

April  
2023

# The Samaritan

## Worship Themes

April 2 - Palm Sunday /  
Communion / "The  
Lord's Prayer:  
Triumphant"

April 6 (7:00pm) -  
Maundy Thursday /  
Communion

April 7 (online only) -  
Good Friday Tenebrae

April 9 (8:30 & 10:00am)  
- Easter

April 16 - "Voices from  
Acts: Witnesses"

April 23 - "Voices from  
Acts: Saul & Ananias"

April 30 - "Voices from  
Acts: Tabitha"



## *Palm Sunday, April 2*

10:00am Worship with Communion  
(in-person & online)

## *Maundy Thursday, April 6*

7:00pm Worship with Communion  
(in-person only)

## *Good Friday, April 7*

7:00pm Worship  
(online only)

## *Easter Sunday, April 9*

8:30am & 10:00am Worship  
(in-person & online)



## OUR STAFF

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# Pastor's Page

A dear friend of mine came to Good Sam for worship the other day. It had been a while since they had been to a church, as they had a painful experience with the last church they were associated with. During our conversation after worship, my friend talked about *how good it felt* to be at Good Sam that day.

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) has been updating our Church Profile, which is a document that talks about the community we are in, shares what difference our church is making in the world, and identifies some of the characteristics of our congregation, which includes our strengths and growing edges. While updating the document, we had some discussion around the culture in our congregation, and how it is *feeling kinder and less critical than at times in the past*. "We are changing," was the conclusion. I would say this is a great change!

I want to acknowledge your fine work in this shift. While working on the culture was a priority I named a year ago, it has been your willingness to do the hard work that has made the difference. We have been following the Rule of Christ based on Matthew 18, which has us talking directly to the person we have a disagreement with instead of gossiping with all our friends and never telling the other person about our concerns. We have been participating in kindness meditations in worship that help us grow in our ability to see ourselves and those around us through the lens of love with which God sees us. We have volunteers willing to make a commitment to serve as ushers, AV techs, liturgists and serve coffee for fellowship time; all of which make for a welcome atmosphere on Sunday mornings. Staff and volunteer leaders have been collaborating and cooperating with each other to accomplish our shared goals. I want to thank you for your part in making these changes. These differences are what made my friend's presence on that Sunday morning feel like the beginning of healing for them. And really, isn't that the reason for church? I do think it is what God would want for the Body of Christ.

This month is Easter. We are preparing to celebrate Christ's Resurrection! The word *resurrection* comes from the Latin *resurgere*, which means to "rise again." We often think of resurrection in terms of transformation and new beginnings, And we recognize that such transformation, rebirth, new beginnings and rising again are still the work of God in our world today. Even hymn #304 identifies us as "Easter People," called to raise our voices. We are experiencing such resurrection here at Good Sam. So if you haven't been for awhile to check it out, I want to personally invite you to return a few times over the next two months. Come and be a part of what God is doing here! As you do, I pray that you will be part of this transformation, and also receive the healing that Christ brings.



*Pastor Carol*

# Music

## Children's Choir Returns

Children preschool age and up are invited to join the Children's Choir preparing songs for in-person worship on Mother's Day, May 14. Grandchildren and children from the neighborhood are welcome!



Rehearsals begin Wednesdays, April 12, 6:00-7:00pm in the Children's Choir Room 155 in the Music Wing on the lower level. We will work on a couple of anthems to sing as well as enjoy musical games and activities.

The choir will be lead by our own Office Manager, Cindy Bergstrom. She has a degree in music education and over 30 years' experience working with children's choirs.

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## Homeward Bound Gigs This Summer

- Monday, June 26, 6:00-8:00 pm: HB Live at the "Music on Marschall" Festival, First Presbyterian Church, 909 Marschall Road, Shakopee MN 55379

This is an outdoor festival with food, music, and a farmer's market, just 20 minutes from Good Sam. The band played a similar festival there last fall, and this is our return engagement. Friends of the band are welcome to join!

- Wednesday, July 5, 7:00-8:00pm: HB Live at Centennial Lakes Amphitheatre, 7499 France Ave S, Edina MN 55435

This is our annual gig at the Maetzold Amphitheatre on beautiful Centennial Lakes in Edina. We have performed there every summer for nearly a decade and always enjoy it. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and a beverage of your choice, and enjoy an hour of feel-good music from your favorite band.

- Wednesday, July 12, 7:30-9:00pm: HB Live at Lake Harriet Bandshell, 4135 W Lake Harriet Pkwy, Minneapolis MN 55409



The band is *thrilled* to announce our debut at the biggest free music concert venue in the state, the beautiful Lake Harriet Bandshell. We have participated in the Minneapolis Music in the Parks series for several years, "paying our dues" with online performances (during the pandemic) and shows at smaller Minneapolis park venues. Now your favorite band has finally arrived at the biggest non-paying gig in the Twin Cities! Come early to get a good spot, either on one of the many state fair-type benches available or just on the lawn. Refreshments are available as well, or feel free to bring your own. The band is nervous but excited to make their debut on this large and beautiful stage!

All of these performances are FREE and OUTDOORS (weather permitting of course) -- please save these dates on your calendars, and we look forward to seeing our Good Sam friends this summer!

Cheers, Brad Carlin

# Congregational Care

## Congregational Care Comment: Boundless Compassion

This spring, a small group of us have been gathering over Zoom biweekly to explore together Gregory Boyle's *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*. In it, he writes:

Mother Theresa told a roomful of lepers once how loved by God they were and a "gift to the rest of us." Interrupting her, an old leper raises his hand, and she calls on him. "Could you repeat that again? It did me good. So, would you mind... just saying it again." (pg. 46).

When I think about the power of boundless compassion, of Easter, of a season of resurrection and life, I am struck by the significance of receiving that which is most life-giving for us. That which does us good.

A few years ago, IKEA did an interesting experiment leading up to Anti-Bullying Day. The experiment, called "Bully A Plant," involved two seemingly identical plants, receiving the same amount of light, nutrition, and water. The only difference being that the plants, both placed in the same school, were for thirty days subject to either being complimented or bullied by the students:

The students' comments were fed through speakers rigged into each enclosure. They were encouraged to record their words of praise, and to record their insults or send them via social media. A recording device then transmitted the messages to each plant. After 30 days, the plant that received compliments was healthy and thriving, while its insult-riddled counterpart was wilted and noticeably droopy.

(Taken from: <https://globalnews.ca/news/4217594/bully-a-plant-ikea/>)

While the research on speaking to plants itself remains inconclusive, our human experience

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(or by appointment) Tuesdays  
and Fridays



tells us how much truth there is in this. "Could you repeat that again? It did me some good." We know that kind, loving, encouraging words nurture us. We can picture the look on a child's face when either shamed or uplifted. We can picture ourselves either shrinking or standing tall in response to judgment or affirmation.

Isn't resurrection after all about coming to life? Just like a healthy, thriving plant, we too can be enriched by sources of compassion and love in our midst. In the same way, the opposite can serve to be life-depleting.

In our world today, "bullying" and critique seem to come so readily. If we're being honest with ourselves, none of us is completely free of the temptation to cast judgment on others. And yet, we always have the capacity to grow in love. By only our second gathering, one of our small group participants shared already finding herself to be more compassionate to people in her life that she generally has a hard time liking very much. Perhaps things shift when we remember that all people, even and perhaps

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# Congregational Care

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the “lepers” among us, are loved by God and a gift to the rest of us. What more might shift when we consider that our “enemies” too are loved by God and perhaps are even a gift to the rest of us?

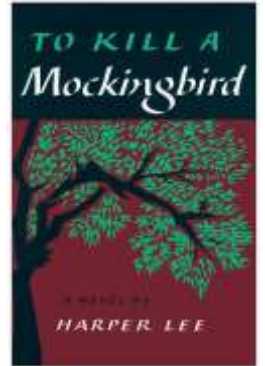
In what ways in your life are you being invited to give or to receive boundless compassion? In what ways are you being invited to give or receive that which is most life-giving and affirming to others? What are the “plants” you are being invited to uplift with praise?

Sending you all light, love, and words that do you good,  
Nikki Holm

*(Watch the full IKEA ad: <https://tinyurl.com/yrnh8jzn>)*

## Tuesday Afternoon Book Group

Our April meeting will be on April 13th at 1:00 in the Fireside Room. We will discuss the classic and “banned” book *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, the Pulitzer Prize-winning story of racial injustice in a small Southern town. Please join us for fellowship and discussion. Contact: Vicki Dunn, [victoria.dunn@q.com](mailto:victoria.dunn@q.com), 952-930-3431.



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## Welcome New Members



We were blessed to welcome Gary and Maurlei Chinn into membership at Good Samaritan UMC during in-person worship on Sunday, February 26, 2023. Gary also was baptized that morning, along with their daughter Lumi.

Maurlei was born in Burbank, California, and Gary grew up in Seattle, Washington. Maurlei went to college in Seattle. They met there while working at a Juice Bar, and eventually moved to Minnesota.

Gary enjoys playing basketball at Good Sam on Sunday afternoons, while Maurlei likes to bake, crochet and garden. Gary and Maurlei both enjoy game nights, especially card games and trivia, as well as language learning. Both speak Spanish and have taken Swedish classes. Lumi is a regular delight in the nursery, where she has lots of fun.

Maurlei and Gary cited our openness and alignment with their values, along with the spiritual and social opportunities for growth, as reasons they chose Good Samaritan UMC. A warm welcome to our newest family at Good Sam!

*Editor's note: If you have been considering either baptism or membership here at Good Samaritan UMC, please reach out to Pastor Carol on Sunday, or email [carol@good.org](mailto:carol@good.org).*

# Children, Youth and Family Ministries



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## Vacation Bible School

Save the date! June 26 - 29!

Register now at  
[good.org/event/vacation-bible-school-vbs/](http://good.org/event/vacation-bible-school-vbs/)

Ready for some fun with the ultimate hero team? Hero Hotline VBS invites children to answer the call to serve God together. Join the Professor and Super Meer as young Heroes learn



to strive for the things that bring peace and build each other up. This VBS opens kids' eyes to the countless ways God provides for Bible Heroes through teams of supporting Heroes who help make the mission possible through Following Jesus, Helping Others, Working Together, Listening to God, and Showing Grace. Bring a friend, reconnect with your friends, and make new friends, too! Hennepin Ave UMC will be our co-hosts as we explore all of the outdoor space that Good Sam has to offer! This adventure is for kids ages 3 years-4th grade. We welcome kids 5th grade and older as Youth Leaders, and we need Adult Helpers, too! Participants will need a water bottle and a sack lunch. Cost for VBS is \$55 for 1 child -\$100 for a family. Scholarships are available.



April 2  
Palm Parade during  
in-person worship  
at 10:00am.  
Please arrive by  
9:45am.



## Adaptive Vacation Bible Camp

Operation Restoration August 7-10, 2023  
Eden Prairie United Methodist Church

We are partnering with Eden Prairie UMC to offer an Adaptive Summer Bible Camp. This experience supports kids with social, communication, and sensory needs. Children will enjoy games, fun and creative learning with trained volunteers. Adaptive Camp is for children 3.5 years and older. There is no charge. Registration is coming soon. Contact Jan with any questions.

# Missions Team

## Earth Day 2023: Invest in Our Planet



Saturday, April 22 is Earth Day. The theme for this year's celebration is "Invest in Our Planet," and it focuses on engaging governments, institutions, businesses, and us citizens.

Some of the easy ways we can help sustain our planet are by reusing and recycling, composting, using fewer plastics, cutting down on what we throw away, conserving water and not sending chemicals into our waterways, planting trees and also plants that attract bees and other pollinators, shopping wisely, using long-lasting light bulbs, and volunteering for cleanups in our community.

In our community alone, over 2,939.68 tons of waste has been diverted from the landfills because of Edina's Organics Recycling program that was started in June 2020. To get more information about this program just go to the Edina Website: <https://www.edinamn.gov/1638/Organics-Recycling>. Free rolls of compostable bags are available at the Edina Senior Center reception area. While it may not be possible to do all of these things, we should try to pick areas where we can make a difference. The future of our earth depends on all of us. See [earthday.org](http://earthday.org) for more information.



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## Recycling & Organics Reminders

Befitting Earth Day, the Missions Team encourages everyone to review these suggestions to help you recycle, reuse, and recycle organics better.

- Our recycling containers at church are blue.
- Black plastic cannot be put in any recycling bin due to color and toxic metals. Put them in the trash.
- Paper plates are not recyclable due to a coating, and even uncoated plates are not recyclable after being contaminated with food. But uncoated paper plates can be put in organics after use.
- Lists of items that can and cannot go in your organics cart can be found at <https://www.edinamn.gov/1638/Organics-Recycling>.
- Pizza boxes can be put in organics or put in the garbage. Do not put pizza boxes in regular recycling because of food contamination.
- Plastic bags can be brought to retailers that offer plastic bag recycling (many grocery stores, etc.). Don't put plastic bags in a recycling bin. They clog up the recycling equipment. Plastic shipping bags, bubble wrap, air pillows, and plastic cereal bag liners can also be recycled with plastic bags taken to retailers. Any small, soft, and stretchy plastic film can be recycled.

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# Missions Team

- Plastic candy wrappers or bags that are noisy when crinkled, such as tortilla chip bags are not recyclable.
- Anything with mixed paper/plastic/metal is not recyclable.
- Items from your organics cart are composted to become especially rich soil. The City of Edina gives out 10 free bags to any city resident each summer.
- Good Sam does not, as yet, recycle organics, but you are welcome to take them home to your compost bin.
- Our current cups at church, both cold and hot cups, are not recyclable or compostable due to plastic coating. Plastic lids and cardboard sleeves are recyclable.

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## The Good Samaritan Collection Corner

Here are some helpful tips for our collection area, lower level, at the bottom of the stairs next to the elevator:

- We have a plastic box for recycling glasses, sunglasses, and cases. They are fitted and handed out to people who can't afford glasses.
- We have a box for yarn and fabric. You are always welcome to donate yarn or fabric, or to take some from the box for any project to help people. There are two big bags of yarn there right now!
- Please double bag your food donations. We bring them to the Joyce Uptown Food Shelf or the VEAP Food Shelf in Bloomington.
- The food shelves LOVE to get paper grocery bags. They are expensive, so it saves them money. Large reusable bags are great too!
- Check the expiration date since food more than one year past the expiration date must be thrown away for safety reasons.
- Please check with a Mission Team member before donating electronics or furniture.
- Monetary donations are also always welcome - just specify in the memo line where you want the money to go.



### Service Opportunities

Volunteer at the Chanhassen site  
(18932 Lake Dr E):

Wednesday, April 12 - 9:00-10:45am  
Friday, April 28 - 7:00-8:45pm

Sign up with Jane Heimerl at  
jane.heimerl@yahoo.com  
by two days before. Space is limited!

### Food Drive

We conclude this year's Minnesota FoodShare Month food drive Sunday, April 9. Please bring your non-perishable items and place in the bin in the narthex, or give a donation at [good.org/give](http://good.org/give) (select GS Missions and then the desired food shelf) or by sending a check to the church office with either VEAP or Joyce Food Shelf in the memo. Thank you!



# Appalachia Service Project

## Culture Night

Wednesday, April 19 | 6:30pm to 8:30pm  
Fellowship Hall

Good Sam's ASP Service Project trip will be July 22-29, 2023. So what's the point of Culture night? It is designed to give an overview of how a family is selected for their property to be in the program, and to discuss how the ASP's 3-S's guide the trip.

The first activity is an exercise where we will divide into groups and review what a family must submit to be included in the program - typically the information about the family structure and what needs to be fixed on their home. We'll review five applications and we must choose which family is going to be in the program. While this exercise is theoretical, it is based in reality. We'll see the variety of issues that families are dealing with and how difficult it is to choose between projects.

We will then move on to discussing ASP's 3-S's - Sensitivity, Safety and Stewardship.

Appalachia is a region that has a very different culture than Minnesota. We'll discuss ways to show respect, and things you should do and not do. This is the first time many participants experience such extreme poverty. We are there to learn from each other.

Preserving the dignity of the family is of the highest importance. Building a relationship with the family based on mutual respect is key.

We are responsible for the safety of the crew and the family we are helping. We will discuss the best practices of how to keep everyone safe, who will use what tools and what safety precautions we will implement. From weather to animals to clothing, keeping us all safe in all aspects of the trip is critical.



The materials and resources that we will use need to be carefully and responsibly managed. From the job site to the places we stay, we want to be mindful stewards of everything we use. We will measure twice and cut once, and conserve resources where we can. Returning mission team friends will walk us through a typical day at ASP.

While this evening is designed for mission trip participants and their grown ups, if you are interested or curious, we invite you to attend!

For more information on this year's trip, go to <https://good.org/event/asp/>.

## Finance

Here is the table of financial results through the end of February. As is typical, our church starts the year with pledges received the prior year (for tax purposes), inflating our YTD numbers, while giving us a "cash cushion" for the first half of the year.

	March Actuals	March Plan	Year-to-Date
Income	\$ 38,049	\$ 39,306	\$ 152,452
Expense	\$ 54,690	\$ 54,825	\$ 109,917
Net	\$ (16,642)	\$ (15,519)	\$ 42,536

We are managing expenses well – and have solid income from Facility Use fees. We are however, short on Pledged Income to budget.

If you have not yet turned in a 2023 pledge card – it is NOT too late, Go to <https://good.org/give/make-a-pledge/>. Thank you to all for your continued support of Good Samaritan. ~ Byron Olson

# Trustees

## Maintenance Minute: A Slippery Time!

Wow, what a snowy winter it has been! Between our lot plowing and salting company, to myself who takes care of all the sidewalk snow removal and salting, we've been quite busy!

Over these next few weeks, we are likely to see quite a bit of melting and refreezing. Our parking lots are less than ideal for this, due to the slope that they have. This is something to be cautiously aware of. The bottom lot will melt from the southwest corner (top of the slope, closest to the building) and run down the middle of it to the bottom of the lot, creating a thin layer of ice.

One of the biggest issues is that in that southwest corner area, there is very little sun, causing the ice to melt very slowly. I may be coning off some of the first few parking spaces there as needed, due to the ice build-up and slipping hazard. The ice gets so thick just in that corner, that even salt will not help much. For the past few years, I have had our plowing company try their best on pushing all snow to the lowest part of the lots, to help prevent the ice that forms. I also use chicken grit on problematic areas of the sidewalks. I prefer grit over sand because it gives better traction and the grit will not wash away as easily as sand.

So, with all of this said, whether you are coming to Good Sam or just going to the grocery store these next few weeks, be aware of your surroundings and keep an eye out for icy spots anywhere you go. When in doubt, do the penguin walk wherever it's slippery!

Dan Green  
(he/him)

Building Engineer  
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- wear footwear with traction
- watch where you are stepping
- use special care when entering or exiting vehicles
- keep your center of gravity on your front leg
- bend your knees slightly, point toes out, walk flat-footed
- take short steps or shuffle
- extend your arms out to maintain balance
- walk S-L-O-W-L-Y

# Easter Word Search

FIND THE HIDDEN WORDS

C E W R I S E N T O M B A R R  
R M C B M A L Q F Q Q V N E O  
O R A I G O L G O T H A G S B  
S D E I F I C U R C L E E U B  
S O N Y S I S E L L A A L R E  
E O L U A I R A B G Y S Q R R  
N T S D N R I C E O A T F E S  
T E A L I N P T A H R E T C D  
J E E L E E H F P S T R S T O  
C S M D I S R A Z R E L E I G  
S R Q P E P I T N W B S R O D  
E B O M L A L E P S O G R N A  
U V A W C E N I W T R I A L E  
K N O K N E M R E P P U S S R  
E S I L V E R E N O T S X L B

ANGEL

DENIAL

LOVE

SILVER

ARREST

EASTER

PILATE

SINLESS

BETRAYAL

GETHSEMANE

PRAYER

SOLDIER

BREAD

GOD

RESURRECTION

STONE

CAIAPHAS

GOLGOTHA

RISEN

SUPPER

CROSS

GOSPEL

ROBBERS

TEMPLE

CROWN

JESUS

ROBE

TOMB

CRUCIFIED

LAMB

SACRIFICE

TRIAL



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**OUR VISION**

INSPIRING  
 Joyful Faith

BUILDING  
 a Loving  
 Community

SERVING  
 Neighbors Near  
 and Far

SUNDAYS

Worship  
 10:00am (In-person and Online)

Nursery  
 9:45-11:30am, Infants - Age 3

Sunday School (Children & Youth)  
 Held during worship following  
 Children's Time. All are welcome!

WEDNESDAYS

(Nursery open from 5:45-9:00pm)

6:00pm

- Chancel Chimes Rehearsal
- Caregivers (2nd Wednesdays)

7:00pm

- Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Youth Activities

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE HOURS

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