

2020

MAY

JUNE



As I think of newsletter articles, I often go back and look at what I've talked about before. It struck me as I sat down to write this article that this will be the last one for my first year as your pastor, so it felt like a good time to review. My articles have changed in some ways from the first one - they're just a little longer now - but I've aimed to keep the content fairly consistent - looking at ways that we can take what we hear from Jesus and apply it to our lives and the world around us as we travel through the various seasons and time periods of the year.

The last time I wrote to you was March, which feels like yesterday and a lifetime ago, and things today look much different than they did then. The next time you hear from me will be July - well okay, I actually hope that the next time you hear from me will be Sunday - and I expect that our world will continue to look different from what we had before.

I was reading Bob Goff's *Live in Grace, Walk in Love* devotional recently, and one of the readings is on Hebrews 13:2 - "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." (NRSV) The title of the devotion for that day is "Every Act of Love is a Profession of Faith," and it got me thinking about how many acts of love I'm seeing in our world: essential workers who are working harder than ever to keep our communities going as much as possible, whether that's by transporting items we need, stocking shelves, keeping things clean, cooking and serving food, or keeping essentials like banks, post offices, and gas stations open; teachers, who are working harder than ever to make sure that our children get the education they need and the experiences they deserve, often continuing to care for our children while they help their own children learn and complete schoolwork; healthcare workers, who are working harder than ever while putting their own health at risk to directly care for us, learning, studying, and researching the best ways to move forward, and educating us on how to keep ourselves and others safe; and you - who are making concession after concession, struggling with disappointment, frustration, and financial impacts, and desperate to get back to "life as normal." Things like staying home, masks and face coverings, and physical distancing don't remind us of acts of love, but I can think of no better act of love - and profession of faith - than showing our community how much we value their health and lives by doing whatever is necessary to keep them safe. I believe that in this way of showing hospitality, even from a distance, we are indeed entertaining angels.

Yes, our world has changed in some ways, but I hope that our content has not. I hope that we still believe in our mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I hope that we still believe in the message of Christ that so radically turned our world upside down that we couldn't handle it but still strive for it. I hope that we hang our lives on the two greatest commandments - to love God with all our being and love our neighbors as ourselves. We will find our footing in this changed world, and we will be able to gather again. But as we do, I hope that we will keep in mind that our acts of love are professions of faith, and that those go on whether we find ourselves in a church pew on Sunday mornings or not.

May you find the peace of Christ in these days, and may blessings of health, comfort, and joy find you!

Pastor Jess

# Did You Know?

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## What your Tithes and Offering go to:

Whether we have services at the church or on line, we still need the continued support of our congregation for our ministry.

The Finance Committee appreciates your continuing support of our church and has provided the following ways to support your church.

- 1) you can drop off your tithes and offering at the church,
- 2) mail it ... Oakwood United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 218, Oakwood, IL 61858,
- 3)



Start at [ohumc.weebly.com](http://ohumc.weebly.com)

- At the top of the page, click on the link that says "Giving"
- Scroll down the page until you see the pictures of our churches - Oakwood is on the left, and Hebron is on the right; underneath the picture of each church is the online giving form for that church. The instructions are the same for each church; pick which church you are giving to and follow the directions below.

- Click the box that says "Choose a Fund" and select the option that says "General Budget."
- In the "Amount" box, enter the amount that you would like to give.
- Select how you would like to give - you can use your debit/credit card information, or your bank account information. Please note that our giving platform, EasyTithe, uses secure encryption to keep your information safe.
- Once your information has been entered, click "Submit." You will see a confirmation that your offering was received and an email with your giving information.

The above information is for one-time payments, meaning that if you regularly give on a weekly basis, you would need to complete this process each week. If you would rather set up recurring giving, you can click the "Sign In" link at the top of the form and set up an account with EasyTithe.

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## CONTACT information



Pastor Jess 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: [jessicamlecone@gmail.com](mailto:jessicamlecone@gmail.com)

We can be found on Facebook at: Oakwood United Methodist Church

And on the Web at: [ohumc.weebly.com](http://ohumc.weebly.com)

**WORSHIP SERVICES:** Oakwood UMC — 9:00am

Hebron UMC — 10:30

# Special News

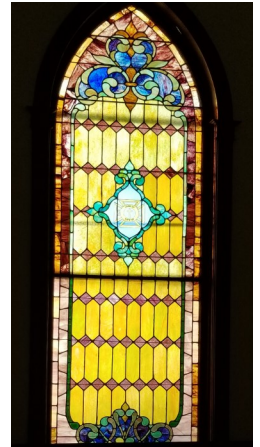
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## Update on Stained Glass Windows Preservation

Have you noticed the wonderful job that was done on restoring, cleaning and sealing our windows? They look beautiful.

We have raised over \$14,000 toward our goal of \$24,000.

Your continued support is appreciated and needed as we pay off this loan.



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## ONE CALL NOW

One Call Now is the program we use to connect with the congregation to provide information on Sunday worship, committee meetings, prayer requests and any urgent news that we need to get to our congregation.

We would like to allow those who wish, to receive these messages via texts. If you would like to begin receiving these messages on your smart phone, please be sure that I have that number.

**Please text Marilyn Elrod at 217-474-3260. Leave your name and the phone number on which you wish to be contacted.**

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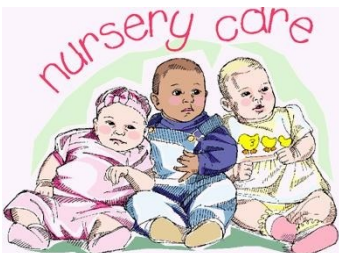
## Butterflies and Blossoms

If you haven't ordered your Butterflies or Blossoms for Easter, it is not too late. We will be celebrating Easter once we can all get back together. It would be great to have the alter decorated with our butterflies and blossoms. The cost is \$5:00 per butterflies and \$12 per flower pot.

**(an insert is enclosed for your order)**

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## Nursery Available



Oakwood will have nursery care available during Sunday worship time when we again worship together.

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

# Coming events

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**PANCAKE  
BREAKFAST**



## Pancake/Sausage Breakfast

We continue to plan for the annual Pancake/Sausage Breakfast for 26th of October.

While everyone is at home during this time, please think about using some time to start working on your craft items and what you can provide for the bake sale.

We rely on this breakfast to provide most of the funds we use to continue our outreach and missions.

It's time to start planning for our next confirmation class!

If you or someone you know will be entering the 6th, 7th or 8th grade class this fall and would like to be confirmed, please contact Pastor Jess at [jessicamlecrone@gmail.com](mailto:jessicamlecrone@gmail.com) by the end of May to indicate your interest in participating. We want to work around family, school and extracurricular schedules as much as possible, so finding the best time frame and meeting day/time is the first step. We have some time to get the details figured out, but now is the time to begin planning.

We're looking forward to this important step in the life of our church!



We are still hopeful that VBS will be held again this year.

Time: late June.

Please stay in touch through our web page and Facebook for more information and updates as the time draws closer.



## FELLOWSHIP OF THE TROWEL

Even as we are not able to meet for worship at the church, the flowers and grounds still need attention.

Please join us every Thursday, 9am to 11 am, (weather permitting) to plant, weed, prune, and care for your flowers around the church.

Enjoy fellowship at a distance, but near enough to carry on a conversation.

# 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



– 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*

It is with a heavy heart that ASP and I have announced that the youth trip for 2020 is cancelled. I have returned stock donations that were given for this trip and hope that you will remember the group when we plan the 2021 trip. After the individual deposits have been refunded, the remaining fund raising balance will be carried over for the 2021 trip.

I thank you for your prayers and support of our youth and adults. I ask that you pray for the homeowners in Central Appalachia as they wait for the needed repairs to make their homes warmer, safer, and drier.

It is my hope that there will be a 2020 fall adult trip. If you are interested, please contact me.

Complete, but not finished.

Deb

### Bible’s Cool

Every Thursday at 3:30 pm

We now meet on Facebook to continue with our Bible lessons, games, music and other activities.

Join us and connect with your friends.



**Kira Conklin**, graduated from William Woods University and will be going to the U of I Veterinary School in the fall.

**Riley Whaling**, graduates from Oakwood JH and will be attending Oakwood HS in fall.

# Calendar

## MAY—Special Dates

May 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						

Mother's Day	May 7th
Armed Forces Day	May 16th
Ascension Day	May 21st
Memorial Day	May 25th
Pentecost	May 31st



## JUNE—Special Dates

June 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				

Trinity Sunday	June 7th
Flag Day	June 14th
First Sunday of Summer	June 20th
Father's Day	June 21st



A **big thank you** to all our teachers for their special attention to their students during this trying time.

We appreciate all you do all year long for your students and the extra work it took these last few weeks as students studied from home. We can never thank you enough.

A special shout out to: Courtney Dudley, Deb Clow, Beth Sudlow, Kyle and Natalie Snyders, Barb Whaling, Amanda Sperry, Tim and Dawn Lee, Ryan McFarland, Tiffany Johnson, Johnnie Hull and David Calkins.

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## OAKWOOD

### May

#### Birthdays:

- 3 Amanda Shareef
- 6 John D. Montgomery
- 11 Lauren Plawer
- 24 Madison McFarland
- 26 Luca Shareef

#### Anniversaries:

- 7 Shawn & Lara Conklin

### June

#### Birthdays:

- 1 Brenda Ludwig  
Tom Goodwin  
Courtney Linn Dudley
- 23 Robin Linn Durand
- 27 Janice Lee

#### Anniversaries:

- 9 Ryan & Amy McFarland
- 10 Ron & Janice Lee
- 21 Matthew & Heather Trask
- 26 John & Beth Sudlow



## HEBRON

### May

#### Birthdays:

- 1 Sue Fletcher
- 5 Dave Parker
- 6 Dennis Divan
- 31 Walter Grimes

### June

#### Birthdays:

- 6 Lauren Covington  
Xander Draper
- 17 Shelia Fletcher
- 28 Jane Sprague

### Remember our Church Family

61821

### 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

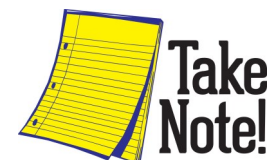
## Remember those in the Military



Capt. Toby Neal  
Stationed—  
Somewhere in Germany

### Corrections

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



### 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](mailto:melrodmae@gmail.com)

OAKWOOD/HEBRON U.M.C.

P.O. Box 218

Oakwood, IL 61858



## ***TUNE IN TO WORSHIP***

**Join your church family for worship on Sunday.**

**9:00 am**

Go to our web page: [ohumc.weebly.com](http://ohumc.weebly.com)

**Click: "sermons" at the top of the page**

**You are now connected to hear Pastor Jess lead us in worship.**

**A copy of the bulletin is available to be printed so you can follow along.**





# *Resurrection Butterflies And Blossoms It's Not Too Late*

*This Easter Oakwood UMC will again adorn our sanctuary with Resurrection Butterflies as well as containers of flowers. 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 drop it off at the church or send it in the mail. ASAP*

*The butterflies and flowers will appear at the Easter Service when will all get back together.*

*In Memory of ( Please Print)*

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

*In Honor of ( Please Print)*

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

*Given by (Please Print)*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Amount enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ Please circle choice (s)*

*Butterflies*

*Flowers*

*Mail to: OUMC*

*P.O. Box 218*

*Oakwood, IL 61858*