

April
2022

The Samaritan

Worship Themes

Note: The overarching theme for our Lenten Series is "Journey Through Seven Paths" which has us contemplating our relationship with God through the lens of theologians through the ages.

April 3 – "Spiritual Life as Action and Contemplation"

April 10 Palm Sunday – "Spiritual Life as Divine Ascent"

April 14 Maundy Thursday @ 7:00 pm – (In-Person Only) – "Remembering"

April 15 Good Friday @ 7:00 pm (Online Only) – Stations of the Cross

April 17 Easter @ 8:30 & 10:00 am (In-Person) or Online Premiere at 10:00 am – "Longing for God"

April 24 – Good Samaritan Beliefs: "Approach to God through Jesus"



Holy Week at Good Sam!

Ukrainian Family Egg Day

Saturday, April 9 from 1:00-4:00 pm
Decorate eggs & learn about Ukraine

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 10 at 10:00 am
Celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, followed by part of the passion story to prepare us for Holy Week

Maundy Thursday Worship

Thursday, April 14 at 7:00 pm (In-Person Only)
Remember and celebrate Jesus' final meal with his disciples

Good Friday Worship

Friday, April 15 at 7:00 pm (Online Only)
Journey virtually through the Stations of the Cross

Easter Sunday

April 17 (Three opportunities to worship)
8:30 & 10:00 am (In-Person)
10:00 am (Online)

Celebrate Christ's resurrection in-person with music from the Chancel Choir with orchestra; or online with music by the Chancel Choir, Homeward Bound, and others

OUR STAFF

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Pastor's Page

What is Meaningful About the Resurrection 2000 Years Later?

One of my favorite ways to read the Bible is with an eye on the characters found in any given story. While reading with this focus, I like to reflect on which character(s) I most relate to.

Holy Week (from Palm Sunday to Easter) offers a series of stories with a multitude of characters with which to study in this manner. Palm Sunday starts with Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey. Would I have been rejoicing with the crowd, or watching with curiosity from a distance, or perhaps even the one who loaned Jesus the donkey to ride?

As we move through the week, we come to Maundy Thursday, where Jesus shares the Passover meal with his disciples. Would I have been okay with Jesus washing my feet? Would I have known what he meant when he talked about the "cup of the new covenant"? Would I have argued with the other disciples over who was the greatest? Would I be the one Jesus points out as his betrayer?

Next comes Good Friday. Would I be the one who denies Jesus like Peter did? Would I have joined the crowd with a sword or a club to help arrest Jesus? Would I have pointed out the other disciples so that they also could be arrested? When Jesus stumbled, would I help him with his cross? As part of the crowd, would I have joined in, shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" If I was Pilate, would I have handed over Jesus to be killed? As a soldier, would I have joined in the mocking, or participated in divvying up his clothing? Would I have helped Joseph of Arimathea bury Jesus in the tomb? How would I have felt at the time of his death and in the days following?

Then comes Easter morning. Would I have been one of the women who went early to the tomb, bringing fragrant spices and perfumed oils they had prepared? How would I have reacted to the empty tomb? Would I have believed the angel? Would I have told anyone else the news that the tomb was empty? Would I run like Peter to see for myself what the women reported? And later that day, when the resurrected Jesus appeared along the Road to Emmaus, would I have also recognized him in the breaking of the bread?

As the old adage goes: there are so many questions, and so little time!

Some might question the usefulness of speculating on what one would have done in a situation that occurred over 2,000 years ago. Yet when I read scripture with a keen eye on the characters, along with an imagination about what I would have done in the same situation, it enlivens the story in a new way. It also challenges me to evaluate what my faith means to me. And perhaps most importantly, it shapes how I live out my faith in today's stories in life.

(cont. on next page)

Pastor's Page

That's because even though the Holy Week story in the Bible occurred over 2,000 years ago, there are aspects of it that are quite contemporary. Parades and celebrations, Holy Communion shared in community, arguments amongst friends, betrayal between loved ones, the actions of a mob, the killing of prophetic voices, grief and sorrow, and even resurrection – all remain a part of our story today.

This leads to a new question – no longer a question about what I would have done 2,000 years ago, but a question that becomes “What am I doing today – what part in the story am I writing today?”

Friends, part of our collective story continues to be written each and every day – the story of our Twin Cities community at large, as well as the story of Good Samaritan UMC for this time and place. I encourage you to reflect on these same questions for yourself in relation to our congregation. Come to worship during Holy Week as we remember these stories and consider together some of these questions. And in so doing, be open to how God is calling you to play your unique role in what is being written today.

With you on the journey,

Pastor Carol



Add to Our Welcoming Spirit on Sunday Mornings

We have been enjoying in-person worship since September 2021. Our ushers, AV Techs, and a variety of musicians and other worship leaders have made this possible, while doing a fantastic job in seeing that our congregation feels welcomed as we gather.

We're looking to expand this feeling of welcome with a few more volunteers in the rotation. We can provide all the training you will need – most important is that you bring a willing and cheerful heart as well as a desire to serve.

Right now we're looking for the following to join in the rotation:

- 2-3 more ushers (see Janet VanBenthuyssen)
- 1-2 more AV Techs (see Christian Nielsen)

We are enjoying good energy on Sunday mornings, and would love to have you join us for worship and in these opportunities to serve.

Tell Us Your Pandemic Story

Editor's Note: Dave Kuhn met with Pastor Carol last month to share an idea for the newsletter that would highlight the experiences of our Good Samaritan community through the pandemic.

Out of that conversation comes this invitation from Dave. Submit your story to Cindy@good.org by April 15, and as these stories are compiled, Dave will serve as editor of the page.

The question: How has the pandemic changed your life? Or has it? Your family? Work life? Religious beliefs? Or...fill in the blank.

Maximum: 50 words. Some writing tips to help you start and finish:

Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?

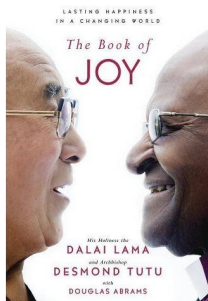
Open to all ages.

~ Dave Kuhn

Congregational Care

Congregational Care Comment

In recent weeks, I have been relieved to share space and time with members of our community from across the nation who are engaging in a virtual exploration of *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. When we first planned this study, our “changing world” seemed more to do with continuing to exist in a world altered by a pandemic slowly becoming endemic. Since that time, our world has continued to change, heartbreakingly so, as Russia invades Ukraine. All that to say, before we started I could never have imagined how much I needed this book at this time with these people. It has been a reservoir of peace, hope, and connection, when all feel desperately needed.



Whatever this Easter season brings you, I hope you too are blessed by the resources, spaces, and connections that your body, psyche, and spirit crave as a lantern in the darkness. I hope that there are sprinkles of beauty, life, and light, enough to hold, sustain, and uplift you when you need them most. Truly, I wish you the kind of lasting joy and happiness that His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu promote.

“If you develop a strong sense of concern for the well-being of all sentient beings and in particular all human beings, this will make you happy in the morning, even before coffee.” (The Dalai Lama, pg. 54, *The Book of Joy*).

Even before coffee. Amen to that!

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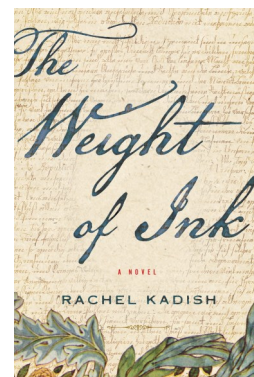
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Office Hours (Part-time, 15hrs/week):
Tuesdays 9-4pm and variable
(or by appointment) Wednesdays
and Fridays



Thursday Afternoon Book Group

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 14th at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room. We will discuss ***The Weight of Ink***, a rich literary mystery about two women scholars in London, 350 years apart, written by Rachel Kadish. Please join us for fellowship and discussion! Questions: contact Vicki Dunn (Victoria.dunn@q.com) 952-930-3431.



Edina Coalition for Grief Support Spring Series at Good Sam UMC

Good Sam will soon be hosting the Edina Coalition for Grief Support's short-term program for adults who are experiencing grief due to the death of a loved one. Per their description, the focus of this series is on education and group support in a safe and confidential environment. The Spring Series will be held Thursdays April 7-June 23rd, 2022 from 4:30-6:00pm (no meetings April 14, May 26, and June 30). For more information explore: www.edinagriefsupport.org or contact: info@edinagriefsupport.org or Bonnie Cool at 612-382-6504.

Congregational Care

An Easter Prayer

Resurrection Isn't Reversal

by Nadia-Bolz Weber (abbrev.)

Dear God,
My Easter request is this: Help us remember that resurrection isn't reversal, that as we return to life, we are carrying our own wounds from loss and isolation. But we are also emerging with new beauty and new wisdom. We are not who we were. But we do get to discover who we are. Help us not foreclose on each other. Maybe just grant us a holy curiosity for a while?

Please give me courage to trust the hope I feel right now. Save me from squandering this moment of new life. Remind me that all the fear and cynicism in the world never protects me from pain and disappointment in the way I think they will. Give us back to each other when the time is right. May we recognize you, our wounded and resurrected God, in our belly laughs and crocodile tears...and maybe ... even in each other.

Amen.

Volunteers Needed: Easter Flower delivery to our Homebound Members

Similar to our poinsettia delivery after Christmas, this Easter we will be delivering Easter flowers donated by members of the community to homebound members within our congregation. We are in need of approximately 15 volunteers who are willing to pick up a flower after worship on Easter Sunday with intent to deliver in the day or two after pick-up. These flowers may or may not be in conjunction with an Easter Bag that our Caring Ministers are putting together also for our homebound congregants. If you are willing to make a delivery, please contact Nikki with the number of household(s) you are interested in delivering to. Thank you to all who have donated flowers!

New Local Mental Health Resources: EmPATH Unit at M Health Fairview Southdale

Did you know that on March 29th a new outpatient mental health care model—the first of its kind in Minnesota and one of only a few in the country—opened at M Health Fairview Southdale?



Emergency Psychiatric Assessment, Treatment, and Healing (EmPATH) “is an innovative approach to emergency mental health care. It is designed to guide people safely through a current crisis while building coping skills that will guide them through future challenges. ... In this setting, each person will receive a nursing assessment and full evaluation by both mental health providers and psychiatry providers. Together with the patient and any available family member or loved ones, our care team works to address the crisis by trying new coping techniques, starting or adjusting medication, engaging in skills-based therapeutic interventions, and developing a plan. People will typically spend 12 to 48 hours in the EmPATH service. As patients prepare to leave the EmPATH, they will be equipped with a clearly defined care plan, next steps, and connections to follow-up resources and programs.” To learn more about the EmPATH Unit, read the full article here: <https://mhealthfairview.org/blog/minnesotas-first-empath-opens-march-29-at-m-health-fairview-southdale-hospital>.

Children, Youth and Family Ministries





CYF
CHILDREN YOUTH AND
FAMILY MINISTRIES

Jan M. Russell
(she/her)
Director of
Children, Youth &
Family Ministries
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All-Parent Meeting March 9th Minutes

We brainstormed activities for children and youth and where those events could overlap both demographics. A lengthy list was compiled.

We decided to concentrate on an event in April and one in May for all ages. April will be a Family Ukrainian Egg Day and May will be Bonfire and S'more afternoon.

Summer programming will include VBS on June 27th to 30th. Serve MSP for Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers August 3rd to 5th. We are working with the ASP committee to put together an ASP at Home event similar to the one in June of 2021. It will be a 2 to 3 day event mid June 2022.

Elementary Sunday school has started and will continue until May 22nd. Youth Sunday School will start up this fall.

Thanks to all parents who attended or emailed suggestions.



SERVE MSP!



- Youth, grades 6-12, are invited to join in the second annual Serve MSP August 3-5, 2022.
- Save the date! Sign up details are coming soon!





Vacation Bible School

June 27-30, 2022
9:00am-4:00pm

Participants: 4 years old
to 4th grade
Volunteers: 5th grade
to adult!



Missions Team

Help the People of Ukraine Through UMCOR



The United Methodist Committee on Relief, or UMCOR, is working in more than 80 countries worldwide. Their mission is to alleviate human suffering - whether caused by war, conflict, or natural disaster - so they address hunger, poverty, housing for refugees, and global health issues. UMCOR responds to disasters that are interruptions of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own – **Ukraine** unfortunately is certainly in this situation! UMCOR is a 501(c)(3) organization, with an IRS ruling in 1974. **Charity Navigator gives UMCOR a 4/4 star and 90.9% rating**, so you can feel good about giving!

As the humanitarian relief arm of Global Ministries, UMCOR works tirelessly to actively coordinate the humanitarian response in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. UMCOR is assisting internally displaced people (IDP) and refugees within and from Ukraine with food, water, shelter and other needs through its International Disaster Response and Recovery (IDR) fund.

Gifts to support the people of Ukraine through UMCOR can be made right at our Good Sam website homepage at **www.good.org**: Click on "Give a Gift" in the drop-down menu under **GIVE**. Fill in your name and the amount and then click on "GS Missions" in the drop-down menu under **FUND**. Then a SUB FUND window will open where you can choose **UMCOR**.



Help for Afghan Families

The Missions Team has officially become "Befrienders" to Afghan refugees through the MN Council of Churches' agency, called Refugee Services.

JoAnn Knutson and Pat Deckas Becerra now visit two families about once a week to take them shopping or to doctor's appointments.

Anahita's baby's due date is in early May, so we've been

collecting a lot of baby things for her.

We're lucky that Franci, who lived in Afghanistan for two years, volunteers as an interpreter, and she usually accompanies us.



Brian Boysen and Roy Moeller have been doing a lot of heavy lifting bringing about eight van loads and even some trailer loads of furniture and furnishings to these needy people and several other families. Claire Gause, Tom Bredahl and Noah Oehlke also helped on one long Saturday, too.

Missions Team

How You Can Help Struggling Families Through Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative

550,000 Minnesotans - from every corner of the state - are at risk of losing their home every month because the rent is too high. Beacon is proud to join more than 30 organizations across the state who champion and endorse the rent support legislation called **Bring it Home, Minnesota**. It is gaining momentum! Just email your legislators - Beacon will give you the 1-2 sentence



scripts asking them to vote for Bring it Home MN.

Minnesota has a surplus of \$9.25 billion and this bill would only need \$400 million. Check it out at the Beacon website.



We know Beacon mainly through their Families Moving Forward program but they do many other things like this one. Please help by joining Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative for their monthly half-hour zoom **"Rent is Due: Day of Action"** on Monday, May 2 at 8:30am. In 15 minutes, you'll hear the exciting updates about this \$400 million bill and then have 15 minutes to follow their easy "Action Steps" that really can make a difference. Beacon hosts this at the beginning of every month. They also have a short weekly update online every Wednesday at 2:00 – 2:30 called "BEACON NOW". Just go to Beacon's website and look for it.

Educational Games Needed

The African school that we have been supporting doesn't have very many educational games for their students. Please bring to church any educational games you are not using. They should be only gently used and complete games such as Scrabble, math or word flashcards. Hennepin Avenue UMC will ship them in April to this school in Baiwalla, Sierra Leone.



Feed My Starving Children Service Opportunity



Our next packing date at the Chanhassen site is

- Wednesday, April 13, 9:00-10:45am

Let Jane Heimerl know by Monday, April 11 if you would like to volunteer. 952-933-6628 or jane.heimerl@yahoo.com.

Finance Team

Financial Update

The following table shows Good Samaritan's Finances through February. We appreciate your support of our church. To make a gift or pledge, go to www.good.org/give.

	February Actuals	February Budget	YTD vs Budget
Income	\$43,637	\$51,360	(\$25,141)
Expense	\$55,690	\$56,583	(\$5,509)
Net	(\$12,053)	(\$5,223)	(\$19,632)

Good Samaritan Foundation

Your Gifts Sustain Good Samaritan Foundation

The Good Samaritan Foundation Board met in February for its first quarter meeting. Pat Deckas Bercerra and Sam Verduci were welcomed as new members to the Board.

The Foundation fund totals as of 02/15/2022 were: Outreach Fund \$290,557, The Cornerstone Fund \$41,104 and the Evergreen Fund \$167,664. The Cornerstone Fund received two generous gifts totaling \$5500 in February – a big thank you to the donors. The Cornerstone Fund is to be used at the request of the Trustees for expenses and projects for improvements and repairs to the church building and grounds that are not in the annual budget.

A grant request was received for camperships at Star Lake Wilderness Camp for children and youth in the Cass Lake area. The camp area is now a protected property through Minnesota Land Trust and run by an independent non-profit. A grant of \$2500 from the Outreach Fund was approved and will be matched by a No Child Left Behind grant.

Would you like to make a donation or legacy gift to The Good Samaritan Foundation? Gifts to the Good Samaritan Foundation can be provided through bequests in wills, trusts, memorials, life insurance, annuities, cash, stocks, bonds and minimum required distributions. The Foundation cannot accept gifts of real estate. Any amount is welcome. With the help of your estate and/or tax advisor, gifts can be planned to take advantage of tax-reduction or deferral strategies to the donor, estate, or heirs.

Gifts to The Foundation sustain the ministries of Good Samaritan UMC. For more information, please contact Claudia



Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

Recognition for Dan Green

We were delighted to have Dan Rogers Green, our Building Engineer, join us in worship on March 13, along with his whole family, so that SPRC and the Board of Trustees could recognize his contributions to Good Samaritan Church over the years, especially during the pandemic when he was often the only one in the building. We presented Dan a beautiful, framed photo of the church building (photo credit Dandy Lewis), and many of you signed the mat to provide a tangible symbol of the breadth of our appreciation.

When you go through as many staffing changes as we have done in the past two years, it's easy to focus on fixing the gaps and getting the new staff in place, and one tends to take for granted those who steadily remain, doing excellent work every day. We wanted to make sure we don't take Dan for granted. Dan is consistently helpful and friendly, and just about the best representative of what Good Sam aspires to be in his interactions with our congregation and the outside groups that use our church. He's been with us more than 10 years, deliberately acquiring new skills over that time to increase his ability to maintain our building and grounds, justifying the elevation of his title to "Building Engineer."



Thank you for your service, Dan!

~ Caroline Carlin, Chair of SPRC

~ Rick Evans, Chair of Trustees

Farewell to Kay Turner

After three years serving as our Office Manager, we said farewell to Kay Turner on Wednesday, March 30. She has been a welcome voice over the phone throughout the pandemic, while also overseeing the deposits and other office related matters. We offer our gratitude for her tenure here, and we wish her all the best.

Trustees

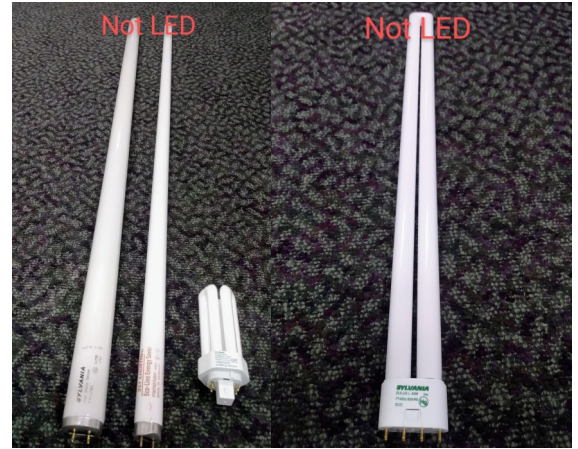
Maintenance Minute

“How We Are Seeing the Light”

Most of the light fixtures in our church building are original to all three builds Good Samaritan has had, with the oldest fixtures being in the preschool wing. Most fixtures in the building use a bulb type called T12 or T8 fluorescent. These are the tubular types you will see in many commercial buildings.



Within the last six years we have been able to retrofit many of those fixtures to use LED bulbs. In the light fixture there is a light ballast. This essentially pushes power to bulbs to allow them to illuminate. In the rooms that we have been retrofitted to LED, we have been able to eliminate the light ballast as LED bulbs have an internal ballast.



The rooms we have changed to LED bulbs are the Fellowship Hall, Fireside Room, the Gym, and all of the outdoor lights. This has lowered our electric bill significantly.

Soon we hope to switch to LEDs in the narthex and the sanctuary! LED bulbs have dropped a lot in price compared to when they first came out. I would highly recommend everyone change to LED in their homes! Here are a few pictures of the bulbs Good Sam uses and a light ballast.



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Nonprofit Organization

U.S. Postage

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Twin Cities, MN

Permit No. 2518

Return Service Requested



OUR VISION

INSPIRING
Joyful Faith

BUILDING
a Loving
Community

SERVING
Neighbors Near
and Far

WORSHIP AT GOOD SAMARITAN

Sunday Worship	10:00 am (In-Person and Online)
Nursery	Infants - Age 3
Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School is held during worship, following the Passing of the Peace.
Youth Sunday School	Postponed until Fall.

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday	9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Phone	(952) 929-0049