



THE CHIMES

APRIL 2017

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Christ United Methodist Church
470 East Broadway Street
Alliance, OH 44601-2698
Reverend Stephanie Lee, Pastor
Church: 330-823-7136

Our Mission is to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ and to
Serve God by Sharing Compassion Hope and Love

E-Mail: church@cumcalliance.org

Web Page: www.cumcalliance.org



THE CHIMES

April 2017

April 9th Palm Sunday, Service at 10:15 am.
April 13th Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 pm.
April 15th Easter Vigil at 8:00 pm.
April 16th Sunrise Service at 8:00 am. By UMYF
Breakfast at 8:45 am
Sunday School at 9:00 am
Worship Service at 10:15 am.
April 23rd United Methodist Women Service

SCRIPTURE TEXTS FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2017

PALM SUNDAY

PALM

Matthew 21:1-11

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

HOLY THURSDAY

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

PASSION

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

GOOD FRIDAY

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalms 22

Hebrews 10:16-25

John 18:1-19:42

EASTER SUNDAY

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-18

Greetings Friends!

I pray you are each experiencing a spiritually insightful and transformative Lenten Season! I must say the different prayer practices we have been learning during our Year of Prayer have been very helpful and meaningful for me!

This morning, however, something not very prayerful but still wonderful caught my attention! As many of you know, I just adore my grandbabies, and this morning I opened my messages and found the most wonderful surprise: these darling pictures of my two little Florida grandbabies! Superheroes (or heroines as the case may be!) And isn't it just like those two to be conspiring together – “Agree” and “Conquer” – to take over the world.



Agree!



Conquer!

But then I looked further and noticed there was a third picture... this one taken from the rear. And on the back of each of their superhero capes was this quote:



*Use Your
POWERS
For Good!*

“Strengthened with all might according to his glorious power...” Colossians 1:11

As is the case with me on many occasions, the Spirit started speaking to my heart about these little girls... and, indeed, all little girls and boys like them. Last Sunday’s Scripture reading came flooding back into my mind – the story of the Samaritan woman (a people hated by the Jews), who had met Jesus at midday at the well, and Jesus had offered her Living Water. After realizing through their conversation that Jesus was indeed the long awaited Christ, she had dropped her water jars and rushed back into the city to tell everyone there that she had met the Christ! Well, that story ends with these words: *“Many Samaritans in that city believed in Jesus because of the woman’s word when she testified, “He told me everything I’ve ever done.””* But then the text goes on to say, *“So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. Many more believed because of His word, and they said to the woman, “We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this one is truly the savior of the world.””*

As I pondered the magnitude of what had happened in that story, I began reflecting on my own precious granddaughters. Right now, they are hearing about Jesus. They “know” in their little 6 year old and 3 year old minds that with Christ they are superheroes because Mommy has told them so! And they know that’s what G-ma says in church. But what about later on... a few more years down the road? When the time comes will they say, ‘Mommy, we no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and **know** that this one is truly the savior of the world’? And, ‘G-ma, we still believe!’“

As Easter approaches, the season when we celebrate the fact that Jesus Christ really did rise from the grave, conquer death, and reconcile us to God through whom we have eternal and abundant life, will we be like that Samaritan woman?...dropping what we are doing and telling everyone who will listen that there is a Savior who knows everything we ever did and yet forgives us and loves us into abundant life? Will we excitedly run and tell the 6 yr olds and 3 year olds; and maybe all the folks in our city, like that Samaritan woman did? And how about those “other” folks... the ones who SO BADLY need to hear a word of life and love in Christ? Especially in these difficult times! Will we run to them with the news, like Mary and the other women did from the tomb?

And will we continue to walk with them, and love them, disciple them, mentor them, and be the presence of Christ for them, so they too will see Jesus by looking at us, and then be able to say, “We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this one is truly the savior of the world”? It’s a tall order for us, certainly, *but God would not have called us to do it if He didn’t think we could!* After all, those whom He calls (which is all of us), He equips!

Beloved, as we move into this most Holy of Seasons, let us hold in our hearts and minds that image of those two little girls so confident of God’s love and power in their lives! And let us continue to rejoice (like the Samaritan woman after meeting Christ); to pray; and to make our hearts and lives available to God. “Lord, make us what you want us to be. Amen.”

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Halleluia

Have a Happy and Blessed Easter!

Pastor Stephanie



Throughout the month of April, children, youth and adults of CUMC are invited to donate items needed for the *Alliance Community Pantry* (located at 215 E. Market St.):

tuna
peanut butter
face & body soap
laundry detergent
toilet paper

Please place your items in the large box in the lounge.

Helping the Alliance Community Pantry is one way we can put our faith into action in our local community!

Thank you!

THE CHRISTIAN OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Year of Prayer April Prayer Practice: Body Prayer

As we continue through Lent and into the Easter season, in which we commemorate Jesus' suffering, death, and bodily resurrection, we will be practicing body prayers. We often think of prayer as an activity of the mind and the spirit and neglect the role of our physical nature in prayer. Yet we are not disembodied spirits. Indeed the Incarnation affirms the importance of the material, as the Son of God took on human form in all its physicality: birth, feasting, fasting, suffering, death. We acknowledge the importance of the physical through our association of prayer with particular postures: kneeling, head bowed, hands folded. Body prayers take the unity of spirit and matter seriously, recognizing that if we are to let everything within us to praise the Lord, we must engage our physical selves. New physical practices can open our minds and spirits to God in new ways.

There are a lot of different forms of body prayer. We will be trying a number of them throughout this month. Some of these include:

Breath Prayer: Focusing on breath as a way of centering and feeling the Spirit within.

Body Sculpture Prayer: Forming a particular bodily posture in response to scripture.

Walking Prayers: Praying while moving, representing our prayer journey.

Labyrinth: Using a patterned pathway to guide walking prayer.

Praying with Beads: Using physical manipulation of a rosary to help guide prayers.

Confession Body Prayer: Using body gestures to help intensify prayers.

Body prayers engage our whole selves in conversation with God. They can help give us different insights into our natures as children of our Creator, who formed us out of dust and continues to mold us like a potter.

Lord, make us who you want us to be.

Susan Haddox, Lay Leader



PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

The pennies from heaven 'JAR' in the lounge is not filling up very fast.

With Spring, springing up all around us, will rain be far behind?

You can help the rain turn to 'pennies from heaven.' Donate your pennies!

I trust that many of our congregation have been saving pennies all winter and now will rain down on this collection to support the Alliance of Churches as they support people in our community with essential and extraordinary bills.

A little bit of 'Pennies from Heaven' from each of us will go a long way to brightening our neighbor' situations. Check out the reminder on the View-Sonic in the lounge.

Thank you for your support..Christian Outreach Committee

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Circles

April 17	12:30 PM	Dorcas	Lakeview Terrace, Copeland Oaks
April 17	7:00 PM	M&M Circle:	at the Church
April 18,	7:00 PM	May Smyth Circle:	Ellen Sol
April 18	7:00 PM	Susie Buckel Circle:	at the Church

The next Unit Meeting is April 4th at 7:00 pm in the Dussell Room. The program is “Climate Change – Not Just an Environmental Issue” presented by Jamie Greiner. Hostesses/Greeters are Susie Buckel Circle.

UMW Ushers in April . . .Have you volunteered to help?

The May Unit Meeting is May 2nd at 7:00 pm in the Dussell Room. Program is “Regula Center for Public Service’ presented by Abby Honeker, Director.

UMW Sunday is on April 23, 2017.

UMW Executive Meeting is Monday, April 24th at 7 pm in the Dussell Room.

THE UMW Spring Basement Sale is scheduled for May 12 & 13, 2016 with set-up Thursday, May 11th. Volunteers would be welcome on May 11 for setup and May 14 at noon for cleanup.

Blessings on those who prepared the delicious soups for our Winter Soup Sales in February and March, and thank you to those who bought it. Your purchase has helped up support our 2017 Pledge to Mission and Community Service.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

April 7th Meeting is here at Christ United Methodist. Board Meeting with General Meeting at 1:00 p.m. Program is “A few Choice Words” by Kathy Baker. Our Church is hosting this meeting.

May 5th Meeting is at First Christian Church, 1141 W. Beech Street, Alliance, OH. May Fellowship Luncheon at noon. “Kindling Fires of Love” is the program at 1:00 P.m.

Membership costs \$3.00. Please see Jean Webster if you are interested in joining.

Least Coin offering needs to be turned in April so Jean can take it to May 5th Church Women United Meeting.



Breakfast

for the Soul

*The Explorers Sunday School class has been brainstorming about what kind of outreach we could do within the downtown Alliance Community, as well as how we could bring more children into the Sunday School program of our church. What we have come up with is the idea of providing a free, hot, community breakfast to children and their families on Sunday morning beginning on March 5 with Lent. During and after breakfast, the children could participate in Sunday School activities and the adult family members can fellowship with members of our Explorers class and have a very brief devotional and be able to share prayer requests. We would like to invite all members to come and join us for breakfast and to visit with our guests prior to your Sunday School class. **Hope to see you all 8:45am in fellowship hall!***



Christ Church will be participating with thirteen other churches in the Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity's Apostle Build this spring and summer. This is the fourth time we have been able to participate in helping to provide housing for a local Alliance family.

The building site this year is at the corner of Pike and Oak streets. There will be a dedication service at the site on Wednesday, April 5 at 5:30. Work will then begin on Saturday, April 22. Each church is scheduled to provide devotions, lunch and volunteers. Our assigned duties are to lead devotions on Saturday, June 10, provide lunch on Saturday, June 17, and secure volunteers for working on Saturday, July 8. We hope you will put these dates on your calendar to support the efforts of Christ Church.

In addition churches are asked to help fund the building project. We have made a pledge to raise \$5,000 to support the project. We will be having special Habitat offerings on the second Sundays of May, June and July. Soon everyone will receive a mailing with more information and special Habitat offering envelopes.

Plans are also in the beginning stages to look at other fundraising opportunities in the community. Please consider in your small groups at church any ideas for raising money toward this pledge from sources outside just our congregation. Many other churches sponsor events like dinners, basement sales and Saturday breakfasts to ease some of the burden of meeting this pledge. We are hoping to do something like this too.

Watch for more information to come on this valuable contribution to the Alliance community.

Bruce Helsel, Habitat Coordinator
Jill Greiner, Finance Chair

APRIL 2017 CHRISTIAN ED CORNER

As we conclude the season of Lent, we are mindful of the opportunities we have had to humble ourselves and pray and to reflect on who we are as children of God. We have identified things in our lives that need correction and are well on our way to renewing our relationship with God. We have also come to know ourselves better making it easier to assume our identity as Christians. Christians are followers of Christ, of course, but we need not wait for the next Lenten season or experience an identity crisis before we renew the relationship that we so desperately need as His disciples.

So what does being a Christian mean? Maya Angelou provides with an answer to that question that will remind us of our total dependence on God.

When I say "I am a Christian", I'm not shouting "I 'm clean livin'"

I'm whispering "I was lost now I'm found and forgiven.

When I say "I am a Christian" I don't speak of this with pride.

I'm confessing that I stumble and need CHRIST to be my guide.

When I say "I am a Christian" I'm not trying to be strong.

I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength to carry on.

When I say "I am a Christian" I'm not bragging of success,

I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say "I am a Christian" I'm not claiming to be perfect,

My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I'm worth it.

When I say "I am a Christian", I still feel the sting of pain,

I have my share of heartaches so I call upon His name.

When I say "I am a Christian", I'm not holier than thou,

I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good grace, somehow.

Peace,

Dr. J

Thank You

To my CUMC Family – I cannot tell you enough how much I appreciate your love, your prayers and your support. It is my distinct pleasure to serve you. Dr. J

Dear Friends – Many Thanks for the lovely planter. I will enjoy it for the days to come, as I've been doing. Thelma Greiner

To everyone who helped pick up the red hearts in the sanctuary on March 12th. Lynn

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR APRIL

USHERS – Team #5

United
Methodist
Women

LITURGISTS

2 Jim Greiner
9 Susan Haddox
16 Patti Hirst
23 Ellen Sol
30 Will Kinser

COMMUNION STEWARDS

April Patti Hirst
May Susan Haddox
June Ellen Sol/Betty Jo Sutherin

SANCTUARY GREETERS

2 Mark and Karen Locke
9 Kathy and Gene Stroia
16 OPEN
23 Jean and Boyd Webster
30 Corinne and Arnie Hirvela

WELCOME CENTER GREETERS

2 Carol and Frank Woolf
9 Sharon and Casey Riddle
16 Mike and Jamie Greiner
23 Peg and Jim Williams
30 Connie and Larry Pyers

NORTH & WEST DOORS GREETERS

2 Josh Shields and Michael Shields
9 Andy Magda and Craig Post
16 Dick Diser and Josh Shields
23 Karen and Mark Locke
30 Amy Starkey and Aerian Starkey

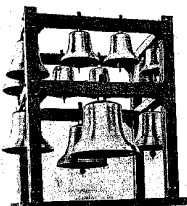
TELLERS

2 Mark Locke and Bruce Helsel
9 Donna Essick and Marilyn Bower
16 Jan Essick and Nancy Prueter
23 Bill Prueter and Jill Greiner
30 Jim Greiner and Larry Pyers

APRIL VISITATION MEMBERS

2 Shirley Carberry, 1280 S Sawburg Ave Room 136, Alliance OH 44601
9 Peg Charlton, 800 S. 15th St #4405, Sebring OH 44672
16 John Sarchione, 1280 S Sawburg Ave Room 144, Alliance, OH 44601
23 Helen Brown, 800 S. 15th St 7421, Sebring OH 44672
30 Dolores Carli, 800 S 15th St Apt 6101, Sebring OH 44672

To have your birthday and/or your anniversary listed in THE CHIMES: Just call the church office, 330-823-7136, place information in the Secretary's slot outside of church office, or email to church@cumcalliance.org.



CHIMES DEADLINE: The deadline for the May 2017 issue of *The Chimes* is Friday, April 17th. Articles may be placed in the Secretary's slot outside the church office or emailed to church@cumcalliance.org

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1	Kathy Stroia	18 Cynthia Carlin
3	Kim Handy	24 Lanny Hisey
7	Daniel Hisey	24 Tim Barnhouse
8	Kathy Brown	25 Cindi Martin
9	Leslie Austin	29 Sheila Gard
16	Elvin Madison	30 Jill Greiner
17	Connie Pyers	

APRIL ANNIVERSARY

4/15 Jim & Jill Greiner
Happy 45th Anniversary



Happy Anniversary to us!

Last month was our third anniversary for hosting the Tuesday night Community Dinners in our fellowship hall. When the Alliance Neighborhood Center closed, it was a loss for this area that is still felt. However, it was a blessing that our church was able to offer a home for three great service agencies (The Alliance of Churches, Men's Challenge, and Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity) and to become the new home for the Tuesday night dinners. These new relationships have greatly increased our presence and connections with the local community.

Many persons were pivotal in helping to bring this about, and I will undoubtedly overlook some. Mark Locke was heavily involved with bringing these programs and agencies to us, and the Trustees have worked from the beginning to insure that our facilities are set up properly and cared for.

For the dinners in particular, Nancy Prueter worked with the four churches who come each month to cook and serve: First Friends, St. Paul's Lutheran, St. Joseph Catholic, and Union Ave UMC. Our church secretaries Pettie and Dolores and our custodian Lynn have had extra duties. Many church members have volunteered to be hosts, so I will not try to name them all. However, we have had steadfast regulars who have come weekly for at least a year. Our initial set of regulars were Corrine Hirvela, Jane Helwig, Jean Webster and Carolyn Miller, and Don and Judy Kingan. When the Kingans stepped down last year, Pat and Bruce Helsel stepped up. Thank you again to all these helpers! Let's keep it going and make it even better!

~ Christian Outreach Committee





EASTER 2017 - LILIES FOR THE ALTAR

As in years past we have beautified our church at Easter time by placing many lovely lilies in memory of and/or in honor of loved ones and friends. In order that you might have another option for your Easter Memorial there is the World Service Fund that you may prefer to give to, in lieu of a lily.

Orders for lilies to be placed in the church for Easter must be in by April 9th. The price of the lilies this year will be \$9.00. Orders may be placed in the offering plates or sent to the church office. NO ORDERS will be taken after April 9th. ALL ORDERS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED WITH THE MONEY AND ORDER FORM. Donors names and those to be memorialized or honored will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin, April 16, 2017.

MY NAME (Given by) _____

- I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER A LILY FOR THE ALTAR AND WILL TAKE IT AFTER THE EASTER MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE, APRIL 16th.
- IN LIEU OF A LILY I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO THE WORLD SERVICE FUND.

THIS LILY OR DONATION IS IN MEMORY OF (Please print names)

OR IN HONOR OF (Please print names)

AMOUNT INCLUDED \$ _____



APRIL 2017



***Sunday** Worship & Program Opportunities
 9:00 A.M. Sunday School for all ages
 10:15 A.M. Worship Service
 10:45 A.M. Cherub and Wesley Choirs
 5:30 P.M. Youth Choirs
 6:00 P.M. UMYF Snack Supper
 6:30 P.M. **United Methodist Youth Fellowship**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 5th Sunday in Lent 8:45a Breakfast 11:45a Luncheon 6:30p Lenten Service *See Sunday Schedule	3 7p Boy Scouts	4 12p <i>Prayer Time/Chapel</i> 4p Fiddle Fun 5:30p Comm. Dinner	5 ECOT 8-1:30p 4:00p Staff mtg. 6 p Halleluia Bells 6:30p Chancel Bells 7p Chancel Choir	6 6:30p <i>Threads of Love</i>	7 CWU at CUMC 11:30a Board Mtg 1pm General Mtg Program Kathy Baker "A Few Choice Words"	1 11a Cain Bridal Shower <hr/> 8
9 Palm Sunday 8:45a Breakfast 5p CRC Visitations *See Sunday Schedule 6:30p Lenten Service	10 7p Boy Scouts	11 12p <i>Prayer/Chapel</i> 4p Fiddle Fun 5:30p Comm. Dinner 6:30p SPRC	12 4:00p Music Staff mtg. 6p Halleluia Bells 6:30p Chancel Bells 7p Chancel Choir	13 Holy Thursday 7p Service	14 Good Friday	15 Holy Saturday 8p Easter Vigil
16 Easter 8a Sunrise Service 8:45 a Breakfast 9a Sunday School 10:15a Worship Serv. NO Evening Youth	17 ECOT 9a-1p 12:30p Dorcas 7p Lenten Study 7p BS Clean Up 7p M & M Circle	18 → 12p <i>Prayer Chapel</i> 4p Fiddle Fun 5:30p Comm. Dinner 7:00p May Smyth Circle 7:00p Susie Buckel Cir.	19 ECOT 9a-1p 4:00p Music Staff mtg. 6p Halleluia Bells 6:30p Chancel Choir 7p Chancel Choir	20 →	21 ECOT 9a-1p	22 11 a Ruth Rankin Memorial Service
23 UMW Sunday 5p CRC Visitation *See Sunday Schedule	24 ECOT 9a-1p 7p Lenten Study 7p Boy Scouts 7p UMW Exec. Bd	25 → 12p <i>Prayer Chapel</i> 4p Fiddle Fun 5:30p Comm. Dinner 6:30p Trustees	26 ECOT 9a-1p 4:00p Music Staff mtg. 6p Halleluia Bells 6:30p Chancel Bells 7p Chancel Choir	27 →	28 ECOT 9a-1p	29
30 *See Sunday Schedule						