

# Sunset Rays

*The "Son" still shines at Sunset Drive Church*

**March 2023**

**Newsletter for SUNSET DRIVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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**Rev. Tommy Lewis-Crosby**



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## From the Pastor's Desk

"Do this in remembrance of me." These are words Jesus instructed his disciples at the Last Supper when the sacrament of Holy Communion was instituted. Jesus takes the bread and as he breaks it he tells his disciples this is his body broken for them. Eat this and remember me. The same with the cup that Jesus says is his blood of a new covenant poured out for everyone to forgive sins. Every time you drink it remember me.

Through Christian history there have been debates on the true nature of communion. Is it a symbolic meal, or does the bread and wine literally become the body and blood of Christ? In the middle ages when the mass was recited in Latin, which the common folk didn't speak there was a place where a bell would chime and the priest would say, "Hoc est corpus meum" which means this is my body. It was at that moment that something special happened and the bread became blessed. That Latin phrase is where we get the term "hocus pocus". The common people didn't know what happened but it was magical. The priest said some kind of hocus pocus and the bread became holy.

I have always loved sharing in communion. As a kid I knew it was something special we did and I didn't have a full understanding of why, but it was still special to come to the table and receive the elements. I have come to understand it's not what we bring to the table but what we receive. Even as a kid the words spoken to them, "This is the body of blood of Jesus for you", hold meaning that Jesus gave himself for us.

When we share in this holy meal we remember that Jesus gave his life for us so that we can have a closer relationship with God and each other. In this season leading to Easter we also remember our mistakes and betrayals against God. The first time this meal was eaten with Jesus and his disciples he knew that everyone of them at the table would betray, deny, and abandon him before the sun rose the next morning but that didn't matter. Again it's what we receive not what we bring. John Wesley said that Holy Communion is the "Grand Channel" of God's grace and we should eat this meal as often as we can. He would go on to say that this act has converting power to convert sinners and transform us all.

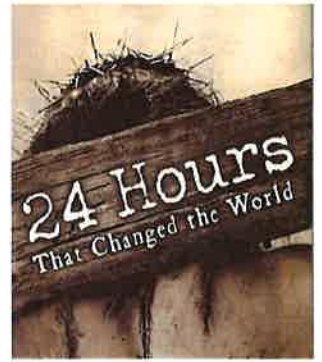
As we have times of sharing around the table this season, remember what God has done for you. Remember your own mistakes, and most of all remember that this meal is given freely no matter what. Come to the table. Come to sit next to Jesus and remember that you are loved.

*Pastor Tommy*



# Lenten Bible Study

Beginning Wednesday March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm, we will be holding a **Lenten Bible Study** on the book, "24 Hours that Changed the World." We will be hearing sermons on Sundays and expounding on the topic there in this study. All are welcome to attend. While the reading through the book would be beneficial for the study it is not required. That being said, if you would like to have a book ordered there is a signup sheet on the bulletin board or contact the church office at [office@sunsetdriveumc.com](mailto:office@sunsetdriveumc.com) or 540-896-3970.



## Upcoming Church Events

- **UMM Community Breakfast** on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:30am until 9am. Meal includes- bacon, eggs, sausage gravy, pancakes and biscuits. Donations in the form of a free will offering The breakfast is open to the community. All are welcome, bring a friend and enjoy a wonderful breakfast and some fellowship. Hope to see ya there!
- **Sunset Drives Ladies** will meet on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.
- **Administrative Council** will meet on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.
- **April Newsletter Deadline:** Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. Please have all information to church office.
- **March Word Search** deadline is Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The Trustees have scheduled a **work day at the church** on April 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 until 11:00 or so. Work will include shrub trimming, mulch spreading, and general cleanup.
- **WRE's 2023 Choral Presentation** WRE cordially invites the congregation join them in their Annual Spring Concert. "The Lord's Prayer" will be preformed Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 4pm in the EMU Commons Varsity Court at Eastern Mennonite University. There will be a free will offering.



**There will be a meeting on Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm  
with Rev. Dr. Gomez our District Superintendent.**

watch bulletins for more information



# Prayer List

## Our Church Family ...

Lois Dinges

Kathryn Ford

Jane Garrett

Jake and Amanda Reeves Gogola

Nancy Hoover

Virginia Ann Hulvey

Rosemary Mumaw

Judy Rhodes

Marium Selke

Richard and Kathy Sharpe

Dick Strawderman

## Our "Extended" Church Family ...

Gwen Campanella

Rhonda McDonald

Lucas Frank

Tommy Williams

Thelma Lewis

## Prayers for Our Military Families

Will Freds: U.S Army (son-in- law of CW and Peggy Grandle)

Mark Long: U.S Navy (son of Dawn Long)

Chris Mullenax: U.S Army Special Forces

Richard Ruley: US Air Force (great nephew of Michael and Esther Malloy)



If you have a family member or know someone who is going through something that needs some longer term prayer, please contact the church office to [office@sunsetdriveumc.com](mailto:office@sunsetdriveumc.com) or 540-896-3970 added them to the Monthly Newsletter Prayer List.

## Prayer Chain

Have a prayer request to add to the prayer chain:

If you have a prayer chain request: please contact:

Pastor Tommy Lewis-Crosby: 540-421-2216

Or email: [pastortommyboy@gmail.com](mailto:pastortommyboy@gmail.com)

Prayer request will be sent out via email out as quickly as possible to the Prayer Chain Email List.

## In Sympathy

- **We extend Christian sympathy** and prayers to ***The Rev. David Burroughs' Family***. Rev. Burrough passed away on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. He was Pastor of Sunset Drive from 1984 to 1988. He will be missed by the Sunset Drive Family.
- **We extend Christian sympathy** and prayers to ***Janet Wager and family***. Janet's brother, David Neuwirth passed away on Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

# Congregational News

- **Congratulations** to Aayden Roberts of being the 2022-2023 Geography Bee Champion.

If you have some good news or joys you would like to share in the congregational news. Please let the office know at [office@sunsetdriveumc.com](mailto:office@sunsetdriveumc.com) or call 540-866-3970.

## Monthly Newsletter

Each Month the Newsletter will have a coloring or activity page and a Word Search. Do you have any suggestions or ideas for information you would like to see in the monthly Newsletter? Please contact the church office at [office@sunsetdriveumc.com](mailto:office@sunsetdriveumc.com).

## Sunset Drive Ladies

submitted by Donna Belle Dove

The ladies will be having their annual yard/bake sale in April. Keep us in mind when you're doing your spring cleaning. More information will follow later.



## Worship Committee

**We are putting together a choir** for a Palm and Easter Sunday performance. All those who are interested in singing please contact Jean Fiske.

## Children's Group

submitted by Erica Kann

### February Calendar

Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>: Walk to School with John C Myers Elementary (love themed)

Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> - Children's Choir (Directly after church)

Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> - Children's Choir Perform at 10am Service (*Run through at 9:45AM*)

## John C. Myers Walk-to-School

submitted by Erica Kann





## 2023 EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS



Flower options: \_\_\_\_\_ Daffodil \_\_\_\_\_ Tulip

*\*\*flower color is not an option.*

*Daffodil will be yellow and tulips will be various color upon delivery*

**In Honor of** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of** \_\_\_\_\_

**Submitted by** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount given \$** \_\_\_\_\_

The cost for the Daffodil/Tulip --- **\$12.00 each.**

Please make check payable to: SDUMC "Flower Fund".

(Please put cash or check with the form in the "Easter Flower" envelopes located in the pews or narthex. Then place the envelope in the offering plate or turn into the church office)

**FIRM Deadline of *Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>*. No order will be taken after that date.**

Thank You,



# Birthday and Anniversary List

We're asking for help to update our church family birthday and anniversary list. If you're new to the church, or if we have missed your birthday, please email: [office@sunsedriveumc.com](mailto:office@sunsedriveumc.com), so we can get you and your family on our list. All we need is the month and day. There are no prizes, so the year is not necessary.

## Happy Birthday

### March

6 Susan Nazelrod  
9 Abby Bennett  
12 Steve Rhodes  
13 Donna Price  
14 Tim Turner  
16 Erica Kann  
20 Judy Post  
25 JoAnn Milander  
26 Laura Rellins, Jackson Peele  
27 Jennifer Phillips  
29 Scott Arbogast, Landon Craig  
30 Barry Davis



## Happy Anniversary

### March

12 Benjamin and Elizabeth Orebaugh  
19 J.W. and Jean Fiske



## Happy Birthday

### April

2 Juanita Fulk  
4 Shirley Getz, Bea Sager  
5 Beau Turner  
7 Phillip Hoover  
13 Matthew Hoover  
14 Mike Hoover  
16 Janet Wager  
18 Reese Arbogast, Dwayne Runion, Bill Mason  
19 Karen Hoover  
20 Clemson Almquist, Afton Peele  
21 Ashleigh Fulk, Christopher Runion  
22 Kris Kann  
26 Ryan Deavers  
27 JR Almquist  
29 Kim Showalter  
30 Trevor White



## Happy Anniversary

### April

25 Jeff and Susan Holsinger



## March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Notes:</b> March 12th: Daylight Savings begins March 30th: Watch bulletins for more information			1	2	3	4
			Lenten Bible Study 7pm		JCMES Walk to School 7:50 am to 8:20am St Patrick's Day Theme	
5 2nd Sunday of Lent Sunday School: 9 am Worship: 10 am  Children's Choir practice after worship	6	7	8  Lenten Bible Study 7pm	9	10	11  Community Breakfast 7:30am to 9am
12 3rd Sunday of Lent  Sunday School: 9 am Worship: 10 am	13	14	15  Lenten Bible Study 7pm	16  Sunset Drive Ladies 6:30pm	17	18
Children's Choir preforms  ** see note						
19 4th Sunday of Lent  Sunday School: 9 am Worship: 10 am	20  Administrative Council Meeting 7pm	21  April Newsletter information due  March Wordsearch due	22  Lenten Bible Study 7pm	23	24  Scout Blue-Gold Banquet Fellowship Hall	25  Scout Blue-Gold Banquet Fellowship Hall
26 5th Sunday of Lent  Sunday School: 9 am Worship: 10 am Children's Easter Program Easter Egg Hunt	27	28	29  Lenten Bible Study 7pm	30  Meeting with Rev. Dr. Gomez our District Superintendent 7pm ** see notes	31	1 APRIL  Church Work Day 9am to 11 am  WRE 2023 Choral Presentation at 4pm EMU Commons

## Marching Into Lent and Spring

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

- |            |               |                |
|------------|---------------|----------------|
| • Baseball | • Reflection  | • Softball     |
| • Breeze   | • Remembrance | • Spring       |
| • Daffodil | • Robins      | • Spring Break |
| • Kite     | • Robins      | • Sunshine     |
| • Lent     | • Sacrifice   | • Tennis       |
| • March    | • Shamrock    | • Track        |
| • Prayer   | • Soccer      | • Tulip        |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Please return to Sunset Drive by Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. There is a box in the narthex to your completed word search. Watch for new word search next month.



# Happy Spring

"To Everything there is a Season"  
Ecclesiastes 3:1



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please color and return to Sunset Drive. There will be a box in the narthex to leave your coloring page. We will have coloring pages displayed on the bulletin board in the narthex. Watch for new coloring or activity pages next month.

March 2023