

From Pastor's Desk

- Holy Week and Its Special Worship Services

Holy Week is coming. Holy Week is the last week of the Lenten season, which will begin on Palm / Passion Sunday and conclude on Easter. Christians are traditionally guided to pay attention to Jesus' way to the crucifixion and his resurrection. Since both are essential and foundational for Christianity, Holy Week is considered the church calendar's most sacred and meaningful week of the year. To help our church members remember and reflect on Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection during this Holy week, our church has prepared several special worship services and events.



1. Palm / Passion Sunday

The first day of the Holy Week is Palm Sunday on 4/2 this year. This is Jesus' first step on the way to the cross, so we keep this day as the first day of the Holy Week. This Sunday, we plan to celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem by waving palm branches that will be distributed before the service. From the beginning of the service, all children, youth members, and their teachers plan to march around the sanctuary to commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem while all church members are singing and waving their palm branches. This joyous mood of the service will be changed into being dark and gloomy by reading Jesus' crucifixion based on the book of Matthew dramatically and reflecting on it with a sermon. This is because we remember that Jesus' triumphant entry was for his gruesome death on the cross, and all people's praising at that moment would be changed into angry shouting, "Let him be crucified!" After the service, you are encouraged to join the pancake breakfast, the youth fundraising event for the family ministry. (Adult: \$ 8 / Children: \$ 5)

2. Maundy Thursday Worship Service

Maundy or Holy Thursday is the day that we commemorate Jesus' last supper. We already knew that Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper by breaking the bread and sharing the wine at this last supper. However, during this long Passover meal, Jesus did much more than institute the Lord's Supper. Jesus taught the disciples various lessons and prayed for them, which were described in detail in the book of John from chapters 13 to 17. One of the most important teachings of the last supper was Jesus' new commandment towards the disciples, "love one another," by showing the example of washing the disciples' feet. To commemorate Jesus' new commandment and institution of the Lord's Supper, we will have a special worship service on 4/6 at 6:30 PM as Maundy Thursday and celebrate the communion and the ritual of washing other church members' hands. This worship service will allow you to reflect on Jesus' last supper in a new way.

3. Good Friday Worship Service

Good Friday is the day to commemorate Jesus' crucifixion. On that day, Jesus was arrested by the people of the high priest, condemned by the Jewish leaders and Pilate, humiliated by the Roman soldiers and the people, executed on the cross, and buried in a tomb. We are having a special worship service on 4/7 at 6:30 PM as Good Friday Worship service and reflect on all these events by dramatically reading the Book of Matthew with the worship committee members. Short reflections, special music, and prayers will enrich your worship experience. This worship service will help you to experience Jesus' crucifixion vividly and reflect on it in depth.

4. Easter Worship Service

We will celebrate Jesus' resurrection from his death on Easter Sunday, 4/9 at 9:00 AM. Invite your family members, friends, and neighbors to this worship service, and celebrate Jesus' resurrection by singing Easter traditional hymns, celebrating communion, lighting the Christ candle, and reflecting on the meaning of the resurrection with the Bible reading and sermon. We will have an Easter Egg Hunt for children after the worship service.

- New Member



Harold Stroud joined our church community as a new member on 2/26 after completing a 6-week new member class. Please remember his name and face, and welcome him by greeting him on Sunday mornings. Also, invite Harold to various gatherings and ministries such as fellowship, men's group, and loaves and fishes. If you are interested in joining the church as a new member, do not hesitate to contact Pastor Ho Lee (617-894-3545 / leehe0531@gmail.com). You do not have to participate in a 6-week new member class to become a new member. However, I strongly encourage you to consider taking the course with the pastor because it will give you a chance to get to know the pastor and the church as well as deepen your understanding of God.

- Pastor's Vacation

I (Pastor Ho Lee) will have a somewhat long vacation after Easter from 4/11(Tuesday) to 4/30 (Sunday). I do not have any particular plan to go somewhere. Instead, I plan to refresh myself by spending quality time with my family and friends. Since I began my ministry on July 1st, 2022, I haven't had any good resting time due to new ministries, changes in the church, and the ordination process. I expect that this vacation will renew me, giving me a better idea of the church. For this, please place me in your prayer. Please do not contact me during my vacation except for emergencies such as funerals or hospitalization. Diane Weider will take care of the church office from Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM as an interim administrative assistant in April. A new administrative assistant will begin her work from May 1st. (we will share more detailed information about the new administrative assistant in the following month's newsletter and Sundays in April through SPRC.) Also, three preachers are ready to lead the worship services during my absence. Retired Elder

Tom White will lead the worship service on 4/16, Retired local pastor Mary Balson will lead it on 4/23 as Native American Sunday, and Lay Speaker Denise Retzleff will preach on 4/30.

- Visitation Report and Plan

I have visited church members every Thursday since February. So far, I can visit more than 20 church members and all visitation sign-up sheet is filled with visitation appointments until Easter. Thank you for all your active participation. While visiting the church members for around two months, I have realized the following three things: 1) there are still some homebound church members that I do not know where they are 2) one-hour visitation usually requires another visitation to have enough time to listen to a church member 3) There are a lot of church members that I haven't visited yet. These realizations helped to see the necessity to extend the visitation period for all church members. Thus, I have decided to resume this visitation from May to June, right after my vacation. Soon, I will place another visitation sign-up sheet for May and June in the narthex area. Please sign up if you do not have a chance to meet me one-on-one. If your Thursdays are not suitable for this visitation, do not hesitate to contact me. I can find some available days and times. Please let me get to know you and serve you through these visitations.



- Confirmation News



Thanks to all church members' spiritual and financial support, all four confirmands and three chaperones, including me, could participate in the Wesleyan Heritage Confirmation Retreat from March 3rd to 4th at the Lake Lucerne Campsite. It was an excellent opportunity for all of us to learn about Christian history and Wesleyan tradition in an interesting and interactive way. Currently, confirmands are learning about Jesus' last 24 hours based on the book, *"24 Hours that Changed the World,"* every Sunday evening as other adults Bible Study did. During my vacation, the confirmation class will continue with other lay teachers. Denise will lead the confirmation class on 4/16 & 4/30 and Diane will lead it on 4/23. Please

continue to pray for our confirmands until the confirmation on 6/4.

Date	Scripture and Sermon	Volunteers	Mission	Music/ Special Event
April 2 Palm Sunday	Matthew 27:27-54 24 Hours: Crucifixion	Liturgist: Bill Averbeck Media: Henry A, Brayden A Live: Eleanor Usher: Bill K, Dave G, Bill O Greeter: Nina Acolyte: Kyle	Apportionments	Pancake Breakfast
April 9 Easter Sunday	Matthew 28:1-10	Liturgist: Mary Balson Children's: Diane W Media: Henry A, Brayden A Live: Usher: Bill K, Dave G, Bill O Greeter: Acolyte:	Apportionments	Choir
April 16	Guest Preacher Tom White	Liturgist: Denise Retzleff Children's: Media: Diane Live: Usher: Bill K, Dave G, Bill O Greeter: Baldwin Acolyte: Kyle	Apportionments	Bell Choir Gideons Presentation
April 23	Guest Preacher Mary Balson	Liturgist: Eleanor King Children's: Shelli Dekker Media: Diane Live: Usher: Bill K, Dave G, Bill O Greeter: Acolyte: Kyle	Native American Sunday	Choir
April 30	Guest Preacher Denise Retzleff	Liturgist: Children's: Baptism Media: Diane Live: Usher: Bill K, Dave G, Bill O Greeter: Kyle Acolyte:	Apportionments	Baptism of Ava Depies

United Women in Faith (UWF)

The Food Pantry being sponsored by Sara Circle will be put up in early April. This is a mission project for our local community. Anyone can donate items for it by putting them in a box in the Narthex, marked Food Pantry, on Sundays or by giving them to Dea Hebel. Anyone needing help is invited to take items (no more than three per visit, please). Items such as: cereal, tuna, canned chicken, granola bars, cans of fruits and vegetables or individual serving sizes, microwave mac & cheese, Spanish rice packets, ramen noodles, oatmeal cereal packets, peanut butter, and health items like toothpaste, tissues, etc. The items are not limited to this list but keep in mind the varying temperatures when purchasing items. We appreciate help from anyone who wants to help our community.

Kitchen Blessings in the theme of our May 11th Mother-Other Banquet and we look forward to having YOU join us! Please invite family, friends, and neighbors to join you. It's punch at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m., and a musical program to entertain you. Dinner will be a hot chicken salad accompanied by an assortment of salads, rolls, drinks, and delicious home baked bars. Tickets are \$10 for ages 11-adult; \$5 for ages 4-10; and free to children under the age of 4. The tickets will be available April 30th and May 7th. There will be many other offerings sale: baked goods, flowers/plants, gift cards, and specialty items. All proceeds go to charities that we support. If you would like to request specific baked items or pies please contact Dea (920 929-9625) or Eleanor (920 922-1522) by May 4th. We hope you will join us for this wonderful evening of fellowship.

Worship Highlights

There are many components of worship, and you are invited to offer your service. Would you like to be a greeter, liturgist, or usher? Perhaps you could give livestreaming, sound booth, or children's message a try. There's also candle lighting, preparing and serving communion elements, choir, bells or special music. Not sure which to pick, or what you'd need to do? Ask someone who is currently involved about their responsibilities. There's a sign-up sheet in the narthex for most of these responsibilities. They are available to anyone who is interested. We'd like to continually add new people.

'Acolyte' means one who is a helper or an attendant. The acolyte is responsible for lighting the altar candles for worship. The acolyte brings the flame down the aisle. The flame represents Christ's presence with us during the worship service. At the end of the service the acolyte extinguishes the altar candles but keeps the flame lit as they walk to the back of the sanctuary. This represents the light of Christ going out into the world.

Copies of the sermon message will be available each Sunday on the table in the narthex. You may especially be interested in picking one up if you have difficulty hearing or understanding the message. A prayer request box will soon be placed in the narthex. You'll find prayer requests cards near it. Jot down your request and drop it in the slot in the box. To guard confidentiality the box will be locked, and only the pastor will have access.

We have had requests for more traditional music and requests for more contemporary music. Our plan is to offer traditional style music on communion Sunday and then on one other Sunday during the month. Contemporary style songs would be used on the other two or three Sundays. The hope is that everyone will worship and praise God when they hear and sing both types of music.

If you have questions, comments, concerns, or ideas about worship, please talk with a member of the worship committee - Jan Andrews, Mona Averbeck, Mary Balson, Bill Kelley, Pastor Ho Lee, Cathy Morris, Denise Retzleff, Marilyn Stillings, David Thompson, or Diane Weider.

SPRC

SPRC is proud to announce that Debbie Tidwell will be joining our staff as Administrative Assistant/ Family Ministries Director. Debbie has worked with Pastor Ho Lee in the past and is bringing energy and ideas to Covenant. She will be starting in early May (after Pastor Ho Lee's vacation). Kelly will be leaving us the end of March and we wish her well for all that she has done for our church. I will be manning the office for the month of April because Pastor wantS consistency while he is on vacation and not in the building.

-Diane Weider, SPRC Chair

Sending Forth

Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive – Once again we filled the huge box with items that were requested; new hygiene and cleaning supplies, diapers, and personal care products. Thank you for participating in this local community project to Help the Homeless.

Plans for the Ingathering, June 9-12, at the KI Center in Green Bay. Midwest Missions (formerly Midwest Distribution Center) gathers needed supplies at our Annual Conference. This year the In-Gathering is in desperate need of folding walkers, wheelchairs, crutches, canes, slings, walking boots, blankets (new and gently used), brooms, rakes, and shovels. They are also collecting 12-19 ounce shampoo bottles. These can be purchased at a very reasonable price at the Dollar Tree or through Amazon. We have a collection for this in our Narthex. These donations need to be brought to church before June 7 so we can make arrangements to get them to Green Bay for AC. Monetary donations can be made to the church with "Ingathering" in the memo. Thank you for your generous support for this mission – bringing the heart and hands of God's people together to transform resources into humanitarian relief.



Bible Study

What is the Wesleyan Movement?

We still find lessons today for our own spiritual journey from John Wesley who founded Methodism in the eighteenth century. Join the study and discussion group as we learn the history of Wesley and the early Methodists. This study will help us find revival in our own hearts and lives.

Join the Bible study and conversation on Wednesday mornings in the choir room, starting at 9:30 am and concluding in one hour. This new series starts April 26, 2023. There is no registration, no fee, and no work between sessions. Come as you are, eager to ask questions, learn and discuss. For more information contact Denise Retzleff at 920- 539-0336. We will use bestselling author Adam Hamilton's book and video series "Revival – Faith as Wesley Lived It."

Trustee Report

The Trustees have approved an Arrow Chair Lift to be installed on the Marr St. entrance (door #1) for handicap accessibility to the 2nd floor Church office and Pastor Ho Lee's office. They are also looking into a handicap accessible entrance at door #1 and replacement windows for the educational building are being considered. The location for the outside food pantry box will be finalized. Numerous smaller projects and maintenance issues are continually being completed. If you have any questions/concerns please free to contact any of our Trustees. Until next month, let us try to walk in a truly Christian way. Bill Averbeck, Trustee Chair

Family Ministries

Covenant's Sunday school, youth and Confirmation students will be hosting our 3rd annual Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast. They will be serving from 10:15 to noon along with help from the UMM (United Methodist Men). The breakfast will consist of pancakes, sausages, egg bake, mini muffins, applesauce, string cheese, milk, orange juice, and coffee. Tickets available for \$ 8 for ages 11 and up, \$5 for ages 4-10, with kids 3 and under free. Don't miss out on this fantastic breakfast served by our fantastic kids. Enjoy!! Also, we will be having an Easter egg hunt immediately after the Easter morning service for all kids 11 years and under. Happy hunting!

BREAKFAST

Palm Sunday 10:15am



Get your tickets today!

Loaves and Fishes

Thanks to all who helped with Loaves and Fishes in January. We served only 56 meals. The numbers are down due to the registration process. Our next serving date is April 26th. The numbers are now running between 75 and 80 so we expect we will serve at least that many. Sign up will be April 16th and 23rd. Please save the date. We will have two more dates after this one this year- July 12th and the last one on November 8th. Thanks to all who make this mission such a great success!

United Methodist Men (UMM)

The UMM met on Saturday, March 11. There were eight men present and there was lots of discussion on where and how to help our church, community, and our kids. We have four or five men who volunteered to help the youth with the Palm Sunday breakfast, also more men plan to help in May with the Mother and Other Banquet. Keep on your calendars the June 25th Church Picnic; the men may provide the meats and will ask for a dish to pass. The UMM will meet on April 8th at 8:00 a.m. at Rolling Meadows Restaurant. Hope to see you men. Darrell Jewson, Chair UMM

CCAP

Just an update from Covenant Cares About People. In February and the first half of March we delivered 28 cases of bananas (\$672); 42 boxes of Cap'n Crunch cereal (\$81.59); 8 cases of Mac & Cheese cups, 8 cases of fruit cups, 8 cases of ramen noodles, and 52 packs of Quaker Oats (total for these is \$384.43). When I think of the kids we are helping, I feel good about our mission, and pray we could reach more. Darrell S. Jewson, Banana Man

From Pacto

People from different cultures serve and adore God in Pacto de Gracia UMC.
Special Thank you for your prayers to make this work possible.

 <p>Sue Snellenberger Social Media Sunday School Teacher of Children</p>	 <p>Josh Giese Pianist</p>	 <p>Dana Knack Coordinator of Community Closet - Fundraiser</p>
 <p>Nilvia Izaguirre - Honduras Chair of Council Count the Offerings</p>	 <p>Cesar Perez – Nicaragua Member of Council Usher</p>	 <p>Fany Castro – Honduras Count the Offering</p>
 <p>Orlando Rodriguez-Colombia Liturgist</p>	 <p>Eveling Perez – Nicaragua Liturgist</p>	 <p>Alejandra Ariza – Colombia Sound System</p>



Andrea Talavera - Honduras
Acolyte
Children's Sunday School
Helper

Others Activities

- Pacto de Gracia UMC is in Partnership with Fond du Lac Literacy Services for English Classes.
- Workshops on March 19th with Marine Credit Union, Lincoln Heritage Funeral Advantage, Steven Krueger and Paola Astudillo - Realtor.
- Community Closet – Fundraiser: January \$239, February \$332.75
- Worship attendance: 28 people (adults and children)

Tamales

Fundraiser



On May 5th

Please see the Tamales order at the Information desk at the entrance to the sanctuary or with Denise Retzleff.



16 people started English classes on March 19, 2023

Cancelled Stamp Savers

I will be mailing cancelled stamps to the Marion Mission Storehouse in Marion, IN in April so please get your saved cancelled stamps Nina Krueger, the church office, or me. Thank you again for your faithfulness in helping the United Women in Faith with this mission. By doing this it helps the Marion Mission send much needed medical supplies, clothes, shoes, and other items to needy people in Africa. When you trim your cancelled stamps, please leave a ¼ inch border. Remember, do not save any prepaid postage type stamps as they are not usually cancelled and are not accepted. Marilyn Stillings

Birthdays

- 4-3 Marshall Christian
- 4-4 Kathy Bargenquast
- 4-5 Bill Kelley
- 4-11 Ted Chipman
- 4-14 Jesse Patt
- 4-17 Robert Lewis
- 4-20 Catherine Morris
- 4-26 Dave Miller
- 4-27 Chuck Kilmer
- 4-28 Mona Averbeck
- 4-29 Eleanor King



80+ birthdays!

Ted Chipman
Robert Lewis
Catherine Morris
Dave Miller
Chuck Kilmer
Eleanor King



Anniversaries

- April 1— Ron and Vickie Goldapske
- April 12— Marshall and Debbie Christian
- April 26— Adam and Tami Averbeck



Covenant United Methodist Church
20 North Marr Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Main Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:00AM-12:00PM

Pastor Office Hours:

Monday– Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm

Ways to Give with Tithe.ly

- Tithe.ly app
- Text “give” to 920-267-4801
- Visit our website: covenantforyou.church/give

Pastor: Pastor Ho Lee

Email: Leeho0531@gmail.com cell: 617.894.3545

Pastor of Hispanic Ministry: Rev. Janet Martínez

Custodian: Judi Balson

Music Director: David Thompson

**Submission deadline is the
20th of each month at noon.
Please get your content to the
office by this date for the next
month’s issue.**

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