



Church Mouse

April 2016

Hilton United Methodist Church

From the Pastor

*"I serve a Risen Savior, he's in the world today. I know that he is living,
whatever foes may say. I see his hands of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer,
and just the time I need him, he's always near.*

He Lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!

He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.

He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!

You ask me how I know he lives?

He lives within my heart."

"He Lives" UMH #310

If you are like me, you are unable to read the above hymn without singing the words. Next to "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" this is my favorite Easter hymn. It just isn't Easter until I sing these two hymns. Those are my Easter worship preferences.

However, like many preferences or dislikes in worship, there is a story behind "the why." In 1998, I was approaching my first Easter as the pastor of the Belfast and Caneadea United Methodist Churches. We celebrated Palm Sunday with pomp and circumstance and of course, the children's palm processional.

That Sunday afternoon, I headed to my parent's house near Buffalo to visit with my Gramma Bryant. It was an hour and a half drive, but there was a reason in the midst of the busiest week of the year, I was making that drive. Grandma Bryant was battling cancer. She was given three months to live in November and since then had lost her independence by losing her car and her apartment. At this point in her journey she was living with my parents and under hospice care.

This particular week it was becoming very apparent that Gramma was failing and her life on earth was becoming precarious. I traveled the road wondering if this would be the last time I would see my Gramma on earth.

That day I sat with my Gramma and asked her to share about her first date and wedding to Papa. We talked about her favorite scripture verse and hymns and God's

Continued...

...From the Pastor

amazing grace. As an aside, I always found it interesting that Gramma would be the first to offer grace to her children, grandchildren, or friends, but had a very hard time receiving that grace for herself.

I left my parent's that day wondering: Wondering if I would see her again this side of heaven and thankful beyond thoughts and words for having traveled this life with her.

Late Tuesday evening of Holy Week my mother called to tell me that amidst the singing of hymns and two daughters at her side she left this earth. I remember just sitting on my bed and crying.

Good Friday evening was the visitation. My heart was heavy and thankful at the same time. My cousins (who were not raised in the church) wondered aloud about Gramma and grieved differently than I did. Their pain was a pain of absence and wondering. My grief was bittersweet and mixed with joy. I remember one of my cousins wondering why she would even need God, she already had everything she needed or wanted in life. She asked aloud "What good would come of a relationship with God?"

Holy Saturday was Gramma's funeral. The church was packed with family and friends. My Gramma was very proud of my mother and I answering God's call upon our life for ordination. Because of this, my mom and I served communion at her service in our robe and stoles.

So here comes the memory of "He Lives": We ended Gramma's funeral with "He Lives" as a congregational hymn. My memory is of my mother and I processing behind my Gramma's casket hand in hand singing this song. In my memory we are skipping. BUT, I know there is no way we would have skipped out of the church at a funeral. However, I do believe my heart was skipping. Because, in those moments I was assured that because "He Lives" my Gramma also lives. I also believe seeds were planted at that service, through my Gramma's prayers and life witness, and the witness of others. The same cousins who wondered about heaven and God are now seeking a relationship with Jesus.

Our congregation has known its share of grief the past few months. We miss those whom we have traveled with and grown to love. However, may we celebrate that because "He Lives" they also live.

I pray this Easter season you are truly able to celebrate that Jesus lives within your heart!!

See you in worship,

Pastor Jennifer

Lilac Celebration

The Lilac Celebration is a celebration hosted by the Hilton United Methodist Women honoring the people in our church who are 80 years old and older. We are honored to be able to celebrate the contributions these members and friends have made to our church and our lives. The Lilac Celebration this year will be held on Sunday, April 24th. We will recognize this year's 21 Honorees during worship and immediately after at a cookie and punch reception in the Multi-purpose room. We hope you will join us in making this a very special occasion!

This year's Honorees are:

Allan Blossom
Bernice Blossom
Kathleen Chojnowski
Lois Dewitt
Robert Hall
Gloria Hamm
Eleanor Harrington

Sparky Hess
William Hess
Nancy Ingraham
Ralph Ingraham
William Kast
Ernestine McKenzie
Mac McKenzie

Violet Nundy
Lorraine Oakden
Beverly Pirnie
Ann Rockow
Betty Schultz
Evelyn Seeger
Agnes Smalley

The following Lilac Club members have gone on to the Church Triumphant since our celebration last year. They are missed

Margaret Freeman
Margaret Hendershot
Leona Roegner
Lucy Sneddon
Ethel Wyant



Live Free

Craft God's Word in Your Heart Through Creative Expression
Margaret Feinberg

Thursdays 1 – 2 p.m. Starting April 21st
Church Library

Using an adult coloring book, this Bible study will focus on one scripture verse per week. We will color the pages and discuss how the verse applies to our daily lives. Bring your favorite coloring tools, pencil sharpeners, Bibles, and willingness to be creative. All are invited to join us. Please call the church office if you would like us to order you a book!!

Pastor Jennifer Green

TRUSTEES CORNER

We as a church are so truly blessed by all the wonderful things happening around us. Trustees are very busy with long-term and short-term plans. Below are some here and there notes in no particular order of importance:

- Basement hallway floors have been cleaned and waxed. They look wonderful. This summer the floors in the basement rooms will get the same treatment.
- Sanctuary chandelier lights need changing. It is a 2-person job. Not afraid of heights? Like a challenge? This job is for you! Please see a Trustee if you can help out.
- Several times in the last few months exit doors have been left unlocked or unlatched. If you are the last one out please double check to be sure the building is secure.
- The 3rd floor water leak repairs are almost completed. Still to be done is carpet replacement on the second floor and ceiling tiles & light covers in the Fellowship Hall need to be installed.
- CO2 detectors are being installed soon. The state has mandated we have them in the furnace room and kitchen.
- Fellowship Hall fire doors now close securely.
- Several panes of glass in the Fellowship Hall need replacing. If you are interested in helping please see a Trustee.
- Get 'er Done Day is scheduled for May 14th. We will have jobs for everyone so be on the lookout for the sign-up sheet.
- The kitchen is being painted in April. Please see Marj Earnhart to learn how you can help. Painters, scrubbers, cleaners, cooks, organizers, babysitters, go-fers, pray-ers and so much more are needed. If everyone contributes an hour of time the job will be done!
- The Emergency Planning Team has been busy. Soon you will see signs posted near phones listing emergency contacts. The team has been enhancing plans already in place and updating information.
- Bids are being taken for repairs to the stained glass window on the east side. It is a big project that needs doing. We are also getting estimates for painting the sanctuary. Interested on picking colors? Want to understand what is involved in this big task? See a Trustee.
- Tech Team has done a great job of installing the video screen in the Fellowship Hall.
- See something in need of a little TLC or major repair? Fill out a blue FIX or REPAIR FORM. Forms are on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY update

A great deal of implementation of the Hand to Plow Discipleship Pathway has been done since its presentation to the congregation last fall.

The first section of the Pathway is HOSPITALITY which involves all frontline ministries that establish an atmosphere of welcome and connect visitors and members to worship.

One of the stepping stones on the path is the GREETER. There is now a Greeter at each entrance welcoming everyone as they enter the building. (Contact person is Ingrid Richardson 392-5985)

The next stepping stone is the GUIDE. We have 26 individuals serving as Guides!! There is a Guide at each entrance watching for the arrival of visitors on Sundays from 9:30AM to 10:03AM. The Guides give the visitor our Welcome Folder and explain services available and the location in the building that match visitor needs. (Contact person is Sue Emerson 366-4607)

Our Coffee Hour is held downstairs in Fellowship Hall after our service until 11:30AM. (Contact person is Janet LaBorie 392-9504)

The last stepping stone under Hospitality is the NURSERY. Teens who are 12 years old and older assist our nursery supervisor, Amy Quartieri, from 9:50AM until after our worship service ends and children are picked up by parents from the nursery. Teens are paid \$10 mailed to their home. Families with young people in their teens are part of our population gap at HUMC. We are therefore very excited to have 6 teens serving in the nursery!! (Contact person is Sue Emerson 366-4607)

The next section of the Pathway is FAITH DEVELOPMENT.

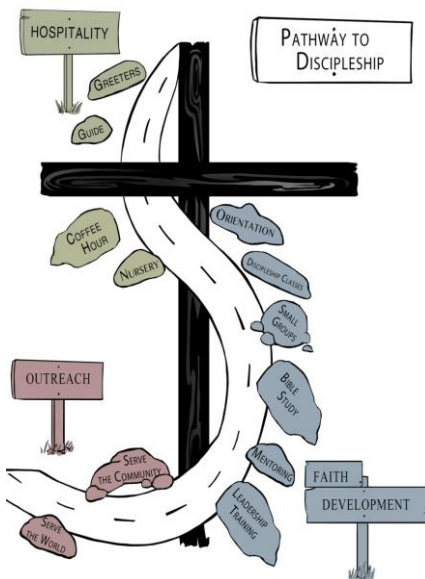
The stepping stones in this section offer everyone in the congregation ways to grow in our faith. Pastor Jennifer completed the first session of, A Disciple's Path by Rev. James Harnish, the end of February.

This six-week course will be offered again in April.

Numerous SMALL GROUPS are available which is a wonderful way to develop relationships and grow spiritually. (Contact person Jim Lee 392-8275)

The last section of the Pathway is OUTREACH.

The stepping stones in this section involve service to the community and the world. Our Mission Team sponsored an awareness event on Human Trafficking on March 6th. More events are being planned.



Finance Report for Month Ending Feb 29, 2016

Highlights from February 2016:

- There was no special giving or spending events in February.
- Pledged donations for the Parsonage Kitchen Remodel Project continue to come in. The Kitchen Project has been fully funded and paid. Hence we are running an excess in giving which will be directed to the Capital Fund upon completion of the pledges.
- Finance has begun to build a file of W9s which are used for supplier to declare if they are incorporated or self-proprietor subject to 1099s.

Thank you for your continued support of God's work through the Missions of Hilton United Methodist Church.

Edgar G Earnhart

Chairman – Finance & Stewardship

Food Drive



During the month of April, the Hilton United Methodist Church Missions Ministry will be sponsoring a spring food drive to benefit the Hilton Parma Food Shelf. Bags and wish lists will be available starting April 3. Donations can be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall anytime the church is open through Sunday, April 24. For more information and questions, please contact Sue Sutherland at 315-520-6840 to leave a message, or email smsutherland52@gmail.com. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Native American Ministries Sunday (April 10th)

Churchwide Special Sundays offerings enable United Methodists like you to offer refuge in times of disaster, promote peace and justice, provide scholarships and student loans, reach out to the community, teach skills to encourage self-sufficiency and share the love of Jesus Christ with God's people everywhere.

Native American Ministries Sunday is a Special Sunday offering collected annually on the 3rd Sunday of Easter. Native American Ministries Sunday enables the United Methodist Church to empower spiritual development and educate native American seminary students to serve God faithfully. Today Native Americans—with many unique languages, many unique cultures—honor their heritage, and live as Jesus-followers, led by a rotation of primarily Native American pastors.

Supporting the Ministry of Christ Among Native People

Most Americans today recognize that the history following the arrival of the large canoes bore little resemblance to the one all Christians identify as Creator. That's why the people of The United Methodist Church, Native and non-Native, are creating a new history. Through Native American Ministries Sunday, we're able to equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to do what only they can do: authentically worship and serve Jesus.

As a member of The United Methodist Church, your gift, on this day, equips Native congregations—like New York's Onondaga Nation UMC and Nebraska's Native American Sacred Winds congregation—to worship and serve as only they can.

This work, and hundreds of other ministries, are possible because you give.

Our Giving Allows Native Americans to Encounter, Worship and Serve Jesus https://youtu.be/XK0XZD_vK4E

When you support Native American Ministries Sunday, you equip seminary students who will honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. And you empower congregations that are finding fresh new ways to minister to their communities with the love of Christ.

Dr. Richard Twiss, a member of the Sicangu Lakota Oyate from the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, asked:

"Will we be allowed to develop new ways of doing church that honor God's purposes for the creative expression of our cultures? Will new ministry partnerships and coalitions form? Will you help be a part of this wonderful process of reconciliation, restoration and release?"

Say yes.

How to Donate:

1. Native American Ministries Sunday offering envelope in bulletin;
2. Simply place a check or envelope in the offering plate with Native American Ministries on the MEMO line;
3. Click the "DONATE" button on the home page of the HUMC website www.humcny.org; or
4. Use your smartphone to read the shown QR Code.



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NOAH'S PRESCHOOL

FEBRUARY ...

The Preschoolers covered many different subjects. They started off learning about Ground Hogs and shadows. Since Friday's class is all girls, Noah's had a Princess Day, instead of Superbowl Friday. The girls had a tea party and dressed up. Of course, the children made Valentine decorations and cards. Nothing would be complete without a Valentine's party with lots of yummy goodies! After eating all that candy, the 4/5 year old class learned about Dental Health. The Preschoolers wrapped up the month learning about Leap Year.

Thank you to this month's readers ... Sue Emerson, Karen Swanson, and Sabrina Frew. The children are enjoying the stories!

MARCH ...

March was not quite as busy as February. The Preschoolers celebrated Dr. Suess' Birthday. They learned about St. Patrick's Day; the Leprechauns visited Noah's again this year. They messed up the room and left candy gold coins everywhere! The children learned about the true meaning of Easter. Another party was held and lots of good treats were eaten! The children thought the Leprechauns were mischievous. The Easter Bunny hid their Easter Baskets; they were lucky that the Easter Bunny left Mrs. VanVleck a note where the Easter Bunny put the baskets.

Thank you to this month's readers ... Roxanne Zambito, Pat Butts, Sally Lee, Pat Holenbeck. The children do look forward to them coming!

Special thank you to Pastor Jennifer for reading Bible stories and teaching a lesson to the Preschoolers on Mondays!

Worship Committee News

The Worship Committee met on March 10th. They are pursuing updating the picture directory board in the Narthex. Keep an eye out for changes.

Something new for Mother's Day and Father's Day recognition this year. We have decided to donate the amount of money we would have spent on gifts. We will be sending \$75 to Angels of Mercy in honor of mothers for Mother's Day and \$75 to Comfort Care in honor of fathers on Father's Day.

Sharing Suppers update:

No one has indicated any interest in leading or signing on to cook for the Sharing Suppers. Six people did express an interest in getting their food safety certificate. Please, if you are at all interested in either of these, contact Janet LaBorie 392-9504 janet.laborie@gmail.com

That I may care enough to love
enough, to share enough,
to let others become what they
can be.
- John O'Brien

Volunteers for April 2016

<u>Greeters</u>		<u>Lay Liturgists</u>	
3	Ed & Marj Earnhart	3	Ed Earnhart
10	Charlie & Alice Maxwell	10	Bob Bunt
17	Will & Carolyn Rickman	17	Alea Floyd
24	Kae Chojnowski & Carol DeNeve	24	Jeanne Wanjon
<u>Ushers</u>		<u>Coffee Hour</u>	
3	# 6 – Bob Comstock	3	Sam Emerson
10	# 1 – Ed Holenbeck	10	Beth Mucci & Kathy Blackburn
17	# 2 – Jim Lee	17	Sue Sutherland & Deb Ortiz-Pardi
24	# 3 – Will Rickman	24	Lilac Club Celebration in the MPR
<u>Sound Booth:</u>		<u>Nursery Assistant</u>	
3	Bob Comstock	3	Alex Pardi
10	Pat Holenbeck	10	Maya Johnson
17		17	Brianna Neri
24		24	Leah Davis
<u>Communion Servers:</u>		<u>Guides</u>	
3	Manuela, Alexander & Annika Groth	3	Ed & Pat Holenbeck
	Greg, Lara, Ian, Gregory & Larson Schuler	10	Carolyn Rickman & Lois DeWitt
		17	Ed & Marj Earnhart
		24	Carol DeNeve & Debby Comstock

April Anniversary

Ed & Pat Holenbeck April 21, 1972 44 years

April Birthdays

4	Nancy Postilli	24	Paul Kron
6	Ken Manning	28	Patti Sullivan
7	Sharon Miller	30	Bob Blackburn
8	Scott Pundt		
12	Karen Bernhardt Kuntz		
	Gregory Schuler		
18	Ingrid Richardson		
19	Jared Groth		
19	Dan Van Vleck		
21	Dennis Sneddon		
23	Mary Hall		
	Joe Hurlimann		
	Jim McBride		



The Hilton United Methodist Church
21 West Avenue
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April 2016

** If you no longer wish to receive the HUMC monthly newsletter, please be a good steward of our church's money and let us know. Thank you.

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ
for the Transformation of the World

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