

Stormy Weather

Hopefully, the worst of our interesting winter is now behind us. Experience tells me, however, there will be stormy weather to come. Who knows if that will include more of the white stuff? This much I know, the month of April is historically full of storm and wind as the season begrudgingly gives way to warmer temperatures. I fully anticipate this as we near the end of Lent and enter Holy Week. If I'm wrong, I'm wrong, and you can fire me as your weather reporter!

Regardless of what the weather brings, in the days ahead, we will see a different sort of storm clouds gather over our Lord as we recall his faithful journey to Jerusalem, "on a hill far away," and ultimately on a cross. It is by walking with him during this time that we discover a different kind of joy. It's not the joy of winning, or success, or wealth, or many of the things people often associate with joy. For us, it is joy in the midst of suffering, and that might sound strange.

Our faith's main symbol is a cross, a symbol of suffering, shame, and death. Where's the joy in that, you might say? For me, it's a reminder that, apart from God's grace, I am dust, and "to dust I shall return." It reminds me to see my life as the precious gift it is, to remember that my days are numbered, to be ever more aware of God's grace working in my life, and to enjoy the life I have.

The joy of the cross is also a reminder that joy itself isn't something we wait for, after work is over, after a busy week, after the chores are done, but is instead something to be experienced in the moment, in a meaningful conversation, in standing up for someone who needs our help, in speaking the truth when it isn't easy, in living out our faith with others. It is being brave for God. And it is that "for God" part that gives me joy. I can joyfully live with myself, or die, knowing that what I do, I do for God. Certainly, that is what gave Jesus joy, even in moments of agony.

And then, the joy of the cross is surely joy because of what God has done. All the suffering, shame, and reproach Jesus bore has been redeemed. God raised him up. And God will raise us up too! It is knowing that our sins are forgiven. It is knowing that our life, brief as it is, with all its ups and downs, pains and pleasures, is eternally important to God, and is redeemed because of Jesus. And all the joy I experience now, because of Him, will be made complete and be with me forever, because of Him. My prayer for you, as we near Holy Week, is that you too will rediscover the joy of the cross, and live in that joy with compassion for others, with all humility, and with eagerness to serve Him.

Blessings to You!!!

Pastor Van



The UMW Mother-Daughter Tea is set for Saturday April 13 at 1:30 p.m. Please mark you calendar and invite your mother, daughter, grandmother, granddaughter, and friends. Our featured speaker will be Linda Klepinger of the Centre for Arts & Artist in Newton. Please call Elaine at 259-3380 to make your reservation. Hope to see you there!

Anyone wishing to decorate the altar with Easter Lilies in memory of a loved one should let Kayla know by April 8 and bring them on Palm Sunday.

Attention MEN!

Stay after the service Sunday April 7 for a few minutes to meet with Pastor Van about a Methodist Men's Group.

Dodransbicentennial - What was happening 175 years ago?

April 6, 1844 Composer Joseph Ludwig was born

April 12, 1844 Texan envoys sign the Treaty of Annexation with the United States



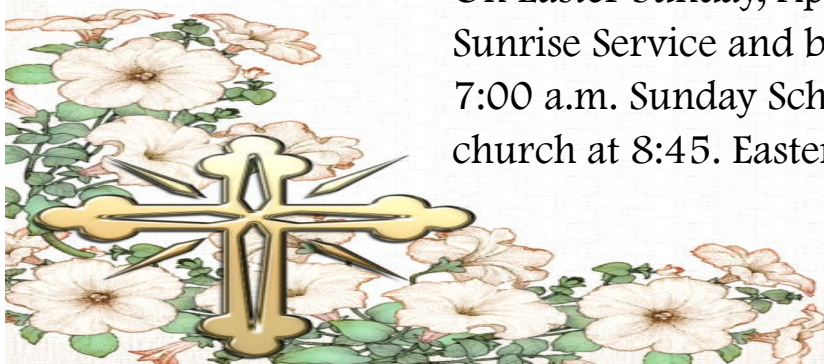
Easter season is upon us. The Worship Committee and Pastor Van have been busy preparing some surprises to commemorate the resurrection of Christ!

Palm Sunday is April 14 with worship at 9:30 a.m. A special visitor will be with us!

Good Friday is April 19. This year there will be a prayer vigil during the day with a "Service of Tenebrae" at 6:30 p.m. There will be a sign up sheet for the prayer vigil.

On Easter Sunday, April 21, we will begin the day with Sunrise Service and breakfast at the Presbyterian Church at 7:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages will be held at our church at 8:45. Easter Worship will be held at 9:30 a.m.

After worship there will be an Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Worship Committee.



The Cookbook Committee wants your delicious recipes for The Monroe United Methodist Heritage Cookbook by **May 1st**. There are forms located in the back of the sanctuary, in the newsletter or you may email Jeanne (jeannevangenderen@gmail.com) to get the electronic form to submit your recipes.

The cookbooks will sell for \$20.00 and may be purchased in advance. All profits from the heritage cookbooks will be used to support the ministries of the United Methodist Church. You may purchase a cookbook from anyone on the committee. Please contact the cookbook team if you have any questions.



Jane Berry

Helen Nolin

Carol Diekema

Jeanne Van Genderen

June Hjortshoj

Glenda Wing

Dianna Nolin

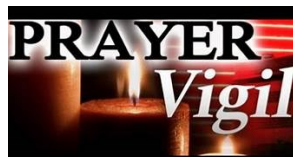
175 Challenge

The Monroe United Methodist Women are collecting clothing for Bidwell Riverside in April. Please place your gently used clothes in the "BIDWELL" box located on the stage in Fellowship Hall.

**Thank you!
MUMW**



Easter Sunrise Service and breakfast will be held at the Monroe United Presbyterian Church beginning at 7:00 a.m.



Watch for sign-up sheet for the Good Friday Prayer Vigil.

April Community Table
Features TACOS!

This is a FREE meal where
EVERYONE is welcome to
attend!



Youth Group will meet Wednesday April 3 and Wednesday April 17 at 6:30. Bring a friend!

An Easter Egg hunt will be held following the service on Easter Sunday!

175th Committee will meet immediately after worship on Sunday April 7. Also, thank you all of those who have brought items for our first one hundred seventy-five challenge. The 175 items for the PCM food pantry has been met, and there are 95 for Clearview Recovery! There will be lots more coming up!

Recipe Submission for
Monroe United Methodist Church Heritage Cookbook
Monroe, IA
Jumbo Jack Cookbook

Category (circle one):

Appetizers/Snacks/Beverages, Breads, Brunch & Eggs, Cakes & Frostings, Cookies & Bars, Desserts, InstaPot & Crock Pot, Meats, Pies, Quick & Easy, Soup & Salads, Vegetables & Sides, Miscellaneous

This recipe is being submitted for the **Monroe United Methodist Church Cookbook** in Monroe, Iowa.

Name of Recipe: _____

Submitted by: _____ Phone: _____

INGREDIENTS: (List **all** ingredients in their **proper** order: 1, 2, etc. **Please type or print neatly.**

#1	_____	_____
#2	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

DIRECTIONS: (Be sure to include: *Size & type of container, *Time, *Temperature, *Yield)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

COMMENTS:

_____	_____
_____	_____

If necessary, continue on back of sheet. (Please mark on the bottom of this sheet "over.")



Claire Butin Judy Wilson	3
Lori Storm Paul & Gloria Kane	4
Jadon Romick	7
Ada Beth Hume Jerry Sellers Joyce Van Der Hart	10
Alexis Timmins	13
Eli McGriff	14
Bonnie Nolin	17
Dalton Kingery Kavin Kingery Nancy Current Dean Wood	21
Kaitlyn Lewis	24
Marty Breckenridge Don & Mary Vaske	25
Don Baker Marcia McConeghey	27
Steve & Kasey Van Veen	29

April Helpers

April 7

Communion: Donna Stravers & Sue Gildersleeve

Ushers & Greeters: Kenny & Dawn Neff,
Joyce Van Der Hart, Melissa Van Der Hart

Liturgist: Kelly Phillips

April 14

Ushers & Greeters: John & Marcia McConeghey,
Jim & Kelly Phillips

Liturgist: Lori Schakel

April 21

Ushers & Greeters: John & Marcia McConeghey,
Jim and Kelly Phillips

Liturgist: Dianna Nolin

April 28

Ushers & Greeters: Jim & Sally Morris,
Alan Jennings, Deb Coulter

Liturgist: Melissa Van Der Hart

Hospitality: Liz Hormann

Laity Day with the Bishop

**When: Saturday, April 6, 2019,
9:00 am to 3:30pm**

Where: Collegiate UMC, Ames IA

Join other lay people from across the Iowa Conference for a stimulating day. Bishop Laurie will lead us in reflecting on the February Conference as we look to the future. There will also be a missional topic, music, worship, and time for conversation and learning from peers.



31 Sunday School 8:45 Coffee Time 9:00 Worship 9:30 Cub Scouts 6:30	1 AA 7:00	2 Bible Study 9:00	3 MOMs 9:00 Youth Group 6:30	4	5	6
7 Sunday School 8:45 Coffee Time 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 9:30 Men's Mtg. after service	8 AA 7:00	9	10	11	12	13 UMW Mother- Daughter Tea 1:30 p.m.
14 Palm Sunday Sunday School 845 Coffee Time 9:00 Worship 9:30	15 AA 7:00	16 Bible Study 9:00	17 MOMs 9:00 Community Table 5-7 Youth Group 6:30	18	19 Prayer Vigil Good Friday Service 6:30 p.m.	20
21 Easter Sunday Sunrise/Breakfast @ Presbyterian Church 7:00 a.m. Sunday School 845 Coffee Time 9:00 Worship 9:30 Easter Egg Hunt after worship	22 Men's Group 6:30 AA 7:00	23 Bible Study 9:00	24	25	26	27
28 Sunday School 845 Coffee Time 9:00 Worship 9:30	29 AA 7:00	30 Bible Study 9:00				



Monroe United Methodist Church

Rev. Van Dickens, Pastor

Sunday School 8:45

Coffee Time 9:00

Worship Service 9:30

"We are a friendly, faithful, and loving family dedicated to sharing God with our neighbors"



Monroe United Methodist Church

407 N Monroe St, PO Box 628

Monroe, IA 50170



Church Phone/Fax

(641) 259-280

Office Hours Monday—Thursday

8:30-12:30

email:

monroeum@iowatelecom.net

www.monroeunitedmethodist.org