ways. Through your support, and our church, we fund many projects each year.

BLOOM with EUMC – Adopt-A-Flower Bed

The trustees are launching a **“BLOOM with EUMC – Adopt-A-Flower Bed”** program at the church on **April 24 at 9:00 AM** at the church.

Can we count on YOU to help EUMC grow, BLOOM, and prosper?

Will you Adopt-A-Flower Bed and help us make EUMC a more beautiful place?



Routine upkeep (weeding, watering and your time) will be required.
Contact Jean Petersen as soon as possible to claim your Flower Bed! Watch for email messages with more information!

Here are some tips for making the most of the green spaces around our worship center:

- 1. USE NATIVE PLANTS.** The trees, shrubberies, and flowers native to an area not only prove hardier, but also generally require less water and care than more exotic plants.
- 2. ADD GREEN ISLANDS.** Break up vast, stark parking areas with small green “islands” of plants and trees. The result is a more visually appealing church landscape design— and lowers summer temperatures by shading the pavement.
- 3. USE MULCH.** Mulching around trees and in plant beds holds moisture in. Mulching also discourages weed growth, reducing the need for harsh chemical treatments.
- 4. LEAVE CLIPPINGS.** Mow lawn areas with mower height set on two to three inches. Grass at this length absorbs water better, diminishing wasteful runoff. Run mower without a grass bagger. Clippings left in the lawn add much need nutrients and eliminate disposal problems.
- 5. AERATE LAWNS.** Small holes punched six to ten inches apart allow the soil to absorb water better, reducing runoff.
- 6. CONSERVE WATER.** Choose plants with low water demands. Watering early or late in the day minimizes water lost to evaporation. Water only if needed to dampen soil without wasting water in runoff. Consider drip irrigation for shrubbery and hedge areas.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL - SAFETY TEAM MEETING MINUTES March 16, 2021 & March 23, 2021

Present: Pastor Melody, Sandy Mallory, Roger & Beth Noonan, Carole Merillat, Jean Petersen, Kay Coombs, Kay Wilcox

Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM with prayer by Pastor Melody.

Sandy Mallory stated that there has been an issue with the AV system and Denny and M'Lynn, from the



sound system firm, are working on it. Hoping that the issue will be resolved soon.

The purpose of this meeting is to work on opening the church for worship on Easter Sunday, April 4 – 10:00.

Consensus: Re-opening the church can be done safely now (with mask and social distancing). For those who do not feel comfortable attending in person, the ZOOM bible study class and the Website/Facebook worship services will continue.

DISCUSSION:

Pastor Melody is not comfortable doing in-person services until she has had her second COVID vaccine. She is scheduled to receive it on March 25th but must wait for two weeks after the second vaccine before doing in-person services. She will begin in person worship services on April 11th. It was discussed whether one of the retired pastors from our parish could do the Easter Sunday service. Roger Noonan will contact the District Superintendent regarding this. Pastor Melody will prepare a video sermon for Easter Sunday for Website/Facebook which can also be used on the Sanctuary AV system. The service would include a lay leader, music with Gwen Denny on keyboard; video music for hymns may also be used. Kay Coombs will contact Jan Lyon to do lay leadership for the service if she is available.

- No Sunday School for at least a few weeks after opening until we see how things progress.
- There will also be no coffee hour. People can bring their own coffee if they choose to do so and can gather outside after services to visit while social distancing. Meet and Greet time is also suspended.
- Others using the church building (AA, NA groups, TOPS and Care Givers group, United Methodist Women) will continue to meet as they have done all along.

Due to Denny Olin still suffering from residual effects of COVID, he may not be able to run the AV system in the Sanctuary. We need to find other people who can do the job, plus a backup team. Pastor Melody will check with Christine about the possibility of operating the AV system; Kay Coombs will ask Jim Sorbie. Noonan's will ask their granddaughter to see if she might know someone from the high school who might be interested.

Roger Noonan stated that we will take things month by month and see how it goes.

Consensus: Everyone attending agreed.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 23 at 6:00.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Noonan, secretary



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL – SAFETY TEAM MEETING MARCH 23, 2021

PRESENT: Sandy Mallory, Pastor Melody, Carole Merillat, Jean Petersen, Kay Wilcox, Gerri Sorbie, Jim Sorbie, Roger Noonan, Kay Coombs

Pastor Melody opened the meeting with prayer at 6:05 PM.

Purpose of meeting: Finalize plans for reopening Church for Easter worship, April 4, 2021.

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Some of the audio-visual equipment parts were damaged by critters inside the church during shutdown. A part is on order with the hope it will be here by 4/4/21, for Pastor Melody's video presentation on Easter Sunday in the church. If the part does not arrive in time, Tom Petersen will preach.

THINGS TO DO:

- Christine: clean and sanitize public areas in the building by April 2.
- Jan Lyon will be Easter Worship Leader.

- Denny Olin will run sound system on Easter Sunday and the video if available.
- Gwen Denny will provide music for the service.
- A bulletin for Easter worship will be mailed out for Pastor Melody and/or Tom Petersen. The Easter sermon by Pastor Melody will be on Facebook and the website.
- On Easter Sunday, an usher will be at each entrance. Worshippers will be asked to sanitize their hands, wear masks, and sign in with name and phone number.
- Ushers will give directions for social distancing and direct worshippers to the sanctuary (seating capacity: 25 people in sanctuary).
- Collection plate will be in Lobby. Kay Coombs will take the offering home after worship for safe keeping.
- If desired, people may bring their own coffee to service; and following worship may gather outside to socialize (with social distancing).
- Recruit volunteers to sanitize bathrooms, door handles, seats, etc. after church.

The Safety Team/Worship Team will meet on March 29 at 10 AM:

- Create a bulletin.
- Remove Bibles and Hymnals, etc. from pews.
- Wrap drinking fountain with plastic.
- The following areas will be closed to the public: kitchen, lounge, adult bible study classroom, Sunday school classroom, nursery, Pastor's Office, and Church Office. Doors will be closed, and signs posted.
- Safety signs will be laminated and posted throughout the building.
- Floors will be taped at 6' intervals for social distancing and the sanctuary will indicate social distancing seating for worship.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers will be set up at each entrance.
- Depending on attendance, the lounge may be used for overflow seating, as well as seats in the lobby, and/or fellowship hall if sound system is working.

Minutes by Kay Coombs, Scribe



*Joy is Prayer - Joy is Strength - Joy is Love
Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.
~ Mother Teresa ~*

Where did Good Friday get its name?



Our name for the Friday before Easter, "Good Friday," is most likely related to the English and the Dutch, the only two languages that use this term, which etymologists say is likely an alteration of the Germanic word, "Goddess," meaning "God's" or "Holy." That term does not mean "good." The day is called Holy Friday in nearly all other languages in the world.

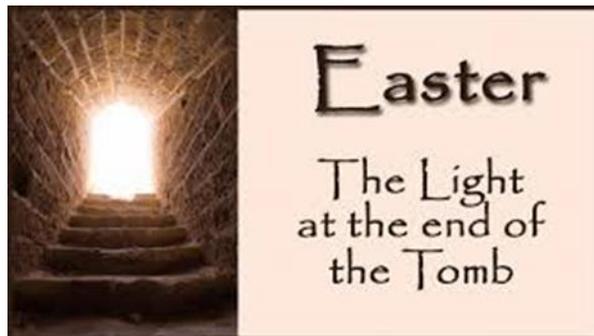
A similar process happened with the English word "goodbye," which was formed over time as a contraction of "God be with ye."

English speakers are no more saying that "it's *good* to see you go" when they say goodbye than they are calling the day of

Christ's crucifixion good when they call it Good Friday. Holy, yes. Good? Not so much.

Good Friday, or Holy Friday as most of the rest of the world calls it in their languages, proclaims God's purpose of loving and redeeming the world even in the face of human rejection and cruelty through the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is a day that is holy and makes us holy because God was drawing the world to God's self in Christ.

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.



Please continue to support the church by mailing your offerings to: Empire United Methodist Church

**Attn: Treasurer PO Box 261 Empire 49630
or contact Roy Pentilla [erpentilla@aol.com]**

for on-line giving

(we still need to pay for utilities, staff, and other bills to keep the church going)

*If you wish to contribute to the **Pastor's Discretionary Fund** or **Mission of the Month Offering – UMCOR Sunday**, please make the notation on your check.*

Serving as the Hands & Feet of Christ 137 Years in Empire 1884 – 2021

The Beacon is published monthly by The EMPIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Our mailing address is: PO Box 261 – 10050 Michigan Street, Empire, MI 49630. We can be reached at 231.326.5510 or www.empireumc@centurytel.net. Information and items for publication must be received at the church office by the 3rd Wednesday of the month.



EUMC Mission Statement

“To live out a faith in Jesus Christ through our efforts to hear others, share in God’s truths, join in worship, and celebrate in the Joy of God’s grace.”

SUNDAYS

10:00 AM **Worship Service**
8:00 PM AA Group

MONDAYS

9:00-1:00 **Church Office open**
10:00 AM Worship Team

WEDNESDAYS

9:00-1:00 **Church Office open**
8:00 PM NA Group

THURSDAYS

9:00-1:00 **Church Office open**
10:00 AM Worship Team

THE CHURCH BUILDING IS OPEN FOR WORSHIP

**CHECK YOUR EMAILS – FACEBOOK - WEBSITE
FOR CURRENT INFORMATION**



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