



Open Doors

United Methodist Church of Blue Eye

Volume 14 Issue 2 APRIL/MAY 2025

Things are beginning to wind down for our ministry together. It has been a long run and there are many memories that Peg and I will take with us. I don't have enough room to list them all, for there have been many, with the Welcome Center construction being a true memory. There have been close to 700 worship services which would include the special ones like my favorite Christmas Eve Candlelight Services. There were many years of movie nights for fun and fellowship. There have been over 160 potlucks, plus special meals together over the years, including the many Sunday lunches at Twin Island, Raymonds, and the Log Cabin. Weddings and funerals have also been a part of our journey together. Bible study, prayer time, and prayer breakfast have been a highlight of Mondays. Many times of fun, fellowship and worship, even outdoors or at the famous drive-in worships. The remodeling of the parsonage into Janice's Ministry House is a special memory. These are just a few of the highlights of our ministry together.

We have seen people come and go. It is great to find new people and families, and it is hard to let people go. There has been joy and there has been sadness, but what I will remember the most is the faith of this small congregation to stay the course and to find the upward path to Jesus Christ. I will always believe God has a reason for Open Doors United Methodist Church of Blue Eye to be on this hill. I believe it started with a group of people back in 1980 who had a vision of a church on this spot. God has been with this church all the way, through the ups and the downs, from the almost-full sanctuary to a smaller amount of dedicated Christians. God wants the church to be here. He wants you to be here. He wants the ministry to go on. I have had the privilege of being here for 14 years. I came for one year and stayed a might bit longer. I am thankful to have been your pastor. We have walked the walk, talked the talk and tried to be in spirit with our God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

There will be a final newsletter from me in June, so I will save a few thoughts for that last article. Even though in recent years we have done two months at a time, we have written the journey of the church in over 150 newsletters, with the help of Debra Tompkins, Susan Winston and Lori Johnson putting it together and trying to read my handwriting. I appreciate the role they played in serving the church and God.

For nowthree months to go, so let us continue in faith!!!

Pastor Jack



Welcome Center Celebrates Ten Year Anniversary

The Open Doors Welcome Center turns 10 years old on the 5th of May!! It is hard to believe that we have been in the “new” building 10 years, but we opened the doors to the welcome center and office complex on May 5, 2015. We will celebrate this special occasion on Sunday, May 18 with our May potluck. (This will be the week before Memorial Weekend, which would have been our regular potluck Sunday.) That whole Sunday service will be a celebration of gratefulness that God has used us to be in ministry to one another and the community in a bigger way with the use of the Welcome Center and of course, the use of two offices. Again, it is hard to believe that 10 years have gone by!!

The Welcome Center is open from 9:45 to 10:25 AM each Sunday for snacks, coffee and fellowship, The early arrivals have dwindled since 2020, and because we are creatures of habit, many people are showing up around 10:20-10:30, which is time for church to start. It used to be a big deal for people to get together for fellowship before church and as pastor, I would encourage it. Now, as a new pastor is coming, it would be nice to have more people in the Welcome Center visiting when they arrive.

Women’s & Men’s Ministries

♥ The women’s group already has a meaningful ministry going and anybody can join in at any time. The main emphasis is making lap quilts for nursing homes. When eight or nine quilts are finished, they are delivered to one of the nursing homes or assisted living places in the area. By the time the rounds to all of those places have been made, it is back to the beginning again, so it is a never-ending ministry!

The ladies meet on Mondays from 1:00-4:30 pm. If you would like to help with this ministry, just show up and they will put you to work and include you in the fellowship!

♥ The men’s group is a little more sporadic, mainly due to when the group can get together. There are a number of outside jobs that need to be done this spring. The landscaping on the east and west sides of the church need attention, especially the west side. Also, there are still retaining blocks on the west side that need the top block glued down. In addition, all the top blocks at the ministry house need to be glued.

The outside and inside windows need cleaning. We also need to see if the carpets need to be cleaned, as they have not been cleaned in at least 15 years. There are also odd jobs that come up now and then that need our attention. We will try to work on Mondays from 1:00-5:00 pm, but stay tuned as we will announce on Sunday what we need to do that week.

Prayer Time

Join us in the Fellowship Hall
on Monday, April 7 at 11:00 AM
for our monthly Prayer Time
and a Prayer Meal together.

Spring Garage Sale Update

The spring garage sale dates have changed. The sale will be held on Friday, April 11th and Saturday, April 12th. Bob and Debbie Lyon have been busy getting everything ready for the sale. There will be a wide variety of items for sale, but we still need items to sell. Please bring any donations to the church by April 7. Our church needs to have as good a sale as we can financially.

There is a need for volunteers the week of April 7-13 for set-up and sale days. The sign-up sheet for sale day help is in the entry hallway of the church. There are two shifts on Friday: 8:30-12:30 and 12:30-5:00. On Saturday the sale will be open from 8:30-2:00.

Thank you for helping as we serve the community in this worthwhile ministry. Many hands make light work, and we really have a good time working together!



Thrift Store Open in March

The thrift store was reopened in March for one Saturday and earned \$396.00. Thanks to Bob and Debbie Lyon for organizing and reopening our thrift store. It seems like this is a good ministry for the people in our community.

The thrift store is located in the church garage and the garage of the parsonage. The schedule for open dates will be updated following the garage sale.



Easter Season Has Arrived

Jesus going into Jerusalem on what we call Palm Sunday is the start of Jesus' last week on Earth. He was received well on Sunday, but by Friday things had fallen apart. The people were looking for an Earthly King and he was a Spiritual King. They wanted Him to take over the government and He wanted to take over their souls. They did not understand him and were afraid of him, so by Friday, He was crucified.

We will not have a Maundy Thursday service, but will include it on Palm Sunday. We will also have our April Communion and the conversation that goes with the Last Supper. On Easter morning, we will have an early service at 8:45 AM to begin our celebration of the resurrection. Then we will celebrate with a potluck-style breakfast at 9:30. At the Easter service at 10:30, we will finish up the resurrection story.

This sacred week helps us understand how we live our saved lives the other 51 weeks. Without the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we would be a lost people wandering in the wilderness of a Christian world.

Thanks be to God for sending Jesus to show the "Way", the "Truth" and the "Life"!!

Christ is Risen—He has Risen indeed!!!

Easter Sunday
8:45 AM Early Service
9:30 AM Breakfast Potluck
10:30 AM Service

Prayer Time/Bible Study

We do not have a Bible Study going at this time, but we will have monthly Prayer Time together. Our regular Prayer Time is the first Monday of the month, so mark your calendars for April 7 and May 5. We meet in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM for prayer concerns and stay to enjoy a meal together at noon.

Our church will be in leadership transition from one pastor to another soon. We need to be in prayer about that, in addition to prayers for our church community, our surrounding community and our world.

Even if you have never been to Prayer Time, now would be an excellent time to start. Please let Pastor Jack or Sharon Gilliam know if you plan to come so we can prepare the meal accordingly. The more people gathering for prayer, the stronger the body and faith of the church. It is a very important time!!!

Church Directory Revision

The church directory is being revised. Lori Johnson is helping with revisions. She may text or call you to confirm that the information on file is correct. If you know we don't have the right email address, mailing address or phone number please leave a note with the correct information in the secretary's office. There will be a box marked "New Directory Information." Thanks for your attention to this as an updated directory will be helpful for the new pastor.

Please update your information by April 20. You may use the attached form to submit info.

Church Furnace System Updated

The furnace system of the church needed an overhaul. The two furnaces were getting old in 2020, but we have been able to keep them running for the last five years. Now, it is not worth the cost of repairing them, so the Church Council made the decision to replace them. The new units will be more efficient, so it will cost less to run them, plus we will have a warranty on them for years to come.

One of the air handlers in the attic of the church is fairly new, having been replaced in 2021, so we do not need to replace that unit. The other air handler and the two outside units on the east side of the church are being replaced.

The cost of the project is \$14,500. We are able to put \$4,500 down and finance \$10,000 for 36 months at \$300 a month. The Council felt we could handle that expense, yet we could use extra giving if you would like to help with the project.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION:

NAME(S): _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) _____

PHONE NUMBER(S) _____

BIRTHDAY(S) _____

ANNIVERSARY _____

APRIL 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Office Hours 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM HAPPY BDAY, Pastor Jack!	5
6 9:45 Welcome Center 10:30 Worship HAPPY ANN., Keith & Susie Bouchey	7 11 AM Prayer Time Noon- Lunch 1 PM Ladies' & Men's Group	8	9	10	11 GARAGE SALE 8:30-5:00	12 GARAGE SALE 8:30-2:00
13 PALM SUNDAY 9:45 Welcome Center 10:30 Worship	14 1 PM Ladies' & Men's Group HAPPY ANN., Mike & Sara Hermann	15	16	17	18 Office Hours 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM	19
20 EASTER 8:45 Early Service 9:30 Potluck Breakfast 10:30 Worship	21 1 PM Ladies' & Men's Group	22	23	24	25 Office Hours 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM HAPPY BDAY, Peg Smith	26
27 9:45 Welcome Center 10:30 Worship	28 1 PM Ladies' & Men's Group	29	30			

MAY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Office Hours 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM	3
4 9:45 Welcome Center 10:30 Worship	5 11:00 Prayer Time Noon-Lunch 1:00 Ladies' & Mens' Groups	6	7 Happy Birthday, Randy Wagner	8	9 Office Hours 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM	10
11 9:45 Welcome Center 10:30 Worship MOTHER'S DAY	12 1:00 Ladies' & Mens' Groups Happy Bday, Beverly Gunther Happy Ann., Art & Sue Cella	13	14 Happy Birthday, Ben Johnson	15 Happy Birthday, Dave Schroeder	16 Office Hours 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM	17 Happy Birthday, Sybil Mitchell
18 9:45 Welcome Center 10:30 Worship POTLUCK Happy Ann., Bob & Debbie Lyon	19 1:00 Ladies' & Mens' Groups Happy Birthday, Becky Babier	20	21	22	23 Office Hours 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM	24 Happy Birthday, Dwane Smith
25 9:45 Welcome Center 10:30 Worship	26 1:00 Ladies' & Mens' Groups MEMORIAL DAY	27	28	29 Happy Ann., Jonathan & Makayla Blake	30 Office Hours 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Happy Birthday, Neva Mielke	31