



Dear Church Family,

We begin April with Easter Sunday. It does seem like we are caught up in a spirit of resurrection in many ways. Many of us have been vaccinated. We are beginning to see a reduction in many of the restrictions we have been living with for more than a year. Some may even be left to wonder-- why aren't we having Easter worship in person this year?

As I write this, Germany has decided to go back into quarantine. Easter services are all going to be online because the new strains of COVID19 are outpacing vaccinations. There has been another uptick in cases in Minnesota. With each vaccination, we grow closer to being a worshipping community which can worship safely together in person.

One of the most important teachings and practices of Jesus is hospitality. Total clarity about how to provide hospitality in a pandemic hasn't always been clear. I believe protecting the most vulnerable is essential to how we live our faith. We will be able to start smaller after Easter, and more of us will have completed vaccination. I am looking forward to worshipping in person on Sunday mornings starting on April 25. It's been a long but necessary wait.

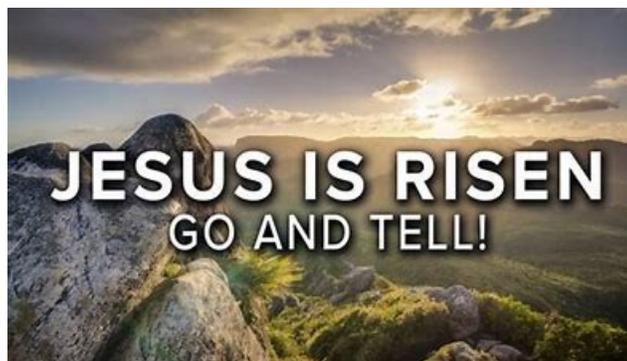
Michelle and I are also taking scheduled vacation time away from Minnesota. We have not been able to do so in over a year. We are taking a two week car trip to Utah. It will be a good time to spiritually regroup before the next phase of ministry.

When we return, I would love to schedule visits with anyone interested. These can be in home, or at church. I have been fully vaccinated for over a month, so there are safe ways we can do this.

I am looking forward to all of the ways God's resurrection Spirit is at work in our church!

Happy Easter!

Pastor Rob



# BEMIDJI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

10:00 AM – 2:00PM (M – F)

Office Phone: 218-751-3503

Pastor Rob Cell: 218-766-8744

Email Addresses: Church Office [umcbji@paulbunyan.net](mailto:umcbji@paulbunyan.net)  
Pastor Rob: [revrmkopp@gmail.com](mailto:revrmkopp@gmail.com)

Mailing Address: PO Box 607, Bemidji, MN 56619  
Street Address: 924 Beltrami Ave. NW Bemidji, MN 56601

**JUST A REMINDER....**  
Articles for the May Newsletter are due in to Karen no later than **9:00am on Monday, April 19, 2020**  
You may text, email or call her at (218) 766-9700

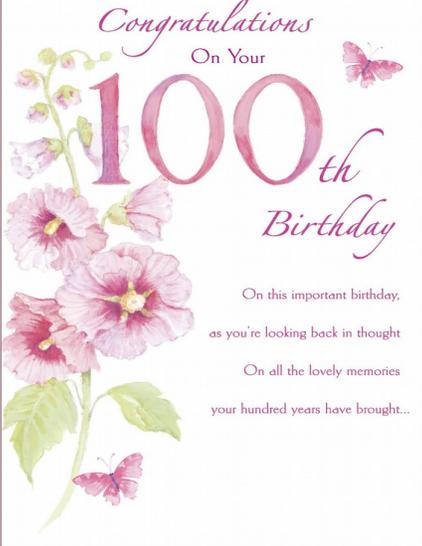
April Birthdays

April 01- Carol Larson  
 April 02- Jim Howard  
 April 05- Diane Morris  
 April 05- Serin Newago  
 April 08- Trent Barthorpe  
 April 08- Dreyden Beam  
 April 08- Jacob Como  
 April 10- Rayni Gullette  
 April 11- Barb Britton  
 April 11- Randy Burg  
 April 11- Geordan Stowe  
 April 12- Kellie Morehouse  
 April 14- Spencer Freer  
 April 17- Jaxon Newago  
 April 19- Jane Killgore  
 April 20- Ken Nichols  
 April 21- Mary Burghart  
 April 21- Bunny Howe  
 April 22- Kathy Strycker  
 April 23- Fran Anderson  
 April 23- David Newago  
 April 23- Carol Steigauf  
 April 24- Lucille Nelson  
 April 25- Annika Knudson  
 April 27- Lisa Porro  
 April 28- Nancy Gallagher  
 April 28- Janet Miller



**We have a “very special” event this month at United Methodist Church. Happy “100th” Birthday Frances Anderson on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you would like to send a card, her address is:**  
**Frances Anderson**  
**1621 Bixby Ave. NE**  
**Bemidji, MN 56601**

*Congratulations*  
On Your  
**100<sup>th</sup>**  
*Birthday*



On this important birthday,  
as you're looking back in thought  
On all the lovely memories  
your hundred years have brought...



...at Neilson Place: Jean Slinkman  
 ...at Trillium: Judy Comstock  
 ...at Windsong: Wag Collins, Bert Clark, Dotty Naramore and Evan Hazard  
 ...at home with her daughter, Kathleen Magsam  
 ...at Havenwood Care Center: Patty Boyer, Mary Conner, and Betty Howard  
 ...at Goldpine: Laura Hays, Ruby Hausauer, Helen LeClaire  
 ...at Birch Haven Village: Betty Brooks  
 ...Noli and family  
 ...For Heather Burrell and family concerning daughter Mariah  
 ...For a mother in Massachusetts who is 97 years old and frail. Please be with family traveling out East.  
 ...For those still losing loved ones to COVID and those getting shots  
 ...For Lois Jessen to continue healing from a fall  
 ... Please contact Jan Grimm to add a name to the Prayer Chain. Her phone number is:  
 H- (218) 444-0209 C- (218) 821-7816



## HE IS RISEN!



**Offerings and Misc. Received for March 2021**

General Offering....	March 09, 2021	\$11,805.00
	March 30, 2021	\$6,811.19
On-line Giving for March .....		\$1,774.10

# Easter Questions You May Have Wondered About

For most Christians, Easter is the most important day of the year. However, when it comes to traditions such as decorated eggs, lilies and Peter Cottontail, even the most seasoned Easter celebrants may have questions.



## **How do decorated eggs relate to Easter?**

According to Eastern Orthodox tradition, Mary Magdalene visited the Emperor Tiberius and showed him an egg as a way to talk about the Resurrection of Jesus.

"One version of this story," says the Rev. Taylor W. Burton-Edwards, director of worship resources for the United Methodist Board of Discipleship, "is that the egg was white to start with, that the emperor scoffed that resurrection was as likely as the white egg turning red, and then it did turn red. Another version is that the egg was red to begin with, as a sign of the blood of Christ."

Orthodox icons often portray Mary Magdalene holding a red egg or a flask of myrrh. Burton-Edwards notes, "Iconography means 'icon writing,' not 'icon painting,' and that the images 'written' here were intended to convey ideas and theology more than factual stories." The egg itself was already a sign of new life in Eastern cultures.

"The flask of myrrh in her other hand, usually also in a reddish hue, was a sign of Mary's presence at the tomb to anoint Christ's body for burial," he adds. "If (Mary) needed to be a sign of both death and resurrection, she might hold both items. If she needed to be a sign more of one than the other, she might hold only one."

The origin of people coloring and decorating eggs is not certain. Some sources report the ancient Egyptians, Greeks, Persians and Romans colored eggs for spring festivals. In medieval Europe, people offered beautifully decorated eggs as gifts. In Russia and Poland, writes Pamela Kennedy in "The Symbols of Easter," people spent hours drawing intricate designs on Easter eggs. In early America, children colored eggs using dyes made from bark, berries and leaves.

As the story of Christ's Resurrection spread, Kennedy adds, "people saw the egg as a symbol of the stone tomb from which Christ rose. They viewed the hatching birds and chicks as symbols of the new life Jesus promised his followers."



## **What is the origin of the Easter-egg hunt?**

In England, Germany and some other countries, children rolled eggs down hills on Easter morning to symbolize the rolling away of the stone from Jesus' tomb. British settlers brought this custom to the New World. In 1814, Dolley Madison, the wife of President James Madison, introduced the most famous Easter egg roll, which still takes place annually on the White House south lawn.



## **How did the Easter Bunny become associated with this sacred Christian season?**

Ancient Egyptians, according to Kennedy, believed the rabbit was responsible for the new life that abounded in the spring. "An old European legend says that the hare, a relative of the rabbit, never closed its eyes. Since it watched the other animals all night long, the hare became a symbol of the moon. The hare was soon connected with Easter because the holiday's date depends upon the full moon."

According to other sources, 18th-century German settlers introduced "Oschter Haws" (Easter Hare), the character many children know as the Easter Bunny, to America. Pennsylvania Dutch settlers prepared nests in the barn or garden for Oschter Haws. On Easter eve, the rabbit laid his colored eggs in the nests. (In Germany, Oschter Haws lays red eggs on Maundy Thursday.)



## **Why do some hold sunrise services in cemeteries?**

Different groups may have different answers. Some sources state that a Moravian congregation in Herrnhut, Saxony, had the first Easter sunrise service in 1732. After an all-night prayer vigil, the unmarried men went to the town graveyard to sing hymns of praise to the risen Lord. The next year, the entire congregation joined them. Moravian missionaries spread the tradition around the world.

Burton-Edwards cites an ancient tradition recorded in The Apostolic Constitutions in 380 in Syria. Early Christians held a vigil of prayer on Holy Saturday in cemeteries where Christians were buried.

## Easter Questions (Continued)

"Keeping watch with these dead in Christ was in a way also keeping watch with Christ who was in the tomb on this day, awaiting resurrection. It appears to have been a way of identifying themselves with the 'voices under the altar' in Revelation, crying out, 'How long?'" This was more than a memorial service or paying respects to the dead. Burton-Edwards terms it "a true vigil-a watch with the dead in Christ awaiting the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ and the return of Christ to raise and judge all the dead."

The practice of the early Christians may have informed some traditions in the United States. Burton-Edwards, who grew up Southern Baptist, says, "We regularly did sunrise services in a large cemetery on Easter morning. For us, it was also a way of proclaiming the Resurrection of Christ and awaiting the resurrection of the dead."



How did lilies come to be Easter lilies?

The Easter lily is a relatively new tradition - first brought to the United States in 1882 from Bermuda. The large, pure-white blossoms remind Christians of the pure, new life that comes through the Resurrection of Jesus.

According to legend, Kennedy writes, when Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, the flowers bowed their heads in grief and pity. "But the proud lily would not bow its lovely white head.

"The next day, the lily discovered that Jesus was going to be crucified. The flower felt so miserable about how it had acted ... that it bowed its head in shame. To honor the Lord Jesus and to show its sorrow, the lily has grown with a down-turned blossom ever since that first Good Friday."

taken from: [newsdesk@umcom.org](mailto:newsdesk@umcom.org).

This story was first published April 20, 2011.

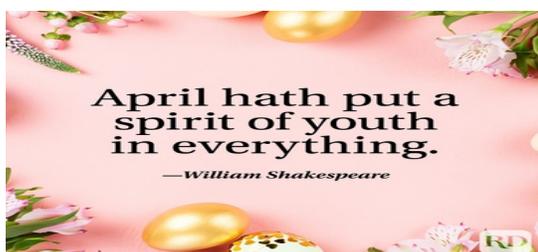
**"He isn't here, because he's been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him."**

**Matthew 28:6 CEB**

### Did you know MANDATORY 10-DIGIT DIALING IS COMING TO OUR (218) AREA CODE?

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has adopted 988 as a new three-digit number to be used nationwide to reach the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline, starting July 16, 2022. Customers must continue to dial 1-800-273-TALK to reach the Lifeline until July 16, 2022. In order for the 988 to work in the (218) area code, 10-digit local dialing must first be implemented. As a result, you will need to change the way you dial Bemidji United Methodist Church beginning April 24, 2021. If you forget and dial just 7 digits, your call will still be completed. However, beginning OCTOBER 24, 2021, YOU MUST DIAL 10- digits. This means (area code) plus the number. Here are a few reminders:

1. Beginning April 24, 2021 start practicing dialing 10-digits including our (218) area code.
2. Beginning October 24, 2021 you MUST dial the area code (218) plus your 7-digit number.
3. Beginning July 16, 2022- dialing 988 will route your call to the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline.





**From the desk of Deborah Davis**

**Dearest Church Family,**

**We are all so excited to have a date for reentering the church building for worship. **April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021.** To do so, we must each, and all, agree to a binding Christian/Social contract: first, we do no harm. We are God's flock, and only as strong as the weakest link. Let us keep the wolf of COVID away.**

**5 SIMPLE GUIDELINE/RULES:**

- 1) Wear a mask, over your mouth and nose.**
- 2) Entrances and exits will be marked (if you leave while others are coming in, please only use the door labeled exit) Again, only use door- - - -labeled - - - - EXIT!**
- 3) Ushers will guide you into the building and walk you to your seat; please observe physical distancing. (family pods sit together)**
- 4) No hand shaking, hugging. This may be the hardest thing, but this is so we can hug EVERYONE later.**
- 5) Always consider the most vulnerable: be Biblical in relation to all, and this process. Love your neighbor as yourself.**

**WHAT TO EXPECT:**

- 1) No singing**
- 2) Short service**
- 3) No communion**
- 4) No passing of collection plate**

**Let us, as a Christian family create an experience that has COVID-safe social contract, and honors the grief and trauma people are carrying. Let us practice PERSONAL responsibility, and MUTUAL accountability, so the most vulnerable, traumatized, hesitant or unfamiliar person(s) here can say, "When I showed up, this church kept its word and their behavior valued me."**  
**Let us ALL be God's sheep, not wolves.**

**Please let Deborah know, by email: [BUMCcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:BUMCcoordinator@gmail.com) if you're planning to attend; we'd appreciate having a "head count" to do the best to prepare.**

**Thank you,**

**The reopening committee:**

**Jan Grimm, Dave Dahlberg, Todd Geiger, Kari Knudson, and Deborah Davis**

# BUMC MEMBERS

# In the Spotlight

The cards you see below are on display at Sanford in Bemidji, thanks to BUMC members Sue Young and Jan Grimm. These two ladies sure have some amazing talents. **THANK YOU** Healthcare workers for putting your lives on the line, while caring for others. All of you are truly appreciated!



## CONGRATULATIONS NETTIE KIMBLE! DIVISION I WOMEN'S HOCKEY BOUND!



**Bemidji United Methodist Church is proud of all you have accomplished! We love showcasing your talents. Happy Graduation and Good Luck in your future at Franklin Pierce University in New Hampshire.**

Bemidji High School senior Nettie Kimble inked her National Letter of Intent on Wednesday to play Division I women's hockey at Franklin Pierce. Alongside Kimble are her parents, Denielle and Darren. (Micah Friez / Bemidji Pioneer)

Kimble racked up 542 saves for the Lumberjacks this season -- good for fourth in Minnesota -- while posting an .890 save percentage. She has 2,281 saves and an .879 save percentage.

Just  
a  
reminder...



THERE IS A FOLLOW UP CHARGE CONFERENCE MEETING ON THE CALENDAR FOR **APRIL 28, 2021**.

TIME: 6:00 PM

AGENDA: FINALIZING THE 2021 BUDGET

The statistics for possible COVID increases in April, will determine if the meeting is by Zoom, in person, or perhaps both. Please watch for future announcements on this meeting.

# He Is Risen!

## Easter Blessings!

# 2021

United Methodist Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
			5:00- Community Table	5:00- Community Table		
			<b>Holy Week</b>	<b>Holy Thursday</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
9:55- Coffee with Pastor Rob and Pastor Michelle 10:30- Worship	<b>Pastor Rob on Vacation</b>	6:00- SPRC <b>** NEW TIME &amp; DAY!</b>	5:00- Community Table	5:00- Community Table		
<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	→ →					
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
Pastor Rob and Pastor Michelle on vacation!		<b>6:30- Trustees Meeting</b>	5:00- Community Table	<b>1:30- Finance Meeting</b> 5:00- Community Table		
10:30- Worship- from the Annual Conference						
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
Pastor Rob and Pastor Michelle on vacation!	<b>Pastor Rob back from Vacation</b>		1:00- Staff Meeting 5:00- Community Table	5:00- Community Table <b>6:00pm- Church Council</b>		
10:30- Worship- Pastor Karen Finnegan who serves Faith United in Ada						
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	
10:30- Worship			1:00- Staff Meeting 5:00- Community Table	5:00- Community Table		
<b>BACK TO IN PERSON</b> and there will be a recorded version on-line			<b>6:00- CHARGE CONFERENCE TO SET THE 2021 BUDGET</b>			

United Methodist Church  
924 Beltrami Ave.  
PO Box 607  
Bemidji, MN 56619-0607

Office number: (218) 751-3503  
Karen's Phone- (218) 766-9700  
Email: umcbji@paulbunyan.net  
Web Site: www.bemidjiumc.com

April 2021 VOYAGEUR  
Published Monthly

Happy Easter! †

# Christ Is Risen. He Is Risen Indeed!

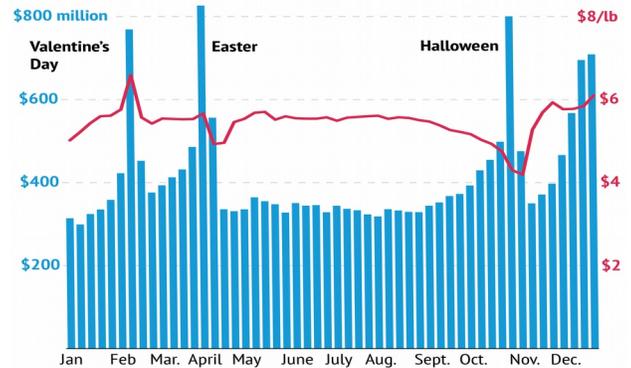
Freshly dyed sheep run in view of the highway near Bathgate, Scotland. The sheep farmer has been dyeing his sheep with NON-TOXIC dye since 2007 to entertain passing motorists.



from IMGUR.com

## Candy celebrations

Weekly retail candy sales jump during certain weeks of the year, while the average price per pound of candy sold also fluctuates.



Source: Nielsen; includes grocery stores, drug stores, mass merchandisers, convenience stores, select dollar stores, select warehouse clubs and military commissaries. CNBC

## What does Candy have to do with Easter?

Easter Candy Eggs have long been associated with Easter as a symbol of new life and Jesus' resurrection. Another egg-shaped candy, the jelly bean, became associated with Easter in the 1930s (although the jelly bean's origins reportedly date all the way back to a Biblical-era concoction called a Turkish Delight). **EASTER remains the #1 Holiday where candy tops in sales. Marshmallow Peeps © anyone?**  
~ from Google

open hearts  
open minds  
open doors



*The People of the United Methodist Church*

## Church Staff

Reverend Rob Kopp  
Pastor  
revrmkopp@gmail.com

Karen Thompson "Bubbles"  
Office Administration  
umcbji@paulbunyan.net

Deborah Davis  
Volunteer & Events Coordinator  
BUMCcoordinator@gmail.com

Maria's Cleaning  
Custodial

Leisa Bragg  
Accompanist

Chancel Choir Director