

Our Journey Together

*The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overtake it.—John 1:5*

This is a verse that we often read, hear, discuss around Christmas time, but this particular Easter this verse is bringing me great hope. In the days leading up to Palm Sunday I received word that a friend's family was suffering from a horrible tragedy. For this particular family, life is suddenly so very, very dark. And we know that they are not alone in that. There are people all over the world who are also sitting in the darkness today. Our world can be a dark place.



For my friend and her family, they are mourning the death of their beloved son. These last days have been full of unimaginable suffering, but even in the midst of that, there is still light. They have made the difficult decision to donate their son's organs, so that other people's suffering may not also end in tragedy, so that they may have a chance at a healthy life.

And that is the story of Easter, right? Jesus suffers and dies, so that we may live? Even though we are in the midst of pain and trials and suffering in this world, there is new hope, new possibilities, new life, because of Christ's redeeming work.

As we celebrate Holy Week and Easter at the beginning of this month, let us hold tight to that light in the darkness. The Light of this World will never be overcome, no matter the darkness that this world can come up with. The light of love, the light of hope, the light that is Christ—our Savior, our Messiah will never be dimmed, diminished, or put out. This Light shines forever.

So, no matter what darkness you face, and we all face it from time to time, hold fast to the Light. May the dawn of Easter morning sunrise, and every sunrise, be a reminder that just as night turns to day, so too will our darkness end, and that one day all who believe will bask in the glorious light eternal. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

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Content Due

Do you have items you would like included in next month's newsletter? If so, please have them into the church office no later than Apr 24.



April Ushers and Greeters
Apr 2 (Palm Sun) & 9 (Easter)
Don & Shirley Hofer
Apr 16, 23, 30
Ginger VanZee, Nancy Ames

If you need to miss a week in which you are scheduled to usher, it is your responsibility to find someone to fill in for you.

Please remember also, there are other ways in which you can help serve the church. We are always looking for folks to serve coffee fellowship, to be communion stewards, and lead small groups.

Financial Update from Administrative Council

Financial Update as of February 28, 2023:

2023 General Fund Income Year to Date: \$12,407.26
2023 General Fund Expenses Year to Date: \$13,931.68
General Fund Difference: (\$1,524.42)



Palm Sunday—April 2nd during our normal worship at 10:30am
Maundy Thursday—April 6th joint service @ Presbyterian Church @ 7:00pm
Good Friday—April 7th Ministerial Association service @ Presbyterian Church @ Noon
Easter Sunday—April 9th during our normal worship at 10:30am

Birthdays:

Apr 1 Barbara Slunecka	Apr 8 Kadye Fernholz
Apr 2 Savanna Bowar	Apr 9 Noah Grogan
Apr 4 Faith Bowar	Apr 15 Mary Breitling
Apr 4 Julie Canham	Apr 23 Allison Grogan
Apr 4 Gwen Johnson	Apr 23 Kael Ruhnke
Apr 6 Heidi Hoftiezer	Apr 25 Violet Moncur
Apr 7 Heather Kopecky	Apr 29 Katie Otteson
Apr 7 Shelley Moncur	



Anniversaries:

Apr 24 Gordon & Barbara Slunecka

Leadership Team Meeting
March 14, 2023

***Please note these minutes have not yet been approved and are subject to modification**

Call to Order Chairman, Joe Fiala called the March 14, 2023 Leadership Team meeting to order at 5:30 pm in the Library of the church. Joe Fiala was the Vice Chairman and now has moved into the Chairman position as Cindy Deuter has asked for her resignation from the board effective March 5, 2023.

Members present: Pastor Teresa Whetsel, Linda Blackburn, Andrea Fiala, Joe Fiala, Dwight Greenough, Chris Keeter, Eugene Moncur, Mike Moncur, JoAnn Morford, Sara Gates and Karen Steptoe. Merle Jenner present as a visitor. Absent were JoAnn Testerman, Kayla Wagner.

JoAnn Testerman was absent so Pastor Teresa asked that the meeting be recorded so JoAnn could write up the minutes to the meeting. The Team gave approval to do that.

Loving

1. Opening Devotional – Pastor Teresa led the group with the devotional using selections from a book by Frances Asbury and various scriptures from John 17. She also passed out papers from her devotional highlighting loving one another and being one to be kept as the priority as the Team moves forward with discussions and decisions that need to be approached by the Team. Pastor Teresa then led the group in prayer before they moved on to the business portion of the meeting.

Learning

1. Consent Calendar-

Consent calendar items- Joe Fiala moved that the Consent Calendar be moved from the Leading to Learning part of the agenda. He asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the consent calendar before a motion to accept it.

1. Building Use Policy -Trustee chairperson, Andrea Fiala, asked that the Building Use Policy be deferred to next meeting as there is more to do on it.

2. Treasurer's Report - Chairman, Joe suggested that the Treasurer's Report be left in the Finance Sub-Committee Report. Treasurer, Mike Moncur, thought that would be fine. The Finance committee would review it prior to the full Team meeting. He also said he could get it to the JoAnn Testerman and she could send it out in the email with the minutes and agenda for the Leadership Team to also review prior to the meeting.

3. Secretary Minutes for February-

Chairman, Joe Fiala made a motion that all Consent Calendar items be accepted. All voted in favor.

2. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be **Thursday April 20** with committees meeting at 5:00 pm with the full Leadership Team at 5:30.

Leading

1. Election of Vice Chair—tabled until later date

1. Sub-Committee Reports

Finance:

- Treasurer's report for February- The report prepared by Mike Moncur showed revenues at \$12,407.26 and expenses at \$13,931.68 for a general fund difference of (\$1,524.42). YTD general fund difference of (\$4611.27)
- Midco contract is up for renewal. They have given us a 3 year or 5 year option. The 5 year would save us \$5/mo. Finance committee has selected the 3 year option.

Trustees:

Building Use Policy update

- Andrea stated there is still work to do on this.

- Library Heat Unit had a bad bearing. Was serviced by Pietz and is now working
- Fire Extinguishers We just had our annual inspection. We have several reaching their end of life and we will need to start replaced some next year. This will be built into the budget for next year.

Sanctuary Multimedia – in process

Parsonage – in process

- Repairs – Mike Beaner – pending weather

Hearing Assist System We have a quote from MidStates Audio in SF for 2 different options. Trustees recommend the William Sound unit. Andrea made a motion to purchase this system with memorial funds, . Chris Keeter seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Staff-Parish Relations: No report given

d. Pastor's Report- No Report Given

e. UMC/GMC discussion - After additional discussion regarding the on-going UMC/GMC debate, Chris Keeter made a motion to send the "What's Happening in the UMC" document, with some amendments to every member of the congregation, with a brief cover letter by Joe Fiala, as Chairperson. Motion seconded by Linda Blackburn. Motion carried

f. Communication Plan- Pastor and Joe will work on the Information document and the cover letter. Document will be emailed to the team for approval prior to it being sent out.

There was no more business brought before the group.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 7:00 p.m.

Jo Ann- JoAnn Testerman, Recorder from recording taken by Pastor Teresa

April 2023

Sun

Mon



Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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2							8
							
9							15
							
16							22
23							29
<i>Camp Sunday</i>							
30							
<i>Spare Change Sunday</i>							

1

3

4

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7

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10

11 UWF
Library 1:30pm

12

13 Maundy Thursday
7 pm
Presbyterian church

14 Good Friday
NOON
Presbyterian Church

15

16

17

18

19 UWF workday
Trinity 10-2

20 Leadership Team
5pm

21

22

23 *Camp Sunday*

24

25

27  Food Truck
Noon-1pm

28

29

30

Spare Change Sunday

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<https://www.facebook.com/fumcmillersd>



How Jesus says your name

It's been said that when someone loves you, they say your name differently. Your name is "safe" coming from their mouth.

Mary Magdalene found this to be true. Walking alone in the dark to Jesus' tomb, she wanted nothing less than for a concerned loved one to interrupt her private grief, crooning her name in pity: "Oh, Mary, there, there." Or worse, someone from her old life who would spit her name like a curse, not knowing that Jesus had cast out her demons. But then Mary saw the tomb open and panicked, ran to get Simon, hurried back to the garden. Angels addressed her — not by name, just "Woman ..." — and then a gardener: "Woman ..."

Except then — "Mary" — this man knew her after all, speaking her name so knowingly, tenderly, lovingly that she recognized him. "Mary." Her name was safe in his mouth, her life safe in his care. He wasn't the gardener. He was her teacher, her friend, her Savior.

Friend, your name also is safe in Jesus' mouth, your life safe in his care, for he loves you deeply.

—Heidi Hyland Mann