

Messages from the Diaconate

Our Ministers in April: It is with the utmost pleasure and deepest gratitude that we announce that both Rev. William Kren and Rev. Norman Kirsch will lead our congregation in worship in April. Rev. Kren is slated to preach from the pulpit during the first two Sundays in April, including Palm Sunday, April 13. Rev. Kirsch will officiate the Maundy Thursday service on April 17 and lead the Easter Sunday service. We are honored, privileged, and truly blessed to have two such highly regarded ministers in our midst during this most holy of months!

Easter Flowers: It's that time of the year to order Easter flowers for Easter Sunday on April 20. The flowers are a wonderful way to honor or remember your loved ones, and at the same time, help beautify our church on Easter morning. You may choose from among tulips, lilies, and hyacinths, and the cost is \$7.00 each. Look for sign-up sheets in the Sanctuary and Mayflower Room. The deadline for ordering flowers is April 6. Please also indicate who you are dedicating your flowers to.

Maundy Thursday: Mark your calendars and plan to join us on the Thursday before Easter at 6 pm for a Middle Eastern dinner followed by the service with Communion at 7 pm. Sign-up sheets will be available. Please let us know if you will be attending dinner, how many are in your party, and also if you would like to be one of the 12 readers for our candlelight service. As we journey through Holy Week, we hope you plan on joining us for this important and meaningful event as our church family anticipates the excitement, joy, and promise of the Resurrection on Easter!

Palm Cross-Making Class—First Week in April

On Palm Sunday this year, each person attending the April 13 service will receive a cross made from a folded and tied palm leaf. This is a departure from previous years where we've passed out straight leaves on Palm Sunday, but Pat Stacho has offered to lead a class one night during the first week of April to make crosses that can be worn. If you'd like to join this creative effort, you're more than welcome! Details on the exact date and time to be determined. It will be held in the Library.

Care Ring Callers: We are looking for two people already in the church's Care Ring who would be willing to make phone calls to a short list of 4 other people on the Care Ring list. The purpose of the calls is to alert other members and friends of the church with news concerning the health of members who have become ill or in the event of someone's passing. Thank you.



Treasurer's Report for February 2014

Income- \$12,093.98
Expenses- \$8,038.93

Capital Improvement Fund - \$10,584.55
Investments with UBS valued at \$221,711.71

Matthew Haling, Treasurer

OUR CHURCH AT WORK
In April



Helpers for Sunday Services

Greeters:

- April 6 – Available
- April 13 – Available
- April 20 – Available
- April 27 – Available

Ushers:

- April 6 – Available
- April 13 – Marge Manspeaker
- April 20 – Available
- April 27 – Available

Liturgists:

- April 6 – Marge Manspeaker
- April 13 – Valerie Haas
- April 20 – Available
- April 27 – Available

PRAYER LIST



Bernice Hartling	Medical Concerns
Shirley Fedraw	Medical Concerns
Bunny Hoganson	Medical Concerns
Geri Sampson	Medical Concerns
Suzanne Van Ranst	Medical Concerns
Ellis Mangrum	Medical Concerns
Geoff Hubbell	Medical Concerns
Duane Haworth	Medical Concerns
Barbara Kudizius	Medical Concerns
Dotty Klein	Medical Concerns

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Jim Haling
- 8 Jaclyn Meadows
- 10 Wayne Boyd
- 17 Kathy Hren
- 19 Joanne Owen
James Martin
- 25 Diana Lindsey

Dedication of Flowers - December

- April 6 – Nancy Wolter
- April 13 – John Proctor
- April 20 – Easter Flowers
- April 27 – Available

Fellowship Hour – December

- April 6 – Daniel Plan
- April 13 – Available
- April 20 – Available
- April 27 – Available

<u>DATES TO REMEMBER...</u>			
April	9	Trustees Meeting	7pm
April	10	Diaconate Meeting	7pm
April	17	Maundy Thursday	6pm dinner 7pm Service

I'm Just Sayin'...

With Pat Stacho

I have a secret to share with you, my dear friends.

Of course, if I tell you, it will no longer be a secret! Now I am not sure if I want to tell you. There are so few secrets left in my life. It's certainly no secret that I don't hear as well as I used to. I tend to nod a lot and smile when spoken to. Consequently I have agreed to things I really am not aware of. I miss a lot of answers on JEOPARDY, so I am not sure if I knew the answer or not. But then I don't see well enough to read the question before they take it off the screen. I just assume that I knew. No secret that I may not have!

And no matter how loose my tops are, "things" are no longer where they should be. Believe me, it's not a secret that my living bra died years ago! Spandex does not guarantee comfort, let alone support. My knee-highs have become ankle-lows. When did this happen? I think it was right around the time I realized the only heels in my life were now the heels at the end of a loaf of rye bread. Much safer, although the extra calories will never make my legs look as good as those heels did. Again, no secret there! A peek in my medicine cabinet would reveal a multitude of secrets, far more than any woman should have to share. Heart pills, hormone therapy, leg cramps, sleep aids, vitamins, laxatives, gas relief, and that's just the bottom shelf!

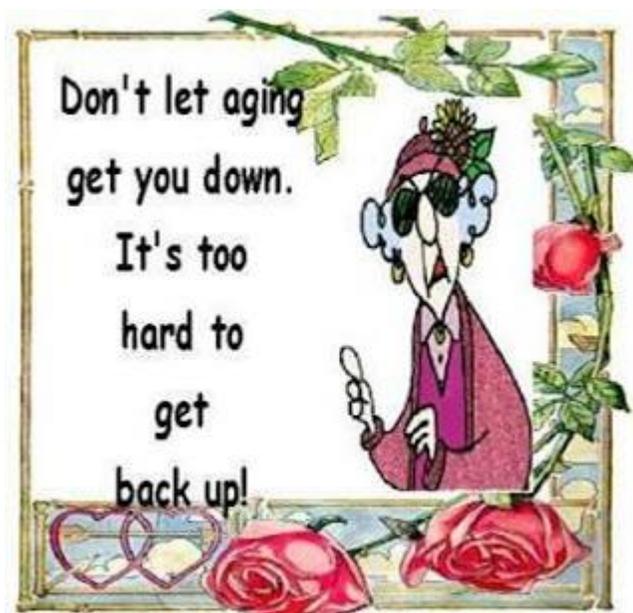
And another thing, secret recipes! Really?? If I have any, I feel the need to share the secret. I am not just being gracious and passing on the delicacies my family has enjoyed for years, I'm afraid I'll forget them!! And if I do, then you will have to share the secret with me! (Not sure if

that is being clever or cautious. Seems to work though)

There are some sacred secrets of a past that I truly believe I shouldn't share with another living soul. Those who shared said secrets most likely have memory loss. (Once again, God hears our prayers.) I will admit these secrets were before I was forced to surrender my heels and still had my balance on the dance floor. Stories I could tell you.....but won't!

I can't remember where I was going with this. Was it about the ????

Nope, it's my secret! What's yours??
Until next month, I'm just sayin'



MINI MISSIONS



We continue to collect pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities. Please bring them in whenever you collect them. A plastic bin is just inside the tower door.

Warm Clothing



New or gently used coats, scarves, hats, socks, and gloves/mittens are needed for mission projects or local families in need of some warmth this coming winter.

Volunteers are needed to deliver our mini-mission collections: pop tabs, warm clothing, and food bank items, etc. We also need people to help out in various ways around the church, including decorating and organizing. If you have an hour or two a week to spare, see if you could come over and spend it with us!

Food

We continue to collect non-perishable food items to donate to Gleaner's Food Bank. Please drop these items in the basket at the back of the sanctuary.





The Daniel Plan is a groundbreaking healthy lifestyle program founded on biblical principles and focused on *The Essentials: Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus and Friends*.

FAITH

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

~Philippians 4:13 (WEB)

God is the power and the energy behind all transformational change and that includes making the lifestyle choices necessary for you to become healthy. As you follow *The Daniel Plan*, you will discover that you have a part to play in getting healthier, but God will energize your efforts.

FOOD

“So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

~1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)

The Daniel Plan is about abundance; not deprivation. You will be invited to eat delicious whole foods that bring vitality and energy to your body and mind. Each healthy choice you make fuels your progress and motivates you to stay the course.

FITNESS

“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit ...

Therefore honor God with your bodies.”

~1 Corinthians 6:19a, 20b (NIV)

At *The Daniel Plan*, we believe the most effective form of exercise you can do to achieve abundant health is the one that you will actually do. We encourage you to discover movement that you will enjoy and repeat. Most importantly, have fun doing it!

FOCUS

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

~Romans 12:2 (NIV)

In a world where so many distractions compete for your attention, it is more important than ever to focus on God’s plan and priorities for your life. Express your gratitude to God and make the choice to dwell in God’s goodness; consistently reflecting on his truth and promises.

FRIENDS

“Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed.”

~Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NLT)

When it comes to getting healthy, two are always better than one. The Bible says God created the universe in such a way that we need each other. One of our foundational beliefs is that “ever body needs a buddy”. We truly get better together.

The program offers an innovative approach to achieving a healthy lifestyle where people get better together by optimizing their health in each of these life areas.

This program will equip you with practical tools and resources to bring health into every area of your life. What makes it different from other wellness programs is that *The Daniel Plan* was built with “love” as the motivation. It’s a reflection of God’s love for us. It’s a story of abundance, not deprivation. A step by step approach that helps you make small changes that lead to big results. Your journey is one of progress, never perfection.

Sunday, April 6 – Fellowship

Learn more about the Daniel Plan and sample foods prepared with your health in mind.

Then join us Wednesday evenings at 7 pm beginning April 23 where we will journey together to improve our health physically, spiritually, relationally and emotionally.

--Diana Schilbe may be contacted for questions

The Real Meaning of Easter

By Beth Patch

The best way to understand the real meaning of Easter would be from Jesus. As is recorded in the 12th chapter of John, Jesus was welcomed to Jerusalem by a large crowd singing praises to Him, carrying palm branches and hailing Him as the King of Israel - the Messiah. They were gathering to celebrate Passover and such an outpouring of adoration made the Pharisees seeth with anger and disgust. They did not believe Jesus was their long-awaited King.

Jesus replied, "Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. Anyone who wants to be my disciple must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me." **John 12:23-26**

Probably a puzzling speech at the time, but clearly another moment when Jesus used a timeless parable to tell His message. Grains of wheat haven't changed and never will - a kernel must be planted in the soil and die to produce a harvest of wheat. Jesus had to die and be "planted" in a tomb to rise up and produce a harvest of life everlasting to those who believed in Him. (After His resurrection, the parable's meaning could be fully understood.)

Jesus knew that He was going to be killed and how He was going to be killed; and He knew the time was approaching. He told his disciples how he'd like his death on the cross to be remembered. His request is found in Luke 22:

When the time came, Jesus and the apostles sat down together at the table. Jesus said, "I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God." Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. Then he said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come." He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me." After supper he took another cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you." **Luke 22:14-20**

Without a doubt, Jesus wants us to remember his great love and sacrifice for us by taking communion. He was getting ready to be betrayed by one of the disciples, publicly humiliated and mocked, beaten beyond recognition, and hung on a cross to die, when he made his special request for us to remember that He gave his body for us and poured out his blood as a sacrifice for us. The heart of Easter lies in his words, "**the new covenant between God and his people.**"

What is the real meaning of Easter? Because of Christ's death and resurrection, we have been given victory over death and eternal separation from God, a covenant promise of forgiveness and grace:

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures" **1 Corinthians 15:3**

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." **Romans 10:9**

When we eat the bread and drink the wine of communion, we need to search our hearts. Are we remembering the suffering that Jesus' body went through for us? Are we remembering how His blood was shed so our souls could be spared? Let's thank Jesus this Easter for giving us life and for giving us the Holy Spirit as our comforter before He ascended back to Heaven.

