

2024

March

April

OAKWOOD / HEBRON UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

The Messenger

Dear Family of God,

The church year is an important tool that helps us to hear the story of God and the story of God's people. The church year is divided into seasons which help us to experience God in new ways.



The exact dates of when church seasons fall may vary. However, we are able to estimate a window of time of when a church season would fall. For example, we know that Christmas Eve will always fall on December 24. However, the fourth Sunday of Advent could fall anywhere from December 18- December 24.

We celebrated the beginning of a new church year on Sunday, December 3, 2023. December 3 marked the beginning of Advent when we decorated our church with the greens. Advent means "coming." Advent is a season for us to prepare for the birth and coming of Christ into our hearts and lives. It is a season for us to look forward to the full reign of God when Christ will come again.

Following Advent, we moved into the Christmas season. Christmas is a twelve-day season in which we give thanks for the birth of Jesus. Christmas Eve fell on a Sunday this year. We celebrate not only that Christ was born long ago to be our Savior and Messiah, but that Christ is born in us once again.

After Christmas, we have a season called Epiphany. An epiphany is a realization. During Epiphany, we celebrate that the light of Christ is present with people of all nations. Epiphany begins with the story of the magi traveling to encounter the Christ child with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Epiphany continues with the story of Jesus and his love. Epiphany concludes with Transfiguration Sunday (February 11 this year), in which we remember Jesus transforming on the mountaintop in the presence of three of his disciples. We also recognize that God is transforming us as his disciples living in the world today.

The season of Lent began on February 14 with Ash Wednesday. It is not often that Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day are on the same day. Ash Wednesday is the first step on our Lenten journey. On Ash Wednesday, we receive the mark of the cross on our foreheads to remember our mortality and our sin. Together we remember we are dust and to dust we shall return. Yet out of death comes new life.

The season of Lent will continue on through March 30 this year. Lent is a 40-day season (excluding Sundays) to help us prepare to receive the good news of Easter. Together we dedicate ourselves to spiritual practices such as prayer, self-denial, and reading and meditating on the Word of God to help us in our preparation. Throughout Lent, we are on a journey to the cross of Christ.

The Easter season begins on March 31 this year. Easter is a 50 day season in which we get to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. As Christ is risen, Christ invites us to rise into new life with him.

Therefore, March and April bring us into the church seasons of Lent and Easter. Lent is a time for us to prepare for Easter through dedicating ourselves to spiritual practices as we journey to the cross of Christ. Easter is an invitation for us to celebrate that Christ is risen and to go out into the world to witness to the good news.

There are many opportunities for participation in the life and ministry of our church over the next few months and beyond. Come and be a part of what God is doing.

Take care,
Pastor Trevor



Did You Know?



Pastoral Workshops

A minister is constantly called upon to face new conditions and problems demanding fresh knowledge and increased skill.

Pastor Trevor is endeavoring to increase and improve his knowledge and pastoral gifts while growing in faith and wisdom to better serve Oakwood and Catlin.

Pastor Trevor attended Covenant Keepers in O'Fallon in February. Covenant Keepers means keeping the covenant. When pastors begin in ministry, pastors make a covenant or promise to God and the Church to be faithful to their calling. Covenant Keepers is a clergy retreat for education (listening to keynote speakers, reflecting on what speakers said and what can be carried forward in ministry), worship, fellowship, and building relationships. The keynote speakers this year were Rebekah Simon-Peter, Romal Tune, and the Wellness team leaders from Wespath.

As a part of the ordination process, Pastor Trevor has been participating in retreats called Residents in Ministry. These retreats take place in Springfield at the conference center. Each retreat features a workshop of one of the ordination requirements (doctrine, worship, bible study, or fruitfulness project), education (a keynote speaker/presenter), worship, and building relationships.

Pastor Trevor went to a Residents in Ministry retreat in February that focused on the fruitfulness project. The fruitfulness project is doing a project to show that one's ministry bears fruit. Pastor Trevor is starting with the World Communion Sunday service and branching out from there to see the fruit that has come.

Pastor Trevor's next Residents in Ministry retreat is May 6-7 in Springfield. This will fulfill his requirement of attending six retreats. The focus will be on the doctrine questions.

Pastor Trevor is grateful for your support and prayers through this process.

Parking Lot Fund — Building News

Our church parking lot fund continues to grow

We currently have donations totaling **\$20,637** for a new asphalt parking lot. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, please write "**Parking Lot**" in the memo section of your check.



Pastor Trevor Oetting's Oakwood Office Hours

Tuesday - 2:00-4:00 pm and Thursday - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

OUMC Phone - 217-354-4950; Cell Phone: 309-371-7661
P.O. 218, Oakwood, IL 61858; Email: toetting95@gmail.com



We can be found on Facebook at: [Oakwood United Methodist Church](#)
And on the web at ohumc.weebly.com

Special News



Pastor Trevor is presenting a Lenten Sermon Series on Christ's Final Words From the Cross

March 3- "Behold Your Son...Behold Your Mother"

March 10- "My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?"

March 17- "I Thirst"

March 29- "It is Finished"... "Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit"

Please join us as Pastor Trevor explores with us the meaning of Jesus' dying words for our lives today.

Oakwood's Membership Committee, with the help of retired pastor Randy Robinson, is working to update our membership rolls. A big thanks goes out to Randy for being willing to lend his expertise to our efforts



Food Pantry Needs

March Fruit Cups (single serving) *

April Beannie Weenies/Chef Boyardee Cups
(single serving) *

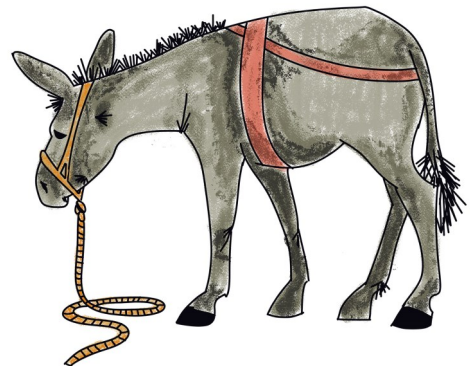
** Those marked with the * are for the Backpack Program and need to be single serving. Presently we serve 12 families with 26 children each weekend with meals for both Saturday and Sunday.

Be the Donkey

"Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame.

"When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?" she replied. "If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honor."

Jesus told his followers they'd need to carry (or "take up") their cross. But how well do you carry your Savior? How do you bring him into a world that desperately needs the good news of the gospel?



Coming Events



Join our Scripture-Based Lenten Bible Study

Selected Passages of the Book of John

Tuesday evenings from **February 20—March 26**

This study will be held at 6:00 pm in the parsonage

March 5- Maundy Thursday (Foot Washing)	John 13:1-17
March 12- Maundy Thursday (New Commandment)	John 13:31-35
March 19- Good Friday	John 18
March 26- Good Friday	John 19



Palm Sunday - March 24, 2024 Regular service times



Maundy Thursday - March 28, 6:30 pm
Catlin United Methodist Church



Good Friday - March 29, 2024, 6:00 pm
ERIC Tenebrae Service at Oakwood UMC



Easter Sunrise Service - March 31, 2024, OUMC 6:30 am
Breakfast to follow



Easter Service - March 31, 2024, Oakwood UMC 9:15 am
Catlin UMC 10:30 am



Daylight Savings Time begins
Sunday, March 10, 2024

Remember to set your clocks forward!

Youth News



COMETLAND YOUTH NEWS

Grades 7-12

Sunday 6:00 – 7:00 pm

At: Muncie Baptist Church

Stay in touch with
Josh Hunsberger to learn
about these upcoming activities.

Cell: 814-969-1766

*“Better to do something imperfectly than
to do nothing flawlessly.”*
—Robert Schuller

Bible’s Cool

Bible’s Cool is going well! Praise God!

We have been blessed with 6 children and
3 volunteers who will soon begin lessons on
the Season of Lent.

Thursdays, 3:00 - 4:45 pm



Update

Many thanks to Coach Mac and helpers and to all
who shared the wonderful spaghetti dinner! The
ASP group **cleared over \$2161** to help pay for
their mission trip this summer!



ASP 2024 Building Kindness

*“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving
each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.”*
Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

Adults - April 7 - 13, 2024

Junior High and High School Youth

2 teams are registered (9 youth and 4 adults)

Check out the website: asphome.org.

Dates to remember:

- Danville Gardens Fundraiser pre-orders will go
out in March for delivery for Mother’s Day.
- March 24, 2024 Training (\$175 deposit due)
- April 28, 2024 Construction Training
- June 2, 2024 Parent/Participant Meeting

VBŠ — Vacation Bible School

“Twists & Turns”

Following Jesus Changes the Game

June 17-21, 2024

1:00 - 3:30 pm

Oakwood United Methodist Church



Calendar

March 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					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						

April 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	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	26			

MARCH—SPECIAL DATES

- World Day of Prayer, *March 1, 2024*
- Daylight saving time begins, *March 10, 2024*
- *St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2023*
- First day of spring, *March 19, 2024*
- Holy Week, *March 24-31, 2024*
- Palm/Passion Sunday, *March 24, 2024*
- Maundy Thursday, *March 28, 2024*
- Good Friday, *March 29, 2024*
- Easter Sunday, *March 31, 2024*

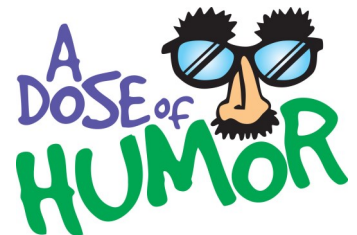


APRIL—SPECIAL DATES

- Earth Day, April 22, 2024
- Administrative Professionals Day, April 24, 2024
- Secretaries Day, April 24, 2024

LIGHTHEARTED BLESSINGS

- May the hinges of your friendship never grow rusty.
- May the luck of the Irish lead to happiest heights and the highway you travel be lined with green lights.
- As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.
- May you be in heaven a full half-hour before the devil knows you're dead!



- May good luck be your friend in whatever you do, and may trouble be always a stranger to you.
- May the good saints protect you and bless you today, and may troubles ignore you each step of the way.

- Lord, help us be the people our dogs think we are.
- God loves you whether you like it or not.
- Prayer. The original wireless connection.
- Tweet others the way you want to be tweeted.
- There are some questions that can't be answered by Google.

Birthdays



OAKWOOD March

Birthdays

- 6 Mitchell Pouilliard
- 11 Allison (Fletcher) Klint
- 12 Greg Sperry
Kelsey Razaitis
- 13 Jade Johnson
- 17 Christina (Clow) Byers
- 18 Abby Johnson
- 28 Tiffany Johnson
- 31 David Calkins

April

Birthdays

- 5 Jennifer Stewart
- 7 Brodie Lee
- 9 Bryce Draper
- 10 Adam Plawer
- 15 Sonna Lee
- 22 John Sudlow
- 24 Julie Calkins
- 26 Stella Trask
- 27 Larry Bott
- 29 Logan Lee
Nathan Stewart
- 30 Kristen Hayne

Corrections

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



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

Pat Razaitis

Liberty Village
3222 Independence Avenue , #609
Danville, IL61832



**Write or Visit Our
Homebound**



Remember those in the Military

Major Toby Neal
6609 Serpentine Dr.
Killeen, TX
Fort Hood

*"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone
across the waters to create many ripples."*

—Mother Teresa

*"Always show kindness and love to others. Your words might
be filling the empty places in someone's heart."*

—Mandy Hale

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.

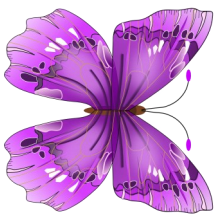
P.O. Box 218

Oakwood, IL 61858



Resurrection Butterflies

This Easter Oakwood UMC will again adorn our Sanctuary with Resurrection Butterflies. These butterflies can be given in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone who is special in your life. The cost is \$6.00 per butterfly. 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, March 24, 2024.



The butterflies will appear on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024.

In Memory Of (Please print)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

In Honor Of (Please print)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Given by (Please print)
