

THE HARVESTER

ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Questions about General Conference

2024

Do you have questions about what is happening in the United Methodist denomination? The General Conference of the UMC, a gathering of delegates from across the globe, will be taking place April 23-May 3, 2024 in Charlotte, NC. (Page 3)

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

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VBS Registration is Open!

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Jesus Visits Mary and Martha

As they went on their way, they came to a town where a woman named Martha lived. She cared for Jesus in her home. Martha had a sister named Mary. Mary sat at the feet of Jesus and listened to all He said. Martha was working hard getting the supper ready. She came to Jesus and said, “Do You see that my sister is not helping me? Tell her to help me.” Jesus said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. Only a few things are important, even just one. Mary has chosen the good thing. It will not be taken away from her.” (Luke 10:38-42, New Life Version)

As I sat down to write the April Harvester article, my mind drew a complete blank. Usually the monthly pastor’s section highlights an upcoming sermon series, major event, or high holy day. As you will see there are many things going on in April but there is no sermon series, major event, or high holy day coming up this month. But for someone who...

(cont’d on page 2)



Music at Orchard

Happy Easter! He is risen indeed! I must admit that although I appreciate the contemplation of Lent, I really love the celebration and joy of Easter and the Easter season. And we have some special things planned for worship coming soon that you won't want to miss.

On April 7 at the 11am service, our Chancel Choir will premiere a special piece I composed that was commissioned by Sara Hazen, music director at Clarkston United Methodist Church. The original lyrics were written by Holly Painter, a former Orchard youth, and the work entitled "Have You Heard?" is dedicated in memory of Rev. Eric Stone and Rev. Paul Blomquist, both former clergy staff of Orchard. At this time, we expect at least one member of the Stone and Blomquist families to be in attendance, logistics permitting. Clarkston UMC is also premiering the work at their services.

And later this month on April 21, we'll present our annual Rockin' the Resurrection Sunday, with lots of great music led by the praise band at both services that day. I hope you'll plan to be there. Here's to a wonderful month of celebrating resurrection, life everlasting, and the promise of spring!

-Jantz

(Cont'd: Jesus Visits Mary and Martha)

writes sermons weekly, often outlining ideas weeks in advance, writer's block is not a common occurrence.

But God often speaks to me in passages and parables and the one above came to mind. While this passage has been dissected countless times over the millennia with a variety of interpretations, I think one of the main points is that like Martha we can be "worried and troubled about many things." Another way this passage can be translated is, "your attention is divided and you are unsettled by many things."

Perhaps like me, you might find yourself pulled from multiple directions like your family, friends, work/school, health concerns, finances, or existential crises. Each of these important areas demand a portion of our head, heart, and resources leaving us questioning whether we're doing anything sufficiently. Jesus' comment that, "Only a few things are important, even just one" feels a bit over simplistic or trite. Which begs the question, how do we know what those few or one thing is Jesus?

Sometimes it's just good to acknowledge that we feel worried and troubled by many things rather than pretending everything is okay. Feeling overextended is a sign that we need to stop (or pause if we don't have that luxury) and evaluate our priorities with a trusted rubric or wise person that knows us well. Other times, (like I'm doing right now,) you just have to pick what's most pressing at the moment and address what you can, how you can, and ask for God's grace.

If you're feeling like Martha, pray this prayer with me:

*God, give me the strength and clarity of mind to find my purpose and walk the path you've laid out for me. I trust your Love God, and know that you will heal this stress. Just as the sun rises each day against the dark of night. Please bring me clarity with the light of God.
Amen (Anonymous)*

Grace and peace,
Pastor Paul

Events at Orchard

Linda Hall Recognition Event April 6, 1-3pm

Anyone who would like to share your appreciation, share a memory, extend a well-wish, a poem, etc., can write a note, a card, add a picture, whatever conveys your thoughts/feelings to her.

You can submit it by:

- Putting it in the black metal box hanging on the wall in the church office by Wednesday April 3
- Hand it to Mary Clark at church by Easter Sunday, 3/31
- Email it to Mary Clark at drst-mc@wowway.com by Friday, April 5

Mary Clark will combine all these messages into an Appreciation/Memory binder to be given to Linda at the April 6 party.

Hopefully we will get a book full of memories and/or well-wishes from OUMC people for Linda's participation in our church life over the past 23 years.

General Conference of the UMC 2024

Do you have questions about what is happening in the United Methodist denomination? The General Conference of the UMC, a gathering of delegates from across the globe, will be taking place April 23-May 3, 2024 in Charlotte, NC. This conference was repeatedly delayed from 2020 due to the pandemic. Rev. Megan Walther, one of our delegates from the Michigan Conference, is coming to Orchard to give an overview of the gathering and the expected legislation on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 10 a.m. in Room 200. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk.

April 10 Books Over Lunch

Time: 12:00pm brown bag lunch and conversation 12:30 for book discussion

Place: The Parlor

Book: The Sunshine Girls by Molly Fader
Pack your lunch and beverage and join us for our April Books Over Lunch gathering. Come find out what this group is all about. New people are always welcome. If there isn't time to finish, or even start, the book, please come anyway. For additional information please contact Nancy Howland (nph712@hotmail.com).

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

On Sunday, April 14th we will host our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon to recognize all those whose service helps make our ministries possible. If you volunteer at Orchard in any way, you are encouraged to sign up for the lunch either at the welcome desk or via the QR code to the right, RSVPs are due by Sunday, April 7th.



Funtastiks April 17

Come hear Paul Wagner tell about his trip to Japan that Pastor Paul mentioned in his sermon on March 17th! We will meet on Wednesday, April 17th in Room 200 at the church at 12 noon. Bring your own lunch, if you wish, and stay for the program. All are welcome!

Please sign up at the Welcome Desk so we are sure to have enough seats. Questions? Please contact Deacon Laura: lauraspeiran@orchardumc.org

CPR/AED Training Class - April 24

The Farmington Hills Fire Department will train us at the church. Welcome Team Volunteers, including ushers, are especially encouraged to attend. Others welcome! Wednesday, April 24th, 9 am to 2 pm with 30 minutes for lunch (provided).

Cost: \$45.

Must register by April 9th. Please call or email Deacon Laura: lauraspeiran@orchardumc.org

New Member Q and A - April 28

Come talk with Pastor Paul and Deacon Laura on Sunday, April 28th at 12:30 p.m. to find out more about church membership at Orchard. What does that mean? What is unique about the United Methodist Church? Are you ready to take this next step in your faith journey? Lunch provided. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk or talk with Pastor Paul or Deacon Laura.

Children and Youth



Spring Flower Sale - Support VBS!

A variety of beautiful flowers, including hanging baskets, patio pots, flats, and vegetables are available to purchase. Proceeds from this sale will help fund the Orchard

Vacation Bible School and youth programs. Order at the welcome desk or using the QR code to the right:



Orders are due by Sunday, April 14.

Flower pick up will be on Monday, May 6 from 4 pm-8 pm and Tuesday, May 7, from 10 am-noon in the Orchard UMC parking lot. Plenty of time for Mother's Day!

Middle School Mission Days

Tuesday June 18; Thursday July 18; August 21 with a Special Overnight

Fee: \$40/student

High- energy days for rising 6th -9th graders to participate in 3 days of local service projects in the community. The last mission day in August features an overnight at the church.

Teens will focus on growing friendships and serving others. The \$40 fee covers all the fun activities that will be happening!

Look for registration by April 4th on the church website.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Kelly Sheckell at kellysheckell@orchardumc.org.

VBS registration is open!

Vacation Bible School will be a little different this year. Similar to previous Vacation Bible School weeks, children will rotate in stations around music, drama, crafts, snacks, and games. Except this year, we are using the music and drama from the musical "Oh Jonah." The VBS kids will perform the musical at the 11:00 am service on June 23.

It's sure to be WHALE OF A GOOD TIME for all! Mark your calendars. **VBS is on June 17th-June 21 from 9:15 am-12:15 pm** as we learn all about Jonah and his adventures. Children 4 years old-6th grade (grade attending in the fall) are invited to join the fun of VBS. Children in 4th-6th grade can attend the after-hours program from 12:15-2:00 pm and delve into the acting, sets, and music of the musical performance.

A special VBS performance will be on Sunday, June 23, at 11:00 am. Children are not required to participate in the performance. Even if your child cannot attend the whole week, they can still participate in a partial week.

VBS is free for all participants. Please support our flower sale in May. The proceeds fund our VBS and other children's and youth programs.

Email Kelly Sheckell at kellysheckell@orchardumc.org.

Register at church or use the QR code below:



Mission and Volunteering



CROP Hunger Walk May 5th - "We Can Do More" in 2024

- WHO?** YOU can **WALK** with Team Orchard UMC OR **DONATE** to the cause.
- WHAT?** The 39th annual CROP Hunger Walk for Farmington/Farmington Hills/West Bloomfield
- WHEN?** Sunday, May 5th, 2024 from 1-3 p.m.
- WHERE?** The Walk begins and ends at Farmington First UMC, on Grand River in downtown Farmington (an alternative Earth Day Walk is being planned for those who are unable to walk on May 5th. See details elsewhere)
- WHY?** To raise funds to end food insecurity both locally and worldwide. (25% of the money raised will be split between Farmington CARES, Neighborhood House, Salvation Army of F.H., Yad Ezra Kosher Food Pantry, and Zaman International). Church World Service also works to provide safe drinking water to third world countries, teach sustainable farming techniques and provides disaster relief.
- HOW?** Use the QR code to the right:
 "Join a Team" (Orchard UMC) OR "Donate" (to Team Orchard UMC or to sponsor an individual walker. Just scroll down to the team members and click on the orange DONATE button after their name, or enter their name in the gray field). Checks to CWS/CROP are also accepted.



Once registered, walkers can follow the prompts to set up their profile page, add photos, and create a Facebook Fundraiser or email solicitation letters. You would be surprised how many people will respond, without even having to ask in person! Last year 95% of our fundraising was done online! Orchard raised over \$35,000 in 2023, earning us recognition as a Legacy Church, for consistently fundraising as a Top 5 or Top 10 team nationwide!! I have faith that we can do it again, and you have the power and resources to make it happen, so **LET'S DO THIS!!** YOU can make a difference in the world!

All walkers who register by April 7th will receive a FREE t-shirt on Walk Day, but you can start raising funds **NOW!** Contact DyAnn St.Clair with any questions or concerns. Any technical questions will be directed to Amy Hamilton. Looking forward to seeing you on May 5th!

DyAnn St.Clair and Alex Hamilton
 248.756.9643 dyannstclair@aol.com

Mission and Volunteering continued

April Mission Box

There will be a donation drive in April for CARES, an agency that serves the Farmington area. We will be collecting packaged non-perishable “after school” snacks; something the guests really enjoy. Suggested items include: chips, pretzels, crackers with peanut butter or cheese, granola bars, cookies and candy. These CARES items will be collected in the Mission Box in the Narthex from April 1st through the 30th.

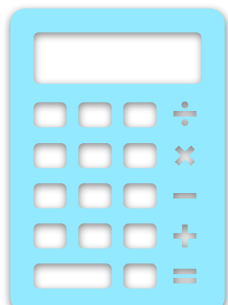
This donation collection is Maya Gilliam’s confirmation project. Thank you in advance for your participation, and support of her. And “thank you” to all who helped fill our March Mission Box with peanut butter, jelly and macaroni & cheese. These items will be delivered to Hospitality House, where they are in short supply.



Pumpkin Patch

Each October at Orchard we sell pumpkins to raise money for youth and missions! We’re looking for someone with great people and organizational skills to help facilitate the Pumpkin Patch this year. If you feel God calling you to this please let Kelly Sheckell know!

kellysheckell@orchardumc.org



ServSafe Kitchen Certification

Approximately 600 million people (almost one in 10 worldwide), fall ill after eating contaminated food each year, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). In the foodservice and hospitality industry, one of the best ways to prevent our church family from becoming ill is to invest in safe serve certification. Safe serve certification provides training for both managers and volunteers in order to educate and inform about food safety protocols and more.

If you’re interested in helping us to be ServSafe certified please contact the church office!



April Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Cooper Drossos | April 01 |
| Molly Goudeseune | April 01 |
| Allison Mann | April 01 |
| Lauren Meekmann | April 01 |
| Emma Groenewoud | April 02 |
| Josh Schmidt | April 02 |
| Doris Edwards | April 03 |
| Doug Grimes | April 03 |
| Warren Corbat | April 04 |
| Mattison Mason | April 04 |
| Shaylin Matthews | April 04 |
| Virginia Van Cott | April 04 |
| Samantha Dutton | April 05 |
| Reese Salley | April 05 |
| Marion Wood | April 05 |
| Angela Huston | April 06 |
| Brandon Jackson | April 06 |
| Jan Rigterink | April 06 |
| Katrina Carson | April 07 |
| Rebekah Kim | April 07 |
| Jennifer Tabeek | April 07 |
| Kenzie Snyder | April 08 |
| Don Stacy | April 08 |
| Samantha Price | April 09 |
| Chris Spencer | April 09 |
| Sam Heffelbower | April 10 |
| Kim Harrison | April 11 |

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Christian Karres | April 11 |
| Wayne Paddock | April 11 |
| Norm Schmidt | April 11 |
| Eric Blankinship | April 12 |
| Brooklyn Gibney | April 13 |
| Patti Tabeek | April 13 |
| Laura Chapman | April 14 |
| Barbara Kulkis | April 14 |
| Madison Smith | April 15 |
| Jacob Cairo | April 16 |
| Tom Harrison | April 16 |
| Jennifer Bussone | April 18 |
| Derik Gretzinger | April 18 |
| Kay Raymond | April 18 |
| Bev Stacy | April 18 |
| Ginny Hogg | April 19 |
| Julie Larson | April 19 |
| Jessica MacDougall | April 19 |
| Ryan McCullough | April 19 |
| Michael Gibney | April 20 |
| Kyoko Yamamoto | April 20 |
| James Johnson | April 21 |
| Barb Joiner | April 21 |
| Sophia Sarti | April 21 |
| Todd Van Haren | April 21 |
| Jerry Chilson | April 22 |
| Casey Corbat | April 22 |

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Alma Tatem | April 22 |
| Courtney Wright | April 22 |
| Jamie Bodenhafer | April 23 |
| Carolyn Cole | April 23 |
| Diane Holden | April 23 |
| Jessica Pellegrino | April 23 |
| Mike Tesauo | April 23 |
| Julianna Jackson | April 24 |
| Shauna Murphy | April 24 |
| Gary Van Haren | April 24 |
| Jay Kirby | April 25 |
| Adalynn Mason | April 25 |
| Conrad Schug | April 25 |
| Tim Aben | April 26 |
| Brandon Dutton | April 26 |
| Fred Porter | April 27 |
| Drew Sawmiller | April 27 |
| Miles Busch | April 28 |
| Hugo Chipot | April 28 |
| Ron Cole | April 29 |
| Nicole Sonnenberg | April 29 |
| Ananda Bruce-Brown | April 30 |
| Dexter Frick | April 30 |
| Melissa Harrison | April 30 |
| Melissa O'Neil | April 30 |



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