

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This seems very unusual, but yes, Easter Sunday falls on April Fool's Day. I guess I don't remember this ever happening as long as I can remember. I guess I was right. I googled it and found out that the last time April Fool's Day has fallen on Easter Sunday was in the year 1888.

I remember back when my children were young, I could pull off an April Fool's joke on my two daughters every time. I would call them my little guppies. However, my son was very hard to fool on April 1st. He was just always on guard when this day arrived. However, I did managed to fool him big time once! Nobody could outdo me in this area. I was the "great fooler!"

The one I remember the most was pulled on my son when he was in his teens. He was as close to a neat freak as I have ever seen. Everything had to be in place and everything had to be clean. He even ironed his underwear! I guess that is why he has become a successful accountant for a firm in Western Omaha. He is very exact and meticulous! However, I called this trick the famous, "Rubber Vomit Hoax!" I think I got it at a "Spencer's" Store in the local mall.

I remember he was in the living room and I snuck

into his room which as always was immaculate. I began to cough and complain about how sick I felt. He heard me coughing from the living room and he quickly ran into the kitchen to get me a glass of water for my coughing spell. When he almost got to his bedroom, I pretended to throw up and placed the rubber vomit on his bed. He got so excited and disgusted that I puked on his bed. April Fools! I yelled. He didn't think it was funny, but I did!

Well, I can safely say that this practical joke on my son probably has nothing to do with Easter, except this: My belief as a Christian in the death and resurrection of Jesus is no joke, and it's no laughing matter. Jesus will rise from the dead and live forever and those of us who are true believers will rise from the dead and live forever in God's heavenly kingdom as well!

As always, I pray that many of you will join us for either our Sunrise Easter Service at 7:00 a.m. with a free breakfast to follow or our traditional worship service at 10:15 a.m. If you haven't already, this would be a great time to accept Jesus Christ into your heart. I promise to be with you when you do! **Jesus did rise from the dead on Easter Sunday and that's no joke!** God bless! Pastor Kim

Holy Week:



Palm Sunday March 25

Maundy Thursday Service March 28

at First Presbyterian Church 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service March 29

MUMC 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service April 1

MUMC 7:00 a.m. Breakfast Following

Easter Worship Service April 1 10:15 a.m.

United Methodist Women News

World Day of Prayer March 2

Executive Meeting March 9 1:00 p.m.

General Meeting March 9 1:30 p.m.

Program

Clearview Recovery with Carol Diekema

Hostesses

Marcia McConeghey

Jeanne Van Genderen



Next
Community Table

Wednesday

March 21

5:00—7:00

Don't forget to set your clock ahead!

Daylight Saving time begins Sunday

March 11



"...The winter is past,
The rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
The time of singing has come..."

Song of Solomon 2:11-12



SPRING AHEAD

“Giving in Gratitude” Devotional

Read [1 Chronicles 29:1-9](#)

“And now, because of my devotion to the Temple of my God, I am giving all of my own private treasures of gold and silver to help in the construction. This is in addition to the building materials I have already collected for his holy Temple. I am donating more than 112 tons of gold from Ophir and 262 tons of refined silver to be used for overlaying the walls of the buildings and for the other gold and silver work to be done by the craftsmen. Now then, who will follow my example and give offerings to the Lord today?”

Then the family leaders, the leaders of the tribes of Israel, the generals and captains of the army, and the king’s administrative officers all gave willingly. For the construction of the Temple of God, they gave about 188 tons of gold, 10,000 gold coins, 375 tons of silver, 675 tons of bronze, and 3,750 tons of iron. They also contributed numerous precious stones, which were deposited in the treasury of the house of the Lord under the care of Jehiel, a descendant of Gershon. The people rejoiced over the offerings, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord, and King David was filled with joy.

([1 Chronicles 29:3-9](#))

Reflect

David gave from his personal fortune for the Temple. He encouraged others to follow his example, and they willingly did. Both the tabernacle ([Exodus 35:5–36:7](#)) and the Temple were built from the voluntary gifts of the people. Like David, we can acknowledge that all we have comes from God ([1 Chronicles 29:14-16](#)). We may not have David’s wealth, but we can develop his willingness to give. It is not what we have that counts with God, but our willingness to give it.

These leaders displayed a right attitude toward their money by giving willingly to God’s work. This attitude is described by Paul in [2 Corinthians 9:7](#): “You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. ‘For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.’” When we are generous because we are thankful, our attitude can inspire others.

Respond

Consider how God has generously provided for you. How can you give cheerfully and generously to the work of the Lord? You can give your time, talents, or tithe. How will you instill in your children the value of giving?

“Music Ministry”

As you read this devotional I encourage you to prayerfully consider how you will participate in our worship at Monroe United Methodist Church. Yes, God wants all his people to participate in worship. You may not be a master musician, a prophet, or a teacher, but God appreciates whatever you have to offer and we do too.

We love music - the Choir, The Chimes Group, VIP Ladies, playing a special cd, YouTube video, solos, groups, instruments - trombone, saxophone, flute, trumpet, guitar, mandolin, spoons, rap, whatever you want to share in our worship. Please contact the church office, Pastor Kim or a member of the Worship Committee.

~~~ Donna Stravers

Read [1 Chronicles 25:1-31](#)

*David and the army commanders then appointed men from the families of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun to proclaim God's messages to the accompaniment of lyres, harps, and cymbals. Here is a list of their names and their work:*

*All these men were under the direction of their fathers as they made music at the house of the Lord. Their responsibilities included the playing of cymbals, harps, and lyres at the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman reported directly to the king. They and their families were all trained in making music before the Lord, and each of them—288 in all—was an accomplished musician. The musicians were appointed to their term of service by means of sacred lots, without regard to whether they were young or old, teacher or student.*

*([1 Chronicles 25:1](#), [6-8](#))*

Reflect

There is more to prophesying than predicting the future. Prophecy also involves singing God's praises and preaching God's messages ([1 Corinthians 14](#)). Prophets could be musicians, farmers ([Amos 1:1](#)), wives ([2 Kings 22:14](#)), or leaders ([Deuteronomy 34:10](#))—anyone who boldly and accurately spoke out for God and tried to bring people back to worshipping him. From a large group of musicians David chose those who showed an unusual ability to tell about God and to encourage others in song.

It is fitting that David, a skilled musician, would take great interest in the organization of the musicians. The musicians were divided into twenty-four groups to match the twenty-four groups of Levites ([1 Chronicles 24:7-25](#)). This division of labor gave order to the planning of temple work, promoted excellence by making training easier, gave variety to worship because each group worked a term, and provided opportunities for many to be involved.

The fact that David consulted the commanders of the army also is fitting. During many battles, the priests carried the Ark or blew trumpets.

Respond

*God wants all his people to participate in worship. He also wants his people to avoid envying the gifts of others, but to instead be content. You may not be a master musician, a prophet, or a teacher, but God appreciates whatever you have to offer. Develop your special gifts so you can offer them in service to God ([Romans 12:3-8](#); [1 Corinthians 12:29-31](#)).*

# SCRIPTURE READINGS

## WEEK OF MARCH 4

|               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| OLD TESTAMENT | EXODUS 20:1-17        |
| NEW TESTAMENT | 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25 |
| GOSPEL        | JOHN 2:13-22          |

## WEEK OF MARCH 11

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| OLD TESTAMENT | NUMBERS 21:4-9   |
| NEW TESTAMENT | EPHESIANS 2:1-10 |
| GOSPEL        | JOHN 3:14-21     |

## WEEK OF MARCH 18

|               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| OLD TESTAMENT | JEREMIAH 31:31-34 |
| NEW TESTAMENT | HEBREWS 5:5-10    |
| GOSPEL        | JOHN 12:20-33     |

## WEEK OF MARCH 25

|                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| LITURGY OF THE PALMS   | MARK 1:1-11          |
| LITURGY OF THE PASSION |                      |
| OLD TESTAMENT          | ISAIAH 50:4-9        |
| NEW TESTAMENT          | MARK 14:1-15         |
| GOSPEL                 | MARK 15:1-39 (40-47) |

Ad Council meets  
Wednesday March 14  
at 7:00.



*The family of Dale Hume would like to thank all of you for your help, love and concern during Dale's illness and since his death.*

*A special thank you to Pastor Kim, Jackie and the ladies of the UMW for the luncheon.*

*May your cups be pressed down and overflowing—always.*



QuotesIdeas.com



Spring Fever



MOMs group is again collecting school supplies. The March goal is 100 safety scissors (blunt tip). Please feel free to put them in the basket in Fellowship

*then  
sings  
my soul...*





## March Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 6 Larry & Carol Diekema  
8 Kelly Phillips  
9 Marty & Joyce Lewis  
Paul & June Hjortshoj  
12 Sue Gildersleeve  
Shirley McGregor  
13 Austin Timmins  
Brock Barnett  
14 Pastor Kim  
17 Mike & Dianna Nolin  
24 Greg & Sue Gildersleeve  
28 Paula Van Der Hart  
29 Jill Brambaugh  
Andrew & Celia Romick  
30 Opal Chamberlin



## March Ushers

March 4 & 11 Nancy Current, Melissa Van Der Hart

March 18 & 25 Allan Jennings, Deb Coulter,  
Rod and Jeanne Van Genderen

## March Liturgist

March 4 Early/ Dianna Nolin Late/Melissa Van Der Hart  
March 11 Early/ Donna Stravers Late/Jeanne Van Genderen  
March 18 Early/Patty Eilander Late/ June Hjortshoj  
March 25 Early/Greg Duinink Late/Lori Schakel

## Communion

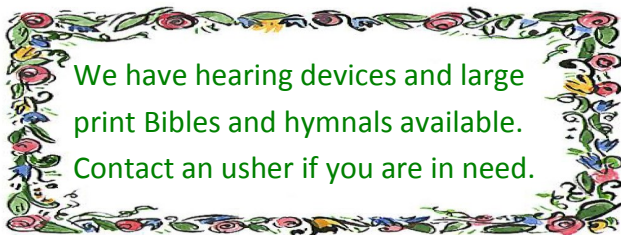
March 4 Dianna Nolin & Dawn Neff

Hospitality

March 25 Joyce Van Der Hart



Please notify the church office of Pastor Kim if a family member is taken to the hospital, has passed or for any other prayer concerns. Pastor Kim's email is [hawkjoy52@yahoo.com](mailto:hawkjoy52@yahoo.com) and his cell number is (402) 679-2655



We have hearing devices and large print Bibles and hymnals available. Contact an usher if you are in need.



Thanks to everyone who helps our church, enabling us to have a wonderful worship experience! If you are unable to make a scheduled function please find a replacement or contact the church office.

# March 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

|                                                                                                                                |               |                                                                                                                                            |                                            |                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                            |                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                |               |                                                                                                                                            |                                            | 1                                                                                                                                                           | 2                                                                                                                          | 3<br>Cub Scout Blue-Gold Banquet<br>5:00-8:00 |
| 4<br>4H 6:30                                                                                                                   | 5<br>7:00 AA  | 6<br>Bible Study<br>9:00<br>                            | 7<br>MOMs 9:00                             | 8                                                                                                                                                           | 9<br>UMW Exec. Mtg.<br>1:00<br>UMW General<br>Mtg. 1:30                                                                    | 10                                            |
| 11<br>Daylight Saving<br>Time Begins<br>     | 12<br>7:00 AA | 13<br>Bible Study<br>9:00<br>                           | 14<br>Ad Council<br>7:00                   | 15                                                                                                                                                          | 16                                                                                                                         | 17                                            |
| 18<br>Cub Scouts<br>3:30                                                                                                       | 19<br>7:00 AA | 20<br>Bible Study<br>9:00<br>First Day of<br>Spring<br> | 21<br>MOMs 9:00<br>Community<br>Table 5:30 | 22                                                                                                                                                          | 23                                                                                                                         | 24                                            |
| 25<br><br>Palm Sunday<br>Cub Scouts<br>3:30 | 26<br>7:00 AA | 27<br>Bible Study<br>9:00<br>                           | 28                                         | 29<br><br>Maundy Thurs-<br>day Service @<br>Presbyterian<br>Church 7:00 | 30<br>Good Friday<br>Service 7:00<br> | 31                                            |

## Service Times

Jubilee Service 8:15 a.m.

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Worship Service 9:15 a.m.

## Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

8:30-12:30

Church Phone/Fax

(641) 259-2822

## Monroe United Methodist Church

Pastor

Kim Crummer

Cell (402) 679-2655



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