

Hope United Methodist Church
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Chuckles

It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Johnny asked them what they were for.
"People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by," his father told him.
"Wouldn't you know it," Johnny fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go and he shows up."



The pastor's family was invited Easter dinner at the Wilson home. Mrs. Wilson was widely known for her amazing contributions to church potlucks. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. As usual, it was a feast for the eyes, the nose, and the palate.

When the pastor's youngest son, Peter, received his plate he started eating straight away.

'Peter, wait until we say grace,' insisted his embarrassed father.

'I don't have to,' the five year old replied.

'Of course you do, Peter,' his mother insisted rather forcefully. 'We always say a prayer before eating at our house.'

'That's at our house,' Peter explained, 'but this is Mrs. Wilson's house, and she knows how to cook.'

Rainbow Notes

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From The Pastor's Desk

Martin Luther King used to tell the story of Sister Pollard, a seventy-year-old African American woman who lived in Montgomery, Alabama during the now famous bus boycott. One day, after walking significant distances daily for several months, Sister Pollard was asked if she wanted a ride. When she answered, "No," the person responded, "But aren't you tired?" To which Sister Pollard answered, "My feet is tired, but my soul is rested".

Resurrection living, moving beyond our fears and trusting that God is fashioning a way out of no way, celebrating the promise that a new world is unfolding — this leads us to affirm as well that our souls are rested. We will continue to

face all kinds of challenges and struggles along the way "our feet will be tired".

And if we are honest, "our feet are tired". Tired of the pandemic and being apart from loved ones. Tired of not being able to go anywhere and visit the places that were once common to us, tired of hearing the news, tired of being tired.

One big question is when will be able to get back into the Church. When God has finished fashioning a new world for us, when it is safe for all to be included, when those with vaccines outnumber those without, when the Spirit says its time. Just like the disciples on that first Easter had to wait three days for Jesus to re-

turn, we too will have to wait for God's hand once again to move through the scientists, through people committed to ending the pandemic, through us as we care for each other.

Like easter the time will come for us to celebrate once again in the community of faith. A time when we can lift our voices and give thanks to God who creates all things new.

Until then we can gather in the outdoor cathedral or virtually and remember that the church is the gathering of the faithful, however and wherever it has the opportunity.

Pastor Dana

Easter

In an article in *The Christian Century*, history professor Steve Ware asks the question, “When Is Easter this year?”

For those of you who didn’t learn this in confirmation class, the date of Easter corresponds to the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. Seriously.

In his article, Ware explains how this came to be. Here’s the short version of the story: In 325 A.D., Constantine, emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, convened the Council of Nicea. Among the business before the council was to establish a uniform date for Easter. Out of the discussion and debate came the “Easter Rule,” setting Easter, as I said, on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. As is often the case with church councils, the decision was not unanimous. The Eastern bishops wanted to schedule Easter in conjunction with the Jewish Festival of Passover since, after all, Jesus went to Jerusalem, in the first place, to celebrate Passover. The Western bishops preferred a date corresponding with the beginning of spring, because that was the time already established for a lot of pagan celebrations, and they figured to capitalize on the momentum.

This is why, to this day, we have such things as the Easter Bunny and colored eggs associated with Easter. Well, on this, and other issues, the church eventually split. To this day, we, who are descendants of the Western line of Christendom, use a different calendar than the Eastern Orthodox churches. Sometimes our celebration of Easter falls on the same day, and sometimes it varies by as much as five weeks!



Financial Report 2/28/21

Checking Account Balance		50,156.10
Building Maintenance Fund		6,424.53
Total 2021 Apportionments	7,300.00	
Amount Received to Pay Out	<u>(145.00)</u>	
Apportionments Balance Due		7,155.00
Edward Jones Opportunity Fund Balance (as of 2/26/2021)		67,253.46
Xcel Energy Shares Account Balance (1/20/2021)		1,100.73
Building Fund Balance (Since 6/17/2015)		20,720.00
FOCUS Dollars Balance (Since 6/21/2015)		18,881.00
50% Designated for Building Fund Maintenance	9,440.50	
25% Designated for Discretionary Fund	4,720.25	
25% Designated for Grow	4,720.25	
PPP SBA Loan 4/22/2020 \$10,500 - Forgiven		
PPP SBA Loan 2/23/2021		10,044.00
Piano Fund Balance*		2,500.00
Checking Account Balance	50,156.10	
Minus Building Fund Balance	(20,720.00)	
Minus FOCUS Dollars Balance	(18,881.00)	
Minus Missions/Designated Funds *	<u>(2,488.00)</u>	
Actual Checking Account Balance	<u>8,067.10</u>	
Missions/Designated Funds (*Funds Due)		
Cinderella's Closet (1/1/2020 to present)		130.00
*Discretionary Funds (1/1/17 to present)		400.00
Food Shelf (Paid Quarterly)		260.00
Feed My Starving Children (Paid Quarterly)		170.00
Honey (1/1/2021 to present)		26.00
*Prom Dress Donations(4/5/2015 to present)		1,157.00
Salvation Army (Paid Quarterly)		20.00
*Roof (10/7/2018 to present)		140.00
UMCOR (Paid Quarterly)		40.00
Camp Koronis (Paid Quarterly)		
Memorial - Carole Schneider		45.00
Misc (2020 Christmas)		100.00

Financial Report Continued

Cash Flow	Income	Expenses	Ending
January	8,633.73	5,154.67	3,479.06
February	6,139.20	6,780.10	(640.90)
March			
April			
May			
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
Total 2021	<u>14,772.93</u>	<u>11,934.77</u>	<u>2,838.16</u>

3/7/21 HUM Counsel Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Rev. Dana, Bev W., Jenna D., Ryan W., Mel & Mary S. Call in #2, Larry D., Korrinne K., Donna S., Gary T., Rose M., Holly W.

Primary purpose-discuss Easter Service: Outdoor service was suggested and we will continue our services that way until we can go inside. [**Depending on weather conditions.] Continue with online service transmission for those who can't make it to/or are unable to attend church in person. *Dana also noted we been having bigger crowd viewing on line (even from out of the country). Services presently going pretty well. (Dana update: having pet scan with bone marrow later this week – to see if may need additional stem cell transplant).

Continued discussion: 4th Ave. Methodist Church contacted us about Palm branches & ordering from a supplier but smallest order 180, would we like to share an order? Share cost? They offered to just give to us. Place on alter in church & possibility outside as Palm Drive by pick up. Palm and Easter Service: Set up under portico? Check with Eric S if this is possible for outdoor services. Easter also as Communion service – help needed (? Kay, Mel S. volunteered) Have plenty cups/? Enough plastic bags?

*Easter Sunday also: Walk through offered to look at the new paintings in church sanctuary (in & out) [on 5'x7' big canvas done by Dana's daughter]. Suggested by Rose M. - Free will offering to give to the painter for her time and talent. Discussion on sanctuary services when possibly able to meet together again will we be singing or just humming?! Sanctuary is set up and ready for indoor services resuming inside.

Treasury update from Jenna: Old PPE loan was forgiven, applied for new PPE and was approved (a little less but about \$10,000. this time.) Question asked by Mary S., to whom are we to let know of Prayer concerns now? Rose M. is to be notified. Motion for adjournment by Mel S.; seconded by Jenna.

Minutes respectfully submitted: Bev Witt

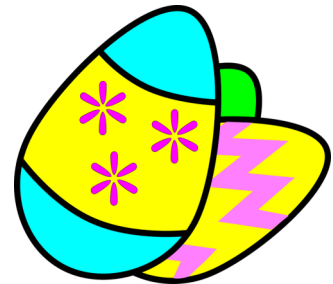
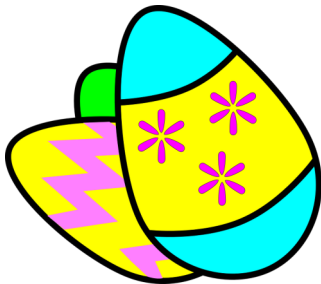
Hope's Happenings

Hope Church Worship Services

We will have an outside Easter service on April 4th at 10:30 am. Communion will be served!

Due to the Coronavirus services in the church building have been suspended until further notice.

The Worship Services for Sunday will continue to be streamed live. If you would like to watch and participate please contact Jenna Dahl at jdahl60@gmail.com. We will also attempt to put the recording on this website and our Facebook page.



Rice County Food Shelf
"Food of the Month"

April: Peanut Butter

The Resurrection Jumble



"He has risen! He is not here."
Mark 16:6

DRAK

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1

TIRSF

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KEWE

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4

WMOAN

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5

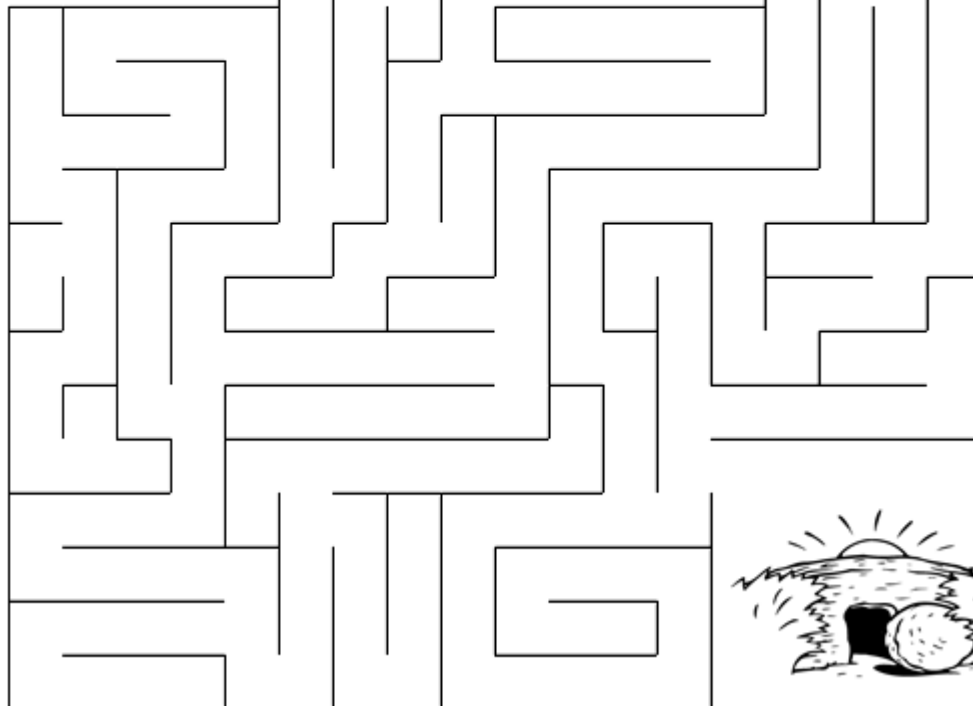
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1 2 3 4 5


"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.

Mark 16:6 (NIV)

The Resurrection Maze



April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Birthdays

1-Heather Ites
4-Brad Burginger; Josh Grambart; Jenna Dahl
5-Dolores Amborn
8-Harvey Sommers
9-Austin Ahlman
10-Chris Bauer; Choeung Theth
12-Renee Wunderlich; Miranda Kluge; Don Piper
15-Jody Wunderlich
20-Diane Ites; Cathy Hammerschmidt; Krista Ahlman
23-Shane Sutter
24-Pam Strouth; Brenda Rahman
25-Ryan Wunderlich; Judy Thompson
26-Eric Schreiber; Aleya Hammerschmidt
27-Ellie Ennis; Chelsea Sommers
28-Mike Schneider
29-Dave Lee; Jerry Olson
30-Kurt Larson



Anniversaries

9-Mark and Carol White
26-Dav and Judy Lee