

THE MESSENGER

APRIL 2022

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Last month was a massive push to get everyone to respond to the Holy Cow survey that will guide our understanding and our actions as we make this transition year. We want to be in the best place possible and I am so grateful to EVERYONE who took the time to complete the survey. We will be getting the results to share with you in a month.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Meanwhile, every Sunday morning I have been watching Ken and a helper slug the wicker hamper up the center aisle laden with cereal boxes, peanut butter, tuna, and vegetables. I am so proud of the three committees working together to make

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this happen and all the members generously and abundantly

responding to the urgent need of the Food Bank for these items.

I learned this morning that \$1,000 was collected last Sunday to aid the disaster in Ukraine. Margie's poignant appeal on behalf of the Mission committee stirred our hearts.

What a congregation! I am honored to be a part of this loving, generous group of folks.

Fondly,
Nancy Clem,
Governing Board President



*Goodness is stronger than evil;
love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness;
life is stronger than death;
victory is ours through Jesus who loved us.*

– Desmond Tutu

In the month of April we celebrate the most important event of the Christian faith
– the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Through the resurrection, God is revealed,
not as the giver of labels, but as the Giver of life,
not as the giver of lectures, but as the Giver of light,
not as the giver of lethargy, but as the Giver of love.

God's power to defeat death not only initiates newness throughout all creation,
but it also strengthens us to manifest our faith in the risen Lord
through a renewed commitment to God's plan and purpose.

And indeed, with the current state of our world

in which people in the public square, as well as people in our churches, are becoming
more strident at our attempts at political discourse,
more fearful of those different from us,
more anxious in regard to climate change,
more despairing in our global outlook,
and consequently more cruel in our interactions,

the Risen One summons us to follow Him and engage the world with God's power of
love.

As we live the life worthy of our calling,

we participate with the risen Christ in the Easter movement of civil disobedience
that overcomes all forms of death with the gift of new life,
that transforms the deserts of revenge and retaliation into gardens of forgiveness,
that reshapes the future
not through conquest but through compassion,
not through selfishness but through solidarity,
not through denial but through discipleship.

While Easter proclamation is nothing new,

we in the church are the ones who have the privilege of announcing it.

The systems of death and destruction have been defeated,
and God has blessed us with an offer of life, true life, that overpowers all of
the nefarious forces in the world.

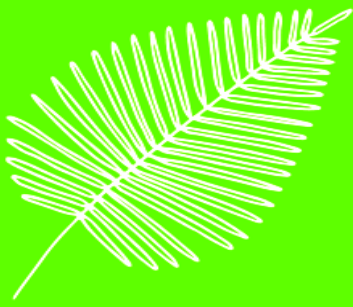
Transformation is possible . . .

hope is already visible . . .

and life is waiting to burst forth.

And not only are we called to proclaim it,
but we are also called to live it.

In Easter hope,
tom



Palm
Sunday



Maundy
Thursday



Good
Friday



Easter
Sunday

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

As the calendar flips from March to April, and as Holy Week now comes into view, please take note that in addition to our **Palm Sunday (April 10)** and **Easter Sunday (April 17)** services, we will also gather in our sanctuary for two other occasions of worship.

On **Thursday evening, April 14, at 7:00 p.m.**, we will have our Maundy Thursday Communion Service, commemorating the Last Supper that Jesus shared with His disciples.

Then, on **Friday, April 15, at 12:00—noon**, we will host a Good Friday Service with our friends at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Both of these services will be held in our sanctuary.

And, of course, don't forget to join us on Easter Sunday morning where, after we enjoy a wonderful Easter breakfast, we can celebrate the resurrection of the Lord. (Please be sure to sign up if you plan to attend. You do not have to bring a dish to attend. A freewill offering will be collected.)

There's a lot happening in the life of our church, and we hope that you will participate with us.

LENTEN SUPER 6 COLLECTION UPDATE

The canned vegetable donation received last Sunday weighed 54 lbs. which equaled 45 meals. (That doesn't include the 6 pound can of green beans that will be donated after the Easter Sunday photo is taken.)



- * This Sunday's donation is canned beef stew.
- * Next Sunday, the final Sunday we are accepting donations, is canned soup.

SET UP FOR EASTER

Set up for Easter Breakfast—April 15, (Good Friday), 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall.

Anyone bringing items for the Easter Breakfast needs to have them to the church by 9:15 Easter Sunday. Note that if you are attending the Good Friday service at noon, you can bring items to the church that day, or at 11:00 a.m. on Sat., April 16 when we are setting up the flowers.

LENT

Fast + Pray + Give

Treasury Update

Friends,

Lent is a season for giving at New Covenant Community Church. This Lenten season we are collecting food items for the Akron-Canton Food Bank as well as cash contributions. As of the end of March, we have received the following:

- * \$100 for Disaster Assistance for the victims of the December 2021 tornadoes that struck Kentucky and other states,
- * \$45 for the Foodbank (Super 6 Collection),
- * \$1,500 for the Hunger Walk,
- * \$1,230 for Ukrainian Aid through UNICEF,
- * \$50 for the Easter/One Great Hour of Sharing.

We will be collecting additional contributions through the month of April.

In addition, we received a grant of \$404 from Eastminster Presbytery to help fund the Case Elementary School Book Fair.

Ours is a congregation with a giving heart, so I anticipate additional contributions for our local and worldwide community. May God bless you for your generosity.

Yours in Christ,
John Sezna, Treasurer.

FACILITIES FODDER

Thanks to the efforts of Tim Meyer, we now have a comprehensive two page list of facilities tasks that provides a checklist of projects that will make our building and grounds more attractive and better positioned to avoid expensive repairs in the future. It runs the gamut:

- from the recurring (e.g. wash windows and doors) to one-off jobs (e.g. restore heating pipe insulation),
- from DIY chores (most listings) to those requiring professional help (e.g. sealing the parking lot),
- from the mundane and earthy (e.g. scrubbing dirt from kitchen flooring) to the sublime or at least lofty (e.g. cleaning out the attic).

If you have the time and skills to assist with such maintenance, stop by Reesá's office and review the list or speak to Tim for suggestions. Many hands make light work.

Sometimes help comes from unexpected sources. Be on the lookout for un-

known teens wielding rakes. Margo Works, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry at Westminster, is coordinating with Bev Cinovec to arrange a youth service project to clean out leaves and other debris from our community garden and flower beds. Stay tuned.





13TH ANNUAL AAIC HUNGER WALK

Meet at the Unitarian Universalist Church on May 1, between 2:00-3:00 p.m. to register for this year's Hunger Walk. The walk will begin at 3:00 with refreshments afterwards. Everything will be outside under tents.

If you are donating through NCCC, please write a check to our church and mark "Hunger Walk" on the memo line. To donate online at akroninterfaith.org/hungerwalk, fill out the form and note NCCC where it says "organization." All donations through our church need to be received by Sunday, April 24. If you donate afterwards or at the walk, make the check to AAIC Hunger Walk. If you need to mail it send it to Unitarian Universalist Church, 3300 Morewood Rd., Akron, OH 44333. Canned goods are NOT accepted at the walk this year, only cash or checks.

If you plan to walk, please sign up on the sheet on the hall table. We'd like to know how much food to prepare for afterwards and a photo of everyone before the one- or two-mile walks down Market St.

The Hunger Walk video a member of AAIC made last year will be shown during our Mission Minute at church service on April 24. Elissa has provided music to go along with the video.

T Shirt Sunday For NCCC is Sunday, May 1. Wear your NCCC t-shirt to service in support of the walkers and the Hunger Walk in general. You can be sure that Tom will include something about the walk in his sermon or in any prayers.

Next AAIC Meeting—Tuesday, April 5, 12:00-1:15 on Zoom or in person at Bath Church Plan ahead for these events: showing of the movie "Hesburgh" on Friday, June 10 at St. Hilary's and Mitzvah Day, June 25-26 plus other items of interest. (You can attach the Zoom link).

Nancy

Easter Flowers

Flowers for Easter Sunday will be picked up at the Montrose Acme Sat., April 16 at 10:00 a.m., and set up around 10:30. We have purchased 4 daffodils and 4 tulips (all 6 inch) and 3 lilies. The cost is \$10 for daffodils and tulips and probably \$12-15 for each lily. If you wish to contribute flowers for Easter Sunday, please put monetary contributions into the collection plate, and note it on the envelope or check memo line.

On the 16th we will also set up the display of some "Super Six" items, collected during the six Sundays of Lent. Items will be dedicated East-er Sunday.

NEW INITIATIVES—You are all members of this group! Our next in-person meeting will be on Tuesday, April 5, 10:00 a. m. in Fellowship Hall. Included in the agenda: the Hunger Walk, Mitzvah Day plans, and a possible get-together or combined activity with OFUG.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

MINUTE FOR MISSION



News for April includes that our congregation was awarded a grant from Eastminster Presbytery for \$404 to use toward our May Book Fair at Case CLC. Lev Anderson is busy working on that project and we will keep you updated. The Book Fair will remain an online project this year. Hopefully next year, we will be back to holding it in person. The good news is we might have most of the funds we need, so our congregation can focus on donations to UNICEF to help with the humanitarian effort in Ukraine. Lastly, our Lenten “Super 6” Collection has been going very well. Thank you for all your contributions!!! Keep those canned food items coming. We have 2 more weeks to collect. Next Sunday, **April 3-** bring canned beef stew and on Palm Sunday, **April 10-** bring canned soup. Thank you- Margie Frlich

Fellowship Committee

The next Fellowship meeting will occur on Thursday, April 28, 11 am. Items for discussion include a possible play at Porthouse Theater June 23 or 30, a ladies’ lunch gathering at Seiberling Nature Realm after the middle of May (bring your own lunch), a July hot dog roast, the Caribbean party Aug. 27, and any other activity than comes up.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Matthew 25 teaches us that, in every time and season the Church connects with itself and its Savior through relationships with those in need – those who have least. One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together every year to address these needs by advancing the causes of justice, resilience, and sustainability. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!



The 34th Annual Akron-Summit Holocaust Commemoration and Awards Ceremony Lessons of the Holocaust: Undeniable Stories of Survival will be held at the Akron-Summit County Public Library Auditorium Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. You can attend the event for free, or watch it streamed live on Zoom. Emma Kaufmann Rose, a Third-generation Holocaust Survivor and author of “Saving Six Million: A Holocaust Memoir” will be a guest speaker.

The Ceremony will be hosted by University of Akron professor of law and Chair of the Akron-Summit Council on Holocaust and Genocide Education, Martin H. Belsky.

The Akron-Summit Council on Holocaust & Genocide Education is supported by Summit County, the City of Akron

[Link to live 34th Annual Akron-Summit Holocaust Commemoration and Awards Ceremony Tuesday, April 26th 2022](#)

LENT

Fast + Pray + Give

RENEWAL TRIO

BACK IN CONCERT 2022

SUNDAY APRIL 10TH AT 6:00 PM

Wickliffe Presbyterian Church
45 Idlewood Rd. Austintown, OH 44515



Renewal will be singing some of the great Gospel Songs you all remember and love. We are proud to introduce our newest member, Becky Vignon.

For more information call: 330-792-6441 or 330-519-7720