



**Hopkins &
South Monterey**
United Methodist Churches

April/
May 2022

THE VOICE



Happy Spring, Church Family!



Bishop Bard shared these words as his “Invitation To A Holy Lent” at the end of February. I came across them partway into Lent and found the words to be a good reminder to really dive into the Lenten season. As this newsletter finds you in the last third of Lent, I hope these words will also be an encouragement to you, to keep living into this season, to keep drawing closer to God, to keep filling up to the brim with God’s love and grace, to keep welcoming the transformation that brings. Thank you to Bishop Bard for sharing his prophetic voice with our conference, as always.

Blessings, *Pastor Kelsey*

INVITATION TO A HOLY LENT

“The invitation to a holy Lent is an invitation to deep inner work,” says Bishop David Bard. He offers reflections on how grace surrounds acts of repentance and self-examination. ...

The church season of Lent, the 40 days, not including Sundays, of preparation for the celebration of the most significant day for Christian faith, Easter.

The invitation to Lent in The United Methodist Book of Worship includes the following: “Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: the early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. ... I invite you, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on

God’s Holy Word. To make a right beginning of repentance.”

In the Christian perspective, self-examination and repentance belong together. When we engage in the deep work of self-examination we will find things in our lives we want to change. This is not intended to be denigrating or depressing, but rather realistic. In our self-examination, we will also find things to celebrate, including that we are loved deeply, profoundly, and wildly by God in Jesus Christ. More on that later. The invitation to a holy Lent is an invitation to deep inner work, to self-examination. In doing that work we will find thoughts and deeds which we regret, and habits and attitudes which need changing. That change is called repentance. Repentance is not about feeling bad or wallowing in our past sins, mistakes, and errors. Frederick Buechner writes: “To repent is to come to your senses. It is not so much something you do as something that happens. True repentance spends less time looking at the past and saying ‘I’m sorry,’ than to look at the future and saying ‘Wow!’” (Wishful Thinking). We can look to the future and say “Wow!” because we trust in the power of God’s grace and love to change us, and to help us change.

When in the course of our self-examination we come upon those places where we have hurt or injured, there may be reparative work we can do, offer an apology, seek reconciliation. Repentance asks that of us. There may also be those things we have done for which there are no remedies. In such cases repentance may ask that we acknowledge that we have done harm, even to ourselves, and then not let ourselves be imprisoned by guilt and shame. Repentance may mean we forgive ourselves, and that can be a difficult task. Sometimes it should be a difficult task, yet a task we need to undertake.

Repentance, arising out of self-examination offers us the opportunity to re-weave our past into our lives as we move into the future. Repentance asks that we accept a more complex story about our lives. We have done harm. We have hurt others. We have hurt ourselves. We have made mistakes. There may be repair work to do. And we are never defined by our worst. Self-examination allows us to also see where we have risen to the occasion, where we have been wonderfully curious, boldly compassionate, quietly courageous, adventurously creative. Self-examination and repentance lead us toward a more beautiful and complex story about our lives.

Perhaps there is also such a thing as national soul work that might also be part of our Lenten discipline. For the past months I have been encouraging us all to hear a more complex story about our history, one that acknowledges how race and racialized thinking have had an impact on us all. There are personal dimensions to this as well. My dad was an exceptional high school swimmer. I remember one time his commenting to me about the lack of Black competitive swimmers. He said something like, "They just don't have the same buoyancy." I didn't really question it at the time, but did later. Might the lack of Black athletes who chose swimming as a competitive sport have something to do with a lack of access to swimming pools? In a number of places in the United States, public pools closed following integration because white people did not want to share the water with black people. (Heather McGhee, *The Sum of Us*; Isabel Wilkerson, *Caste*)

If you've not yet taken up the challenge to read or study something that would contribute to your understanding of this more complex reality, that would be part of the work of racial justice, Lent would be a good time to do that. A couple of years ago, our three children, their spouses, Julie and I decided we would form a family book group. We have been reading and discussing books over that time, each family member selecting a book in turn. Our most recent selection was mine, Louise Erdrich, *The Night Watchman*. Louise Erdrich is a Minnesota author whose father was German-American and whose mother was of Ojibway and French ancestry. She is a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibway. The novel is based on the story of Erdrich's grandfather, who was tribal chairman of the band in the 1950s when a bill was introduced in Congress to terminate the treaty signed between the band and the United States government. Well-written novels can be part of a national self-examination and personal self-examination. Self-examination and

repentance lead us toward a more beautiful and complex story about our lives and our history.

This work of self-examination to which we are called in Lent is surrounded in grace. The purpose of this work is not to generate bad feelings but to encourage change where it is needed. God meets us where we are. God loves us as we are. And God desires better for our lives and for our world. Grace.

Part of the grace of self-examination is found in those moments where we might genuinely celebrate curiosity, compassion, courage, creativity, kindness, justice, reconciliation, beauty, and love. In that there is joy. While Lent is a time for serious self-examination, it ought not to be a joyless time. "And if we answer the call to discipleship, where will it lead us? What decisions and partings will it demand? ... Only Jesus Christ, who bids us follow him, knows the journey's end. But we do know that it will be a road of boundless mercy. Discipleship is joy." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*). Make part of your Lenten discipline savoring moments of tenderness, kindness, justice, love, beauty, and joy.

Lenten disciplines include prayer, and I would also ask that in your Lenten prayers you continue to pray for peace in our world, focusing particularly on the nation and people of Ukraine.

I invite you, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent, and I am on this joyful Lenten journey with you.

~ Bishop David Bard

Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church

Could you just use a listening ear or a friendly chat? Have you been having a hard time? Are you struggling with doubts or questions about God, our faith or the church?

Pastor Kelsey would love to meet with you.

Office Hours: Tues-Thurs 11am-6pm

Call to schedule a time to meet (in her office, at your home, or out for coffee)

By Appointment when possible or for other times.

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



Worship Schedule

Sundays: 9:30am at South Monterey UMC

11am at Hopkins UMC

4th Wednesdays of the month

Worship Wednesdays for kids & families
5:30pm, dinner together at 6:30pm.

Hopkins services are available on Zoom. We are working on technical issues to make it better. Instructions to connect to Zoom on the next page.

All of our worship services are also posted on Youtube during the week after. You can find us on Youtube as Hopkins UMC.

Or sign up for our weekly e-news (Flocknote) to get the video & a manuscript of the sermon sent to you along with other church updates.

Use whatever gift you have received to serve others. 1 Peter 4:10



Celebrating All Offerings

With the beginning of Lent HUMC started a new way of doing the offering during worship. Instead of collecting offerings in a bucket in the entrance, we bring up our offerings during the offering time in worship. But, it isn't just about the financial giving now. Every Sunday everyone is encouraged to fill out an offering card that invites us to reflect on all the ways we are offering to the Kingdom of God during our week: in all forms of Treasure, Time, and Talent. It has been a blessing to recognize all the ways God is working among us throughout the week. Below is a collection of the ways that our church family has given to the Kingdom in the last few weeks

- All forms of giving financially
- Helped make coffee fellowship happen
- Mentored at Hopkins Elementary
- Projects at Craft Gathering
- Life coaching young people
- Part of Church Choir
- Visiting homebound
- Brought food to neighbor/friends
- Ran UMW booth at Piki's
- Spent time in Scripture & prayer
- Helped with Worship Wednesday
- Donated items to UMW booth
- Donated to nonprofits
- UMW work
- Gave transportation to elderly
- Time in fellowship
- Volunteered with Senior Meals
- Gathered donations for Gospel Mission
- Listening ear & support for friends
- Helped with local youth events
- Helped family with daily tasks
- Helped prepare Egg Hunt

Holy Week & Easter

Palm Sunday 4/10
Normal worship times

Maundy Thursday 4/14
Short service at 6:30pm
Including Communion

Good Friday 4/15
Service at 6:30pm

Easter Sunday 4/17
7am Sunrise Service at Common Ground
9:30am Service at South Monterey UMC
11am Service at Hopkins UMC

Full
to the **Brim**
An expansive lent



*All services will be available on Zoom as well.
Instructions on how to connect to Zoom on next page*

Ukraine Offering & Prayer Board

During the month of March we did what we could to support the people of Ukraine, by prayer and financial giving. We have collected over \$400 that we will send to UMCOR at the end of the month. Both churches have had prayer boards as well, and we have been able to share prayers for many aspects of the conflict. Thank you for your prayerful and financial giving. If you hear or think of another way we can offer help to the people affected in that part of the world, please let Pastor Kelsey know and we will try to make it happen.

Online Giving

Tithe.ly is a secure way to give online from your computer or phone that gives you the ability to give to the offering via credit/debit card from anywhere. You can give once or set up a giving schedule. It is easy to navigate and gives you one less thing to have to remember when trying to get out the door Sunday morning.

Go to: <http://hopkinsumchurch.org/give/>
to learn about and give through tithe.ly!

Connect to worship on Zoom

Go to: hopkinsumchurch.org/zoom
Or open Zoom on your device and insert
Meeting ID: 768 555 3158

Joining Worship from Any Phone (calling)
Call (312) 626-6799.
Enter meeting ID 768 555 3158 followed by #
If asked for a participant ID, just enter # again.
If asked for a password, enter 2697937323 followed by #.

In the event that you encounter a busy signal, try these alternative phone numbers with the same steps: 1-646-558-8656 or 1-301-715-8592.

Subscribe to Flocknote

To receive church updates: text **HopkinsUMC** to **84576** or flocknote.com/HopkinsUMC

LOOSE CHANGE



In April, loose change will be used for Hopkins Community Support.

In May, loose change will go toward Ministry Shares.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Faced with a drinking problem? Perhaps Alcoholics Anonymous can help.

Open A.A. meetings Mondays & Fridays 7-8pm.
303 E. Elm St. Wayland

Sign is on the entrance door of the North Wing of Wayland Christian Reformed Church.

5th Sunday Potluck in May

Our next Potluck will be on Sunday, May 29 following HUMC worship. We would love to have everyone join us for a time of fellowship and a chance to share a meal together.

Mailboxes

We are, once again, using the church mailboxes located in HUM Hall, but they have moved! You will now find them just inside the doorway to the main room of the hall.

Please remember to stop in before or after church to check your mailbox. You are welcome to use the mailboxes. Keep in mind that the person's mailbox is above the divider that has their name clip on it.

Worship Wednesday!



Our new ministry has been off to a great start! We have had Every 4th Wednesday, at 5:30pm we will start with a small snack, share in a short lesson, an activity or game or two, and close with a simple meal together. We hope parents will stick around and take part with their children.

You can look at lesson options & sign up to lead or help with one in HUM Hall (you pick the theme and date you would like to help make happen).

We will need help providing and serving food each time. Watch for sign up sheets. Your help would be appreciated.

Craft & Fellowship with Us!

We are hosting a gathering every *first and third Thursdays of the month, 3-5pm in HUM Hall*, to craft together or just fellowship. Crafts or activities of any kind are welcome if you can bring them: Knit, Crochet, paper crafts, sewing, etc! (Or no craft at all!) Some work on things to donate, sometimes we have church projects you can work on. Feel free to bring snacks, beverages, or just yourself! Come hang out with us!

Food Pantry

The Pantry can always use more spaghetti sauce.

Cereal Drive with the schools in April. All are welcome to donate cereal to help them stock up for the summer.

Community Wide Easter Egg Hunt

Our church is hosting a community wide Easter Egg Hunt for children of all ages on April 9th at 1pm at the North Park (Blue and White Park). Rain Date: April 16th, Downtown park, 1pm. We will provide bags for the kids to fill with eggs. There will be prizes, snacks and games. We will separate by age groups to keep it fun and fair for all ages.

We are in need of people to help with all areas of the event. There is a sign up sheet in HUM Hall. If you are able to work at any of the set up, running, and/or clean up of the event, please sign up in person or with Mitzi or Pastor Kelsey. Thanks in advance for your help.



THANK YOU

Big thanks to all those who helped sell and bought pizza kits! It has been a fun and easy way to raise some money for more ministry and missions. ~UMW

I sure enjoyed the visit from Incredigirl and Sid Badguy at our February Wednesday Worship. I hope to see them again. Mitzi

"Thank you so much for the wonderful donation for our HES kids to get to Mackinac! Your generosity is beyond appreciated. Thank you!
HES Third Graders & Teachers"

Thank you to all who helped stuff Easter Eggs! Lori Knuth & Kirstin Heft got a good start over the spring and summer, stuffing around 1,000 for us! A group stuffed another large amount during crafting recently. We will have a very fun Egg hunt!

Thank you for all the prayers, well wishes, and notes of support to Alys & the Edgells during the last few months and leading up to her surgery. She felt the love and support!

Thank you to whoever moved the mailboxes in the hall. Mitzi appreciates getting to see out the office window!

Thank you to Susie Preston for making our cute Spring centerpieces for the tables in the Hall!

Thank you to everyone who has helped with Wednesday Worship.

Calendar

of Upcoming Events

Apr 4 - UMW Meeting at 5pm

Apr 7 - Craft Gathering, 3-5pm HUM Hall



Apr 9 - Easter Egg Hunt at North Park, 1pm

Apr 10 - Palm Sunday normal worship times

Apr 14 - Maundy Thursday at 6:30pm

Apr 15 - Good Friday at 6:30pm

Apr 17 - Easter Sunday:
7am at Common Ground & normal times

Apr 21 - Craft Gathering, 3-5pm HUM Hall

Apr 27 - Worship Wednesday, 5:30pm-7pm

Apr 30 - Feeding the Musical cast and crew

May 5 - Craft Gathering, 3-5pm HUM Hall

May 15 - Lori Knuth's Memorial

May 16 - Meeting Monday: UMW at 5pm,
Dinner at 6pm, Ad Board at 6:30pm

May 19 - Craft Gathering, 3-5pm HUM Hall

May 29 - 5th Sunday Potluck

June 5 - Pentecost & Membership Sunday
**Begin 10:00 summer worship at
Common Ground**

SAVE THE DATE: 15 May 2022



Lorraine (Lori) Knuth Memorial Gathering Noon - 4:00 pm



At: Barn 1888

1888 128th Avenue, Hopkins, MI

RSVP to: Dean Knuth 269-217-5144 djemknuth@chartermi.net
or: Kirstin Heft 269-217-6894 kgheft@gmail.com

Prepared, individually-packaged lunch and beverages provided

Lorraine was committed to avoiding catching Covid-19 herself, and to not expose others to it. Please respect and honor her wishes and expect to follow CDC guidelines in place on that date. KN95 masks will be provided for those that forget to bring theirs.

If you are unable to attend in person, or if you have symptoms or significant recent exposure, please let us know and a zoom link will be provided.

Worship Volunteers

APRIL

April Greeters: Juanita Curtis & Mary Howard

April 3

Children's Message - Mary Howard

Liturgist - Vern Kraft

Coffee Fellowship - Jim & Sandy Ringler

Communion Server - Mitzi Crowe

April 10 Palm Sunday

Children's Message - Pastor Kelsey

Liturgist - Judy Beck

Coffee Fellowship - K. Brinkhuis & M. Howard

April 17 Easter

Children's Message - Mitzi Crowe

Liturgist - Mandi Edgell

Coffee Fellowship - D. Lemmer & A. DeVries

Communion Server - Mary Howard

April 24

Children's Message - Linda Burton-Collier

Liturgist - Linda Burton-Collier

Coffee Fellowship - Mitzi Crowe & Jane Kaule

MAY

May Greeters: Debbie Lemmer , Holly & Lilly

May 1

Children's Message - Mary Howard

Liturgist - Melanie Velderman

Coffee Fellowship - Becks & Juanita Curtis

Communion Server - Sandy Ringler

May 8

Children's Message - Pastor Kelsey

Liturgist - Mary Howard

Coffee Fellowship - Judy & Vern Kraft

May 15

Children's Message - Mitzi Crowe

Liturgist - Vern Kraft

Coffee Fellowship - Jim & Sandy Ringler

May 22

Children's Message - Mary Howard

Liturgist - Judy Beck

Coffee Fellowship - K. Brinkhuis & M. Howard

May 29

Children's Message - Linda Burton-Collier

Liturgist - Linda Burton-Collier

Coffee Fellowship - 5th Sunday Potluck

JUNE

June Greeters: Reva Daniel & Juanita Curtis

June 5 10:00 AT COMMON GROUND

Children's Message - Mitzi Crowe

Liturgist - Mary Howard

Communion Server - Judy Beck



April Birthdays

1 - Nicole Mack

2 - Megan Heft

4 - Carole Prather

9 - Margaret Myers

11-Juanita Curtis

Marge Punches

12-Jane Kaule

15 - Bert Tew

16 - Chelsey Collier

20 - Tadd Heft

Katie Collier Lake

Mandi Collier Thomas

28 - Mitzi Crowe

May Birthdays

5 - Judy Weick

8 - Liinda 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 Collier & Linda Burton-Collier

May Anniversaries

22 - Russell & Amanda DeVries

SUMMER WORSHIP

We plan to hold one joint service again this summer. We will worship at 10:00 at Common Ground. Bring your own chair or blanket. In case of inclement weather, we will worship at South Monterey UMC at 10:00.