



**Hopkins &
South Monterey**
United Methodist Churches

**April/May
2021**

THE VOICE

What a start to 2021 we have had. Though we are more used to it, these days continue to be quite the roller coaster. The greater country and world, as well as our small Hopkins community have had some high highs and low lows. Between the pandemic, a return of frequent mass shootings, ongoing political strife and division, and locally, the loss of important community members and friends, the lows have been troubling and exhausting. But we have not been without highs, or good things. We have seen another baby born among us, more and more of the church family has gotten vaccinated, the warmer Spring days meant getting outside, Sunday School started back up, and ground is breaking for our Food Pantry building. Despite the heavy clouds and dark days, God's light and hope break through time and time again.

That is what this upcoming church season of Eastertide is all about. "Eastertide" is the 50 days between Easter and Pentecost and is meant to keep the party going for longer than just Easter Sunday. Through Eastertide, we celebrate Jesus's resurrection from the dead and triumph over our sins! We celebrate Easter for the triumph and glory, for the miracle of resurrection, but we don't talk as often about what God conquering death with Jesus's resurrection means for us in times like we have had for the last year and what the resurrection means for us all year long.

In a year full of death and despair, of grief and loss, of division and conflict, we may benefit from thinking of the Easter story a bit differently. Perhaps we identify even more with the stories of the Last Supper/ Maundy Thursday and Good Friday than with the happy celebration of Easter. We are now all the more familiar with the tense and unsure feelings the Disciples and followers of Jesus felt in that 3 day gap between the crucifixion and resurrection.

Perhaps that is why this year has felt so long and arduous. Like the Disciples were told before Jesus died that he would return in 3 days, at the beginning of this pandemic we were told it was a 2-3 week shut down to get it under control and then we could roll away the stones of our front doors and go back to normal life. But here we are, a year later, still stuck in that limbo, waiting for the full resurrection of normal life to come.

This is where the significance of Easter can become a true help for us today. Yes, Jesus's resurrection was perfectly on time, unlike returning to normal for us this year, but no matter how long it took Jesus to return, the story of Easter is as powerful and celebratory as it is, because it reminds us not just that Jesus can return from the dead, or that the oppressors and arbiters of injustice did not have the last say, BUT is a proclamation to us, that as Jesus conquered death and injustice, Jesus brought all of us the promise of new life. As Jesus conquered death through resurrection, Jesus proclaimed to all of us, death and grief and suffering and injustice do not have the last word. God, and God's love and hope and justice and peace, do. That new life and hope can always break through.

Though it may feel like the longest three days of waiting for resurrection right now, the Easter story is a promise that we can hold onto during this long roller coaster ride. No matter how low the lows or long the ride, God promises that new life will come, we will find new normals, we will find joy and peace again, and we will make it through together. As always, thanks be to God for the ways we have seen the new life and hope among us already.

I am so thankful that I get to be on this journey with all of you.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Kelsey

Summer Worship Plan

We so enjoyed getting to use our beautiful outdoor space at Common Ground for worship last summer that we are going to do it again!

Summer is perfect for worshiping God in creation and sharing in worship together as one church family! Alongside that, COVID is still such a big question mark and we know the safest option is to gather outside, so let's be the safest we can be, be able to welcome as many people as we can, and hopefully be able to sing again and do more normal worship elements outside.

We will worship together as Hopkins & South Monterey UMCs at 10am at Common Ground for the whole summer. We will start worshiping on the summer schedule with Pentecost, see below!

Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost is the next major church holiday after the Easter season. Pentecost is the culmination of the celebration and work of the church begun on Easter Day. On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the story told in Acts 2, the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. At the first Pentecost over 3000 people were baptized, creating the first church.

This year, Pentecost is on **May 23**.

We will be celebrating Pentecost in a couple of special ways. 1. Pentecost will be our summer kick-off as we move to our summer worship schedule and location:

10am, both churches together, at Common Ground.

2. To celebrate the original Pentecost and the continued work of the Holy Spirit among us, we will also be offering **Baptism for any/all of the 6 new babies** that have come into our church family in the last year. **Any adults who would like to be baptized are also welcome.** (Continues below)

Baptisms All Around!

We are hopeful that by Pentecost it will be safe enough to gather bigger groups and to allow getting a little closer together due to the increase in vaccinations and the ability to gather outside. So, it feels safe enough to finally get to baptize the many babies we are so excited have joined our young families! Since we will be outside, families and other important people are welcome to come and celebrate with us.

If you would like to join in and have your child or yourself baptized, please contact Pastor Kelsey so we can prepare as best as we can.

Pastor Kelsey would like to meet with the parents/people beforehand to review the meaning and significance of Baptism and for those supporting them according to United Methodist beliefs.

Hopes & Dreams for Summer & Fall

Vacation Bible School

It has been a little while since we have gotten to put on VBS for our church family. After such a long year unable to do much in regards to children's programming, we would love to get to spend some quality time with our kids! Dates and details TBD, but discussions are in the works on having some form of VBS this summer. If you feel passionate about this or have thoughts/ideas, contact Pastor Kelsey! She would love your input!

Love & Logic Class

Mitzi and Mary have long been hoping to host another Love & Logic parenting class for young families. Still in the early stages of discussion, but we hope that will be possible and safe for the Fall!

More book studies!

Pastor Kelsey has been wanting to lead a study on Adam Hamilton's book: "Making Sense of the Bible" for a while now. The time has yet to feel just right. At this point, it looks like it will probably be Fall when it would work best.

Bible Study

It has been so long since we have been able to do regular Adult Bible Study time. Pastor Kelsey hopes we can do a short study on one of the smaller books of the Bible nearing the end of Spring or early Summer.

Adult Sunday School return in Fall

We have missed Adult Sunday School before service on Sundays! We hope we can offer it again starting in the Fall.

Food Pantry

Work has started on the construction of the new food pantry building. Keep your eyes open for ways you can help with the transition from HUM Hall into their new space.

Obituaries

Marrion Lull

Born: January 20, 1935

Died: February 15, 2021



Marrion went on to her forever home with her beloved husband and sons in February. We give thanks for the over 53 years she was a beloved part of our church family. She was deeply involved and passionate about the Food

Pantry and was a master crocheter for the Bazaar. Outside of the church, the Lulls were staple members of the community through their years operating the Hopkins Hardware Store. She is remembered and lives on through her beloved family that continue to be part of our church family and the compassion for the whole community through the Food Pantry.

New Lives Bringing Hope



Kinzlee Sue Collier

Born: March 16, 2021

Parents: Trevor & Heather Collier



Hardings Reward Program

Looking for an easy way to support the Hopkins UMC? Hardings has a rewards program that uses your phone number. If you remember to punch in your number when you shop, the church will receive a portion of the money you spent.

Go to Hardings.com and look for this image

- Personalized Digital Coupons.
- Earn Money for Your Favorite Church, School or Non-Profit.

Hardings
REWARDS



If you use the “click” tab, it will walk you through getting signed up. Be sure to go into the section that asks about supporting an organization. When you scroll through the list you will find Hopkins UMC. It's an easy way to support the church that costs you nothing!

LOOKING FOR GLASSES

(from Merle and Alys Edgell)

Our daughter, Kelly, and our granddaughter, Kaleigh, work for a non-profit mission organization. They go on “eyeglass” mission trips all around the world. Past trips include going to South Africa, India, Peru, and Guatemala.

They NEED eyeglasses and sunglasses.

They can accept any prescription or style.

If you have a pair of eyeglasses that you are no longer using, please get them to the Edgells.

You are welcome to leave them on the welcome table in the church. Be sure to label them for the Edgells. We will be sure they get delivered to

Kelly and Kaleigh.

Thank you so much. Merle and Alys

Accentuating The Positive

Dear Church Family,

Many thanks for the prayers, cards, etc. They mean A LOT when you have to stay in your house a long time. So, thank you for helping keep me happy. The 12 Days of Christmas package was really fun! And the birthday parade was a real nice surprise. I really loved it and loved seeing you all.

Love, Lori Knuth

Thank you to everyone who helped fill the Easter buckets for our kids. What a fun way to help them celebrate.

Thank you to Earl Collier for moving the “mountain” of snow in the parking lot. It reminded Pastor Kelsey and Mitzi of Matthew 17:20.

Thank you Mitzi for organizing the Easter baskets for the kids. They will certainly appreciate them.

A big thank you to Amanda DeVries for taking on the job of keeping our sanctuary and fellowship hall clean and safe for us to use. We sure appreciate you!

Thank you to Pastor Linda for taking on Children's Church all on her own!

The “Becoming Brave” study has been an eye opener. It has really made us do some hard thinking.

Big thank you to all worship volunteers who have been flexible and ready to jump in as needed!

Worship Volunteers

April

Greeters: Bill & Mary Howard

Audio/Visual: Mary Howard & Joyce Horton

April 4 Easter Sunday

Liturgist: Vern Kraft

Acolytes: Camryn Lewis & Holly DeVries

April 11

Liturgist: Judy Beck

Acolytes: Camryn Lewis & Holly DeVries

April 18

Liturgist: Bert Tew

Acolytes: Camryn Lewis & Holly DeVries

April 25

Liturgist: Mandi Edgell

Acolytes: Camryn Lewis & Holly DeVries

May

Greeters: Debbie Lemmer & Jim Ringler

Audio/Visual: Amelia Green & Melanie Velderman

May 2

Liturgist: Sandy Ringler

Acolytes: Lilly DeVries & Drew Lewis

May 9

Liturgist: Vern Kraft

Acolytes: Lilly DeVries & Drew Lewis

May 16

Liturgist: Judy Beck

Acolytes: Lilly DeVries & Drew Lewis

May 23

Liturgist: Mary Howard

Acolytes: Lilly DeVries & Drew Lewis

May 30

Liturgist: Bert Tew

Acolytes: Lilly DeVries & Drew Lewis

June 6

Liturgist: Mandi Edgell

Acolytes: Holly DeVries & Karrie Martinez

* If you are not already on this list but you are interested in participating in worship, please contact Alys Edgell. She will be sure you are included in the next list of Worship Volunteers.



Happy Birthday



April Birthdays

1 - Nicole Mack

2 - Megan Heft

4 - Carole Prather

9 - Margaret Myers

11 - Juanita Curtis

Marge Punches

15 - Bert Tew

16 - Chelsey Collier

20 - Tadd Heft

Katie Collier Lake

Mandi Collier Thomas

28 - Mitzi Crowe

May Birthdays

5 - Judy Weick

8 - Linda Burton-Collier

12 - Judy Beck

16 - Ken Herrema

18 - Amelia Green

19 - Liam Salisbury

22 - Mary Howard

27 - Matthew Brinkhuis

28 - Judy Kraft



April Anniversaries

16 - Bob & Judy Beck

Merle & Alys Edgell

21 - Earl & Linda Burton-Collier

May Anniversaries

22 - Russell & Amanda DeVries

Has this season been extra hard on you? Struggling with doubts or questions about God, our faith or the church? Could just use a listening ear or a friendly chat?

Pastor Kelsey would love to meet with you.
Office Hours: Tues-Thurs 11am-6pm

By Appointment when possible or for other times.

Phone (Calls or Texts): 248-613-0366