



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church™

The Hilltopper

New Hope United Methodist Church's Monthly Newsletter



April 2019

April Showers (...and May...and June and...)

By: Alan Allegra

*"Tho' April showers may come your way,
They bring the flowers that bloom in May.
So if it's raining, have no regrets,
Because it isn't raining rain, you know,
It's raining violets."*

"April Showers" is a familiar song to most of us, and April showers are familiar to all of us. April showers usher in springtime, with its promise of new life, freshness, and, often, renewed acquaintances with neighbors who've been hibernating for the winter.

Occasionally we speak of the "promise" of spring. We mean by this the joys that attend its arrival. We never speak of the "promise" of winter, perhaps because we don't look forward to the harsh conditions. The word "threat" seems more appropriate. Winters may be more mild or more severe than hoped, but those April showers never seem to disappoint our expectations for those May flowers.

The Bible speaks of showers as well. When God speaks about the restoration of the earth after judgment, He promises: "I will bless them and the places surrounding my hill. I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessing" (*Ezekiel 34:26*). Although primarily promising Israel and the redeemed that they will have the rain they need to produce crops, God uses that truth to illustrate the blessings of refreshment that He provides, especially to believers.



The greatest of these "showers" is called "the times of refreshing." In the Acts of the Apostles, Peter exhorts: "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you even Jesus" (*Acts 3:19, 20*). Notice that the "times of refreshing," referred to by Ezekiel, center around the Lord Jesus. And the ultimate blessing is the forgiveness of sins through repentance.

Peter went on to preach about the resurrection of Christ. Springtime is almost universally associated with Easter, more properly known as Resurrection Day. Just as the promise of springtime includes the renewal of growth and the bursting forth of new life from the dead of winter, the resurrection of Christ promises new life from the death of the sinful nature, and bursting graves when he returns.

Those heavenly showers continue today and every day and in every month and every season, in all the good things God does for us. The rain is always the most intense during the darkest storms, even when we don't see it. When our trials seem the worst, when we can't see two steps ahead and the future is a blur, we can stop and count our blessings and trust in the promises of God. Jesus gives us the silver linings in many of the clouds of life, as related in the Beatitudes of Matthew 5:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Peter promised that the Lord would send Jesus. Paul told us about that in *1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17* "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a shout and the dead in Christ will rise first. (We) who are still alive will be caught up together with them. And so we will be with the Lord forever." This is refreshing news!

As if that isn't enough, the Lord promises an eternal renewal, greater than any springtime we can recall from the most halcyon childhood:

Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. I am making everything new (*Revelation 21:3-5*).

April showers bring May flowers. Once a year. God's promises bring showers of blessings. All the time. Whether the sun is shining or the thunderheads are threatening, it's the season to count your blessings!

Lectionary Readings for April

April 7

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4-14
John 12:1-8

April 14

Luke 19:28-40
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Isaiah 50:4-9
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14-23 & 56

April 21

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

April 28

Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

**Our young ladies; Bianca Brensinger, Susie Hong
and Karleigh Howdyshell sharing information
about our church's children's ministries.**





BIRTHDAYS and
ANNIVERSARIES

1 - Margaret Breeding
- Wanda Harding

3 - Regina Chestnut
- Bill Shipe

4 - Samantha Arnold
- Mark Craun
- Bill Lalla
- Dale Rankin

5 - Morgan Craun
- Kindra Kraisser

6 - Lauren Stout Kelly

7 - John Brock
- Josh Hitt
- Brendan Kraisser
- Naomi Ritchie




Steve & Terri Carter

9 - Rocky Simmons

10 - Cindy Sheets


13 - Melinda Booth
- Brittany Killough
- Desirae Killough
- Stephen Layman

16 -  Marc & Susan Mehler

17 - Michael Morris

18 - Patty Corbett
- Kathy Floyd

19 - Michael Huff

20 - Glenna Beard
 Bill & Judy Lalla

21 - Lane Bennett

22 - Corey Baldwin
- David Howdyshell
- Brenda Pace

23 - Madison Harding

24 - Harlow Bennett
- Tim Lank
- Ray Price
- Judy Riner

27 - Sherrie Critzer Eacho
- Peyton Meier
- Eric Stogdale

28 - Robert Critzer
- Alex Bergman
- Bette Lowry Blanchard

30 - Kay Moore
- Joseph Shreckhise

STAY IN THE KNOW

The following are the minutes from the FEBRUARY meeting of the Church Council. They are available for you to help the entire church congregation Stay In The Know about what and how this group are caring for the people and the church building of New Hope UMC - in the past, the present *and into the future!*

February 28, 2019

Those Present: Pastor Shin, Robin Craun, Kevin Armstrong, Bruce Rogers, Sam Arnold, Cindy Deavers, Dallas VanLear, Wanda Harding

The meeting was called to order by Sam Arnold, Chairperson.

Devotions were shared by Sam Arnold from the Upper Room followed by prayer.

Minutes: From January meeting were accepted as distributed.

Finance Committee: (Kevin Armstrong)

Audit forms have been distributed and are due to Kevin by April 1st.

Thus far 15.4 % of year with receipts of 12.6% for budget (3% behind due to missed Sunday due to weather). Slow receiving funding for HVAC.

Treasurer: (Cindy Deavers)

Apportionments paid. New credit card for Teresa Barr as chairperson for Trustees. Paid \$7,000 of line of credit. Received \$2,540 toward credit line and \$1,510 in undesignated gifts/memorials.

Trustees:

Wanda Harding presented for Teresa requested proposal for remodeling of library room (now multi-purpose room). Those present felt need to table for now but approved going ahead with adding the additional electrical outlets.

Evangelism Ministry:

Pastor Shin reported Sue has resigned the position due to family obligations. The Nomination Committee will be seeking her replacement.

Staff/Parish Relations:

Reportedly working actively with District Superintendent for Pastor Shin's replacement. Working on training program for new prevention of child and adult abuse.

Pastor Shin:

Shared response from Bishop Lewis following General Conference; on March 4th live streaming session with Bishop Lewis.

Unfinished Business:

- Copier (Bruce Rogers is checking into replacements or repairing.)
- TV Monitor & other A/V Equipment (Jerry Coffman is working on getting them repaired.)
- Wall Calendar (New calendar is posted on the bulletin board.)

Closed with prayer by Pastor Shin

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04-22-2011

YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE HIM ... HE'S
NEW TO THE FAITH AND THIS IS HIS
FIRST EASTER

Naomi Ritchie makes the TV 29 news for her art and her compassion!



Augusta County Teen Creates Art for Those Fighting Cancer

An Augusta County teenager is using her talent to celebrate and, in some cases, remember those who have fought cancer.



Meet Naomi Ritchie, a young woman who's giving comfort to cancer patients and their families with the gift of art.

AUGUSTA COUNTY, Va. (WVIR) - An Augusta County teenager is using her talent to celebrate and, in some cases, remember those who have fought cancer.

Naomi Ritchie is using art to provide comfort to those facing their toughest battle.

"This is the piece that started it all," Ritchie said. Ritchie created her first portrait after her young cousin survived the respiratory virus RSV.

"The background is all of the medical bills from his stay in the hospital," Ritchie said. She used a mix of stenciling, spray paint, acrylic paint, and collaging.

"He's living and he's, like, two now and so he's what started it as making like a piece that advocates for a disease," Ritchie said. Later, Ritchie's uncle was diagnosed with cancer.

“So I wanted to advocate cancer and then I put it together and that's what I did,” Ritchie said.

The Fort Defiance senior is also an art student at the Shenandoah Valley Governor's School in Fishersville. For her capstone project, she's creating 17 portraits of people who are either fighting or have fought cancer.

“This piece right here is for a substitute teacher at Fort,” Ritchie said. “His name's Mr. Richie. He's the bomb.”

A couple of those individuals sadly lost that battle, like MaDee Boxler. “Her grandma called her MaDee Jane when she was little,” Ritchie said.

Ritchie knows these kinds of details because she spent a lot of last year getting to know each one personally, either directly or through their families.

“I interview them to get their personality and then that's how I paint them is based on their personality,” Ritchie said. “What reflects them.”

She also asks what they would like her to include in her art.

“This little girl's name is Crysalin and she wanted Elsa and a unicorn included so that's what I included in hers,” Ritchie said.

Ritchie's goal is to capture just a piece of each person in every creation.

“It's kind of like, wow, I did this thing,” Ritchie said. “I battled this horrible disease and I either overcame it, I'm still battling this disease and I am so strong, or I sadly have passed away from it and it's given the families, those families, kind of, like, comfort.”

None of the families have seen the portraits yet, but they will on Friday, March 29, during a reveal party at the University of Virginia Battle Building in Charlottesville, where Ritchie is giving each portrait to the individuals or their families.

Use the following link to see the full video report of Naomi:

<https://www.nbc29.com/story/40200319/augusta-county-teen-creates-art-for-those-fighting-cancer>

As of the end of December 2018, the children of the church - who collect small change each Sunday morning, had collected \$1,360.

They decided to purchase: 1 water buffalo, 2 flocks of chickens, 1 bee hive, 2 sheep, 2 goats and 1 cow.

Since Becky Tate's 3rd, 4th & 5th grade class began this project, they have collected over \$19,050! Special

thanks to our children and Becky for continuing this awesome ministry!



Upcoming Events, Activities and Meetings at New Hope UMC - APRIL 2019

*EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING

Lenten Bible Study @ 5:00pm

Children's Handbell Choir Practice @ 5:00pm

Wednesday Night Dinner @ 6:00pm

Sanctuary Choir Practice @ 6:45pm

April 1, Monday ~ Circle of Hope with Shelvie Critzer @ 7:00pm

April 2, Tuesday ~ Sisters of Faith at the Church @ 1:30pm

~ Circle of Love at the Church @ 7:00pm

April 3, Wednesday ~ **Wednesday Evening Activities** starting @ 5:00pm

April 4, Thursday ~ District UMW Meeting at Cedar Grove UMC @ 7pm

April 6, Saturday ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

April 7, Sunday ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship & Holy Communion @ 10:30am

~ Children's Choir - *Right After Worship*

April 9, Tuesday ~ District UMW Program at Otterbein UMC on Kingsway

Prison Ministry @ 11:00am

April 10, Wednesday ~ **Wednesday Evening Activities** starting @ 5:00pm

April 13, Saturday ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

April 14, Sunday ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Palm Sunday Worship Service @ 10:30am

~ Children's Choir - *Right After Worship*

April 15, Monday ~ UMW Meeting at Church (Program from the Circle of Hope) starting @ 7:00pm

April 16, Tuesday ~ UMM Meeting (*with meal served by the Circle of Hope*) starting at 6:30pm

April 17, Wednesday ~ **Wednesday Evening Activities** starting @ 5:00pm

(No Wednesday Dinner This Week)

April 18, Thursday ~ S.W.A.T. Lunch at Ciro's Verona @ 12:00pm

~ Maundy Thursday Meal @ 6:00pm

~ Maundy Thursday Service & Foot Washing @ 7:00pm

April 19, Friday ~ Good Friday Service at Middle River Church @ 7:00pm

April 20, Saturday ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

April 21, Sunday ~ Easter Sunrise Service @ 6:30am (*Breakfast follows*)

~ No Sunday School Classes

~ Easter Worship Service and Easter Cantata starting @ **10:00am**

~ Easter Egg Hunt - *Right After Worship*

April 24, Wednesday ~ **Wednesday Evening Activities** starting @ 5:00pm

April 25, Thursday ~ Church Council Meeting @ 6:30pm

April 27, Saturday ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

April 28, Sunday ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship Service and Sunday School

Promotion Sunday starting @ 10:30am

~ Children's Choir - *Right After Worship*



Nurse's Health Corner

Put Your Best Foot Forward! ~ April is Foot Health Month!

This April is Foot Health month, a chance to check that our feet are getting the care and attention that they need.

Foot care is important through all stages of life. For children, it is necessary to take extra care with foot health to avoid problems and deformities in later life, and as we get older, everyday wear and tear can take its strain. Podiatrists are experts in all aspects of the foot and lower limb, who undergo years of specialist training to enable them to diagnose, treat and help people to look after their feet and lower limbs.

Feet are one of the hardest working parts of our body, but they are also one of the most neglected. During Foot Health Month we want to remind people to get to know their feet and not ignore any foot pain they might experience. Walking through pain or ignoring problems can over time cause damage to the feet and lower limbs. So, if your feet hurt, or you notice anything unusual about them, visit a registered podiatrist, who can diagnose causes of pain and provide appropriate treatment.



Five easy ways to keep your feet healthy:

1. **Cut nails correctly.** It's best to use nail nippers rather than cutters, because they have a small cutting blade and a longer handle. Cut nails straight across and not too low at the edge or sides. The corner of the nail should be visible above the skin. It's better to cut nails after a bath or shower when they are much softer.
2. **Don't forget to moisturise.** After washing feet, dry thoroughly and apply a good foot moisturiser all over the foot. Avoid moisturiser between the toes, as this can cause the skin to become overly macerated, causing it to break down. The best foot creams contain urea.
3. **Don't assume flat is best.** People are more aware now of the health problems associated with wearing high heeled shoes frequently, but completely flat slip-on styles, such as a ballerina pump, are not ideal for everyday wear as they offer very little shock absorption or support. Slip-on styles also cause the toes to claw in order to hold the foot in place.
4. **Alternate shoes and keep them clean inside.** Feet naturally sweat, and wearing the same pair every day doesn't give them a chance to dry out and they can then be a breeding ground for bacteria. To help keep your shoes clean and prevent them from becoming smelly, clean inside the shoe with some surgical spirit on a cotton wool pad to reduce the bacteria.
5. **Check your feet regularly.** Common symptoms to look out for are yellow, brittle and discoloured nails – which can be a sign of a nail infection, flaky skin that may be dry or red or itchy – which can be a symptom of athlete's foot, and any changes to the structure of the foot such as swelling to the joint around the ball of the foot.

Foot pain is not normal. If you or a family member experience pain, please visit a podiatrist.

Celebrating 150 years!



The United Methodist Women are celebrating 150 years in 2019!



United Methodist Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

March 23, 1869 - March 23, 2019



Honoring Our Foremothers' Legacy

On March 23, 1869, in Boston, Massachusetts, Clementina Butler and Lois Parker informed six women members of the Methodist Episcopal Church about the desperate health care and educational needs of women in India. Their Call to Action raised funds to send Isabella Thoburn, a teacher, and Clara Swain, a doctor, to India. The meeting in March led to the formation of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, the first of many Methodist women's mission organizations to address the injustices imposed on women and girls in the 19th century. United Methodist Women is their successor, and we celebrate 150 years of changing the lives of women, children and youth.

Kid's Corner

(Parents please feel free to print this page for your kids to color while you read them the story.)

Jesus Dies on the Cross

by Sharla Guenther

Very early in the morning, the soldiers brought Jesus to Pilate, the governor at the time. Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus replied, "Yes, I am."

This upset the chief priests because they were jealous of him and the Jewish friends He had made.

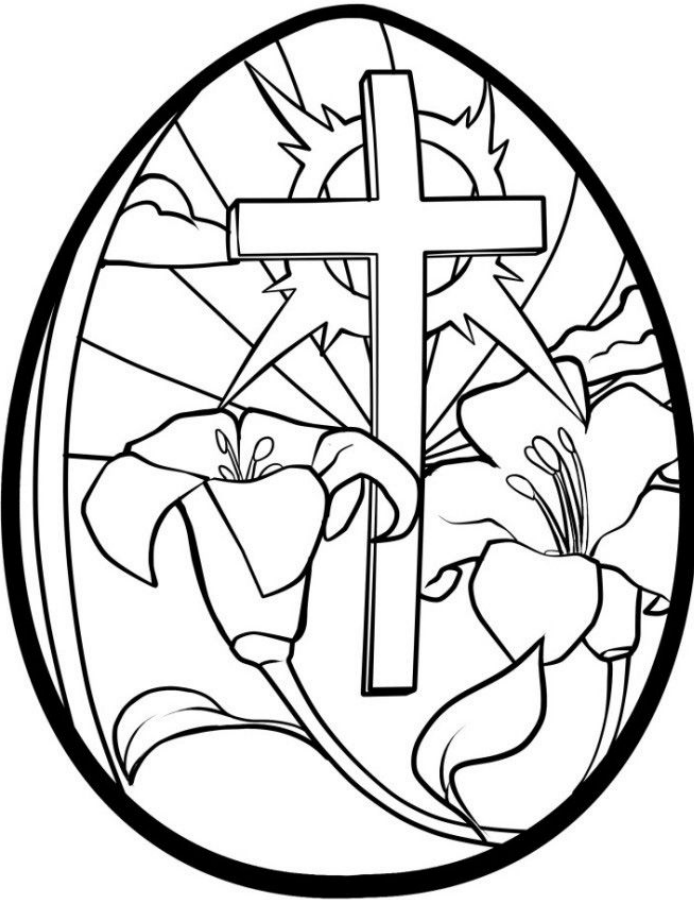
Pilate listened to the complaints of the people that brought Jesus, but he couldn't find any reason to punish Him. Pilate questioned Jesus, but Jesus didn't stick up for himself (He knew that they wouldn't listen anyway). He had done nothing wrong.

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people. He said to them, "I have talked to Jesus, and I find no reason to kill Him."

After they heard that, all the people shouted, "We want Jesus! Release Barabbas instead!" Barabbas had been in jail because he had killed someone, and the people wanted him to be free, and Jesus to be punished. (It sounds strange but it was like peer pressure. The chief priests went around telling people lies about Jesus, so that they would be afraid of Him, and would want to kill Him).

Pilate didn't like this one bit. He wanted to let Jesus go, so he tried to talk to the people but they didn't let him. They just kept shouting, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

Pilate tried again, yelling, "What has Jesus done wrong? I can punish Him but then I must let Him go, He doesn't deserve to die!" But the people just shouted louder to crucify Jesus and Pilate wanted to please the



crowd so he freed Barabbas and sent Jesus to die.

The soldiers led Jesus into the palace and made Him put on an old royal robe and they twisted together a crown of thorns to put on His head. Then they made fun of Him and said, "Hail, king of the Jews." They didn't understand that He was a king; that's why they made fun of Him.

Next, the soldiers led Jesus toward a hill called Golgotha. They made Him carry the cross on His back, but because Jesus couldn't carry it the whole way, He fell down. The soldiers had whipped His back and it hurt so much that Jesus couldn't handle the weight of the cross on His shoulders.

A man named Simon happened to be near Jesus when He fell, and the soldiers grabbed him, and made him carry the cross the rest of the way. The soldiers offered Jesus wine mixed with myrrh. This was supposed to help make it less painful, but Jesus refused to have any.

When they reached the top of the hill, they nailed Jesus to the cross. There were three crosses: Jesus was in the middle, there was a criminal on His right, and on His left. Pilate made a sign to be put on the cross. It read what He was being punished for: Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.

The soldiers watched Jesus and made fun of Him; they even divided up His clothes to be even more mean. Some people walked by and shouted, "You saved others, why can't you save Yourself?" Jesus could have saved himself, but he chose not to. He wanted to save us instead.

Jesus ignored the people, but He did see His mother, His aunt, and some other women He knew. Jesus felt bad for His mother, she was so sad to see her son die (just like your parents feel when you get hurt).

Then Jesus saw one of His disciples close to His mother, and He said, "Mother here is your son, and friend here is your mother." Jesus couldn't say too much for he was very weak. But He wanted His friend, the disciple, to be like a son to His mother and take care of her. And from that day on, the disciple did.

Later, Jesus could not handle the pain any longer and He said, "It is finished." That is when Jesus bowed His head and went to Heaven.

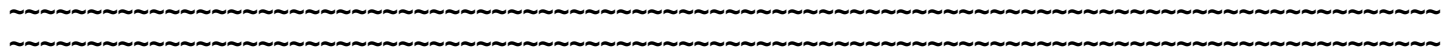
Suddenly, a huge curtain that hung at the temple was torn in half, from top to bottom. And a man that had wanted Jesus to die saw all of this and he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

He realized he had been wrong about Jesus.

It seems like a really sad story, but its one of the greatest stories of all! Jesus died knowing that you (--put in the children's names) would do things wrong (that is what a sin is) -- things that you're not supposed to -- not obeying your parents, saying something mean to your sister or brother, or not telling the truth. He knew what you would do when He died so many years ago. Jesus died for **everybody's** sins, so now when we ask God to forgive us, and we are truly sorry for what we've done, He will act like it never happened. That's right He forgets what we did! Now that doesn't mean we should ever make the same mistake again, because by doing that it's like we're hurting Jesus all over again.

So, next time you do something you're not supposed to, remember to say sorry to Jesus, and remember what He did for you!

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NIV)



Vacation Bible School ~ June 23rd-28th

The theme for this year's Bible School is "Life is Wild, but God is Good!" During Bible School, we will learn about Moses and how God used him. We will also meet some kids who live in Africa and learn about what life is like for them.

Bible School is wonderful chance for us to share God's Love with our community and minister to the children who live near us.

We would love for everyone in our congregation to participate. Bible School is your chance to be a part of a life-changing experience for the children we will serve!

Don't worry, there are ways that each of us can participate!

1. You can pray for Bible School. Pray for the workers and the children that this Bible School will be a blessing for each participant.
2. You can help prepare for Bible School. This year, we are going to Africa, so you could help transform our church to the African Savannah!
3. You can donate or loan supplies to help the workers present the Bible stories in a way that is fun and exciting!
4. You can be a helper or leader in Bible School and directly impact the children who come by working with them!

See, there is something for everyone!

We can't wait to see how God will use all of us through Bible School this year!

Stay tuned, there will be more information to come!

*If you would like to add an article or announcement to the Hilltopper, please contact
The Hilltopper editor, Cindy Sheets at cds3501@gmail.com or call/text at (540) 280-1860*

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