

THE HERALD

LISTENING TO GOD'S HEART FROM THE HEART OF THE CITY



The Pastor's Pen

There was a woman at work when she received a phone call that her daughter was very sick with a fever. She rushed from work and stopped by the pharmacy to get some medication for her daughter.

She returned to her car to find that she had locked the keys inside the car when she went into the pharmacy and was now unable to get into her car to drive home. She didn't know what to do and started to panic, so she called home and told the babysitter what had happened and that she did not know what to do. The babysitter told her to find a coat hanger and see if that would open the door.

The woman looked around and found an old rusty coat hanger that had been thrown down on the ground, possibly by someone else who also had locked their keys in their car. Then she looked at the hanger and said, "I don't know how to use this." So, she bowed her head and asked God to send her some help.

In so doing, she obeyed the command to never stop praying. Do you think God would reward her for that?

Within five minutes a motorcycle roared up and pulled into the parking space next to her car. A rough, dirty-looking biker got off and saw her situation. He asked if he could help her. The woman thought, "This is what you sent to help me, God?"

She finally told him yes, as she needed to hurry and get home to her sick daughter. He walked over to the car, and in less than one minute the car was opened. She hugged the man and through her tears she said, "Thank you so much! You are such a nice man."

The man replied, "No, I'm not, Lady. I just got out of prison for car theft." The woman hugged the man again and with sobbing tears cried out to God, "You even sent me a professional."

Professionals are all around us in all walks of life. God blesses us with opportunities to use life experiences to better the lives of others each day. No matter your career paths or your lot in life we all have experience in different fields. God wants us to utilize these life – paths to better serve others each day.

We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 CEB.

Serving with you,

Terry



Holy Week Schedule

Mark your calendars and plan to attend a week filled with prayer, reflections, and celebration of the empty tomb and Risen Savior.

Palm Sunday - April 13: Celebration of Palms. *Please return Alms for Palms NOW Summer Lunch donation containers.*

Holy Thursday - April 17: Service will be at 7:00 p.m. where we will be celebrating Holy Communion in the upper room.

Good Friday - April 18: We encourage you to recognize the suffering of our Savior and be in the mindset of prayer throughout the day

Easter Sunday - April 20: we will be celebrating with a Sunrise service at 7:00 AM. Followed with breakfast served by our Nurture Team who will also be hosting an Easter Egg hunt for the children. Traditional service will be held at 9:00 Am with special music, praise celebrations, and Holy Communion.



We Have A Place For You

Study ^{the} Bible
with us



Thursday morning "CHEW" Bible Study at 9:00 AM. We take a look at the scriptures with open eyes and everyone is encouraged to attend. No matter if you are biblical scholar or new to the scriptures stop by and give us a try, we would love to have you join us.



Second Wednesday Dinner

April 9th we will be revisiting the Birthday Month carry-in that was originally scheduled in January. Please consider signing up to decorate a table with a month theme. There will be a people's choice award for best table decorations, and all money donated will go to the Nurture team for future events. The winner will receive a Cup of Joy gift card!

Easter Morning

Breakfast is served! Easter Sunday, April 20th, the Nurture team will be serving breakfast at 8 AM with an egg hunt for the kids shortly after. Please sign up for breakfast at the sign-up table so Nurture knows how much to prepare. If you have not already, please be sure to return your carton of filled Easter eggs to the orange barrel below the Easter Sunday table. We will also take egg filler donations for remaining eggs. Kids, don't forget to bring your buckets!

Easter Sunday schedule:

7:00 AM Sunrise Service

8:00 AM Breakfast and Egg Hunt

9:00 AM Morning Worship

What's Growing On?

Your Guide to the Community Garden

The 2025 growing season is here! This year I'd like to try to meet on Thursdays at 4PM starting in April (weather permitting). We can always change the day if need be. We will mainly communicate by text, so please make sure Kirbie has your contact info.

If you're new to gardening or an experienced green thumb, we'd love to have you join us. The community garden is an informal group of volunteer gardeners that plant a garden so anyone can harvest, and in this act, we fellowship with each other and spread the love of Jesus with the community. If you're interested in serving with the community garden volunteers, please contact Kirbie and we'll get you connected.

New Teacher Alert

In case you didn't know, Kaitlyn Kubiak has taken over the 3rd through 5th grade Sunday School Class!

VBS



Summer will be here before you know it, and we're busy planning our VBS program. This year's theme will be True North! It will be Sunday, June 8th through Thursday, June 12th. Dinner will be at 5:00 pm and the program will be from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

VBS is open to EVERYONE. There will be a classes for preschool through 5th Grade. If we have enough volunteers, we will also have classes for 6th through 8th graders. Pastor Terry will lead adult bible study each night as well.

We do need to adult volunteers. If you're able to help, please contact Nina at 618-421-2156.

Christian Book Exchange

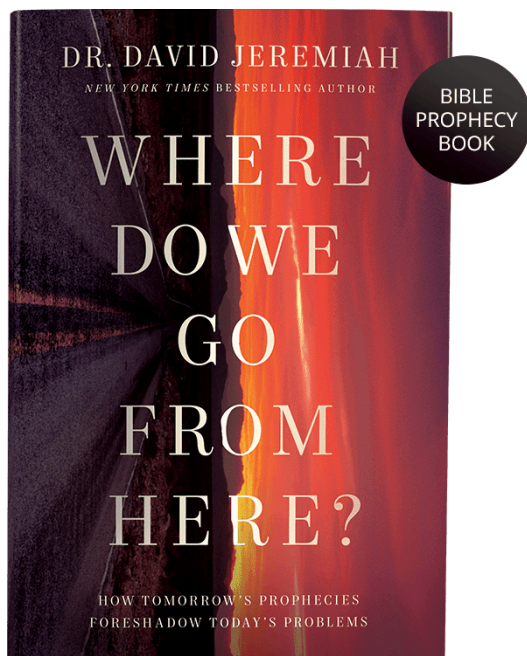
Greetings from the Book Exchange! Located next to the elevator in the narthex, our April highlight is ***Where Do We Go From Here?***

Could we be living in the Last Days?

People have been asking this question for centuries! Perhaps this question is being asked more today than ever before.

There may never be a time in history when end times prophecy is more aligned with the culture and circumstances of the world than it is today.

It's hard to ignore the prophetic signs playing out all around us. The "falling away" of the Church. The ravaging toll of pandemics. The silencing of Christians. The rise of globalism. A frail world economy. The fallout of socialism. Woke religion. Jerusalem's prophetic role in the final days of this Earth. You don't have to be a biblical scholar to see how Scripture predicted many of the events surrounding us. The prophecies about tomorrow reveal much about the problems of today.



But decoding these startling prophetic events can be confusing, and frankly, intimidating to understand. Bible prophecy can be both fascinating and frightening, but it doesn't have to be. There is hope for us in the looming events of Bible prophecy!

If we explore the plan and place of prophecy in Scripture, we can discover God's purpose for all the chaos around us. And this should give us hope.

Care News from Stephen Ministry

Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone. —Zechariah 10:1

When you were in school did you read [in-Just] by ee cummings? Maybe you admired the poet for his modernist free-form style. (Cummings did not follow the rules, and as a teenager you probably thought that was super cool.) Maybe you liked the poem because it celebrates spring as children do. In the poem there are fun adjectives for describing spring including *mud-luscious* and *puddle-wonderful*. Oh to be like a child and feel the joy of mud and puddles! Oh to celebrate this time of year as a time of renewal and joy!

Spring is a beautiful time of year. Daffodils, tulips, forsythia, and crocuses brighten yards, and migrating birds return to the Midwest. The grass becomes greener and begins to grow. And most importantly, we celebrate Easter. Spring is associated with hope and new beginnings. It is the time of year to shake off the old and recommit to a life of prayer in God's word.

Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest. Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps. — Psalm 85:11-13

You may enjoy Guideposts' online article "20 Bible Verses About Spring and New Life". Reading Bible verses about spring can be a powerful way to draw you closer to God. <https://guideposts.org/prayer/bible-resources/7-bible-verses-about-spring/>

If you are going through a difficult time and would like someone to talk with on a regular basis, please contact Janelle Oxford. (618 553-9598). Stephen Ministers are available to provide Christian Care.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/4 DOUG FINKBINER,
BEN MIDGETT,
SAM MIDGETT
4/13 VALERIE WRIGHT
4/15 GEORGE HAYS
4/17 JANET MILLER
4/18 FIONA KNIGHT
4/19 ALISA LOWRY
4/20 NATHANIEL LORNES
4/22 LUCAS BELL,
CONNIE CALVERT;
MICHELE ELLIOTT
4/23 MELINDA HARMON
4/24 HAYDEN TREADWAY
4/26 AMY ALLEN,
BECKY VEENSTRA
4/27 JENNIFER EMKEN,
ANNETTA EVANS
4/30 ELIZABETH NOLAN

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

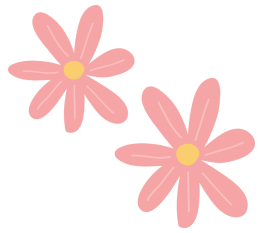
4/4 STEVE & RITA DIEL
4/9 KEN & NANCY MATTSEY
4/29 FLOYD & SABRA ADAMS

PRAYER REQUESTS

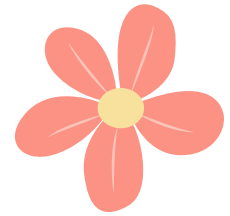
Nancy Holley; Hazel
DeDoming; Dottie Collar;
Luke Campbell; Letha
Stanford; Bonnie Smith;
Nancy Conrad; Rick
Garrard; Kent Tracy; Larry
Quick; Michelle Hall; Leah
Parker; Pat Campbell; Mary
Kindt; Doreen Elmore; Mike
Brady; Brenna Aydt;
Hannah Davis; Les
Thurston; Jeffery Roche;
Mary Jane Parker; The
Mueller Family; Madison
Tracy; Rip York and Family;
Brian Frost; Brad Salhani;
Carolene Chapman; Clara
Correll; Debbie Goff; Larry
Bonnell; The Morarity
Family; The Family of Amy
Morrison; Phyllis Merritt;
Cole & Maddie Myer; Shelby
Kirchoff; The Family of
Macy Mae Kitner; Floyd
Brinkman; Gary & Gayla
Templeman; Brody
Keesling; Emily Midgett;
Brent Owen

***To add or remove someone
to the Prayer List, please
contact the church office.***





APRIL 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6:00 pm • Team Meetings 7:00 pm • Church Council Meeting	3 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	4	5 9:00 am • Laundry Day
	6 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	7 6:00 pm • <i>The Chosen</i> Study	8	9 5:30 pm • Second Wednesday Dinner 6:30 pm • Stephen Ministry	10 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	11 9:00 am • Daffodil Festival
12 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	13 6:00 pm • <i>The Chosen</i> Study • SPRC Meeting	14 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging 5:00 pm • Nurture Team Meeting	15 11:30 am • Circle of Love	16 MAUNDY THURSDAY 9:00 am • CHEW 7:00 pm • Maundy Thursday Service	17 GOOD FRIDAY Office Closed	18
19 EASTER SUNDAY 7:00 am • Sunrise Service 8:00 am • Easter Brunch 9:00 am • Worship	20 6:00 pm • <i>The Chosen</i> Study	21	22 6:30 pm • Stephen Ministry	23 9:00 am • CHEW 4:00 pm • NOW Bagging	24	25
26 9:00 am • Worship 10:15 am • Sunday School	27 6:00 pm • <i>The Chosen</i> Study	28	29	30		

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