

The United News

The United Church of Heyworth
a United Methodist Church

April 2017

From the Pastor's desk...

The season of lent is a journey to reflect, repent, and draw close to our God. Over this forty day journey of the Lenten season, we have studied the various encounters of individuals from the gospel of John that crossed paths with Jesus in their daily lives. Some came seeking at night, as did Nicodemus, a Jewish respected, educated, religious teacher of the law. The Samaritan woman at the well met Jesus in an unusual encounter when Jesus crossed boundaries and broke barriers of race, gender and culture to reach all people. And last week, Jesus encounters and heals a man blind from birth. In each scenario, there is spiritual blindness, yet an awakening to a new reality. When the man healed of blindness is questioned over and over again by the authorities of the day, the once blind man gets frustrated and finally says in John 9:25, "One thing I know. I was blind but now I see." In each encounter, Jesus places himself with those who need him most. But don't we all have the same need? What does that say to us today? Should we not represent Jesus and go where people are in need? Jesus offered a relationship to bring healing, forgiveness, hope, reconciliation, salvation and life.

And isn't it interesting that those who thought they had no need were the very ones who were really blind and lost? In the story of the blind man healed by Jesus, the Pharisees excommunicated him. He was deemed a believer. So Jesus, hearing of this news, comes to him.

Let's look at the text in John 9:35-41.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

"Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

Jesus said, "You have now seen him; and in fact, he is the one speaking to you."

Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked,

"What? Are we blind too?"

Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."

Those who encountered Jesus were spiritually blind. With each new encounter Jesus' identity was revealed and a new awareness or awakening happened. It still happens today. Jesus met each one where they were on their life's journey and offered a choice to believe and worship him. Each one had their own experience of Jesus. Have



What is Lent and why does it last forty days?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-

Lectionary Scriptures for April

April 2: *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalms 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

April 9: *Palm Sunday*

Matthew 21:1-11

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14—27:66

April 13: *Holy Thursday*

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 14: *Good Friday*

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

Psalms 22

Hebrews 10:16-25

John 18:1—19:42

April 16: *Easter Sunday*

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-18

Matthew 28:1-10

April 23: *Second Sunday of Easter*

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalms 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

Kelly Huey's class from the Elementary School visited the Food Pantry in March to help out and bring donations.



Special Services

Easter is coming! Our Palm Sunday and Easter services will be one combined service at 10:00 am with Sunday School at 9:00 am. You won't want to miss our children singing on Palm Sunday! Let us gather to celebrate our risen Savior, Jesus

Fair Trade Coffee Sunday

Fair Trade coffee sales will occur between Sunday morning services on the first Sunday of each month. The next sale day will be April 2, 2017. Cost is \$7.00 per bag. Flavors available are breakfast blend, decaf and caramel toffee. Chocolate bars may be available as well. Thank

Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt

The Sunday School classes will have an Easter egg hunt on the 16th during the 9 am hour.



Partners in Healing

Every month, churches in our area pray for the patients and staff of Advocate BroMenn Regional Medical Center and Advocate Eureka Community Hospital. This ministry, called Partners in Healing, is administered by the Department of Spiritual Care Services. During April of 2017, The United Church will be praying for the Pediatrics/Infusion Unit at Advocate BroMenn Medical Center. The Unit contains 23 beds for children and outpatients of all ages receiving medical infusions. Many of the children are on the unit for only a day as they recover from tonsil and adenoid surgery, while others are hospitalized with serious illnesses.

One Call Tell All

We at the United Church are excited about the One Call Tell All System, for better communication about prayer requests, committee meetings, and information about events within the church and community. If you have not signed up with your phone number, please let us know so that we can get your name on the list to keep everyone in the loop. With one phone call we will be able to contact the entire congregation, or one of our many committees, or prayer

Greeters and Hospitality

A new rotating list has been developed for our treats for fellowship time and greeting on Sunday Morning. Please if you would like to add your name to either greeting or hospitality on Sunday morning we would love to have your

New Name Tags

One Call Tell All, a Greeters and Hospitality schedule, and new name tags are the three goals we set at the January "Five Practices Meeting." We are about to accomplish those tasks and will be tackling some other goals when we meet Sunday, April 30 for another "Five Practices workshop" here in the fellowship hall. We will have one service on April 30, at 10:00 am in order for all to attend the Luncheon. We will offer a meal. We look forward to many new and exciting ministries developing from our time together brainstorming about how we can be more "Radically Hospitable, Passionate in Worship, Intentional in Faith Devel-



Elevate

On March 12, youth and adults gathered in praise and worship in the evening service. Kristen Tucker, Brady Patrick, and Tyler Blank shared their musical talent in praising God. "Elevate" is our new youth ministry for grades 6-12. Central to our mission is introducing youth to Jesus Christ/developing strong disciples for Jesus Christ. Maybe you know a youth in the community who would like to join us in this uplifting min-

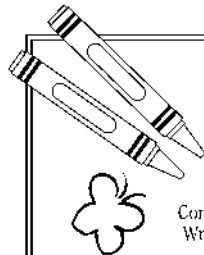


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with Jesus saying, "One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see."

Let us take our experience of Jesus into the world and meet everyone with the same love and compassion. There is a lost, broken, and hurting world that so needs to hear the good news so that they, too, can say, "I once was lost, but now am found. I was blind but now I





Just for KIDS

Easter Surprises!

Connect the dots to find 2 symbols of Easter.
Write the words in order on the lines below.

17. holy 18. righteous 19. He 20. died 21. to

16. The 22. loving 23. one 24. save 25. again

15. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40.

14. Son 12. 13. His 11. God 10. Christ 9. 8. Jesus 7. us 6. 5. 4. gave 3. 2. 1. 43. day 42. Easter 41. on 40. And 39. sin

2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 26 28 30 33 35 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46

UMCOR Sunday

The 2016 Atlantic Hurricane season, which included Hurricane Matthew, was one of the most active in recent years. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) knows that being prepared allows one to have a sense of control and hope during an unexpected event. It also places individuals, churches and communities in a better position to assist neighbors.

UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) was March 26, 2017. UMCOR's ability to respond is due to the generosity of United Methodist congregations and individuals around the world. Gifts to UMCOR Sunday underwrite UMCOR's costs of serving local churches in times of disaster. This helps keep the promise that 100 percent of every gift made to UMCOR projects goes directly to those in need.

When you give to the UMCOR Sunday offering,



APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 (purple) 9:00 & 11:00 Morning Worship 10:00 Ed classes Children's Sunday School Jr./Sr. High Bible study Adult Bible study 6:00 Elevate	3 Kaitlyn Prehoda	4 1:30 Food Pantry prep 5:30 Food Pantry Distribution Karen Maharas	5 10:00 Bible study 6:30 Praise team 7:30 Choir practice	6	7	8
9 Palm Sunday (purple) 9:00 Ed classes Children's Sunday School Jr./Sr. High Bible study Adult Bible study 10:00 Morning Worship 6:00 Elevate	10 7:00 Trustees Tony Foster Mark Hancock	11	12 10:00 Bible study 6:30 Praise team 7:30 Choir practice Mike Mortenson	13 Holy Thursday Laura Pritts Gary Ferguson	14 Good Friday  7:00 Good Friday Community Service	15 Natilee Foaster Sarah Moritz Ashley Russow
16 Easter (white) 9:00 Ed classes Children's Egg Hunt Jr./Sr. High Bible study Adult Bible study 10:00 Morning Worship 6:00 Elevate	17 (newsletter deadline) Adeline Shaffer	18 Dorothy Ahlenius Janet Grant Rick Andreae	19 10:00 Bible study 6:30 Praise team 7:30 Choir practice Doris Idle	20 Brady Patrick	21	22 June Ratts
23 (white) 9:00 & 11:00 Morning Worship 10:00 Ed classes Children's Sunday School Jr./Sr. High Bible study Adult Bible study 6:00 Elevate	24 Phyllis Grant	25 7:00 Administrative Council	26 10:00 Bible study 6:30 Praise team 7:30 Choir practice Amy Angel	27 Alyssa Kopp	28 Paige Frisch Nick Norton	29
30 (white) 9:00 Ed classes Children's Jr./Sr. Adult E 10:00 Mo 5 Practice meeting 6:00 Elevate						

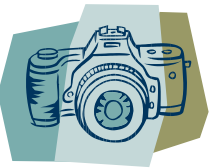


Money Matters

2017

A statistical snapshot (11 weeks)

Worship attendance average 70



Treasurer's Report

February 1-28, 2017

Beginning balance \$57,458.59

Income

Apportionments	65.00
Endowment fund	2,200.00
General Offering	12,011.00
Nursery	0
Special Offering	211.00
Sunday School	<u>18.00</u>

\$14,505.00

Expenses

Church Office Management	509.50
Conference Apportionments	1,918.00
Endowment Expense	2,200.00
Ministry	467.25
Miscellaneous	0
Special Expense	3,796.34
SPRC	8,914.14
Trustees for maintenance	400.00
Utilities	<u>1,182.07</u>

\$19,387.30

Checking Account balance \$52,576.29

General balance	24,971.50
Special offering balance	27,604.79
AV replacement fund	1,070.84
Book	10.00
Choir (Memorials)	166.25
Computer replacement fund	262.52
Food pantry	7,116.74
Good Samaritan fund	330.24
Youth	3,329.91
Estate	15,318.29
<u>Endowment Disbursement balance</u>	<u>0</u>



Service Notes—Greeters for April are: April 2nd, Terri Kopp and Roxann Ellis (first service,) Sue and Larry Custer (second service); April 9th, Mary Jane and Rodger Zook and Marv Rewerts; April 16th, Dorothy Ahlenius, Chris Shaffer and Marvin Rewerts; April 23rd, Doris Idle and Carolyn MacQuarrie (first service,) and Marvin Rewerts (second service); and April 30th, Chris Shaffer, Doris Idle, Jeri Myers, Connie Wood and Phyllis Grant.

Hospitality stewards are: April 2nd, Margaret Kutemeier (set up) and Sue and Larry Custer (clean up); April 9th, Emily and Cliff Dolbeare (set up) and Margie and Jim Shawgo (clean up); April 16th, Chris Shaffer (set up) and Virgil Butler (clean up); April 23rd, Deb Coakley (set up) and Virgil Butler (clean up); and April 30th, Sarah





We are praying for: The families of Ray Fisher who passed away recently; Mabel Beyer, Mike Pullen; and Jason Phillips; also Joe Weidner; Ella Dolbeare (*having tubes put in her ears*); Cameron Huey (*recovery from sinus surgery*); Roger Lane; Clifff Dolbeare's grandmother (*recovering from double knee replacement*); Gina Nicewonger Mason (*complications with pregnancy*); Abby Curtis (*looking at a possible MS diagnosis, co-worker of Sue Custer*); Pastor Linda; John Mortonson (*health, Hannah Nelson Mortonson's father-in-law*); Tabi Nelson (*seminary*); Cliff Dolbeare's grandfather Rollie (*health*); Laura (*Marvin Rewert's niece, in auto accident, improving*); Laura Jo Bergner (*finishing her degree*); Barbara Steiling; Mary Lane; Mildred Cline; Scott Lambert (*recovery from boat race accident*); Biff and Mary Bergner; Chris Decker (*chronic back degenerative issues, Laura Jo Bergner's brother-in-law*); Brian Kopp (*surgery recovery*); Dick Miller (*hip surgery recovery*); Laura Anderson (*back surgery recovery*); Richard MacQuarrie (*Carolyn's son*); Nina Blackburn; Gilbert Nelson (*health, Chris' brother*); Melissa Baldassari (*health*); Kara Barnhill; Eva Rees; "Elevate," our youth group; our Sunday School; our friends in Berlin, Josh and Laura Lang and their family; and the following dealing with cancer: Mary Gaherty; Wyatt (Steve Crum's 6 month old grandson); Tina King (*Robert Mowbray's cousin*); Diane Green; Larry Fisher (*Melissa Baldassari's brother*); Jo Stine (*friend of Emily Dolbeare*); Scott Dixon; Rob (*friend of Custers*); Sandy DeVaney (*friend of Barb Ellis*); Denny Turner; Elaine (*Emily Dolbeare's mother*); Jack Thomas; Pattie Taylor; also our church staff and their families; our country and newly elected leaders; those serving in the armed forces and their families; shut-ins;



Contact Addresses

- Treasurer: Audrey Ball
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- Administrative Council Chair: Laura Pritts
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- Recording Secretary: Kim Nelson
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- Trustees Chair: Roxann Ellis
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- Stewardship and Finance Chair: Steve Soice
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- Staff/Parish Relations Chair: Cliff Dolbeare
cliff.dolbeare@yahoo.com
- Caring Ministries Chair/Stephen Ministry:
Ruth Nicewonger, ran473@aol.com
- Outreach Ministries Chair: Chris Shaffer
kc1shaffer@gmail.com
- Children's Sunday School: Doris Idle
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- Parish Nurse: Chris Shaffer
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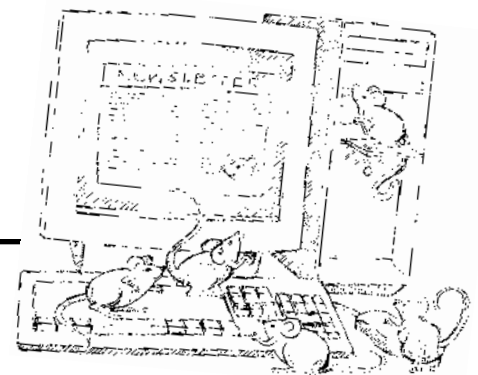
Office Hours

The church office is open Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Pastor Linda plans to be in the office Monday through Wednesday mornings, and other times as the need arises. Parsonage phone



Message Online

Audio of each Sunday's message is available online. You can access it either from the worship page of the church's website (ucheyworth.com) or by going to theunitedchurch.podbean.com. Also, a link to each week's message will be posted to the church's Facebook page. This is a great way to hear the message if you can't be at church or to share the message with



Newsletter Deadline

The Church Office plans to put together the information for each monthly newsletter during the third week of the preceding month. Please leave any items you wish to contribute in the bin by the office door or email to the Church office. **The deadline for May will be April 17th** for a

The United Church of Heyworth
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Pastor: Rev. Linda Vonck
uchrev@yahoo.com
Administrative Asst.: Karen Schaefer

The United Church of Heyworth

Connect in Worship

Sundays, 9:00 am and 11:00 am (except Palm Sunday, Easter and April 30 which are combined services at 10:00 am.)

Grow in Study

Sundays, 10:00 am (except Palm Sunday, Easter, and April 30 which are at 9:00 am):

Children's Sunday School (Lower Level Classrooms)

Junior/Senior High School Bible study: (also lower level)

Adult study: (Conference Room)

Wednesday Bible Study: 10:00 am

Making followers of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.