

# A JOYFUL NOISE !

April 2012

Spring has arrived. The trees are budding, flowers are up and smiling. And though this all happened much earlier than we Northerners were prepared for, we cannot deny the joy this new life brings us. What a nice connection this season brings to Easter. April begins this year with Palm Sunday, the joyous celebration as Jesus triumphantly enters Jerusalem, riding high on the good feelings of the people expecting him to drive out the oppressive Romans and re-establish the kingdom of Israel. But these good feelings were short-lived.

As the week went along, plans were made to arrest and condemn him to death. And so Jesus, knowing his fate and future, gathered his family close and celebrated a meal, giving new meaning to bread and wine for thousands of years. Soon after this meal, Jesus would seclude himself for prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane before he would be arrested.

These are the stories that are so familiar to us at the close of Jesus' earthly life. Sadly, the majority of Christians spend little time appreciating the meaning of communion (the Last Supper) and Good Friday. The majority of Christians attend worship on Palm Sunday and celebrate the festive parade of Jesus' arrival, and then attend Easter Sunday and celebrate the wonderful news of the resurrection. But in order to have Easter, Jesus needs to die. I can appreciate that many of us face all sorts of struggles and to add one more, even to face Jesus on a cross is disturbing, yet this very reality of Jesus' suffering brings him closer to us as even he knows pain like we know pain; even Jesus knows loneliness like we know loneliness; even God knows grief like we know grief. In order to have Easter, we need to have Good Friday.

One month ago, our county suffered a devastating snow storm that severely damaged many of our beautiful trees. Power outages affected some of our members for six days. And now, new life abounds! Part of the cycle of life is that we need to have death in order to have new life. For all the churches that are struggling with debt or low attendance or low giving, or lack of vision for the future, this is part of the cycle of life, but we can use this time to draw closer to God and to have faith that new life is as dependable as flowers that spring from the hard ground even weeks after being buried by several feet of snow.

May I invite you to attend our evening Holy Week worship services. We will gather Thursday, April 5 at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall around tables to recall the meaning of communion. We will gather Friday, April 6 at noon for our annual Ecumenical Good Friday worship service this year at the Frankfort Congregational church, and then we will gather for our powerful worship service in our sanctuary at 7pm. Easter Sunday we will gather outside near the Memorial Garden for a sunrise service at 8am, have a pancake breakfast from 8:30 to 10am, and then gather for a majestic Easter celebration at 10:30. Please join us.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

Pastor Dan Furman

## **Holy Week Worship and Fellowship**

April First is Palm Sunday. Join us for worship as we mark the beginning of Jesus' walk toward Easter. Thursday, April 5, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 7pm for Maundy Thursday to remember the Last Supper. Friday, April 6 is Good Friday. Let us gather as a community for an Ecumenical worship service at the Frankfort Congregational Church at noon. We then will have our own powerful and moving recognition of the meaning of Good Friday at 7pm in our sanctuary. Easter morning, April 8 we will gather outside, weather permitting, near the Memorial Garden for sunrise worship. A pancake breakfast will be offered from 8:30 to 10:00 on Easter Sunday, and then we shall gather for Holy Easter Sunday at 10:30.

## News From the Women's Fellowship

A special thanks to Ken Nye for removing the dishwasher and to Circle I for a new microwave.

Women's Fellowship will meet on Wednesday, April 4, at 1:00 p.m. Circle IV will host this meeting. Dessert will be served. The program is a video of Roland Roycraft paintings. All women of the church are invited. The executive board will meet at noon preceding the general meeting.

Circle I will meet at the church on Wednesday, April 11, at 1:00. We will need to finalize the Mother-Daughter Banquet plans and plan the May Women's Fellowship program.

Circle IV will meet at the church on Wednesday, April 18, at 10:30 a.m. and go out to lunch afterward.

Sarah Circle will meet at the church on Wednesday, April 18, at noon. Bring a sandwich.

The Mother/Daughter Banquet will be held on Friday, April 27, at 6:00 p.m. All women and girls are invited to attend. You do not need to bring a mother or a daughter. We are all daughters. Jane Purkis from the Benzie Historical Society will present a program on "Toys from our Past." If you have a favorite toy from your childhood, you are welcome to write a brief history about it and bring it to the banquet. We will put it on display. Tickets go on sale Sunday, April 8, and will be available at the church office. Please reserve or purchase your tickets by Sunday, April 22. The cost of the tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for ages 5-12, under 5 are free.

Looking ahead . . . There will be a cleaning bee on May 5. Our spring thank offering will be in May. We have set the date for the annual Junque Sale for June 29-30. Keep us in mind as you do your spring cleaning.

## What's New in the Library

***Final Words from the Cross*** The author, Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Kansas, is one of the leading Biblical authors of today. This small book is set up as a 6-part study of Jesus' final words...those seven statements that Jesus spoke as he hung on the cross... statements that have much to tell us about Jesus, his Father and ourselves.

Due to an error on the part of Amazon, we have this as a DVD as well as the hardcover.

***Saving Jesus from the Church*** The author's publicist writes, "Taking the best biblical scholarship, Meyers (author) recasts core Christian concepts in an effort to save Christianity from its obsession with personal salvation. Not a plea to try something brand new, but rather the recovery of something very old, *Saving Jesus from the Church* shows us what it means to follow Jesus' teachings today."

***Soul Sounds...Reflections on Life*** Perhaps you have enjoyed reading Albert Micah Lewis' writings as they have been published in both the Record Eagle and the Insider. This is a collection of 28 of his articles as written for the Grand Rapids Press. Read them in any order, reflect on the questions at the end of each essay, but please do not write your thoughts in the book. I found this as a used book and that owner had followed the directions !

***Cathedral...the Story of Its Construction*** This book ostensibly written for children will fascinate readers of all ages. The author takes us back to 1252 and a fictional French village where the people decide to build a cathedral. Voluminous knowledge and pen and ink sketches accompanied by a brief clear narrative describe for us the 80 years that went into building this edifice.

***Sammy in the Sky*** Written after the death of the family's 12 year-old hound, this is not a cute, sweet book. The intent is to help children deal with the death of a beloved pet as the author tells of her children's questions, how they all share their grief. Illustrations by Andrew Wyeth's son Jamie add to the beauty of the book.

APRIL SPECIAL DAYS...

**April Birthdays**

Happy birthday to the following members of the church family!

- 5 Anna Nordbeck
- 5 Maridee Cutler
- 6 Scott Neveu
- 12 Shirley Wolfe
- 13 Steve Davidson
- 15 Barbara Brian
- 16 Amanda Case
- 23 Gertrude Saffron
- 24 Betty Henry
- 24 Dave Neiger
- 25 Jean Edwards
- 29 Joan Richardson

**April Anniversaries**

- 23 David and Phyllis Van Hammen

***NEW BABIES***

**Wyatt Scott Van Hammen-Brown**

born February 25 to Belle Van Hammen and Cory Brown

**Ayden J. Webb**

born March 9 to Anna Butts and Mitchell Webb

**Caleb James Case**

born March 22 to Christy and Andrew Case

***IN YOUR PRAYERS***

You are invited to remember in your prayers those of our members who are home-bound, in assisted-living, or facing health concerns: Doug Joy, Marylou Patee, June Trost, Norm Stewart, John Robson, Marjorie Call, Buck and Dorothy Hall, Ruth Masters, Liz Ehman, Barb Nason, Mona McElderry, Bruce Jenema, Helen Pickard, and Betty Henry.

**Reminder:** If you, a loved one, or a church member you know is in the hospital, please let the church office know so that Pastor Dan may visit. Due to privacy laws, hospitals no longer contact the churches to let them know church members are hospitalized. The church wants to know so that we can support you during this time of need.

**UCC Sister Church of the Month**

As part of our continuing efforts to work together as a community of faith, in worship we pray for UCC churches in our United Northern Association. You are invited in April to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of Onekama United Church of Christ. This church is searching for a new pastor.

**Volunteer Opportunity**

We have church members who would like to come to church but have no transportation. If you are willing to pick people up on your way to church, please contact the office or Pastor Dan.

**A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR APRIL VOLUNTEERS -**

	<u>COFFEE HOUR</u>	<u>NURSERY</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
4/1	Deacons	Carolina Jones	Jean and Wally Edwards
4/8	Circle IV & Sarah Circle	Chris Stone	Kay Fisher and Jean Voight
4/15	Phyllis Crowell-Van Hammen	Agnes Slater	Earl and Pat Schopp
4/22	Lunch	Kay Bos	Sunday School
4/29	Jo Danford	Brenda Case	The Richards

**Head Usher:** Trevor Danford

### **Storm Damage**

The snow storm on March 2 did some major damage to the trees on our grounds. Fortunately for us, we had a group of volunteers who came over on Saturday and cleaned up all the fallen tree branches. Thank you to John Milks, Dave Van Hammen, Jim and Barb Brian, Keith Brian, Dennis Richards, Jerry Slater, Michael Call and we are sure that there were more.

### **In Sorrow**

Our former church secretary, Martha Seinitz, died on March 5. A memorial service will be held in June at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Beulah. Our condolences to Jerry and the rest of the Seinitz family.

We are saddened to report the death of Bernice Rankin on March 17. Her funeral was on March 21. Please remember Gary Rankin, Judy and Michelle Herban and their families in your prayers.

### **Memorial Garden**

On the north side of our church property is a beautiful memorial garden for members and friends of the church who would like their cremated ashes interred on our sacred grounds. For \$250, you may reserve a one-square foot plot that covers future opening and closing as well as a memorial plaque to be placed on the stone located along the walkway. Please speak with Pastor Dan for more information. Donations for perpetual care are also welcomed.

### **Flowers**

There is a sign-up sheet outside the church office for altar flowers for 2012. If you are interested in supplying flowers for the new year, please sign up for a certain date (or if you are unable to be in worship call the church office to make arrangements). You may then bring in your own flowers or donate \$25 to the church to make the arrangements with a local florist. If you would like the bulletin to reflect your donation, please let the church office know who the flowers honor or memorialize as well as identifying yourself as the donor.

### **Cancelled Stamps**

Thank you to everyone for saving your cancelled stamps. These are sent to St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C. for use in a therapy program for people with mental illness. The patients spend two hours a day sorting, trimming, counting and bundling. The stamps are then sold to collectors dealers. The proceeds allow the patients to earn a small salary through "meaningful work" - a first step to a life outside the hospital. The stamps must be left on the envelopes with at least 1/4" border of paper.

### **Summer Camp Anyone?**

Did you know that there is a place for youth and/or families to camp in Michigan that is affiliated with the United Church of Christ? The place is Camp Talahi near Brighton. They are offering camps for junior high youth, senior high youth, wilderness adventure camps, and also music/arts/dance/and drama camps. If you are interested, please check out their website at [www.camptalahi.org](http://www.camptalahi.org) or talk to Pastor Dan.

### **National Youth Event**

Every four years, youth ages 13-18 gather together for worship, workshops, mission projects and fellowship. Four years ago we sent youth from our church who witnessed 3,000 youth from across the nation and came back energized about the future. The Christian Education Board is working toward registering youth for this event to be held at Purdue, Indiana July 10-13. For youth 15 and up, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Please speak with Pastor Dan, Carol Dye or Katrina Smith for more information.

# APRIL 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
<b>1</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>2</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>3</b> 10:00 Yoga-Barn 6:30 - Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn 7:15 Bell Choir	<b>4</b> 12 Noon - AA 2:00 MS Support Barn 6:00 Bible Study	<b>5</b> <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn 7:00 Maundy Thursday Worship	<b>6</b> <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> 12 Noon - LOWV Library 7:00 Good Friday Worship	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> 8:00 Sunrise Service 8:30 -10 Pancake Breakfast 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>9</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 11:00 Commodities Distribution 12-5 - Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>10</b> 10:00 Yoga -Barn 10:00 Christian World Service 7:00 Council 7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>11</b> 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn 4:00 Deacons 6:00 Bible Study	<b>12</b> 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn	<b>13</b> 12 N - LOWV Library	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>16</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:00 Trustees 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>17</b> 10 Yoga - Barn 6:30 Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>18</b> 12 Noon - AA 1:00 - Circle I Lunch at Cold Creek Inn 2:30 Knitting - Barn 6:30 Christian Ed	<b>19</b> 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn	<b>20</b> 12 N - LOWV Library	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>23</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>24</b> 10 Yoga - Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>25</b> 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn	<b>26</b> 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn	<b>27</b> 12 N - LOWV Library	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>30</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>31</b>				

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## ***A Joyful Noise! April 2012***

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Mary Rodriguez.. .....	Financial Secretary
James Sheets.....	Church Moderator
Rosemary Miller .....	Choir Director
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