

Greetings in the Name of the Lord!

April showers will bring May flowers, right? The adage is a hope for beauty and renewal. The Lenten season of preparation is all about contemplation, prayer, meditation, gratitude, and the refreshment of our spirit. Our souls crave beauty and renewal. The Sanctified Art Lenten Series "Everything In-between," uses the Gospel of Luke to remind us of the well-known parables that Jesus told his disciples and the crowds. His message of love, being found, and spending time with God leads us down the road to Holy Week. Holy Week will be here next week. The worship opportunities are listed below for your information. My prayer is that you will set this week aside to complete your individual and our Lenten journey.

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS:

- Sunday morning Coffee and Donut time starts at 9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall
- **P3** Wednesdays from 5:15-6:30 pm. **GROW** Wednesdays. Doors open at 6:30 pm, Dinner at 7:00 pm, Discipleship and Activities from 7:30-8:30 pm.
Volunteers are needed to provide GROW meals. The sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for preparing a meal for the Youth and Adult Leaders!
- **Adult Bible Study** Thursdays from 9:30-10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall

Immediate Food Pantry Needs - The Upper Rock Island County Food Pantry at Messiah Lutheran Church has immediate needs for kid-friendly cereal, condiments - ketchup & mustard, salad dressing, paper towels, Kleenex, toilet paper, pork & beans or other canned beans, pancake mix and syrup, and boxed dinners. ***Be sure that your donations are within the "best by/best use" expiration date and that the item has not been opened. The food pantry cannot accept items that are expired.*** Thank you for your continuing support of this ministry!

Wish List for the Mission Welcome Kits: The Mission Committee is preparing ongoing Welcome Kits for new residents at Whispering Hills. The following items are needed: shampoo, body soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dish soap, small laundry detergent, cleaning wipes, small all-purpose cleaner, single-roll paper towels, and a 4-pack of toilet paper. Thank you for your donations and support of this local mission!

Easter Choir – Anyone interested in singing with the choir during Easter worship, the practices will be on Sundays, April 13 and April 20 at 9:30 am in the choir room.

OTHER EVENTS ON THE CALENDAR:

Sunday, April 6- Town Hall Meeting with Bishop Bingham-Tsai at Monmouth First UMC from 3:00-4:30 pm

Wednesday, April 9- Upper Rock Island County Ministerial Association Meeting, Brothers at 11:30 am

Holy Week - Palm Sunday, April 13 – Easter Sunday, Sunday, April 20.

Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 13 - Potluck and Intergenerational Escape Room 5:30-8 pm

Tuesday, April 15 - Finance Committee Meeting at 7:00 pm; Tax Day

Thursday, April 17 – Maundy Thursday Service time 6:00 pm

Friday, April 18 - Good Friday Service from noon - 1:00 pm at Riverside UMC, Moline – Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai will preach the sermon. This is a QC Clergy Coalition-hosted event.

Friday, April 18 - Good Friday Service 6 pm at the Church of the Cross UMC – This is a URICMA-hosted event.

Sunday, April 20 Easter Services 7:30 and 10:30

Easter Breakfast 8:30 am (or after the first service) until 10 am

Donations for Youth will be taken

Kids Korner after the 10:30 am Children's Message

Donations for Missions accepted & blessed

Thursday, April 24 - United Women in Faith will be at 1:30 at the church. Mary Kay Hymes will give the program. All women of the church are invited.

Saturday, April 26 - East Bay Camp Work Day. Volunteers are needed! 9 am-4 pm Lunch included!

Sunday, April 27 - P3 Potluck with Port Byron First UMC Leaders. If you serve on any of our leadership teams at PB First, please plan to join us to meet and share your love of Jesus and service in the UMC with our soon-to-be new members!

Coming this summer: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL! Road Trip: On the Go With God! Open to children from 4 years old through 5th Grade. June 9-11th from 9-11:30 am. Family VBS Night on June 11th in the evening. VBS Youth Leader lunch and fun June 12th. See Kathy Mahraun or Bree Heim if you are interested in being a youth or adult helper!

*Blessings,
Pastor Roberta*