

Easter Victory!

April, 2021

Greetings, Hubbard Family!

The blossoms will soon appear on the trees, bringing the promise of life and beauty in what has for so long, seemed asleep and lifeless. The sun and the rain join together bringing the promise of what is to come: warmth and lush greenery. This is the time when we welcome in spring. And this is the season when we welcome Easter. I love this time of year, it's like we can hear the earth joining our cries of hallelujah on Easter. After death comes life, out of darkness comes light, out of hopelessness comes hope. We see this truth played out in the earth around us as we prepare to hear the holy stories once again.

N.T. Wright reminds us that Easter is always something that plays out in the earth around us, not in some other distant world or in some far-removed heaven. He writes,

“Jesus’ resurrection is the beginning of God’s new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord’s Prayer is about.”

At Easter we don't just celebrate our hope for life after death, we celebrate our hope for life now, for new life filled with the hope and love of heaven now. We celebrate our hope for change and transformation. At Easter we are surprised by hope, surprised by God's insistence that nothing, not even death itself, can quash our hope for newness and for tastes of heaven here and now.

Every time we pray *“thy kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven,”* we voice that Easter hope for touching heaven and changing earth.

So, let me ask you, Where do you need some hope? What feels like a tomb in your life, like a tree in winter seemingly lifeless and asleep? We lift those places up to God with prayers that remember God's faithfulness.

Where do you see hope? Where do you see signs of God's newness, signs of love, signs of heaven here and now? We hold those places in our heart as begin this month in the midst of preparation for the cross and the empty tomb.

Friends, even when we are not sure what we're looking for, Christ comes. Christ lives. Christ is present. We are not alone, and both life and love win. This is the victory of the Easter Story.

Happy Easter!

~Pastor Lauren





- for those needing healing and comfort
- for those members in assisted living and homebound:
- for our military: Derek Barnum, grandson of Pat Beaumont; John Johnson - deployed in the Middle East; Wyatt Hallstrom, grandson of Hank & Dolly Hallstrom; Colleen Mans, grand-daughter of Arlene Zimmerman; Matthew Schultz, grandson of Ann Schultz; Jess Swanson, grandson of Jackie Swanson;
- for our missionaries: Africa - Emily Dwyer, Deb & Rich Ried; Hungary - Richard & Martha Millhouse & family; Nicaragua - Belinda Forbes-Gutiérrez; Wycliff Bible Translators - Colin & Dee Murphy

If you would like to have a prayer request printed in the bulletin or newsletter, please inform the office. **Remember, due to patient privacy, please get the permission from the person needing prayers to have their name printed.**



February 2021 Mission Giving

DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

Pastor's Discretionary	\$2,713.11
Family Safety Network	\$310.00
Wellspring	\$100.00
Hubbard County Food Shelf	<u>\$200.00</u>
Total for Designated Giving	<u>\$3,323.11</u>

MISSION COMMITTEE GIVING \$0.00

Total Missions Giving **\$3,323.11**

RETURN TO CHURCH

Greetings, Hubbard Church family:

Several times over the past year, and more recently in the past few weeks, I have been part of several conversations about the COVID-19 pandemic and when it might be the right time to resume in-person worship as well as what that will look like. I would like to offer this update:

At the direction from our Ad Council, we have assembled a “Come back Safely” team – led by Carl Wall, and it includes our parish nurse, Deb Haagenson, and members of our trustees, worship, ad council and technology teams, who are currently meeting every two weeks to make sure that when we do gather, we will do so in the safest way possible that meets the guidelines and recommendations put forward by the CDC, the Minnesota Department of health and the Minnesota Annual Conference.

As a result of these conversations, and as many of you are receiving your vaccinations, including myself, and given the fact that at last report, our positivity rate in Hubbard County has dropped to 0.7% as of March 29th, I am pleased to report that our Ad Council has come to the consensus that our tentative GOAL for reopening will be on Pentecost Sunday, which is May 23rd.

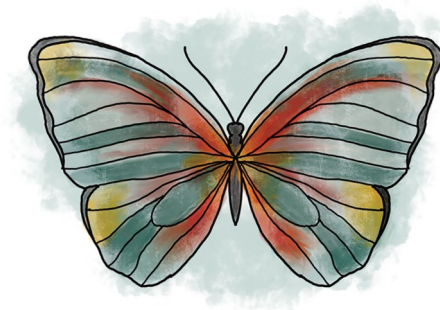
I would like to stress the word “Goal” as this tentative date depends on several factors – specifically, we will continue to monitor the weekly positivity rates in our community as the new strains of the virus become more prevalent, as more and more of you become vaccinated, as well as the recommended guidelines by the CDC, Minnesota Department of Health, and the Minnesota Annual Conference.

Friends, though I've noted in the past that our primary concern is the safety of our people, especially those who are most vulnerable, and this remains our priority, I am encouraged as we look to a possible reopening date in May.

Our immediate next steps will be to look at how we come back safely, and what our worship experience will look like when we do come back. So, for now, I offer you this encouragement and we will be sure to update you on a regular basis! And just know that I am hugely grateful for those who make worship possible and for all of you who offer your support and prayers.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Lauren



HUBBARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH VIRTUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

Pockets and Pocketbooks: An Exploration of Gifts

"What's in your wallet?"... what are the important things you carry with you day-to-day in your pocket, purse, backpack, or wallet? Are these items you carry a reflection of the unique, richly gifted individual that God has made you?

Join the musical ensemble **6:4devotion** from Champlin United Methodist to explore, through song, stories, and lively discussion, God's many gifts to us all. Bring your pockets and pocketbooks and come ready to celebrate with gratitude all that we have been given, and all that we have to give.



with

Musical Guests
6:4devotion

Join Us Online Via Zoom on:

Sunday, May 2nd, 2021 - 1:00-3:30 p.m.

**Call HUMC at 218-732-0224 to register by
April 14th and receive your free "Retreat Kit"!**

Tying Together the Testaments

In most non-English-speaking nations, the holy day of Easter is known by a word derived from the Hebrew word for Passover: *Pesach*. In Greek, it's *Pasch*; in Latin, *Pascha*; in Spanish, *Pascua*; and in French, *Paques*.

Each spring, Jewish people observe the Passover festival to commemorate how God delivered them from slavery in Egypt. The Christian observance of the Lord's Supper (the Eucharist, Holy Communion or the Lord's Table) originated with Jesus sharing the Passover Seder meal with his disciples the night Judas betrayed him. Jesus connected the exodus story with his own mission: becoming a "Paschal Lamb" to save his people from the slavery of sin and its consequences.

The Newsletter
April 2021



An Easter Prayer



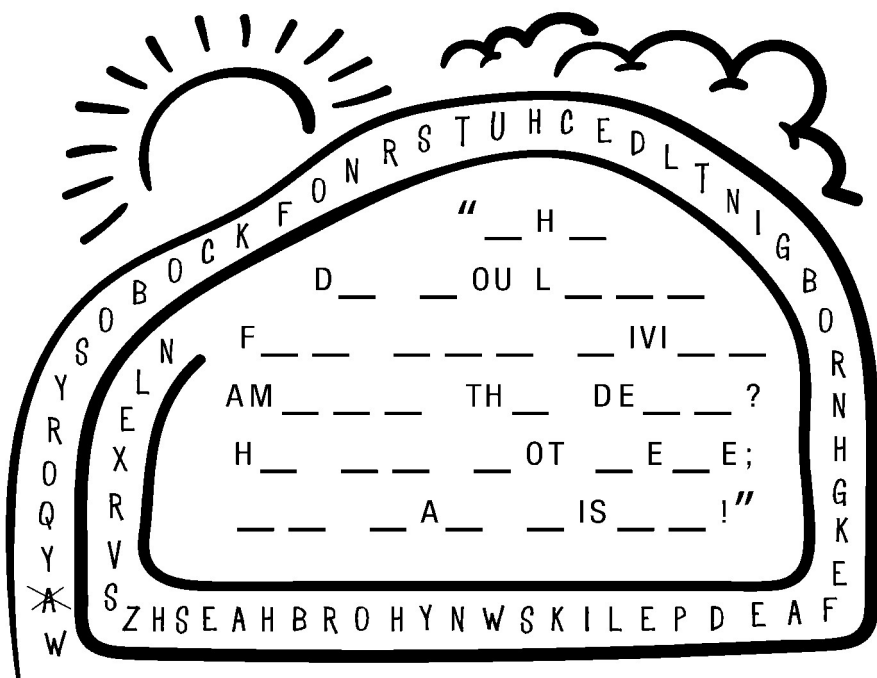
From the grave's depths, Lord Jesus Christ, you emerged, breaking the hold of sin, death and hell, that those who trust in you might share in your righteousness, life and beloved community with God the Father and all God's children. We bow in awe before your majesty, giving thanks for your grace extended so bountifully to us. By the power of your Spirit who lives within us, may we share the astonishing news of your resurrection with others, that they also may know your saving grace. Amen.



EASTER MORNING *message*

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.



LUKE 24:5-6, NIV

Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6, NIV



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Due to Governor Tim Walz's continued Executive Orders due to Covid-19, the Hubbard United Methodist Church will continue to be closed to "In Person" services and fellowship **Until Further Notice.** Pastor Lauren and Brenda are in the church office during regular office hours, Tuesday - Friday from 8:30am - 1:00pm

Please remember that the deadline for submitting information for the next month's newsletter is the **18th of the Month.** The next issue will be for **May** so all information needs to be in by **April 18th!**



***Newsletter
Deadline***



Volunteers from Hubbard United Methodist Church deliver Meals on Wheels to Park Rapids residents once every 5 weeks. This month, delivery will take place **April 6-10.** If you are interested in becoming a delivery person for this rewarding activity, please contact Steve Hill at 218-252-8895. "Thank You" to our many dedicated volunteers.



Make a Difference in Your Life and the Lives of Others!

Hubbard UMC has a Telephone Prayer Chain and an Email Prayer Chain. You can pray any time, anywhere, in your own way. Joining our prayers together can really make a difference in many lives.

If you have questions or are interested in the email prayer chain contact: Deb Haagenson at debhaagenson@catholichealth.net and for the phone prayer chain call Gail Manlove at 218-366-5458.



If we missed your name on this list, please call the office so it can be corrected. Also, please let us know if you are celebrating a special birthday or anniversary and would like this included in our newsletter. We wish all of those celebrating in Birthdays Best Wishes!

April Birthdays

Nancy Seaberg	1
Tom Harmon	4
Katherine Zander	4
Sue Heggen	5
Deb Haagenson	6
Evalt Laine	6
Dan Howland	9
Fran Prussner	9
Barb Boyd	11
Richard Anderson	11
Edna Bolton	13
Juliann Kjenaas	17
Jackie Swanson	18
Curt Bakken	19
Genelle Forsberg	22
Patrick Kimball	23
Bill Zigmant	25

May Birthdays

Terry Kimball	1
Denny Boulden	7
Noel Fedje	7
Rob Hallstrom	9
Jim Cook	12
Betty Davis	13
Gail Hamilton	16
Jo-Jo Daugherty	20
MaryAnn Kjenaas	21
Jim Wheeler	22
Ed Bolton	24
Tack Tacker	24
Emily Kjenaas	25
Daniel Sanson	25
Rod Nordberg	26
Mark Larsen	27
Marilyn Wilson	27
John Strom	28
Betty Porter	29
Bridgett Cook	29



April Anniversaries

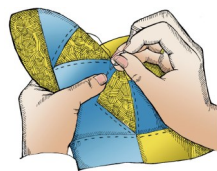
Chris & Susan Kalm	2
Arnold & Arlene Valentin	25
Jim & Janet Pieper	30

May Anniversaries

Jeff & Linda Lund	3
Hank & Dolly Hallstrom	19
Dick & Jane Boehmer	20
Steve & Betsy Hill	20
Jim & Nadine Wheeler	20
Bill & Beth Daugherty	25



Care And Comfort



Threads of Love

Quilting: It's All Around Us!

"We stitch together quilts of meaning to keep us warm and safe, with whatever patches of beauty and utility we have on hand."

~Anne Lamott

The Threads of Love Quilters have not been meeting at HUMC, but many are hard at work in their homes, stitching quilts or knitting prayer shawls so that we can continue to give these items to those in need of care and comfort.

But all of us have been "quilting" for more than a year during this year of the pandemic. I know, it takes a little stretch of the imagination, but work with me on this! As Anne Lamott says above, "we stitch.....with whatever patches of beauty...we have on hand".

We have stitched together—from March 2020 to March 2021—**family gatherings** and **meetings** via such "apps" as Zoom, Face Time or Messenger. We have stitched together pandemic **memoirs**, sharing stories with friends via telephone (land line or cell!). We have also called members of HUMC or our neighbors, stitching together a way **to help those in need**. Pastor Lauren and the worship and technology teams have stitched together **worship services** every Sunday morning, not missing a single week, despite many challenges!

And God has stitched a tapestry of beauty for us, if only we take the time to listen and look—perhaps it was the beauty of a winter snowfall or just recently, seeing your first robin. We welcome whatever patch of beauty we see; we are thankful for what God has given us. Happy Spring!

*Note: Quilting is the term given to the process of stitching a minimum of three layers of fabric together. What three layers of your life will you stitch together as we move forward, leaving COVID behind? I am looking forward to "stitching together" **family** when they arrive in July; **friends** both near and far when travel becomes safe for everyone; and church **members** when once again we worship in the sanctuary at HUMC. Joy Derr*

**HUBBARD UNITED METHODIST
AD COUNCIL MINUTES
March 11, 2021**

Members present are shown in bold: Richard Anderson, Tom Carew, Joy Derr, Deb Haagenson, Rob Hallstrom, Sue Harmon, Tom Harmon, Marvel Haynes, John Kissler, Arnie Kuhn, Betty Larsen, Noel Moore, Peg Novak, Cherilyn Sinner, Margi Taggart, Joanne Torfin, Carol Wall and Pastor Lauren.

Call to Order:

The meeting to order by John Kissler

Devotions:

Pastor Lauren discussed John 3:16 – We are designed for love.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes were accepted as presented.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Lauren reported that it has been a busy month with a lot of care needs. She expressed how she appreciates the great support system of our church.

Finance Report:

Joanne Torfin reported that the pledges are coming in better than expected and that we are financially sound.

Parish Nurse:

Deb Haagenson did a presentation on the COVID 19 situation in our area. Her presentation is attached.

She will continue to email a link to a website where people can find Vaccination Clinics, however the supply is limited.

On-Going Business:

There was discussion about going back to worshipping in the church. There was unanimous consensus that we continue with online, but set a goal of Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd, to worship in person. This will depend on many things, but we have a team who are developing a plan to do it safely.

Technology:

The technology team is spending a lot of time solving problems and making the worship experience better.

New Business:

The worship team is making Easter Baskets for the area youth.

Pastor Lauren reported that there will be a virtual women's retreat on May 2nd

If possible there will be an in person annual conference gathering at our church on June 23rd.

Upcoming Events:

Good Friday Services at Riverside UMC. It will be a parking lot service

Next Meeting: * **April 15, 2021, at 2:00 PM**
(NOTE Date & Time Change)

Respectfully submitted,
Marvel Haynes, Secretary





When You Are Fully Vaccinated

It is an exciting time as vaccine eligibility expands and more of our neighbors and loved ones are able to get vaccinated. More than 80%

of Minnesotans 65+ have had at least one dose of the COVID vaccine. In Hubbard County 62% of those 65+ have been vaccinated; and 32% of all residents have been vaccinated.

Vaccination is an important tool to help us get back to normal. You are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after your second dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine; or 2 weeks after your single dose of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine. Once fully vaccinated, it is safe to:

- Gather indoors with other fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask.
- Gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household without wearing a mask, if those individuals are not at increased risk for severe illness from COVID.
- Refrain from the need to stay away from others (quarantine) or be tested if you have been around someone with COVID.

We are still learning how vaccines will affect the spread of COVID. After you've been vaccinated there are situations when you should continue to take precautions like wearing a mask, social distancing, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, and washing your hands frequently. Continue these precautions whenever you are:

- In public.
- Gathering with unvaccinated people from more than one other household.
- Visiting with an unvaccinated person who is at increased risk of severe illness from COVID, or who lives with someone at increased risk.

Living with the Pandemic: Minnesota and Hubbard County COVID-19 Activity

- Minnesota exceeded 500,000 positive COVID cases during the month of March. March 6 was the one-year anniversary of the 1st COVID positive case in Minnesota.
- In March, there have been 29 new COVID positive cases in Hubbard County through 3/28. (We had 102 in January; 60 in February. Previous high was 650 in November.)
- The 14-day test positivity rate for Hubbard County is at 0.7% for the week ending 3/23. (The positivity rate was 5.9% at end of January; 4.7% at end of February. Previous high was 24% at the end of November.)
- COVID-19 vaccine eligibility in Minnesota has now expanded to anyone 16 or older. (Only the Pfizer vaccine is approved for 16+; Moderna and Johnson & Johnson are approved for 18+.)
- Vaccine supplies have increased but may continue to be limited in some circumstances. There is very little Johnson & Johnson vaccine supply in Hubbard County. The best advice is to get whatever vaccine is available and not to wait for a “preferred” vaccine.
- Vaccines are available through Sanford Health, Essentia Health, and some local pharmacies. Vaccine is also available through CHI St. Joseph’s Community Health. Community Health has been holding vaccine clinics weekly. Registration links for appointments are posted at <https://chisjh.org/coronavirus/vaccine-clinic-information/>

Stay safe everyone!
 Deb Haagenson
 HUMC Parish Nurse

Sources for the above information plus additional resources include:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>



— HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE —

Maundy Thursday Service

April 1st - 7:00pm
with Holy Communion

(Online at Hubbard UMC Website
www.hubbardumc.org)

Good Friday "*Parking Lot*" Service

April 2nd - 5:30pm
at Riverside UMC Parking Lot

(OR - Online at Hubbard UMC Website
www.hubbardumc.org)

Easter Sunday Services

April 4th - 9:00am
with Holy Communion

(Online at Hubbard UMC Website
www.hubbardumc.org)

Easter Butterfly Wing Drive-By

April 4th - 1:00-3:00pm

Come to the Hubbard Church and take a picture with the beautiful life-sized butterfly wings.