

# A Voice in the Pines

Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines newsletter

Volume XXXV111, April 2022

## **A look at how your gifts are helping many locally and beyond**

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35)

The Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines congregational community has wholeheartedly embraced the apostle Paul’s recollection of Jesus’ words through your overwhelming support of missions.

The Mission Committee takes the responsibility of allocating and distributing the gifts you have donated prayerfully and with a great sense of gratitude.

The committee is led by Moderator Judith Rosenthal and has the following members: John Davis, Daryl Henry, Gloria Pickett, Helen

Van Stone, Ken Wolf, Bruce Dale, Richard McPheters, Jerral Johnson, Bob Morrow, Carol Clark, Norma Stevens, and Secretary Becky Wakefield.

Traditionally, 22 to 25 percent of the Kirk’s annual budget is earmarked for mission work. Last year this money funded 27 different missions and was provided from

one or more of seven Session-approved fund accounts.

These are the Congregational Mission Fund, \$1.00 Mission Fund, the Endowment Fund, the Luke 12:48 Endowment Fund, the International Mission Fund, the Second Mile Giving Fund, and the Special Projects Fund.

We



thought you might like to know how your generous gifts were distributed last year.

Altogether, \$97,382 was distributed to missions and agencies traditionally supported by the Kirk. Ten received approximately 80 percent of these funds from one or more of the accounts listed above.

These included Ferncliff, Vera

Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services, Samaritan Ministries, Ouachita Children’s Home, Meals on Wheels, Jackson House, Arkansas Food Bank, Project Hope Food Bank, Cooperative Christian Ministries and Clinics, and Potter’s Clay.

As in 2020, the committee continued its focus on food, shelter, and health through the Second Mile Initiative. Through this program, additional funds went to five agencies who serve these most basic needs.

Jackson House, Arkansas Food Bank, Project Hope Food Bank, Cooperative Christian Ministries and

Clinics, and Potter’s Clay received an equal share of \$30,399, of which \$17,522 was generously given by one donor in January 2021 as a match for funds received in 2020.

The remaining \$12,877 was given by others in 2021.

The committee recently decided to end the Second Mile

**Continued on the next page**

## **When we meet**

Sunday worship service  
Begins at 10 a.m.



Saturday informal service  
5 p.m. In Hoffius Hall

Wednesday Bible Study  
9-10:30 a.m. Hoffius Hall



For more meeting times see  
[www.kirkinthepines.org/calendar](http://www.kirkinthepines.org/calendar)



## **Because Christ is risen, we don't have to be afraid**

Christ the Lord is Risen Today! Alleluia!

With Christians all over the world, we will sing Wesley's wonderful hymn this coming April 17 – Easter Sunday. This hymn reflects the joy and hope all Christians hold dear – that sin and death do not have the last word and that the power of death cannot keep Christ, or us, in the grave.

This is certainly good news worth celebrating.

The Gospel of Mark tells us, however, that at the tomb of Jesus on that first Easter morning, the witnesses were “seized with fear and amazement and they said nothing to anyone for they were afraid!” (*Mark 16:8*)

While some versions of Mark continue on for another 12 verses, most scholars believe Mark intended his Gospel to end with fear and silence.

Why would Mark want such a strange ending to his Gospel?

No doubt this ending bothered others through the years. The editors of the NRSV and NIV Bibles add footnotes indicating verses 9-20 were most likely later additions by some scribes who felt Mark's Gospel needed a stronger ending. The other Gospels have resurrection appearances by Jesus, why not Mark?

But most scholars now agree *Mark 16:8* is the ending the Gospel writer originally intended for this Gospel – an ending not of celebration, but a mystery. Fear and silence are an appropriate response because they only encounter an empty tomb and a stranger's promise that Christ will see them in Galilee.

Remember, these first disciples must still ask the difficult questions about their own safety. If the cross is

### **The Pastor's Corner Bill Bailey**



God's way in the world, what next will be asked of them?

Small wonder these first disciples were silent and afraid. They knew, all too well, that the God who raised Jesus is the same God who calls us all to follow. Discipleship is a risky venture.

This Easter, you and I will again celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. We will join Christians all over the world in singing and witnessing to God's mighty works. While we are relatively safe here in Hot Springs Village, we should remember there are still places where our brothers and sisters pay dearly because of their faith.

We should also remember there may be times when we, too, are called to a costly discipleship. Christ still calls us to follow, obey and risk our lives in this needy world.

Christ is risen, indeed, and because He is, you and I do not have to be afraid of risking our lives and reputations.

## **27 recipients of Mission gifts express gratitude**

**Continued from the previous page**

Initiative since the impact of the pandemic on these agencies has diminished as has contributions to the initiative. However, all five will continue to receive support through other budgeted funds.

And what about the dollars for missions collected in the offering plate each Sunday?

These \$1 Mission funds totaled \$2,240 and went in equal amounts to Lyon College, The University of the Ozarks, Frontier Fellowship, the

Presbyterian Church USA, West End Presbyterian Church, Ferncliff, Vera Lloyd, and Medical Benevolence Foundation.

International Fund dollars (totaling \$4,000) went to Haiti Educational Foundation, Heifer International, Solar Under the Sun, and Living Waters of the World.

The remaining budgeted funds went to a variety of missions and agencies including Small Group Therapy, SOZO, the Webb Center, Adult Teen Challenge, and hurricane disaster assistance.

Every dollar allocated to missions was spent!

All 27 recipients of your gifts expressed heartfelt gratitude for your loving generosity. And especially, all of us who serve on the Mission Committee are deeply grateful to be able to faithfully share the love of Christ expressed through your gifts with the agencies in our community and beyond that aid “the least among us.”

**Prepared by the Kirk's  
Mission Committee.**

## Pastor Bailey's Wednesday studies will resume

### Church statistics:

As of March 11, 2022: Members – 269; family units – 182

### Loss of Kirk Members:

We are saddened by the loss of long-time Kirk member Charlotte Martin who died on Feb. 21. A memorial service will be held later in the spring.

We are also very sad to report the death of Jim White. Services will be May 10. Our prayers go out to Nell and other members of Jim's family at this sad time.

A memorial service for Bruce Harris Markell was March 12 in the Memorial Garden. We remember Bruce and the Markell family in our prayers.

### Upcoming Education Events:

Martha Nielsen said Mike Brakebill, a speaker from Potters' Clay, will be the presenter May 19 in the Learnfest series in Hoffius Hall. We encourage all Kirk members to attend this presentation by a leader of one of the organizations that we support.

Pastor Bill Bailey said Wednesday morning studies will resume after Easter. He will be leading a discussion on "Sharing Your Faith."

### Lenten Lunches:

Moderator of the Fellowship Committee, Ruling Elder Ruth Richards, says our traditional Lenten services and luncheons are proceeding full steam. No other fellowship events are scheduled at this time.

### Communion:

Communion services will return to normal

## Session Report

**By Tony Booth  
(interim clerk)**



procedures with the passing of the communion elements to the congregation at both Saturday and Sunday services. For those who are reluctant to participate in receiving communion in this way, the packaged communion elements will be available.

### After Worship Fellowship:

Given the low Covid case numbers, after worship fellowship, otherwise known as "coffee hour" will continue for the present time.

### Bathroom refurbishment:

The Building Committee led by Ruling Elder Bill Worthley is proceeding with the refurbishment of the women's bathrooms.

### Memorial Garden:

Priscilla Hayek, Moderator of the Memorial Garden and Grounds committee, says work will soon begin on the handrail on the sloping section of the sidewalk.



## 'Sharing Your Faith'

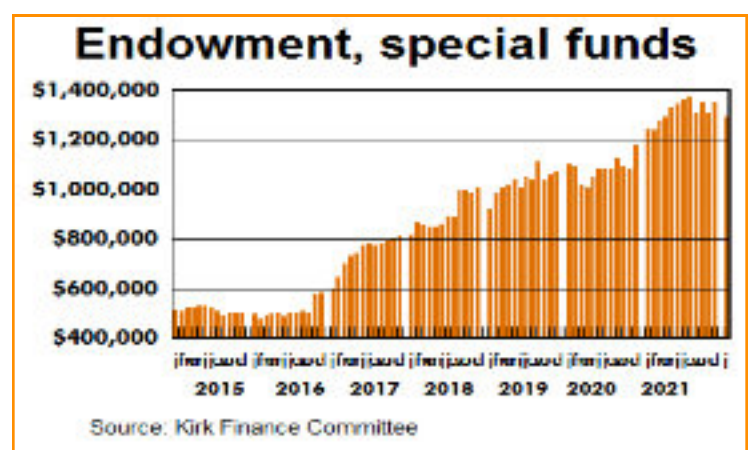
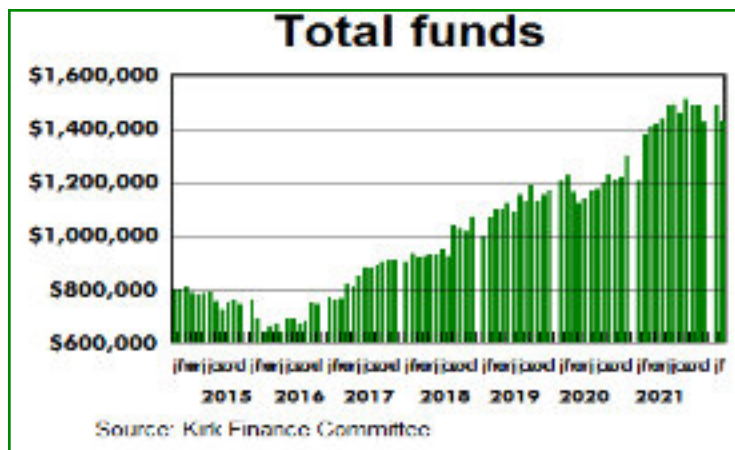
Pastor Bill Bailey will lead a weekly discussion based on scripture, theology, and practical experience.

Join us from 9-10:30 a.m. Wednesdays in Hoffius Hall,  
April 20 – May 25

# Kirk in the Pines Financial Report

## Year to date as of February 28, 2022

	Month		Year to date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
<b>General Fund:</b>				
Receipts	\$ 37,974	\$ 35,725	\$ 75,948	\$ 94,344
Disbursements	\$ 37,974	\$ 23,387	\$ 75,948	\$ 49,025
<b>Building Fund:</b>				
Receipts	\$ 4,848	\$ 3,863	\$ 9,697	\$ 10,677
Disbursements	\$ 4,848	\$ 9,685	\$ 9,697	\$ 12,440
<b>Total all funds:</b>				
Receipts	\$ 42,822	\$ 39,588	\$ 85,645	\$ 105,021
Disbursements	\$ 42,822	\$ 33,072	\$ 85,645	\$ 61,465
Checking balance				\$ 139,997
<b>Special funds:</b>				
Memorial fund				\$ 76,529
Luke 12:48 fund				\$ 303,516
Programs fund				\$ 38,398
Endowment fund				\$ 806,021
Maack-Ormsbee Fund				\$ 65,710
<b>Total special funds (as of Jan. 31, 2022)</b>				<b>\$ 1,290,474</b>



## \$480 for Mission

Thank you for generously supporting our Mission Dollar campaign by placing your single dollar bills in the offering plate. A total of \$480 was collected in February.

If you wish to give more than a dollar, please use the envelopes in the pew racks. We are always grateful for your generous gifts and prayers.

## Thinking of you ...

Each Saturday and Sunday the Congregational Care Committee will be asking Kirk members to sign a beautiful card to be mailed to a church member who has not been able to attend services due to illness or disability.

Please add your signature to these cards and join the congregation in wishing others well. Thank you.

# All should join in praying for those suffering in Ukraine

God of mercy, justice and peace:

Our spirits are heavy with sorrow, our souls shocked at the sudden and breathtaking violence, the invasion of Ukraine by their neighbor, Russia.

We pray for lives caught in the grip of war, who hear the bombs in the night, the ominous movement of troops on the road into town the whistle of incoming shells, for a cry from a desperate neighbor or a shout of warning.

For those who huddle in subways and basements or flee for the borders, clutching their children's hands.

We pray for families separated from fathers, brothers and sons who must remain to fight and protect their homeland.

We pray for neighbors in Eastern and Central Europe as their hearts and doors open to these refugees.

We pray...

That strained resources will become an abundance of hope,

That fears and struggles with racism

PRAY  
FOR  
UKRAINE



will yield to a generosity of profound welcome,

That communities of faith within Ukraine will be protected from harm and sustained in their efforts to feed and shelter their neighbors,

That peacemakers and protesters in Russia will be heard and their lives preserved.

May we undergird our prayers with tangible resources to help.

May we reach deeply, give generously, and welcome

extravagantly.

May we lift our voices in a strong and unified advocacy.

May we all, even as we breathe in lament, breathe out mercy, hope and peace.

And in this Lenten season, when we walk the way toward death and resurrection, repent our complicity in cultures of violence and renew our efforts toward justice and peace.

*This prayer was written by the Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, director of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and was offered by the Rev. Stewart Smith, General Presbyterian of the Presbytery of Arkansas, at the March 13 prayer service at First Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. He asked us to consider using the prayer for the people of Ukraine in other services and in our daily prayers.*

## COME TO THE EASTER PARTY

By Ann Weems

I think on Easter morning we should throw confetti in church!

No?

What about a little fanfare?

A deafening drumroll?

A three-minute standing ovation?

What? Have we had the drums beaten out of us

That we in the celebrative community can't really

Get excited

About God's aliveness?

About God's love given to us unconditionally?

Have we given Easter up to the lily bearers, the bunny rabbits, the patent leather shoes?



Let's face it:

We live as though we don't believe in Easter.

Easter scares us

Because we're the people who can't believe

That God gives us abundant Life;

We think we have to earn it.

But Easter says it's already been paid!

Easter says, no matter how prodigal,

We can go home again!

Let's celebrate that amazing grace

That in Christ's resurrection

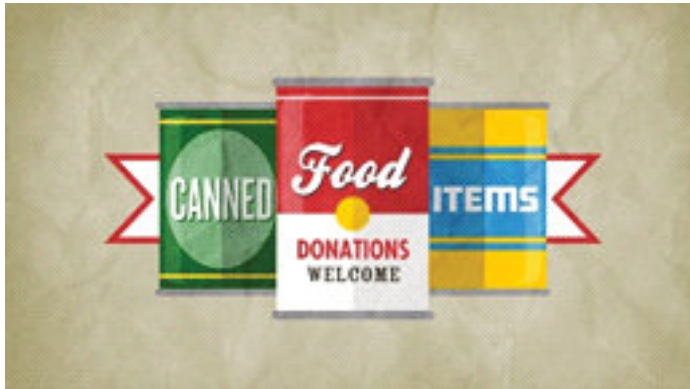
We are still loved even at our most outrageous.

The Lord has given us the music;

All we need do is dance it!

Come to the Easter party!

For more information on Ann Weems click on this hyperlink <https://www.pcusa.org/news/2016/3/22/ann-weems-presbyterian-poet-laureate-dies-age-81/>



When: 11:30 a.m. *Thursday, May 19*

What: *Lunch & Learn on Local Missions*

Where: *Hoffius Hall*

Admission Fee – *Food pantry donation for Potter's Clay*

## Lend a Hand, Bring a Can

Come to the Lunch & Learn program at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, May 19, in Hoffius Hall and discover how your mission dollars are helping women and children in crisis.

Mike Brakebill, Executive Director of Potter's Clay in Hot Springs will speak. Your admission fee for the program is a food pantry item for the Potter's Clay Food Pantry Box. A brown bag lunch will be provided and a love donation of \$6 for your meal would be appreciated.

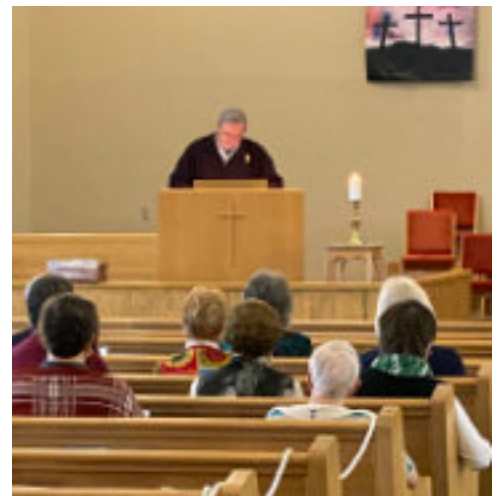
Let's lend a hand and all bring a can to fill the Food Pantry box for Potter's Clay.

For more information contact Martha Nielsen, Christian Education Committee Moderator, at 501 922-0672 or [mgentrynielsen@gmail.com](mailto:mgentrynielsen@gmail.com)



PW lunch servers Gloria Pickett, Becky Wakefield, Lora Eckard are all smiles as they serve up a delicious PW repaste.

Greenhorns served up a delicious meal of chicken crepes, green beans, and salad for the March PW luncheon. From left are Jane Moore, Rosalyn Halbert, Marcia Bauer, Ellen Marshall, and Becky Wakefield. *(Bob Morrow photos)*



Pastor Bill Bailey shared reflections on "The Will of God" at the March PW gathering.

## ***PW Women urged to vote for next Woman of Faith***

**By Vicki Rosenquist**

The Kirk's Presbyterian Women's March gathering took place on March 14 and was attended by approximately 30 women. Pastor Bill Bailey gave an informative talk on "God's Will."

The luncheon in Hoffius Hall was prepared by the Greenhorns and enjoyed by all. Circle 1 set up the tables with a decorative St. Patrick's Day theme.

Everyone was reminded it is time to select this year's Woman of Faith. Ballots were included in the gathering bulletin and are available in Hoffius Hall next to the ballot box by the kitchen.

There will also be an opportunity to vote at our next Circle meetings on April 11. Ballots will be counted April 15. Our last gathering of this PW year will be at 11 a.m. Monday, May 9, in the sanctuary. The Rev. Carol Clark from Little Rock will be our guest speaker. She has spoken to our group in the past and has always presented an interesting message.

The following luncheon will be a salad buffet to honor the Greenhorns. Mark your calendars for this final PW gathering before our summer break.

***Vicki Rosenquist is Presbyterian Women Moderator.***



## Join Us!

Lenten lunches of homemade soup and bread have been well attended. Servers are organized by the Fellowship Committee and include members of all Session committees. Lenten Bible study and lunches continue on Wednesday, April 6. (Bob Morrow photo)

# Need a Faith-Lift?

## Then Consider This Three-Day Renewal of a Lifetime!

A Presbyterian Pilgrimage Weekend is not just “another retreat.” It is a personal spiritual journey in which you can experience a deepening relationship with Christ intended to keep on growing – and last a lifetime.

At Pilgrimage people often say they have:

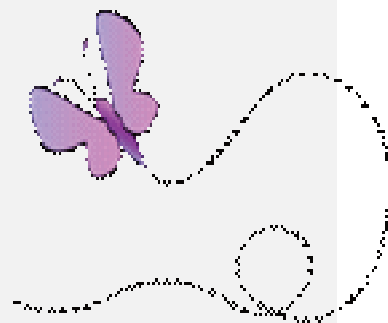
- Gained a greater understanding of God’s love, grace, and forgiveness
- Become more alive in their faith
- Found a renewed sense of hope and purpose
- Discovered how to use their talents to serve in their home churches

But wait – there’s more!

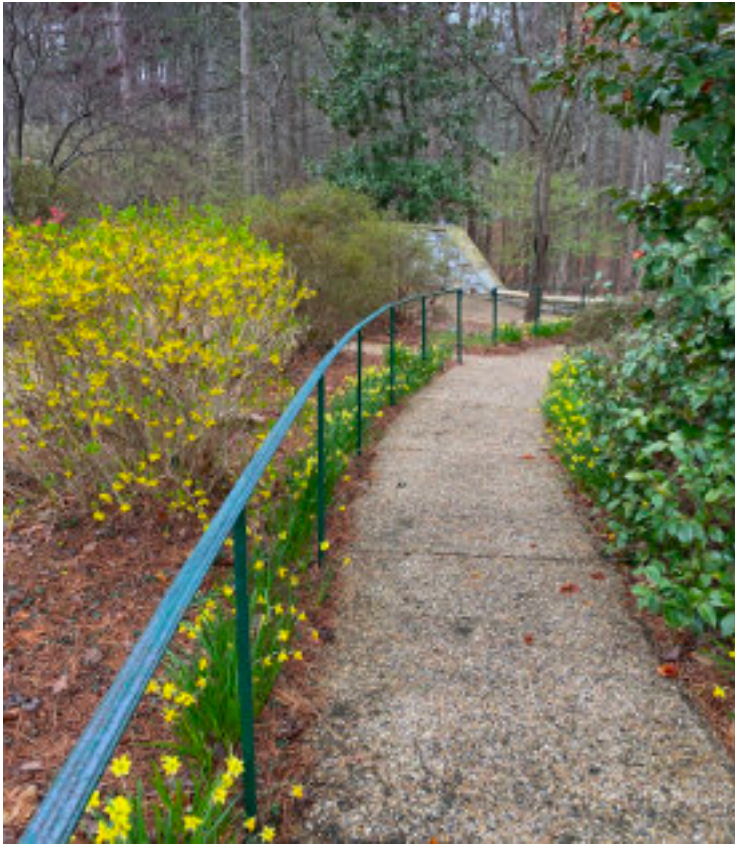
Pilgrimage Weekends are filled with fun, singing, laughter and communion with fellow Christian “seekers.”

Will you prayerfully consider attending the Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage on April 21-24 at Ferncliff Presbyterian Center in Little Rock? The cost for lodging and meals is \$200, but scholarships are available so cost need not be a barrier!

You can find out more and/or register to attend at [www.pilgrimage-arkansas.org](http://www.pilgrimage-arkansas.org), or by calling Martha Nielsen at 501 922-0672. Registration deadline is April 10, so today would be a good day to start your Pilgrimage journey.







A blooming forsythia compliments profuse yellow daffodils lining a path in the Memorial Garden. (Bob Morrow photo)

## Join the fun on April 15 and help in our gardens

We're planning a Memorial Garden and Grounds workday on April 15, weather permitting. We'll begin at 1 p.m. All are invited to come by and leave at any time.

We will do more cleaning up of leaves at the bases of shrubs in the Memorial Garden and, if weather permits, we will clean out and refill the pond.

All are welcome to participate and enjoy the best Spring has to offer in our beautiful gardens. Contact Priscilla Hayek at [pjhayek1950@gmail.com](mailto:pjhayek1950@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining the party!



## After 15 years, Jim Hess stepping aside; we need a golf replacement

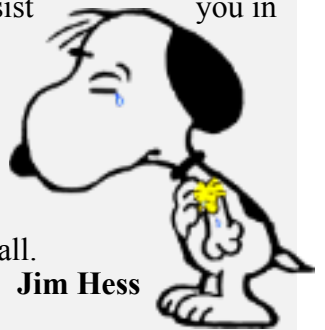
Dear Kirk Golfers:

After 15 years of arranging monthly play dates and after-golf dinners, it is time for me to pass the leadership mantle on. I've enjoyed the golf, the dinners, and the fellowship. But it is time for new leadership.

If you're interested in leading the Kirk's golf group, please send me an email at [jimobhess@suddenlink.net](mailto:jimobhess@suddenlink.net) or call me at 501 922-2326. I will assist you in setting up play, starting ASAP to begin in May.

Thanks to all our members present and past, it has been a great experience. I will miss you all.

Blessings and best wishes to all.



Jim Hess

## Gardners doing better, appreciate all the love

We want to thank the Kirk family for all the cards, emails, calls, and food during a stressful time in our lives.

We are both doing much better and hope to be back with you very soon. We are more blessed that we could have ever imagined. We have a fabulous family!

With much love,

Lowell and Sharon Gardner

## Janie and Ted Smith marking 70 years together

Janie and Ted Smith will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on May 31.

To celebrate this special milestone, their children invite you to attend a reception from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, May 28, at First Presbyterian Church in Dallas Center, Iowa.

If you are unable to attend but wish to send a card, their address is:

Ted and Janie Smith  
1650 SE Holiday Crest Circle  
Apt 209  
Waukee, IA 50263

## **Symbolism important in Tenebrae service April 14**

**By Bob Morrow**

Tenebrae means “shadows” or “darkness” in Latin. Tenebrae church services have been held since the Middle Ages, first by the Roman Catholic church then, after the reformation, by protestant denominations.

The traditional service involves gospel readings (usually six or more) from the Passion of Christ as well as music, and in some cases, even the reading of poetry. Following each section of the service, a candle is extinguished.

When the last candle is extinguished, the church is in darkness.

Darkness falling progressively on the church can be understood to signify the darkness falling on the world as Jesus proceeds toward the cross and death.

The service helps focus worshipers on the reality of Jesus’ agony as he neared the place where he would be tortured and killed by crucifixion. Each section of the service can be viewed as the falling of one shadow after another across the path of Jesus and on all creation.

Tenebrae services are held variously on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday. This year our traditional

Maundy Thursday worship will be a Tenebrae service.

The gospel readings will be from the *Gospel of Luke*, chapters 22 and 23.

The service will begin at 5:30 p.m. April 14, so it will not be literally dark at the end of the service.

However, for us, extinguishing candles symbolizes “the light,” which is Christ, leaving the world just as during Advent and Christmas the lighting of candles symbolizes “the light coming into the world.”

Maundy means “command” and is taken from the *Gospel of John* where, after washing the disciple’s feet and the prediction of betrayal by Judas, he gives a new commandment:

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.” (*John 13:34-35, NIV*)

Come, reflect, and remember Christ’s sacrificial love experienced through this ancient service of remembrance.

**Bob Morrow is Moderator of the Communication Committee.**



**Let's  
celebrate  
together**

**Lenten Bible study and lunch – 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 6, followed by lunch in Hoffius Hall**

**Maundy Thursday service – 5:30 p.m. April 14**

**Easter Saturday service – 5 p.m. April 16**

**Easter Sunday service – 10 a.m. April 17**



# Happy dates



## Birthdays

April 1	Joe Milligan	April 16	Marty Volkema	April 23	Sandy Adams
April 4	Pat Kuntz	April 17	Lu Otto		Jean Fisher
April 8	Ron Lovett		John Burks		Claire Rhodes
	Tom Martick	April 18	Michael Erickson		Doris Simmons
	Steven Klomsten		Gloria Pickett	April 24	Cheryle Dean
April 9	Judy Sonnenburg	April 20	Bob Smith	April 25	Bill Bailey
April 10	Stanley Luczkowski	April 21	Cal Sloma	April 26	Sheri Swan
April 14	Blair Stroud	April 22	Georgia Hill	April 28	Ken Poole
April 16	Darlene Spiller		Ruth Richards		

## Anniversaries

April 3	Sandy and Jim Adams	29 years	April 15	Bev and Charles McFadden	16 years
April 4	Cindy and Frank Morgan	49 years			



## **Kirk-made shawls, lap covers dedicated**

In January, Pastor Bill Bailey and the Kirk congregation participated in the dedication of new prayer shawls and lap covers as part of an ongoing church ministry. The knitting and crocheting of these beautiful items are made entirely by Kirk women. They made more than 190 in the last year. *(Bob Morrow photo)*

## Ultimate gift: wrapping your head around the truth

By Lowell Gardner

Zig Ziglar, the late professed Christian businessman, salesman, lecturer, and motivational speaker, was noted for declaring, “If you aim at nothing you will hit it every time,” a cagey point to the need for clear focus and clarity of objective.

A thoughtful life seeks to understand the purpose for being and pursue a way to fulfill that purpose. This means confronting questions regarding wisdom, honesty, courage, and strength, thereby achieving understanding, uprightness, endurance, and potency.

Identify the way and reach for it!

There will be and are many challenges and potential pitfalls along the way. There are occasions when everyone must pick themselves up, dust themselves off and go again.

But what of grievous, seemingly unredeemable wrongs? He or she has a moment similar to the author of the New Testament Letter to the Romans:



“For what I am doing I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.” (*Romans 7:15*)

It is at this back to the drawing board moment one is, by beg or barter, returned to the creator only to discover the originator of purpose itself anticipating the call.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.” (*John 3:16-17*)

The ultimate challenge is to wrap one’s head (or heart) around the truth – it’s a gift!

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as the result of works, so that no one may boast.” (*Ephesians 2:8-9*)

We are His workmanship in Jesus Christ. It is all about faith!

**Lowell Gardner is former Moderator of the Communication Committee.**

## Kirk staff

**William B. Bailey** – Senior Pastor

**Randy Toney** – Director of Music

**Donna Toney** – Organist/Pianist

**Congregational Care Coordinator** – Carol Clark

**Chris Taylor-Wilmoth** – Secretary

**Beverly Schaumburg** – Business Administrator

**Arthur “Chip” Johnson** – Sexton

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[kirkinthepinesvoice@gmail.com](mailto:kirkinthepinesvoice@gmail.com)

