

MARCH 2021

The Messenger

Main Street United Methodist Church

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD

by reaching out with a warm heart and making a difference

A CALL TO ENTER AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD



Warm Lenten greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Ah, Easter! Our victory season is almost here. Like its twin season, Christmas, it comes with melodious

songs, a miraculous story, decorations, and feasting. We do all of this to celebrate the empty tomb—our Redeemer lives! But in the meantime, this edition of our

newsletter invites you to think about the long penitential journey that precedes the Resurrection of Christ. It is the season of Lent.

For us United Methodists, like other streams of Christianity, observing Lent is an integral part of our Church Calendar year, a 40-day period of fasting, prayer, and repentance. During this solemn season, we diligently rend our hearts, faithfully search the scriptures (here at Main Street UMC, we are reading Luke in the 40 days from Ash Wednesday until Easter), and wholeheartedly return to God. By the help of the Holy Spirit, we make life-time resolutions either to renew our baptismal covenant with God or as new converts to begin a new walk with God through confession of faith. Yes, Lent is a season of resolution. Whatever you resolve to do, it is your choice. Joshua 24:15 is an example of such moment of choice.

In Joshua chapter 23, Joshua begins a farewell speech, knowing he is about to die. He reminds the Israelites of how the Lord has granted them good land as promised. In the next chapter Joshua summons the entire Israelite leadership (elders, judges, officers, etc.) before the Lord at Shechem and presents them with a choice: to exercise their freedom to choose whom to serve. Here it is: *"But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD"* (Joshua 24:15). The first half of the verse suggests that their personal assessment

of their situation is the key. Despite what the Lord did for them, if it is disagreeable to serve the Lord, then they can choose whatever god they want to serve. In other words, after evaluating their history, experience, and walk with God, then they are free to continue with the Lord or go after other gods.

So, what does this mean for us today, especially during this Lent? The call of Joshua to Israel to "choose this day whom you will serve" is also a call for you and me to decide. Lent is a season to choose God again: to choose righteousness instead of unrighteousness; to choose the unchanging Word of God instead of the changing, competing world; to choose the truth instead of falsehood; to choose love instead of hate; to choose friendship instead of enmity; to

choose life instead of death; to choose spiritual disciplines instead of debauchery; to choose anti-racism instead of racism; to choose Christ instead of crisis; and to choose God instead of mammon. Jesus says it clearly: *"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money"* (Matthew 6:24). Friends, there has never been a better time to choose to follow God. You must make the choice.

The bottom-line is this: The overarching purpose of our baptismal vow and confession of faith is that you and I will be committed to

the service of God in everyday discipleship and mission. Are you faithful to your baptismal and confession covenant? Perhaps we need to read it again. In today's post-modern, post-Christian culture where virtually everything is weighed against social/political correctness, we are faced with the same call, *"Choose whom you will serve."* Walking with God requires that we make a bold choice to serve God only—loving what He loves and hating what He hates. If today were our Shechem's gathering, I would echo Joshua's choice, *"... But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."* As we journey through Lent, Passion Week, and Good Friday to Easter, I offer you this call: enter an intimate relationship with God today.

Your fellow disciple in Christ,
Reverend Samuel

**Lent is a season
to choose God
again: to choose
righteousness instead
of unrighteousness; to
choose the unchanging
Word of God instead
of the changing,
competing world...**



STAFF @ Main Street UMC

DR. SAMUEL A. ODUBENA
Pastor

MILES STRALY
Lay Leader

NANCY HUSKEY
Director, Music Ministry

DON KRUG
Organist

KAY WEIDEMAN
Pianist, Worship Leader

DEBBIE DAILEY
Interim Administrative Assistant

MELANIE GIEK
Youth Director

MICHAEL MCMINN
Custodian

SARAH JAMES
Nursery Attendant

PRESCHOOL STAFF
CAMI WALTERS
Director

RHONDA BUTZIN
KOLEEN MURPHY



Follow us on social media at:
Main Street United Methodist
Church, Peru

Office Hours

9 am. – 3 pm., Mon.-Fri.

Phone: 765-472-3323

Our phone and Internet system has been revamped and missed calls (those made outside of office hours or when we are already on a call) go straight to our email, making you call easier to access.

MISSIONS *update*

March Musings

This month's featured mission is the Kokomo Rescue Mission. Main Street UMC has supported this mission for many years and countless Miami County residents have benefited from their focused Christian programs. Did you know that last year 381 men and women were offered shelter for over 25,000 nights? That 30 men and women completed their "Growing in Christ" and "Changes that Heal" classes? That 43 individuals completed various courses which helped them develop life skills for the work place? Here is what a couple of their residential guests have to say:

"I feel safer here than any place I have ever lived." – Mariah.

"The Women's Ministry is helping me become the person I want to be. They even made isolation during the corona virus a fun time with extra classes and activities." – Kristi.

Thank you for supporting this outstanding program through your Missions giving to Main Street UMC.

Chicken Time is Coming!

We will be doing another Nelson's Port-a-Pit Chicken sale on Saturday, May 15. This time 100% of the proceeds will be given to the General Budget of our church. The delicious Nelson's Chicken and Pit Potatoes will be available in our church parking lot from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 15. We will need several volunteers to help on that date and more importantly pre-sale tickets need to be sold. Let Miles know if you can help. Please mark your calendars and come out to support this fund raising event. Pre-sale tickets are available in the church office during the week and you may also get them on Sunday mornings. Please purchase several for yourself and more to sell.

Noisy Bucket Collection



March collection will benefit *All Things Are Possible*. The April collection will benefit *Harvesting Capabilities*.



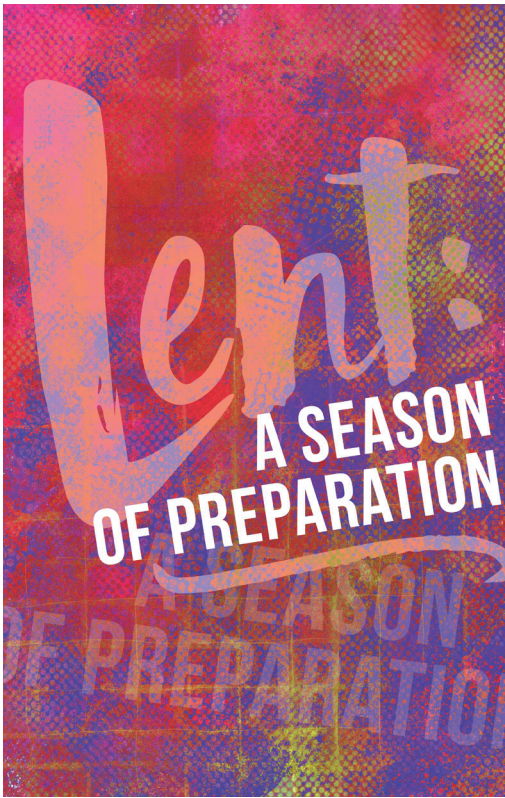
MEMBER *spotlight*

If you haven't seen Koleen Murphy around the building, it's because you haven't gone downstairs to our Preschool

where she devotes much of her day to caring and teaching children. Koleen, who has lived all of her life in Peru, with the exception of a short period in Kentucky, has three children of her own. Daunte, 19, and currently attending ISU where he is a star baseball player. (Reds scouts, are you paying attention?) Jayma,

who is 15 and a sophomore at PJHS, and Whitney who is 12 and in the 7th grade. Koleen was introduced to our Preschool when she worked for Dan and Barb Conner at the East End Double Dip. She couldn't resist the opportunity to work with children so East End's loss was our gain. When asked what she liked most about her job her reply was, "Of course the kids! I have a lot of patience." We know she has patience because the pop machine has been empty of Mountain Dew for days and she's never once complained.

(Koleen is pictured with Everly and Betsy.)



LUKE *in 40 days*

Luke in 40 Days is the Lenten study Rev. Samuel has prepared for us. This study will help us to use this Lenten season to develop the skill of paying attention to God as we study the Gospel of Luke. On Sundays, you may want to reread text that tugged at you or focus on the passages used in worship. Two minutes in silence prior to reading the word is about learning to practice God's presence.

If you are just beginning, you may catch up by reading Luke, chapters 1 thru 6.

<input type="checkbox"/> Mon. 03/01/21	7:1-23	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat. 03/13/21	13:1-35
<input type="checkbox"/> Tues. 03/02/21	7:24-50	<input type="checkbox"/> Sun. 03/14/21	Rest
<input type="checkbox"/> Wed. 03/03/21	8:1-25	<input type="checkbox"/> Mon. 03/15/21	14:1-35
<input type="checkbox"/> Thurs. 03/04/21	8:26-56	<input type="checkbox"/> Tues. 03/16/21	15:1-32
<input type="checkbox"/> Fri. 03/05/21	9:1-27	<input type="checkbox"/> Wed. 03/17/21	16:1-31
<input type="checkbox"/> Sat. 03/06/21	9:28-62	<input type="checkbox"/> Thurs. 03/18/21	17:1-37
<input type="checkbox"/> Sun. 03/07/21	Rest	<input type="checkbox"/> Fri. 03/19/21	18:1-17
<input type="checkbox"/> Mon. 03/08/21	10:1-42	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat. 03/20/21	18:18-43
<input type="checkbox"/> Tues. 03/09/21	11:1-28	<input type="checkbox"/> Sun. 03/21/21	Rest
<input type="checkbox"/> Wed. 03/10/21	11:29-54	<input type="checkbox"/> Mon. 03/22/21	19:1-28
<input type="checkbox"/> Thurs. 03/11/21	12:1-32	<input type="checkbox"/> Tues. 03/23/21	19:29-48
<input type="checkbox"/> Fri. 03/12/21	12:33-59	<input type="checkbox"/> Wed. 03/24/21	20:1-26
		<input type="checkbox"/> Thurs. 03/25/21	20:27-47
		<input type="checkbox"/> Fri. 03/26/21	21:1-38
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sat. 03/27/21	22:1-23
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sun. 03/28/21	Rest
		<input type="checkbox"/> Mon. 03/29/21	22:24-53
		<input type="checkbox"/> Tues. 03/30/21	22:54-71
		<input type="checkbox"/> Wed. 03/31/21	23:1-31
		<input type="checkbox"/> Thurs. 04/01/21	23:32-56
		<input type="checkbox"/> Fri. 04/02/21	24:1-27
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sat. 04/03/21	24:28-53
		<input type="checkbox"/> Easter	Celebrate



Have you seen the large, wooden cross in the front entryway of the church? This Lenten Season, Rev. Samuel wanted to use a cross as an illustration to help us leave our burdens at the cross of Jesus Christ. Miles Straly brought this desire to fruition by hand-crafting the beautiful cross. Please stop by to see it, spend a few moments in prayer, and nail your burdens or needs to the cross. Paper, pen, nails, and a hammer are there for you to use.

MUSIC *ministry*

Music Ministry practices are Sunday evenings as follows:

5:00: 441 Quartet

6:00: Jubilation Bells

7:00: Carillon Quartet

BIBLE *study*

Bible Study meets virtually on Tuesdays, from 6 pm-7:15 every Tuesday. We eagerly welcome you to join us as we dig deeply into Scripture. Have your Bible and your questions ready. A ZOOM link will be sent. Please be sure to join us. Guests are welcome and encouraged! If you are not a member of our congregation, please contact the office so we can send the link to you. Phone 765-472-3323.

Youth @MAIN STREET



Virtual Escape Room

March 5, 7 pm

One time event

Youth Group Family Movie Day at the Roxy - Overcomer

March 28, 2 pm

Youth Group meeting at church

April 11, 4 pm-6 pm

April 25, 4 pm-6 pm

Youth Sunday

April 25

Church service(s)



Youth Group's Annual East End Opening Day Adventure
What's your favorite flavor of ice cream?



Congratulations to Esther Collie, winner of the Blair Pointe Spelling Bee!



PRESCHOOL at Main Street

Hello from Preschool! We have been extremely busy at Preschool. February we celebrated Love and Valentine's Day. March will bring Spring Break as well as talking about and celebrating Easter. We invite all of our preschool families to the Good Friday and Easter Sunday services.

Thank you for all the support and prayers you give to our Preschool.

Cami Walters
Rhonda Butzin
Koleen Murphy





PRAYER *list*

The Scripture admonishes us to pray and intercede for one another. Please remember the following member and friends in your prayers:

Family of Lori	DJ Smith	Belinda
Howard Mygrant	Bernita Goble	Scotty Fisher
Julie Carroll	Gabby	Sandra Dugan
Jack Butts	Barb Keyes	Gene Daniele
Dale Heltzel	Glenn	Lynette Combs
Doug Overmeyer	Householder	Karsen Yoder
Phyllis Jeffers	Beth Wright	Owen Townsend
Rhoda Ellers and family	Alen Burkhardt	The Family of Nelson Owens
Will Pierce	John Powell	Deb Smith
Erin Savage	Melissa Dillman	Roger Jr. Powers
Steve Butler	Betsy Guthrie	Bradley Conner
Terry Smith	Larry Yoder	Kathy Conner
Gary Loe	Kirk Thomas	Ron Lamb
Diana Perry	Keaton Worland	Mason Camden
Ashley Wright	Angela Dean	Mike Dailey
Bob Dillman	Jessica Shutter	Nina Wold
Dana Harp	Mary Courtney	Gingerich Family
Kaitlin Frick	Anna Marie Slone	Joe Slone

PRAYER *ministy team*

Prayer is the breath of the Christian life. We are committed to frequently practice the presence of Jesus and stand in the gap for others in prayer.

We pray for the thousands of people suffering from effects of the ice, snow, and cold; for those suffering from COVID and its effect on their loved ones and on our country.

We lift up our praise for those who are recovering from illness. We lift up praise for our dedicated teachers.

Please send your prayer requests to mainstprayers@gmail.com or contact Laura Hochstedler at 765-244-7031.



MARCH *birthdays*

Erin Smith	03/01
Corinne Cutler	03/04
Nancy McMinn	03/04
Douglas Rice	03/05
Alicia Garber	03/09
A.J. Jordan	03/09
Robert Doran	03/12
Austin Trevithick	03/13
Donald Krug	03/19
Betty Ann Oliphant	03/22
Cameron Smith	03/24
Terry B. Smith	03/24
Brad Smith	03/25
Donald DeWald	03/26

APRIL *birthdays*

Kenneth Cawood	04/02
Beverly DeWald	04/04
Alayne Cook	04/02
Janice Williams	04/08
Todd Smith	04/12
Denise Gornto	04/15
Christopher Smith	04/15
Kaitlin Bonifant	04/17
Nancy Huskey	04/18
Betty Wright	04/23
Melanie Giek	04/24
Peace Odubena	04/29
Connie Cutler	04/30

If your name is not on this list, please call the office as our list is very much out-of-date and we need everyone's help to correct it.

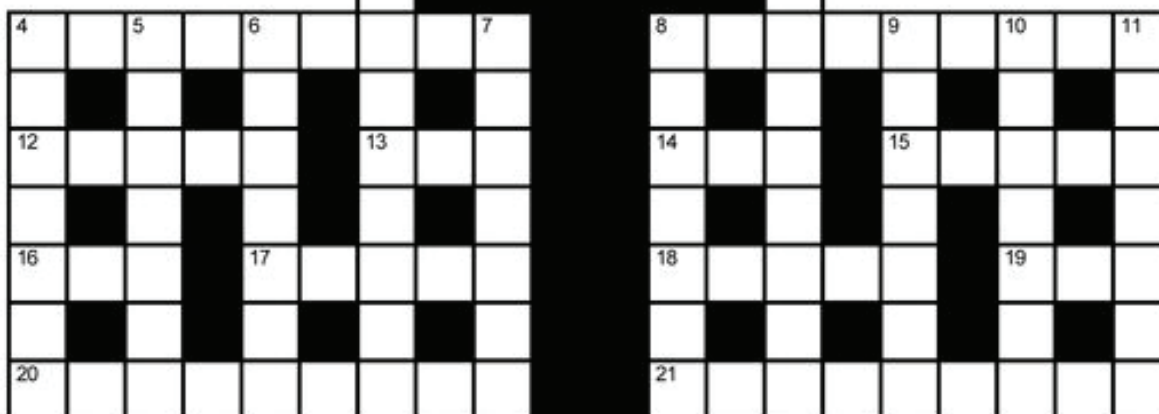
Bible Crossword X

Across

- 1 Donkey (3)
- 2 Jesus' Father (3)
- 4 One of the twelve (9)

Down

- 1 One of God's messengers (5,2,3,4)
- 3 1940s archaeological find (4,3,7)



- 8 Didn't believe in resurrection (9)
- 12 One of David's warriors (5)
- 13 First word of the Lord's Prayer (3)
- 14 New Testament name for Noah (3)
- 15 Wish harm upon (5)
- 16 Hole in the ground (3)
- 17 Adversary (5)
- 18 Savour (5)
- 19 First woman (3)
- 20 Mother of John the Baptist (9)
- 21 Family of priests (9)
- 22 Third son of Jacob (4)
- 23 Hates (8)
- 26 Assurances (8)
- 30 Endured pain (8)
- 31 Return from the dead (4)
- 32 Intercessor (8)
- 35 Decorating (8)
- 39 Old Testament book of the Bible (4)
- 40 The prince of Rosh, Mesech and Tubal (3)
- 42 A wise insect (3)
- 44 Dwelling place of kings (6)
- 45 Make bigger (8)

- 4 Tread down (7)
- 5 Father of Jonah (7)
- 6 Very salty water bordering Israel (4,3)
- 7 Defensive structures (11)
- 8 Refuges (11)
- 9 Dirty (7)
- 10 Devout (7)
- 11 Pieces of money (7)
- 24 Used to listen (3)
- 25 Used to see (3)
- 26 Positions (5)
- 27 Made available (7)
- 28 Snake (7)
- 29 Destroyed along with Gomorrah (5)
- 33 Finish (3)
- 34 Possess (3)
- 35 King of the Amalekites (4)
- 36 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 37 Almost sacrificed by Abraham (5)
- 38 Present (4)
- 41 Unfasten (4)
- 43 Fish traps (4)

<http://biblepuzzles.org.uk>

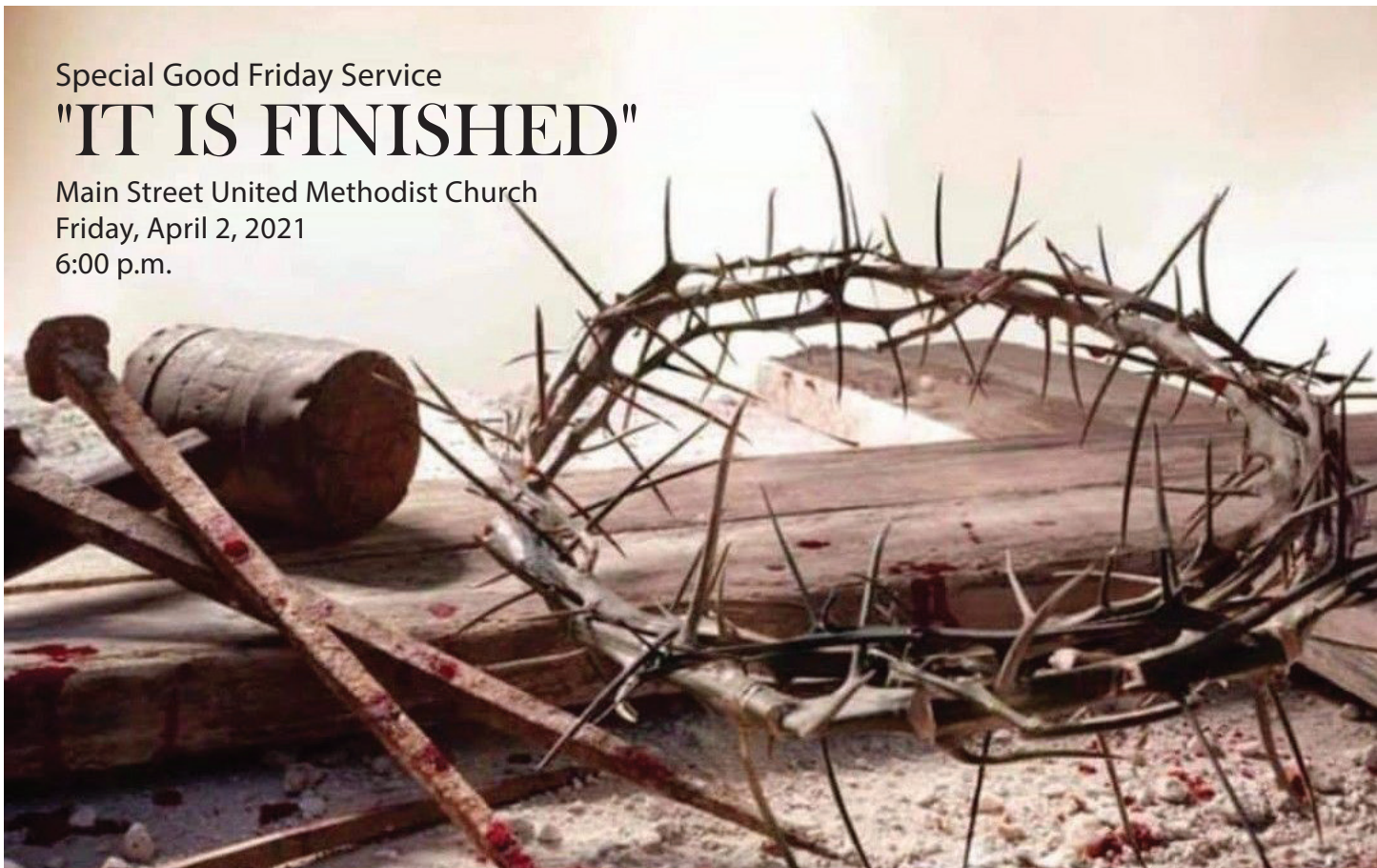
Special Good Friday Service

"IT IS FINISHED"

Main Street United Methodist Church

Friday, April 2, 2021

6:00 p.m.



MARCH *happenings*

March 1

Prayer Group 5:30 p.m.
Strategic Team 7:00 p.m.

March 2

Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

March 3

UMW Coffee 9:00 a.m.

March 5

Youth Group (VER) 4:00 p.m.

March 7

Holy Communion Service 9:00 a.m.
Adult Sunday School – after service
Youth/Children Sunday School – after service
Jubilation Bells 5:30 p.m.
Cluster Lenten service 6:30 p.m.

March 8

Staff Meeting 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Group 5:30 p.m.

March 9

Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

March 10

UMW Coffee 9:00 a.m.

March 14

Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
Adult Sunday School – after service
Youth/Children Sunday School – after service

Carillion Quartet 7:00 p.m.

March 15

Staff Meeting 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Group 5:30 p.m.

March 16

Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

March 17

UMW Coffee 9:00 a.m.
Staff Parish 7:00 p.m.

March 18

Coordinating Team 10:30 a.m.

March 21

Carillion Quartet 8:00 a.m.
Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
Adult Sunday School – after service
Youth/Children Sunday School – after service

March 22

Staff Meeting 9:30 a.m.

Prayer Group 5:30 p.m.

Newsletter Deadline
Preschool Spring Break begins (Mar. 22-
Apr. 2)

March 23

Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

March 24

UMW Coffee 9:00 a.m.

March 28

Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
Adult Sunday School – after service
Youth/Children Sunday School – after service
Youth: Family Movie day at Roxy 2:00 p.m.
Jubilation Bells 6:00 p.m.
Carillion Quartet 7:00 p.m.

March 29

Staff Meeting 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Group 5:30 p.m.

March 30

Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

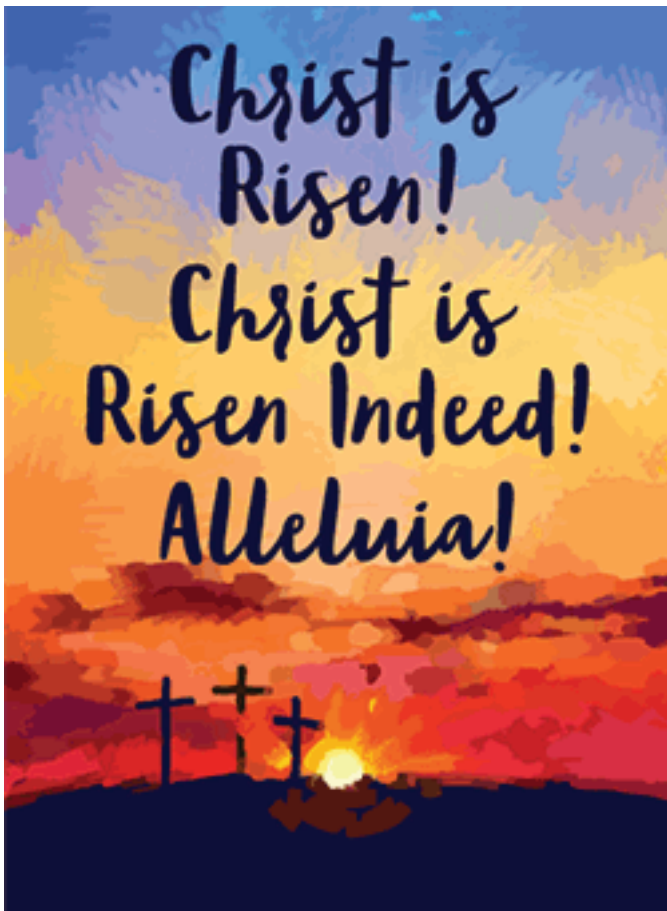
March 31

UMW Coffee 9:00 a.m.



OPEN HEARTS.
OPEN MINDS.
OPEN DOORS.
The people of
The United
Methodist Church®

MAIN ST. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
81 W. MAIN ST., PERU, IN 46970



Join us Sunday, April 4

The Empty Tomb

a Victorious Service of Christ's Resurrection

Main Street United Methodist Church
769 W. Main St., Peru
Sunday, April 4, 2021
9:00 a.m.

Main Street United Methodist Church follows CDC guidelines. Social distancing is practiced in the sanctuary. Hand sanitizer and masks are available at the entrances. We ask that you wear a mask while in the church.