

April
2024

The Samaritan

Worship Themes

April 7 - Communion /
Fruit of the Spirit - Love

April 14 -
Fruit of the Spirit - Joy

April 21 -
Fruit of the Spirit -
Peace

April 28 -
Fruit of the Spirit -
Patience

Spring Social

WITH
HOMEWARD
BOUND

Good Music,
People, and
Dessert

Friday, April 12

7:00 - 8:45 PM

Fellowship Hall



RSVP TO SAVE YOUR SPOT

Join us for a lovely evening of music and fellowship.

Our own Homeward Bound band will provide two sets of family-friendly music and we will have an intermission with desserts, coffee, and lemonade.

A free-will offering will benefit the Good Sam music department.

OUR STAFF

Rev. Carol Zaagsma
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Pastor's Page

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus...." (Matthew 28:5)

Have you ever looked for Jesus...really looked for Jesus? It's perhaps an easy question for the early believers, as they could look for (and find) Jesus on the mountain, on the plain, in the wilderness, in the garden, outside the gate, in the cities, in the villages, in the boat, by the sea, on the sea, in the house, in the synagogues. People who looked for Jesus could find him in any number of different places.

Do you suppose the same could be true today? Where do you look for Jesus?

At daybreak on that first Easter morning, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph went to see the tomb...they went, as the angel said, "looking for Jesus." They knew where he was buried, and they expected Jesus' body to be inside the tomb. The last thing they expected was for an angel to be there, sitting on the rolled-back stone, with Jesus' body gone! After all, how and why wouldn't they find what they were looking for? But the angel tells them that Jesus is going on ahead to Galilee, where they will see him.

Now, we know the rest of the story, as it is told in the Bible, that is. After a few post-resurrection sightings, Mark and Luke report the ascension of Jesus into heaven. And we are assured in Matthew of Jesus' promise that "I am with you always, to the end of the age."

So, what does it mean to look for Jesus after the resurrection story? Where are you looking for Jesus today?

I hope you are looking for (well, not only that...for I hope you are also seeing) the Risen Christ in the places you go and in the people you meet. The Risen Christ is visible wherever you see beloved community being created, wherever you see justice and reconciliation being pursued, wherever you see grace and compassion shared. I hope you've considered the Risen Christ when contemplating the living questions we explored here during Lent: "Who Am I?" or "What Do I Love?" or "What is My Gift to the Family of Earth?" or "How Shall I Live, Knowing I Will Die?" or "Who Are We Together with God?"

I hope you see the Risen Christ here at Good Sam when you come for worship or study or rehearsals or meetings. I hope you see the Risen Christ when working together with others in mission. I hope you see the Risen Christ in those you serve in acts of hospitality. And I hope you see the Risen Christ in yourself.

Here is an excerpt from Saint Teresa of Avila's poem "Christ Has No Body":
Christ has no body but yours - No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks - Compassion on this world.



As you go looking for the One who is "with us always, to the end of the age," look with such eyes of compassion...and I'm pretty sure you'll see the Risen Christ in those you meet, and they'll see the Risen Christ right back in you. Praise be to God!

With joy and compassion,

Pastor Carol

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Send Off for Pastor Carol

We would like you to be a part of Pastor Carol's last Sunday with us as our Lead Pastor so we can send her off in style as she takes on the role of Assistant to the Bishop for Connectional Ministries in the Minnesota Annual Conference. The date is Sunday, May 19, 2024, which is Pentecost Sunday.

Come and hear Pastor Carol preach that morning and attend a reception with coffee and cake afterwards in Fellowship Hall. We will have baskets where you may drop off cards and letters of well wishes to Pastor Carol. In addition, you are invited to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund; this will be a wonderful way to thank Pastor Carol for her three years serving us at Good Sam while contributing to a fund that will allow our incoming Pastor Max the opportunity to fund non-budgeted ministry projects within our church. To contribute, make your check payable to Good Samaritan UMC and write "Pastor's Discretionary Fund" in the memo; or give securely online at www.good.org/give and select "Financial Gift" from the fund menu, and then write in "Pastor's Discretionary Fund" in the "Gift for" box.

We have a transition plan in place prior to Pastor Max's arrival on Sunday, June 30, 2024. Rev. Cindy Gregorson, who has been supervising Pastor Carol and led SPRC through the discernment process related to our pastoral transition, will preach Memorial Day Weekend. Rev. Melanie Homan, who preached during outdoor worship last summer (you may remember her sermon as part of our National Parks worship series), will be preaching the first four Sundays in June.

We are grateful for our time with Pastor Carol, and hope you will note these important dates on your calendar and plan now to attend.

~David Litteken, SPRC Chair

News from the UMC

General Conference News

General Conference will be held April 23-May 3 at the Convention Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. General Conference is the only body that can set official policy and speak for The United Methodist Church. It meets every four years, or each quadrennium; and after several pandemic delays, it appears General Conference will now convene as planned.

The *Book of Discipline* requires between 600 and 1,000 delegates, half laity and half clergy, with the number of delegates from each annual or central conference being determined by membership numbers. Pastor Carol was elected in 2019 to serve as the clergy delegate from Minnesota.

Any clergy or layperson in the United Methodist Church may submit legislation. This General Conference has 1,099 valid petitions to make decisions on.

All legislation is assigned to one of thirteen legislative committees. Each delegate is also assigned to one of the legislative committees. Each legislative committee must vote to amend, adopt, reject or refer each item they've been assigned. This work occurs during the first week of General Conference.

The second week is when plenary sessions are scheduled. That is when all delegates are together in one room to worship together, as well as debate and vote on all the petitions.

News from the UMC

Key legislation referred to as “The Three Rs” is gaining momentum, including proposals for Regionalization, Revised Social Principles, and the Removal of Anti-LGBTQ Language.

Regionalization - Several groups have worked together to prepare legislation for this. The Worldwide Regionalization legislation proposes the formation of 8 Regional Conferences: Africa, Central & Southern Europe, Congo, Northern Europe, Western Africa, Germany, Philippines, and United States.

With this plan, each regional conference can create administrative rules and regulations for their area. This allows for contextual decisions based on cultural rules and priorities found in a particular geographic area. Of course, there are some things that cannot change, including the UMC Constitution and Social Principles. Those remain the same across all 8 Regions.

This legislation de-centers the United States while also providing equity across all regions; so there is hope among many delegates for this legislation to pass. Read more about it at <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/values-and-purpose-of-worldwide-regionalization-legislation>

This legislation contains constitutional amendments that will require a ratification process. They will first need a 2/3 majority at General Conference. Then they will be voted on by every annual or central conference worldwide, with 2/3 aggregate vote of all members present and voting required.

The ratification process can be a challenge to get the 2/3 majority necessary for adoption. It also takes between 1-2 years to complete.

Revised Social Principles - The current Social Principles were adopted in 1972. For the Revised Social Principles, the General Board of Church and Society engaged in an 8-year process with worldwide regional consultations involving more than 4,000 people, 11 writing teams made up of people around the world, and an online portal for widespread feedback.

You may review the Revised Social Principles at <https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/proposed-revised-social-principles-for-general-conference-charlotte> .

Some of the hot spots that will likely see a bit of debate include: 1) the definition of marriage as **between “two persons,”** 2) **removal of the incompatibility language,** 3) calling for compassionate treatment of women and children within polygamy, which has a greater application in cultures around the world, 4) **strengthening women’s health relative to abortion,** and 5) use of alcohol changing from abstinence to judicious use.

Removal of Anti-LGBTQ Language - Since 1972, a number of changes have been made to the *Book of Discipline*. Those changes have added the harmful phrase that “homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching,” prohibited “self-avowed practicing homosexuals” from being “accepted as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve The United Methodist Church,” and made it a chargeable offense for ordained ministers to officiate same-gender weddings and for congregations to host them.

There are petitions to remove all of the harmful language as well as each prohibition. While there is widespread support for this in the United States, there are vastly different views and laws on homosexuality around the world, so it could be a challenge to get enough votes to adopt each of these petitions. Nevertheless, there is a growing effort to remove these positions from the *Book of Discipline*, and clear commitment in the United States toward full inclusion.

Online Access - Follow the news online at <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020> .

Follow on Facebook at facebook.com/unitedmethodistchurch or facebook.com/ResourceUMC .

Pastor Carol (carol@good.org) is also happy to answer any questions you may have.

Congregational Care

A Confusing Journey

Luke 24:24 NIV

Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but [Jesus] they did not see.

This is Luke's first telling of an actual eyewitness account of seeing the risen Lord. It is part of the story which takes place on a road to a nearby town; the travelers are telling of the Easter morning events to a stranger who has joined them along the way (the stranger turns out to be Jesus himself!). Angels have announced the news to some women at the tomb at sunrise, but (according to Luke) no one up till this point in the story has actually seen Jesus alive. The two journeying friends are obviously part of Christ's followers, for they mourn his death, and refer to the others as companions. Furthermore, according to this verse, apparently others besides Peter went to the tomb to check things out for themselves, but each too walked away as Peter did, confused and wondering. No further reports of angelic messengers have been reported. With no body to prepare or honor, and a funeral in question at best, these two also walk away and go home, back to Emmaus from where they started.

Their reaction is not that unusual, is it? Combine despair and lost hope with mystery, confusion, and a lack of proof and we too would probably head back to where we started. People today to whom this amazing story is told for the first time are likely to have the same reaction – it sounds so intriguing, but it is such a confusing mystery. Is it any wonder that they walk away from the church, to a life that doesn't understand or celebrate the meaning of Easter? Unless we continue to journey with them, will they ever see the risen Jesus? Journeying together we share everything – the sorrows, the confusions, and eventually the witnesses of our faith in our risen Lord. Let us continue to walk together, especially with those who question and are confused by the wonders of Easter.

Prayer: *Christ of mystery, we don't always understand. Thank you for journeying with us, even when we are unable to see what is happening right before our very eyes. Whenever we are tempted to walk away from you or each other, please don't let us get far before you come up beside us on our way. We desperately want to understand the Easter mystery, but we obviously need your guidance to have it made clear to us. Forgive our slowness of heart and mind; may your words burn within our hearts as we hear them again. Amen.*

Pastor Jim Beard
(he/him)

Director of
Congregational Care

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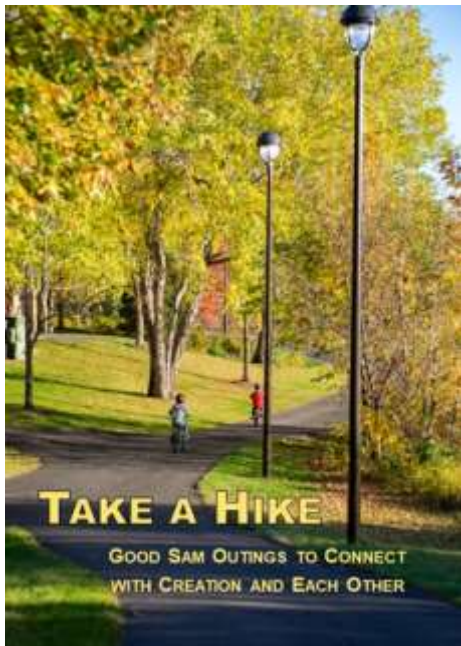


Congregational Care

Look What's Coming!

The Lorax & Other Eco-Justice Voices

This *Everyday Justice* mini-series will be adult-focused, despite the childhood reference to Dr. Seuss' beloved creature "who speaks for the trees" and confronts the Once-ler, a business magnate who causes environmental destruction. These classes are a matter of faith and justice for modern Christians. They will be led by former Good Sam staff member, Rev. Cooper Wigen. They will take place on the first four Thursday mornings of May, starting at 10:00 am. The first two classes will be an "Eco-Tour of Scripture" along with an introduction to United Methodist EarthKeepers. The third class features Minnesota EarthKeeper Bill Middlecamp, a climate scientist, who will discuss with us the state of Earth's climate. And the final class will be an exercise in affirming and expanding our Earth stewardship. The classes are free to attend, but a minimum of seven people is needed for the best learning dynamics. For further information or to register, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A4AAEAA2CA31-48768909-thelorax>, or scan this QR code:



Take a Hike

Join your Good Samaritan friends out on the trails this summer! Groups will gather at a pre-determined park, share a simple devotional focus, head out into nature for 30-45 minutes in groups or alone, and then return to share observations and inspirations. You determine the level of hiking difficulty to which you are comfortable. Three set times will be offered each week so that friends can connect with friends, but you can also use the resources on your own to hike whenever and with whomever you like! Pastor Jim will provide mini-devotions and a spiritual focus twice monthly which will be accessible via your phone. These hikes are designed to be self-guided, but hosts are being sought to offer simple hospitality and guidance. For more information, to register, or to sign-up as a hike-host, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A4AAEAA2CA31-48771383-take> or scan the QR code to the right.



Thursday Afternoon Book Group

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 11 at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room. Our discussion title will be *Looking for Jane*, a meditation on the lengths mothers will go to for their children, by Heather Marshall. Please join us for an interesting discussion, refreshments, and fellowship. Questions: Contact Vicki Dunn, victoria.dunn@q.com. 952-930-3431.



Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Music Can Feed Your Soul

Have you ever made a mixtape, burned a CD, or created a playlist on Spotify? I can say I've done all three. Often my office door is closed because I'm playing music and don't want to disturb anyone. I find I have playlists for different things. There's music to play when I need to be pumped up, calmed down, or comforted. I'm not sure I could go a day without music.

There's a proverb that says: Those who sing, pray twice. I believe that includes those of us who make joyful noises rather than sing like an angel.

When I was teaching three-year-old Sunday school, Reverend Dana Neuhauser taught the song "Go Now in Peace" to all the kids. After our gathering time, she would send them to their classrooms with this song. One of the moms in my class told me that when her little one would get scared or upset, she would hear her child singing "Go Now in Peace" to herself. She found it a way to comfort herself.

I'll share a secret with you: to calm and center myself I sing "Amazing Grace". I sang it as a lullaby to my kids, with a few strategic word changes. My husband sang them "Yellow Submarine." All music is good music!

What songs bring you comfort? What songs bring you joy? What songs do you share with your family? It does not need to be a hymn, but a song that really speaks to your soul.

I am praying for you and your family!
Grace and Peace,
Jan

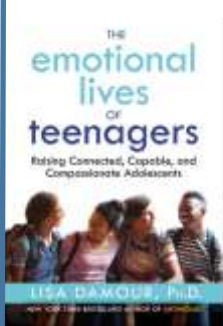


Jan M. Russell (she/her)

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Book Study



Join me to discuss *The Emotional Lives of Teenagers: Raising Connected, Capable, and Compassionate Adolescents* by Lisa Damour - Sundays, April 14 and 28, 11:15 am to Noon.

This is a great book that I read and want to share with you.

Dr. Damour dives deep into the changing emotional landscape of kids growing into their teen emotions. She offers great tools for both parents and their kids. Scan the QR code to sign up!



VBS

June 24-28, 2024
9:00 am to Noon

4-years-old to 4th grade

Join us on an exciting journey where kids learn

to trust God no matter what situation life brings, know God is always with them, and feel confident in sharing the good news of God's love through Jesus Christ. With our great outdoor space at Good Sam, we will really feel like we are at camp! Bring a friend, re-connect with friends, and make new friends, too! We welcome kids 5th grade and older as youth leaders, and we also need adults helpers! Cost for VBS is \$25 for one child or \$50 for a family. Scholarships available (email jan@good.org). Register at <https://goodsamaritanedina.mycokesburyvbs.com>.

To contribute supplies, scan this QR code:



Missions

Missions Team Updates

Thank you for the generous support of the Easter Offering. We look forward to reporting in the coming months how your gifts make a difference in our neighborhood and around the world.

Thank you also for your generous support of VEAP and Joyce Uptown Foodshelf in the



annual Minnesota FoodShare Campaign, the largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state. Our involvement with both organizations extends back many years. Joyce Uptown Foodshelf has been in service since 1969 and VEAP



celebrated 50 years in February of this year. At Joyce, Tony Branch has been serving on the board in recent years, and before his involvement, Mary Lach and Wayne Kempenaar were both active.

Good Samaritans and friends have been involved in VEAP back to its inception, including Lois and Camillo (Dee) DeSantis, Jan and Bob Quick, Carol Smith, and Bill VanBenthuisen. Currently, Christina Leenders has also volunteered for many years along with Karen Bach.

More recently Sue Ohman has served as Good Samaritan's VEAP representative and volunteering in various ways since 2006. Sue is ready for a replacement so feel free to step up! Thanks to all. If you have an interest in being involved in either Joyce or VEAP, feed that interest and let it be known.

We look forward to the celebration of the life of Janice Eileen Quick on Saturday, April 27 at the Bloomington Event Center on American Boulevard, from 1:00-5:00 (food served from 2:00-4:00) and we remember Jan and Bob as we send off your contributions to VEAP as the memorial requested by Jan and Bob and family.

Another opportunity is the invitation to join in the June 11, 2024, family-friendly, community celebration outside of the VEAP facility to celebrate the 50th Anniversary. Watch for details!

Mission team members Pat Deckas Becerra and JoAnn Knutson just returned from a mission trip to learn more about the Richard Ormsby School in Baiwalla, Sierra Leone, and to help them establish libraries. We look forward to hearing about their experience this month.

~ Brian Boysen



Serving Opportunities

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

Wednesday, April 10 - 9:30-11:15 am
Friday, April 26 - 7:00-8:30 pm

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

Delivering Hospitality and Good Meals

Good Samaritan has an assigned Meals on Wheels meal delivery day on Friday, April 19.

Thanks to Vicki Dunn for coordinating and to others for organizing and driving.

Contact Vicki if you are interested in driving this month or any time - victoria.dunn@q.com.



Missions

Helping Migrants

Hello Good Samaritans,

Charisse Litteken is helping a family of seven Ecuadorians who are seeking asylum in the Twin Cities. They are currently living in a heated garage in the East Phillips neighborhood. She asks for some items to make their lives more comfortable, productive and fulfilling. She is also looking for people willing to practice English with them. They are taking free classes, but would benefit from interaction with English-speakers to reinforce what they learn in class.

Items Needed:

- A twin mattress (regular or inflatable) and appropriate fitted sheet
- Multiple copies of the book *English Made Easy Volume One* by Jonathan Crichton and Pieter Koster, published by Tuttle
- Two working smart phones for calls and texts
- Boost Mobile preloaded cards
- Prepaid Metro Transit cards

Charisse's summary: " While their living conditions are meager, they are happy to have escaped extremely difficult economic conditions in Ecuador."

If you have items on the list or questions, please contact Charisse directly at: charisse.litteken@gmail.com or 612-772-0978.

Thank you on behalf of the Missions Team,
Brian Boysen, Co-Chair

Serving a Meal



Join your Good Sam family in serving a meal with Simpson Housing Services, Saturday, April 27, 5:30-8:00 pm, Zion Lutheran Church, 128 W 33rd Street, Minneapolis. We need 10 volunteers and will be serving around 50 people. Jan Russell will have all of the supplies. Sign up with the QR code to the right.



UMC Training Opportunity

Webinar about AI

There is so much information circulating right now about AI that you may not be sure what to use and how to find it. Whether you're not sure where to start or you feel like you've been wasting time with ineffective AI tools, United Methodist Communications contributor and author Jeremy Steele will offer a one-hour webinar April 10 from 12:00-1:00pm about what is need for practical use in and for our churches. Register at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/4917103459222/WN_5tOwj5MQ8WCoxmRWW1mpQ#/registration

The Good Samaritan Foundation

How To Request a Grant from the Outreach Fund

The Board of the Good Samaritan Foundation awarded a grant from The Outreach Fund to the Richard Ormsby School in Baiwalla, Sierra Leone, at their February meeting. Have you ever wondered how such grants come to be? Who can make grant requests and what is the process?

Any member of Good Samaritan can make a request in support of an organization or special project that is consistent with our mission as a Christian community of acceptance and nurturing faith that reaches out to our church, our community, and across the globe.

The place to start a request is the good.org website. Once on the website, select the "GIVE" tab, then select "The Good Samaritan Foundation." Review the information on that page and scroll down to select "Request A Good Samaritan Foundation Grant" to access the online request form. You may need to contact the organization you wish to recommend for some of the information. Recipient organizations are usually happy to provide details of their organization and projects. Complete the online form and select "SEND."

Grants are reviewed by The Foundation Board at their quarterly meetings. Grants are one-time, meaning grants cannot be renewed annually. Grants are usually \$1,000 to \$3,000.

It would be appreciated if you email Claudia at claudiaLboysen@gmail.com to let her know that you made a submission. If you need assistance or if you have any questions regarding The Foundation, send an email to this address as well. The next meeting of The Foundation is Thursday, May 16. Grant requests should be made by noon on Monday, May 13. We have \$10,900 remaining to award in 2024. We would love to hear from you!

~ Claudia Boysen

Finance Team

Finance Update

Thank you for your financial support of Good Samaritan Church. Year-to-date results for the two months ended February 29, 2024 look good, shown in the table below, with a net of \$17,193. Revenue is weighted higher in the first part of the year due to some members who have already pre-paid their 2024 annual pledge.

Also worth noting - we renegotiated higher interest income rates for funds held at our bank, resulting in enough income for half of a month's mortgage payment over the course of a year. Yay!

~ Kent Holmes

	Year-to-Date Actuals	Year-to-Date Plan	Year-to-Date Variance
Income	\$167,550	\$162,593	\$4,957
Expense	\$102,145	\$114,381	(\$12,236)
Net	\$65,405	\$48,212	\$17,193

Trustees

Maintenance Minute:

When a Pizza Cutter Becomes a Tool



Happy spring to you all!

Something I do on a regular basis is change the filters in our HVAC furnace and air conditioners. It's a little different than just taking a paper filter and placing it in its slot like you typically would do in your residential unit.

We buy filter media that comes in a large roll. I cut the media to size that fits into the filter screens. I use a pizza cutter-like tool to apply it into the screens' edges.

Most of our equipment takes two filters each. We have a total of 16 filters that get changed on our rooftop HVAC units. Then another 15 filters that get changed in our indoor units. I change them every two to three months to make sure the air quality in the building is always clean.

It is also very important to regularly change your residential HVAC filters because it makes your equipment run more efficiently, makes it easier on the equipment while it is running, and keeps the air quality clean inside your home.

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Electronic Service Requested



**OUR
 VISION**

INSPIRING
 Joyful Faith

BUILDING
 a Loving
 Community

SERVING
 Neighbors Near
 and Far

SUNDAYS

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

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

Children's Sunday School
 Held during worship following
 Children's Time. All are welcome!

WEDNESDAYS

(Nursery care upon request)

6:00 pm

- Chancel Chimes Rehearsal

7:00 pm

- Chancel Choir Rehearsal

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE HOURS

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