

Sanford United Methodist Church

Messenger

APRIL 2012



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of the United Methodist Church

Resurrection Realities

The death and resurrection of Jesus set Christianity apart from all other religions. What does the resurrection say about Jesus Christ and what does it mean for us?

The resurrection of Jesus Christ proves that he is who he claimed to be, the Son of God. Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs... you killed him but God raised him from the dead (Acts 2: 1-24).

The resurrection of Jesus Christ demonstrates the power of God. It is the power of God that raised him from the dead (Ephesians 1: 19-21).

The resurrection proves that Jesus Christ is God. Jesus was declared to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead (Romans 1:4).

Our salvation rests on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. If you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9).

The resurrection of Jesus Christ makes us right with God. Christ was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification (Romans 4:25).

Our own resurrection depends on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him (1 Thessalonians 4:14).

The resurrection of Jesus Christ demonstrates that this Jesus the Christ is going to be the appointed judge of the world. God has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising Him from the dead (Acts 17:31).

**Worship Christ
The Lord
10:30 A.M.**



**Candlelight
Communion
Holy Thursday
7:00 P.M.**



A Christ Centered Easter

Nancy Twigg offers some ideas for putting the spiritual significance back into your Easter celebration and offers some suggestions for our family Easter celebration. I have added a few of my own.

Making Jesus the center of your family's celebration can present a challenge when images of the Easter bunny are so prevalent. Easter calls us to remember that Jesus is the giver of Easter gifts—his love, his sacrificial death, and the salvation we have through Him.

- (1) Put a spiritual twist on the tradition of decorating Easter eggs. Before dyeing the hard-boiled eggs, use crayons to write an Easter message on each egg. Because the crayon wax keeps the dye from adhering in those spots, your "Jesus is Risen" and "Jesus Died for You" messages will show through clearly.
- (2) Attend Holy Week services – Maundy Thursday, Prayer Vigil, Good Friday Service.
- (3) Each day of Holy Week you may read gospel accounts of our Lord's journey to the cross.
- (4) Those with young children may do a few craft projects that emphasize the meaning of Easter. Do an Internet search or check out books from the library for ideas. Use your completed projects to decorate your home for your family celebration.
- (5) Celebrate the Resurrection of Christ by doing the kinds of things Jesus came to earth to do. Extend God's love to others by visiting the elderly and sick, gathering up clothing to take to a homeless shelter, or making and delivering food baskets to families or friends in need.
- (6) Read the resurrection story in the gospels.
- (7) Invite some one to attend church on Easter.



Holy Week

Maundy Thursday Service April 5 at 7:00 P.M.

Maundy Thursday, also known as Holy Thursday, is the day Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. This is a candlelight communion service. This service is held in the Fellowship Hall. Please use the sign-up sheet (on a table at the entrance) to indicate your attendance. As much as you can, please come to this service in silence and leave in silence.

Prayer Vigil -April 5 at 8:30 P.M. To April 6 at 11:30 A.M.



Prayer Vigil

The prayer vigil starts immediately following the Maundy Thursday service and continues until Friday at 11:30 A.M. **We need you.**

Good Friday-April 6 at 11:30 A.M.

This service begins immediately following the prayer vigil. How do we observe the most tragic event of human history, the crucifixion? We do it with a very special service, a service of Scripture readings, songs, and sacrament. There is no preaching. We gather to listen to the story, meditate on the passion of our Lord, offer our thanksgiving, and pledge our faith to the one who died for us. *Love so amazing so divine demands my soul, my life, my all.*

Easter Celebration April 8 at 10:30 A.M.

No other religion makes the claim that the one they worship is the Son of God and that he died and rose again. Easter is a big deal for Christians. Our community of believers join the believing Church throughout the world to proclaim the glorious truth: Christ is alive. On this day we gather in the spirit of joy and thanksgiving to celebrate what God did in raising Christ from the dead. Many people are inclined to come to church on this day. Please bring someone with you so that they may experience the power of his resurrection.

Christ is risen; He is risen indeed.

*A BLESSED EASTER TO
YOU AND YOURS*



STEWARDSHIP

March 2012

Date	Attendance	Offering
March 4	44	\$2,940.00
March 11	78	\$3,355.00
March 18	60	\$1,485.00
March 25	51	\$ 707.00

Bible Talk Back

Tuesday at 10:30 A.M.

The Scriptures teach us things about God, ourselves, the universe, and about our relationship to our saving God. No other book can be compared to the Bible in this regard. In addition to these things, the Bible tells us how we should regard its teachings. We should: (1) **Read it.** Carefully, prayerfully, repeatedly, reverently and with a willing spirit to follow its teachings. (2) **Believe it.** Because it is the Word of God for us all. (3) **Receive it.** We receive it as the good seed of God into the fertile soil of our hearts. **In Bible Talk Back we reach for these things.** Each session is informative, enlightening and thoroughly inspiring. Please join us this Tuesday at 10:30 A.M.

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS AND OTHERS

- Jean Emery* P.O. Box 65, Sanford, MI 48657
- Keith Francis* Colonial Villa, 5007 Universal Dr. Midland, MI 48640
- Pauline Fink* 3606 Sadler Dr., Sanford, MI 48657
- Stratford Village
- Dorothy Joynt* 2121 Rockwell, Midland, MI 48642
- Shirley Renwick* 2121 Rockwell, Rm. 244, Midland, MI 48642
- Aletha Maticka* Marshall Manor, 1119 Holyrood, Midland, MI 48640
- Bruce Milligan* 5822 N. Lake, Sanford, MI 48657
- Arvella Rogers* Tendercare, 4900 Hedgewood Dr. Rm. 2, Midland, MI 48640
- Ann Weir* 216 Diane Dr., Flushing, MI 48433

Sharon Wishowski, Pauline Fink, Bob Beatty, Kim Wood, Ann Weir, Gary Moe, Oline Robinson.

SANFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2560 N. West River Road

Sanford, Michigan 48657

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Anthony N. Cutting, Pastor

Church Office: (989) 687-5353

Home Phone: (989) 684-5596

Worship: 10:30 A.M.

Sunday School: 9:10 A.M.

PERMIT NO. 4

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE

SANFORD MI 48657



February 2012 Food Pantry Report

Number of People served	42
Number of Households	16
Gift Certificates given:	27
Items received:	2,681
Items distributed:	1,581

Items and money donated:

SUMC - money and 164 items

St. Agnes Catholic – 227 items

St. Paul Lutheran – money and 76 items

Food Bank of Eastern Michigan -1,369 items

Community of Christ - Money only

Old Oak Trails - 30 items

Transfer from Hidden Harvest -319 items

Current needs: cake mix, frosting, saltine crackers, instant rice mixes.

You stepped up to meet the needs we saw in January. Now we are in the midst of the annual mid-winter decrease in clients. Have no fear, however, things will pick up soon! Thank you for your gifts of food and funds; we welcome both. Checks can be made out to the Sanford Food Pantry.

Please keep our volunteers and the clients they serve in your prayers.

Peace!

Earl and Kay Crawford



UMW March Report



Monthly Meeting

Our next meeting is April 17th at 1:00 p.m.

Laura Ruhle from the Alzheimer's Association will be with us for a special program. Please try and attend this very informative meeting.

We also need to make plans for our Spring Rummage Sale, Thursday, May 17th. and Friday, May 18th. Please bring all your new ideas with you.

Judy Gorthy

WWW. HELP

We need help managing our Web Site.

If you are skilled in this area
Please give us a call at 687-5353

Serving the Lord

Memorial Garden

Once again Spring is just around the corner and help will be needed in the church flower garden. You need not have a "green thumb", just a desire to help out about one hour a week through the summer. This year Myra Moore will be heading up the Gals and Guys Garden team. Call her at 687-5678 to sign up. Thanks for all your help over the years. Donna Goodwin



April Events

April 9th, 6:30 p.m. Trustees

April 13th at 6:00 p.m Adult Social will be meeting in the SUMC parking lot to go to the Sanford Bar and Grill.

April 17th, 1:00 p.m. UMW
6:00 p.m. Finance

April 23rd, 9:00 a.m. Visitation

April 24th, 7:00 p.m. Ad Council

April 27th, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m our Boy Scout Troop will be putting on a Pancake Supper.

Looking Ahead

May 5th Work Day is starting at 8:30 for coffee and discussion. We need lots of volunteers to get SUMC in shape for the rest of the year.

May 13th is Mother's Day.

May 14th, 6:30 p.m. Trustees

May 15th & 16 set-up for the UMW Spring Rummage Sale

May 17th 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

May 18th 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m



Thank you to Dick Moore for all your work you did on the Altar. Gary Boots

Thank you so much for all the cards and prayers during my stay in the hospital and now during my recovery. Mike Gorthy



Happenings

LITURGISTS

April 1 Sue Thumma
April 8 Pat Gruber
April 15 Ira Thumma
April 22 Carol Becks
April 29 Betty Farner

USHERS

April 1 Rick & Cassie Foley,
Mike & Judy Gorthy
April 8 Leonard McJames, Ron Vandenberg,
Don Decker, Earl Crawford
April 15 Jim & Sally Brozzo, Curt & Beth Moe
April 22 Dennis & Jan Blevins
Roger & Vicki Sharpe
April 29 Gary & Brenda Boots, Dorothy
Francis & Phyllis Seloom

GREETERS

April 1 Verna Gould, Jan Biggs
April 8 Sandy Houtman, Sue Dexter
April 15 Vicki Sharpe, Bill Lackie
April 22 Luella Glesner, Carolyn Maynard
April 29 Mitch & Ronda Bowen

COUNTERS

April 1 Sharon Arvidson, Verna Gould, Ruth Ann
Wrona
April 8 Bob & Sharon Raymond, Curt & Beth
Moe
April 15 Gary & Brenda Boots, Bob & Sharon
Raymond
April 22 Leonard & Lois McJames, Ruth Sutton
April 29 Verna Gould, Sharon Arvidson, Ruth Ann

ALTAR FLOWERS

April 1 Ron Vandenberg
April 8 Worship
April 15 Jan Biggs
April 22 Gary & Brenda Boots
April 29 Verna Gould

TRUSTEE FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

Becky Bastuk (back-up Gary Boots)

COFFEE HOUR

April 1 Curt & Beth, Dick & Carol
April 8 Easter No Coffee Hour
April 15 Ronda, Luella, Jeanne
April 22 Suttons, Phyllis
April 29 Jan Blevins, Cassie Foley

* **Would you please give us your support by being a volunteer.**