

2020

March

April



OAKWOOD / HEBRON UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

The Messenger

February and March can be difficult. If you made resolutions in January and they aren't going well, you might feel discouraged. If you are susceptible to seasonal affective disorder (SAD), you might feel the winter blues extra hard right about now. Or, if winter is your least favorite season, you might just be impatiently waiting for winter to be done. I must admit that I fall into all of these camps, but especially that last one. I don't really mind the winter, and I even like an occasional snowfall - especially the kind of snowfall that sticks to the grass but not the road. But by February, I am tired of seeing bare tree branches outside. I am ready for new leaves and for the grass to be vibrant green again. I am ready to trade in winter coats and harsh winds for jackets and mild breezes. I'm longing for the smell of flowers in the air.

Last year, I had the opportunity to read Desmond Tutu's book, *God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time*. It's true that I had to read it for a class that I was in, but it was, and remains, such a blessing to me. One passage in the book really stuck out to me and has stayed with me since. Tutu describes a meeting he attended at a theological college that had closed down. During the discussions, he took a break in the garden for some quiet time. Tutu describes the scene: "It was winter: the grass was pale and dry and nobody would have believed that in a few weeks' time it would be lush and green and beautiful again." In this moment, Tutu recognized the power of transfiguration, or the transformation into something more beautiful. If you were experiencing winter for the first time, it would be hard to imagine the life that will spring forth once the seasons change. But because we have lived through winter before, we know it will; we can count on it.

Though they may be difficult, these months also contain one of our most sacred times of the liturgical year - Lent, which will include Holy Week once we get to April this year. Like the dead of winter, Lent can also feel like a desolate place. It's a period of waiting and penitence, which can sometimes feel like sorrow or despair. And even though Lent culminates in the death of our Lord on the cross, we must remember what happens next: the ultimate transfiguration. If you were one of the disciples and learning of or experiencing the death of Jesus for the first time, it would be hard to imagine that something beautiful could come from the grisly death of an innocent man. But because we are already Easter people, we know that God did something beautiful in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

As we move through the transfiguration of the winter landscape into spring, I urge you to allow God to use the season of Lent to work a transfiguration within yourself. Practice some spiritual disciplines every day: spend some time reading the Bible and in prayer, and spend some time giving to and serving others as often as you can - even small acts of kindness like holding the door for someone are a way to honor and value our fellow humans. Find ways to worship God every day, give thanks for all that God has done so far in your life, and ask for ways that God can continue to use you to bless others. Be the salt of the earth and the light of the world that Jesus said you already are.

"Abide with us, that so, this life
of suffering over past,
an Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last."

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days, UMH 269

May the peace of Christ and abundant joy be with you wherever you are!

Pastor Jess

Oakwood —9:00 am
Hebron —10:30 am

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Did You Know?



The time changes Sunday, March 8, 2020
Don't forget!

Easter around the world



Easter traditions are important, but they vary widely. While Americans dye hardboiled eggs, Kenyans carve soapstone eggs and present them as gifts in banana-fiber boxes. In Bermuda, locals fly homemade kites on Good Friday — a tradition that began when a teacher illustrated Christ's ascension to heaven using a cross-shaped kite.

Ethiopian Christians observe a 56-day fast from meat and all animal products. On Easter, they dress in white to worship in churches decorated with handmade fabric. Then they feast with non-Christians on roast chicken, goat and rice.

In France, church bells are silent between Holy Thursday and Easter to observe Jesus' Passion. According to legend, the bells grow wings and fly to Rome to be blessed, returning on Easter with chocolate and presents. In one town's main square, chefs make a giant omelet with 4,500 eggs to feed 1,000 people!

All Things in Common

Just as the bread is made out of many grains ground and mixed together, and out of the bodies of many grains there comes the body of one bread, in which each grain loses its form and body and takes upon itself the common body of the bread; and just as the drops of wine, in losing their own form, become the body of one common wine and drink — so it is and should be with us. ...



Through the interchange of [Christ's] blessings and our misfortunes, we become one loaf, one bread, one body, one drink, and have all things in common.

—Martin Luther, *Treatise on the Blessed Sacrament*

CONTACT information



Pastor Jessica LeCrone's Office Hours

Wednesday—10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Thursday—1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Friday —10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Cell Phone: 217-637-2557

Email: jessicamlecrone@gmail.com

We can be found on Facebook at: [Oakwood United Methodist Church](https://www.facebook.com/OakwoodUnitedMethodistChurch)

And on the web at ohumc.weebly.com

A new Web Site is in progress.

Special News



Holy Communion

As part of our Easter preparation we will have
Communion every Sunday during Lent.

You will also notice that our order of worship is slightly changed as well. Sometimes it is good to change things up. It makes us more aware of what we are doing and saying.

Joint Oakwood-Hebron Fifth Sunday Service & Breakfast

March 29th, 2020

Hebron UMC

Breakfast—9:30 am

Service—10:30 am



Calling All Ding-A-Lings

We have a wonderful gift in our handbells. All of the bells were gifted to the church in memory or honor of loved ones or just for the love of our Lord. We are in danger of losing our Handbell Choir for lack of people to ring these gifts. If you have ever felt the urge to ring handbells, please contact Deb Clow.

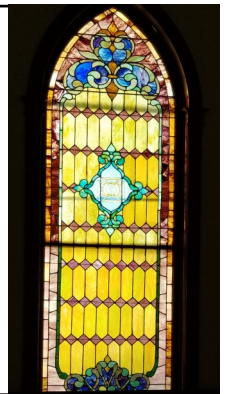
Update on Stained Glass Windows Preservation

We have raised over \$13,600 toward our goal of over \$25,000.

Work began the week of 2/17/20 and should be completed that week.

Your continued support is appreciated and needed if we are to meet this goal.

Please think about making a special donation to ensure that we can save these precious windows.



Nursery Available

Oakwood has nursery care available during Sunday worship time.

If you would like to have your child go to the nursery, please let Pastor Jess or Laura Wittig know.

Coming events



Sunday, March 8, 2020
Remember to set your clocks forward!

Lenten Book Study

***Sinners in the Hands of a Loving God:
The Scandalous Truth of the Very Good News***

By Brian Zahnd

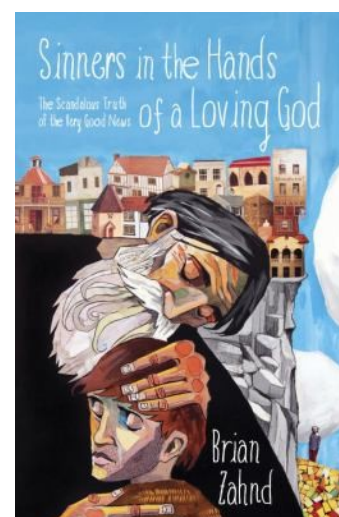
Books can be purchased in either paperback or Kindle versions on Amazon; if you need help obtaining a copy, please let Pastor Jess know.

Begins March 4, 2020

Wednesday nights at Oakwood UMC 6:30 pm

Thursday mornings at Catlin UMC 10:30 am

Weekly Facebook live group discussion on Thursdays
at 6:30 pm beginning 2/27/20



Holy Week



Palm Sunday - April 5, 2020 Regular service times

Maundy Thursday - April 9, 2020, 7:00 pm at OUMC

Good Friday - April 10, 2020, ERIC service
at OUMC 7:00 pm



Easter Sunrise Service - April 12, 2020, Hebron 6:00 am followed by breakfast

Easter Service - April 12, 2020, Oakwood UMC 9:00 am



EASTER SUNDAY



Youth News

COMETLAND YOUTH NEWS

Grades 7-12

Sunday 6:00 –7:15 pm

At: to be announced

**Stay in tough with
Josh Hunsberger to learn
about upcoming activities.**

Cell: 814-969-1766



The **Spaghetti Dinner** profit was \$1,518.88. Many thanks to all who worked, donated desserts, and came to share the wonderful meal and great fellowship!

*“I feel as if God had, by giving
the Sabbath, given 52 springs in
each year.”*

—Samuel Taylor Coleridge



– ASP 2020 –

Complete, but not finished

“I’m sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus.” -Philippians 1:6

Contact Deb for more information. 217-799-0594

This year Deb is expanding the program and will take a junior high group for the same week that the high school youth serves. There is still room for one high school and one junior high youth.

In order to have the required adult supervision and assistance, she needs 4 more adults who like high school youth for the June 6-13 trip, and she needs 1 adult male for the junior high trip the week of June 6-13, 2020.

The ASP group plans to sell Beef House rolls for Easter. So be sure to place your order with one of the youth for your Easter Dinner.



BIBLE'S COOL

Grades 3 - 6

Thursdays after school

(when Oakwood School District is in session all day)

3:15-4:45 pm

Join us for a snack, Bible lessons, activities, games, and music!

Calendar

March 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	31				

MARCH—Special Dates

- First Sunday in Lent, *March 1, 2020*
- World Day of Prayer, *March 6, 2020*
- Second Sunday in Lent, *March 8, 2020*
- Daylight-Saving Time begins, *March 8, 2020*
- Third Sunday in Lent, *March 15, 2020*
- First day of spring, *March 19, 2020*
- Fourth Sunday in Lent, *March 22, 2020*
- Fifth Sunday in Lent, *March 29, 2020*



April 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			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		

APRIL—Special Dates

- Holy Week, *April 5-12, 2020*
- Palm/Passion Sunday, *April 5, 2020*
- Maundy Thursday, *April 9, 2020*
- Good Friday, *April 10, 2020*
- Easter Sunday, *April 12, 2020*
- Administrative Professionals Day, *April 22, 2020*



Birthdays & Anniversaries

OAKWOOD

March

Birthdays:

- 12 Greg Sperry
- 17 Christina (Clow) Byers
- 31 David Calkins

April

Birthdays:

- 8 Brodie Lee
- 5 Jennifer Stewart
- 10 Adam Plawer
- 15 Sonna Lee
- 22 John Sudlow
- 24 Julie Calkins
- 26 Stella Trask
- 27 Larry Bott
- 29 Logan Lee
- Nathan Stewart



HEBRON

March

Birthdays:

- 6 Mitchell Pouilliard
- 11 Allison (Fletcher) Klint
- 12 Kelsey Razaitis
- 18 Abby Johnson

April

Birthdays:

- 9 Bryce Draper
- 16 Deanna Morton
- 19 Alexa Morton
- 30 Kristen Hayne

**Remember our
Church Family
Living Away
from their Homes**

Laura Lomax
Pleasant Meadows
Christian Village
400 W. Washington Ave.
Chrisman, IL 61924
(217)269-2369

Joyce Okeli
2000 W. John Street. #309
Champaign, IL 61821
(217) 403-0235



**Write or Visit Our
Homebound**



Remember those in the Military

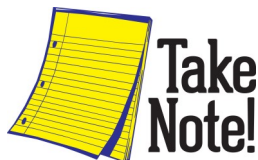
Capt. Toby Neil
Stationed—
somewhere in Germany

*“Spring shows what God can do
with a drab and dirty world.”*
—Virgil A. Kraft

Corrections

If you have any additions or corrections to the Birthday/Anniversary list, please let me know.

melrodmae@gmail.com
Cell: (217) 474-3260



Newsletter Update

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, thereby getting it immediately and in color. Please let me know.

Contact — Marilyn at (217) 474-3260 or email at melrodmae@gmail.com

OAKWOOD/HEBRON U.M.C.

P.O. Box 218

Oakwood, IL 61858



Resurrection Butterflies and Blossoms



This Easter Oakwood VMC will again adorn our Sanctuary with Resurrection Butterflies as well as containers of **tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths**. These butterflies and flowers can be given in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone who is special in your life. The cost is \$5.00 per butterfly and \$12.00 per flower pot. The money is used to support the mission work of our church. Fill out the form below and put it with your check in the offering plate by Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020. The butterflies and flowers will appear on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020.

In Memory Of (Please print)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

In Honor Of (Please print)

1. _____
2. _____

Given by (Please print)

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Please circle choice(s)

Butterflies Flowers