



# Open Doors UMC of Blue Eye

Volume 8  
Issue 6

# April

## 2019

## Pastor's Column

Easter is somewhat late this year (April 21). So, the first two Sundays of April deal with the preparation of Jesus' trip into Jerusalem. Jesus is trying hard to change peoples' minds about how they think about God and how they are to treat one another. He has quite a following but they are not totally sure who he is and why he has come. They realize he is a man of God and that his teachings are new but it is hard to accept that Jesus is truly the Son of God. Why? Because it has never happened before. There has never been another Jesus prior to his coming or after his coming. Jesus is a totally unique individual who actually lived, breathed, bled and died.

April 7 is still a Lenten preparation time for our Sunday worship but soon on April 14 there is Palm Sunday which is really the beginning of the end. These people believed Jesus, but were still not totally sure who he was. They rejoiced at his entry into Jerusalem. Maybe this was the beginning of a new era with a new king. That was not going to happen! So, now what? Things started coming apart and people were getting confused and the religious establishment was not helping matters. They feared Jesus would change the way they did things and who likes change? It was just fine the way it was so they needed to get rid of the person wanting them to change. So, the plot thickens and the anger explodes and the crowd turns against Jesus. Why? They were not sure but it seemed it was the way to go until they realized Jesus was going to die. They didn't want to change but they wanted a new king. They did not understand what kind of king Jesus was. He was a Savior King, but to kill him didn't seem to answer any questions. In fact it made for more questions. The crucifixion was done and Jesus had died on the cross. The fearful people were happy because Jesus was gone. But little did they know it was only the beginning of a new covenant with God through Jesus Christ. A risen Christ would now bring salvation and eternal life to all who believed. It has been changing the world ever since. And it has continued to change the world, making disciples for Jesus Christ a never ending story!!

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God's  
Blessing,  
Pastor Jack

# Scriptures for the Month of April



Sunday, April 7: Isaiah 43:16-21 • Psalm 126 • Philipplians 3:4b-14 • John 12:1-8

Sunday, April 14: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 • Luke 19:28-40

Sunday, April 21: Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25 • Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 • 1 Corinthians 15:19-28  
or Acts 10:34-43 • John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

Sunday, April 28: Acts 5:27-32 • Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150 • Revelation 1:4-8 • John 20:19-31



## A Very Interesting Visit



Eight church members visited Convoy of Hope in Springfield and got quite an education about how one group helps people during crisis situations. Convoy of Hope is having a big impact on helping people very much like the United Methodist Church group called UMCOR and the Red Cross. Their warehouse in Springfield is 6 football fields in size and filled from floor to ceiling with supplies to help in any disaster situation. They use a lot of volunteers in their program and that is one way we can help. They take volunteers on Tuesday nights. Sometime in June or July we will set up a couple of volunteer nights for us to go and participate. For those who are unable to volunteer we will have a special Sunday in June to emphasize Convoy of Hope and take a free will

for them



## Easter



In preparation for Easter we are going through a number of "preparation scriptures" that help us to see Jesus more clearly and to follow him more closely. Prior to Easter is Palm Sunday and the triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Only a few days later the atmosphere will change from joy to hatred by the religious order. They feared Jesus. The Roman government feared Jesus as well so the outcome was clear, he needed to die. So, by Thursday Jesus was on the road, so to speak, to the cross. Friday (Black Friday), the worst day in history he died on the cross for our salvation but that was not the end. On Sunday, he would rise from the dead to offer eternal life to all who believe. And so we come to Easter, The Risen Christ, Jesus is Alive!!

Palm Sunday—April 14

Maundy Thursday—April 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Sunrise Service—April 21 at 8:30 a.m.

Easter Breakfast—April 21 at 9:30 a.m.

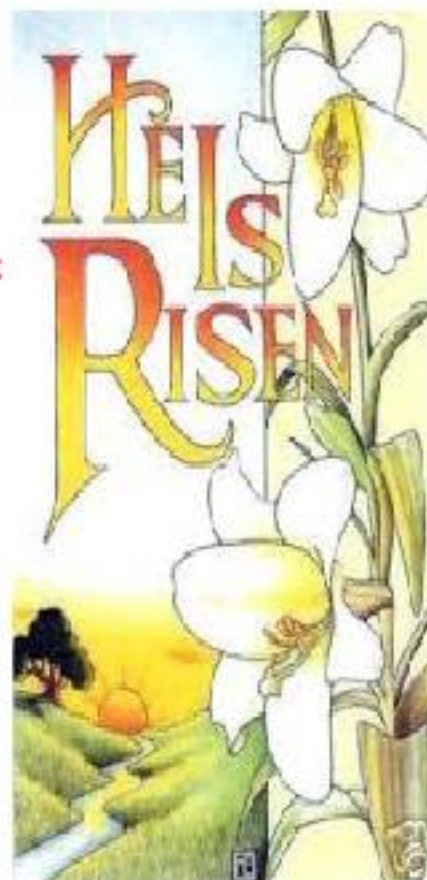
Easter Worship Service—April 21 at 10:30 a.m.

The Easter Breakfast is a breakfast potluck. Bring a breakfast type casserole, rolls, fruit, etc.



2

Thanks for making Easter breakfast a special meal for all!!



# Garage Sale



The Garage Sale is set for Thursday-Saturday May 2, 3 & 4. We will be open on Thursday and Friday from 8:00-5:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 to Noon, sack sale.

There are five teams working on this sale. We have the clothing, books, linens and bedding working in the basement of the church. The second group is the small item sales which will set up in the garage of the Ministry House. The third group is the large item sales which will continue to be in the main church garage, driveway and partly on the lawn. The fourth group will set up in the Welcome Center and will offer a brand new segment of sales, Crafts, that are made by our own people. This is an exciting new adventure as we have some really talented people in our church and they have a good variety of crafts to offer the public. Let's not forget the fifth group, Food and Bake Sales. They will set up in either kitchen area to serve the people coming to our sale. At the moment we have around 20 volunteers with a need for 5 to 10 more. Please help with this worthwhile endeavor of our church.

Thanks so much!!

## Prayer Breakfast



Prayer Breakfast is April 6 at 8:15 a.m. in the basement of the church. It is a full breakfast and you are invited to join us to celebrate the spiritual foundation of our church, Prayer!!

We are truly blessed by God as we endeavor to do our work as the Church of Jesus Christ. We have seen quite a change in our small congregation in the last 10 years. At one point the attendance was down to 10-12 people. In the last seven years we have averaged 35 people in a Sunday worship service. That means during the year we have seen anywhere from 23-49 people on a Sunday morning. And the amazing part in all this is in the last 7 years over 50% of the congregation is different people. When someone needed to move to be closer to their children someone else came to our church. When someone died, someone came to be a part of our fellowship. That is God's amazing way of working with our church. God IS working with our church. We do have a purpose to be here: to minister to people with the gospel of Jesus Christ!! Amen!

## Spread The Word

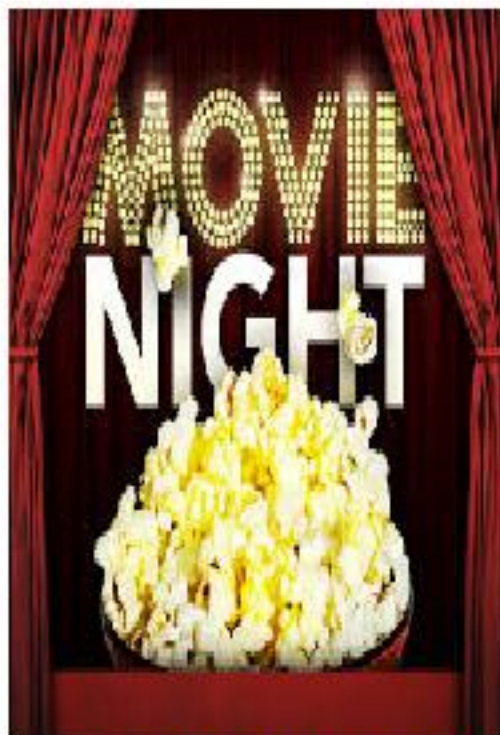
Our facility and Ministry House are open for use by our congregation. Use meaning, meetings, conferences, seminars, etc. We have a very good array of media presentation features to offer, TV, DVD, computer, internet, RightNow Media and other sources for presentation of materials in the church building. If you know of some group who would like to have a place to meet, let us know!!

Ministry House is for our use, and we have also opened it to the clergy of the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church. We will be contacting other conferences like those who surround our state and offer our retreat center to them as well. Keep this ministry in your prayers.

Through God's grace, this summer, we will be able to offer a nice retreat area in the Ministry House basement as well. And youth group retreats by next spring.

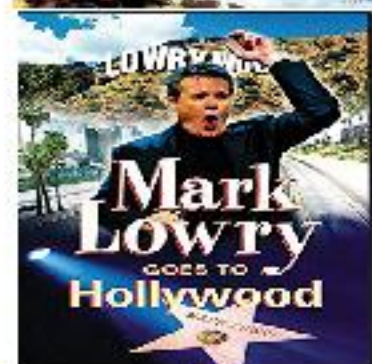
Thanks for your continued prayers!





This month our movie nights will be Tuesday, April 9 and Thursday, April 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday we will be showing "The Note" and on Thursday "Mark Lowry goes to Hollywood". If you missed Mark Lowry last month you really missed out. I hope you will join us this month for these really great movies. Hope to see you there!!



## WELCOME CENTER HOSTS

April 7: Merry Jo Bell

April 14: Randy & Laura Darden

April 21: EASTER

April 28: Bob & Debbie Lyon

## GREETERS

April 7: Jo Chambers  
JD Settles

April 14: Dave & Sharon Gilliam

April 21: Jo Chambers

April 28: Debra Tompkins

# Reminder

Our church is hosting a Stone County Health Fair & Senior Awareness Day on Thursday, April 4 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. There will be free health and wellness screenings plus valuable information. There will also be giveaways, prizes and more. Last month's newsletter had a list of all the vendors who will be here. Spread the word to family, friends and neighbors!! Thanks!



This newsletter is published monthly. If you have an article for publication please get it to the pastor before the last week of the month. Also if you have an address of someone who you think would like to receive this newsletter please leave that information in the church office.

We have a Facebook page, please go to our page and "like" us. You can post suggestions, pictures or anything you would like. It is also a great way to find out what is going on and see the pictures of events already taken place.

March

May



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Hours 1-5 Bible Study 10:30 Women's Ministries 12:30 Financial Peace 6:00	2	3 Office Hours 9-5 Noon Luncheon 12:00	4 Office Hours 9-5	5	6 <b>Prayer Breakfast 8:15</b>
7 Fellowship Time 9:30 Worship & Praise 10:30 <b>COMMUNION</b>	8 Office Hours 1-5 Bible Study 10:30 Women's Ministries 12:30 Financial Peace 6:00	9 <b>Movie Night 7:00 "The Note"</b>	10 Office Hours 9-5 Noon Luncheon 12:00	11 Office Hours 9-5 Trustee Meeting 10:00	12	13
14 Fellowship Time 9:30 Worship & Praise 10:30 Palm Sunday	15 Office Hours 1-5 Bible Study 10:30 Women's Ministries 12:30 Financial Peace 6:00	16	17 Office Hours 9-5 Noon Luncheon 12:00	18 Office Hours 9-5 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00	19 Good Friday	20
21 Sunrise Service 8:30 Easter Breakfast 9:30 Easter Service 10:30	22 Office Hours 1-5 Bible Study 10:30 Women's Ministries 12:30 Financial Peace 6:00	23	24 Office Hours 9-5 Noon Luncheon 12:00 Choir 3:30	25 <b>Movie Night 7:00 "Mark Lowry Goes to Hollywood"</b> Office Hours 9-5	26	27
28 Fellowship Time 9:30 Worship & Praise 10:30 Potluck 11:45 Church Council	29 Office Hours 1-5 Bible Study 10:30 Women's Ministries 12:30	30				



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 <b>Jack Smith</b>	5	6 <b>Keith &amp; Susie Bouchey</b>
7	8	9 <b>Frankie Oldani</b>	10	11	12	13
14 <b>Mike &amp; Sara Hermann</b>	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 <b>Peg Smith</b>	26	27
28	29	30				