

April 2016

Volume XXI Issue 4



## The Madison Methodist *Message*

The United Methodist Church  
in Madison  
24 Madison Avenue  
Madison, NJ 07940  
“at the corner of Drew University”

church@umcmadison.org  
www.umcmadison.org  
Tel: 973.377.1231

### A Message from the Pastor

#### Easter is Over

So much of the *stuff* we add to Easter is indeed over. Baskets are put away with that fake grass that is now more likely to be made of paper (biodegradable). And we do recycle many of those plastic eggs from year to year. In fact we probably could shut down the plastic egg factory for a year or so and see if we need any more for awhile. At least a year or two.

The candy is not all gone but it will be. Candy has a good long lifespan even beyond its good long lifespan. But they too will eventually be discarded. And what remains?

Well, the Easter story, believe it or not, is celebrated in one way or another every week. We don't always have lilies or a wonderful breakfast (thanks to all who helped) but we do *tell the story*.

Spring is a good time to celebrate *our story* because we are reminded of new life, and incidentally, renewed life. We don't replant trees or our lawns. Some flowers, well yes. But this is a time of great renewal, a time for the renewal of life.



What is renewing about our faith is that each day is different. Each experience is different and we gain something looking at, experiencing and sharing life as seen through the *lens* of God's love in Christ. The wonder, the mystery, the awe inspiring witness of the Cross and Empty Tomb yet have much to offer...in April, May, June...

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robb'.

*“In worship, fellowship and service we seek God’s peace  
as revealed in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.”*



### Staff & Elected Officers

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Rev. Robb W. Shoaf, Ph.D

#### Student Assistant Pastor

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#### Outreach Ministries

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Kathleen Keane & Chelsea Jackson

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Mike Kroeger Luke McKinnon

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## Easter Flowers



On Saturday, March 26, Lisa Carballo, Susan McAdoo, Jake and Katie Antmann spent the morning decorating the Sanctuary in preparation for Easter Sunday. Thank you all!

## United Methodist Women

The Naomi Circle of United Methodist Women is pleased to invite everyone to a presentation by Jeanne Eisele on Wednesday, April 27, at 10:30 in the Church Library. Jeanne will talk about her recent trip to India and show pictures. All are welcome to join us, men included. Following the presentation we will go to lunch at Begum Palace, an Indian restaurant at the Plaza Shopping Center in Madison. So that I can make a reservation, please let me know you are coming by contacting Laurie Hagerich by phone at 973-377-9407 or email at [hagerl@optonline.net](mailto:hagerl@optonline.net).

Our Circle is continuing to collect for The Neighborhood Center of Camden, New Jersey, which is supported by United Methodist Women and the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. Please don't forget to save your quarters, which will go to support this center that helps with the needs of young adults, senior citizens, children and teenagers in Camden. Donations can be made by collection of quarters in plastic medicine vials (please use your own vial) or by placing a check payable to "United Methodist Women" in the offering plate. Please note "Neighborhood Center" in the memo portion of your check. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me.

## Praise Dancing—May 22nd

Something for the diary.... Our lovely praise dancers will be performing together with the youth orchestra on May 22nd during our 10:00 AM service. We invite all musician and youth to be involved. More information to follow.





## Other News ... Bits and briefs

**GOT BIKES?**  
**Donate and Re-cycle at the Central Avenue School BIKE SWAP**

We give gently used bikes a new lease on life and a new home at the community-wide **Bike Swap**, held at Central Avenue School. For the seventh year in a row, ALL bikes, no matter what size, sell for **just \$10!** That means kids can buy their own bikes with their allowance! Plus you've taught them the valuable lesson about Re-Cycling and how to reduce our carbon footprint one bike at a time!

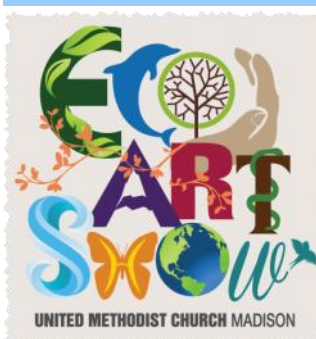
We rely 100% on donations to make the Bike Swap a success, so please donate today! For more information, or if you would like to donate, please call Lisa Moro at 201-323-4136 or email, lamoro46@gmail.com.

100 percent of the proceeds goes to **PeaceWorks**, a non-profit organization that donates bikes to Latin American countries and the US.

**WHAT:** Central Avenue School Bike Swap  
**WHEN:** Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
**WHERE:** 50 Central Avenue, Madison, NJ  
**TIME:** 9 am - 11 am  
**DONATE:** Drop bike donations off at 218 Central Ave., until May 14<sup>th</sup>, or bring to the Bike Swap by 8:30 am May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Communion Sunday—April 10

Native American Sunday—April 10



**Eco Art Show**  
**April 17-24**

We will have a small Opening Reception for the show after service on the 17th. The following week, on the 24th, we will close the show with a special guest speaker and luncheon. Drew Professor Dr. Laurel Kearns will speak on faith and the environment during service on the 24th, and following the 10 am service she will then lead a *Lunch and Learn* for all church and community members. We would love for you to join us.

### Daytime Book Study anybody?

We are wanting to introduce a Daytime Book Study and would like to find out how many people would be interested in attending. If this is something you would like to attend, please use the sign up sheet in the Library or call the Church Office.

### Worship Service—April 24th

Please Note: On April 24th there will be one service at 10:00 AM as our Guest Speaker, Dr Laurel Kearns, will be giving the sermon, closing our Art Show and giving a lunch and learn session following the service. All are welcome to attend.

### Save the Date—May 21

Mark your calendars for Stop Hunger Now 2016, May 21 from 3-5pm with a pizza party afterwards. Friends and family are all welcome. More details to follow.

### Heart and Hand



On Saturday, March 19 Heart and Hand and UMW joined forces to build Health Kits for an UMCOR flood relief project. Robb and Kathy Shoaf will be delivering the kits to UMCOR center in Mechanicsburg, PA. The kits will then be distributed to flood areas when and where they are needed.  
*(From left. Kathy Shoaf, Kris Pfeifer, Janet Critchley, Nancy Luts, Mireille Bessin, Sue Fleming, Kirsten White, and taking the picture—Jeanne Eisele)*



# April 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			7:00 am Men's Breakfast		1 8 pm AA	2
3 8:30 am Early Service 10 am Family Worship 5 pm The Gathering	4 8 pm AA	5 7:30 pm Trustees Meeting 8 pm AA	6 7:00 am Men's Breakfast	7 8 pm Chancel Choir	8 8 pm AA	9
10 8:30 am Early Service 10 am Family Worship 5 pm The Gathering	11 8 pm AA	12 7:30 pm Church Council 8 pm AA	13 7:00 am Men's Breakfast	14 8 pm Chancel Choir	15 8 pm AA	16 Team Vital Lunch
17 8:30 am Early Service 10 am Family Worship 5 pm The Gathering	18 8 pm AA	19 8 pm AA	20 7:00 am Men's Breakfast	21 8 pm Chancel Choir	22 Earth Day 8 pm AA	23
ART SHOW ART SHOW → → → → → → →						
24 ONE SERVICE 10 am Family Worship with Lunch and Learn to follow 5 pm The Gathering	25 8 pm AA	26 8 pm AA	27 7:00 am Men's Breakfast UMW – Jeanne Eisele speaks on recent trip to India	28	29 8 pm AA	30
May Newsletter Deadline: April 19						

# The Gathering News

The Gathering meets every Sunday at 5:00pm for a time of fellowship and worship. Over the past couple weeks we have listened to a webinar on the religious response to the water crisis in Flint, Michigan accompanied with vibrant conversations. We have shared meals together, in the form of potlucks and coffee fellowship. The leadership team of The Gathering have also led the offering in the 10:00am service. We have moved our meeting place from the main sanctuary to the lounge next to the library which we believe has cultivated a meaningful and intimate space for The Gathering to worship and fellowship. As we move forward, the leadership hopes to continue seeking innovative and transformative models of being church. If you are interested in coming feel free to come as you are every Sunday at 5:00pm. All are welcome!

*Parker Jackson-Loesch,*

## From the Student Assistant Pastor

Happy Eastertide Everyone!

As we move into Spring and season of Easter, I hope you all have experienced time to rest, relax and reflect throughout Lent and Holy Week. These seasons have brought us to where we are now, Eastertide, a fifty day period to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, that concludes with Pentecost.

As Lent, Holy Week and Easter are such identifiable markers of the Christian tradition, it is fitting that we engaged in programs and projects framing this important time. One of these programs was the Stations of the Cross coloring project, created by artist Mary Button. Many of you may have noticed the *Climate Change* centered *Stations of the Cross*, placed throughout the sanctuary during Holy Week.

We thank our youth and church families for their work on these pieces of art and appreciate each piece's reflection on climate change as a spiritual crisis that mirrors the suffering and Passion of Jesus. However, if you missed this program, don't worry! You will have a chance to see this exhibit during the upcoming Eco-Art Show!

April 17th-24th, UMC Madison will be hosting an Eco-Art Show, showcasing artwork from New York City, Newark, Morris and Drew artists. The goal of this art show is, "to engage Madison and surrounding communities in creative expression centering on appreciation, stewardship and justice for the environment, and those most impacted by its devastation."

We will have a small Opening Reception for the show after service on the 17th. The following week, on the 24th, we will close the show with a special guest speaker and luncheon. Drew Professor Dr. Laurel Kearns will speak on faith and the environment during service on the 24th, and following the 10 am service she will then lead a *Lunch and Learn* for all church and community members. To view the other dates throughout the week that the show will be open, please check the church website.

Also, please note this is a community show. Artists of all ages and experience levels have submitted their work, and it is our hope that all community members will be invited and feel welcomed to enjoy and reflect upon the art. So please consider not only visiting the "gallery" but also inviting your friends and neighbors!

Lastly, the church is once again hosting a Stop Hunger Now Event, and we have chosen a date! On May 21st we will gather at Madison High School, where as a church and community we will package 25,000 meals. The majority of these Stop Hunger Now Meals will go to school children in developing countries, with the hope that nourished children can better attend school and learn, increasing their chances of breaking out of the cycle of poverty. This project has had wonderful reviews from our church community, yet it is also a time and financial commitment. Therefore, if you have questions or you are interested in either packaging meals and/or donating to this project please let me know! Any time, energy and financial donation is appreciated!

As a church we have many big projects coming up. These projects will engage us with the community and creation, all while deepening our connection and community with one another. However, even in the midst of these events, I pray that each of us find time to lean into the mystery of Easter and the Resurrection, and sense the grace, love and forgiveness of a living and ever-moving God.

*In Peace,  
Chelsea Jackson-Loesch*



# OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

*Honoring God's gift of Jesus by sharing with others*

## SPRING INTO OUTREACH

**T**hank you for the generous support for our Lenten Speaker Series and the joyful welcome given to each of our guest speakers. While I was unable to attend, the reports were glowing about each Sunday's event. The expanded coffee hour/brunch was once again well received and especially with the wonderful Turkish treats provided by our guests from Peace Island Institute. The fellowship offered demonstrates one of our congregation's best qualities. The Lenten/Easter Offering will be distributed to Peace Islands Institute, the Laundromat Project, and UMCOR One Great Hour of Sharing.

The presentation about Peace Islands Institute highlighted their Center for Interfaith which plans activities with churches, temples and other houses of worship to open a common ground for dialogue. [http://www.peaceislands.org/interfaith\\_affairs/](http://www.peaceislands.org/interfaith_affairs/)

The Laundromat Project focuses its work in three anchor neighborhoods of NYC where they use creativity as a catalyst to bring change and networking to communities to foster greater pride and ownership. <http://laundromatproject.org/>

Erin Rowell, Madison Area YMCA, informed the congregation about TerraCycle recycling program sponsored by the Y which established special recycling processes for items considered "non-recyclable" in the normal stream.

UMCOR annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering directly supports overhead expenses of United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to ensure the continued global ministry and the promise that 100% of each designated offering for disaster relief goes directly to that effort. When we meet the needs of those who suffer we answer Jesus' call to ministry. UMCOR began in the global turbulence of World War II

with relief missions in Europe and Asia. It has continued relief efforts globally, expanding their services and building international partnerships.

"I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me." (Mt. 25:35-36, CEB)

Recent UMCOR relief efforts

Partners from 13 Caribbean islands met for UMCOR's fifth International Disaster Response training in Grenada. Previous UMCOR IDR disaster response trainings have

been held in Chile, Philippines, Zimbabwe, and Germany. These training sessions prepare regional partners from the church, missional organizations, government, and other professions to design and implement humanitarian assistance and disaster risk reduction projects.

UMCOR with the support of local volunteers from the Louisiana Conference of the United Methodist Church distributed health kits and flood/cleaning buckets to those suffering from floods, in Louisiana and everywhere!

With UMCOR support, [International Blue Cross & Blue Crescent](#) identified the most vulnerable 1000 families and distributed emergency food provisions and hygiene materials to those impacted by the Nepal earthquake.

It is the sixth year that UMCOR has provided support to displaced populations affected by the Syria conflict. Working with more than a dozen international partner agencies, UMCOR provided emergency food supplies, health care, shelter, psychosocial support, education support, and even mine removal.

South Sudan, the world's youngest nation, has nominal infrastructure and social services due to years of civil war and continued conflict. UMCOR has embarked on a new development project that will include community health care unit.

Learn more at: <http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Resources>

Native American Ministries Sunday - April 10, 2016

This is one of the six special Sundays celebrated by The United Methodist Church. The special contributions from this Sunday support urban and other ministries, and scholarships for Native American communities.

Thank you to Heart & Hand and Lydia UMW Circle

Many thanks to Kathy Shoaf and Kerstin White for organizing and leading the packaging of 50 Health Kits which will be shipped to UMCOR Sager Brown Warehouse for distribution where ever they may be needed as part of disaster relief efforts.

AFWH- A Future with Hope Update

To date the results include completion of restoration of 204 homes complete, 27 homes under construction, 10,767 volunteers, 10 host sites, 284 person hosting capacity, 424 home owners and families supported through case management. Volunteers have come from 44 states plus DC and Canada. AFWH continues to work in communities across GNJ area.

In Christ's service,

*Jeanne Eisele*

## News from Family Promise



**P**lease keep the following dates in mind for all volunteers and friends of Family Promise, the organization that has been helping homeless families in Morris County for over 30 years:  
**Monday, April 18 Training Session from 6:30 to 7 pm** at St. Virgil's Church in Morris Plains. Anthony Oakes, Veteran's Housing Director from Community Hope will be the featured trainer. I will provide transportation for anyone who would like to go.

**Friday, June 24**, our next time to provide volunteers when St. Vincent's Martyr Church will host during the week of June 19.  
**Thursday, May 5**, for the annual Volunteer Appreciation dinner at Meadow Wood Manor, Randolph, NJ, hosted by Family Promise. I'll be attending and hope many of our volunteers will be able to join me. I'll be glad to drive, so please call me if you can attend and be rewarded for serving throughout the year.

The latest Family Promises newsletter has some good stories about Our Promise, the Day Center in Morristown operated by Family Promise and which our Church has supported with a Jones Fund grant. Through a partnership with College of St. Elizabeth, beauty school students have been volunteering at Our Promise to give haircuts, manicures and shoulder massages, and other students have been giving community service hours to help with daily routines and interacting with guests. Several nursing students have been helping guests with foot care and blood pressure screenings. This partnership has benefitted over 50 individuals who attend Our Promise and has provided the students with valuable and enjoyable experiences. The newsletter also has a link to a recent Daily Record article, "Our Promise in Morristown Makes Homeless Feel at Home.". The full newsletter can be accessed at [www.familypromisemorris.org](http://www.familypromisemorris.org).

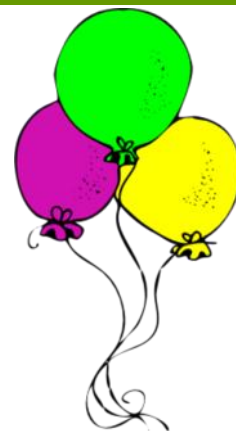
*Laurie Hagerich*

## Thank you

Shout out to all the families who donated to the Easter Flower Fund-thank you!



## Known Birthdays in APRIL



*Charlotte Rose Robinette*

*Charles Wiley McIntosh*

*Logan Ayash*

*Robert Henderson*

*Lance Carriere*

*Melina Ayash*

*Kyle Van Sciver*

*Eric White*

*Tara Kathleen Manz*

*Jane Frances Cyganovich*

*Jaelyn Atterbury*

## Our Church Family

### People we remembered in prayer

Jimmy Guishard

Joe Carballo

Wade Merrick

The Family of Dick Ellyson

Wyatt Murphy  
(Rory's father)

The Pehowic Family  
Wes Wubbenhorst

Frank Disporto

Patricia Warbasse



**Did you know...** UMC Madison has a Facebook page? Search "[United Methodist Church in Madison](#)," and see more photos from the annual pageant show mission trip and other up-



### Fair Trade Coffee Sale — April 3

*During coffee hour in the church library*

# Worship Schedule



**Early Morning Worship** **8:30 a.m.**

**Family Worship & Sunday School** **10:00 a.m.**

*Childcare is available for infants and toddlers.*

**Coffee and Fellowship** **11:15 a.m.**

**The Gathering** **5:00 p.m.**

## **Coming Up:**

April 5	Trustees meeting
April 16	Team Vital Meeting/Lunch
April 17	Eco Art Show Begins/Special Music from Noah French
April 24	ONE SERVICE, Lunch & Learn with Laurel Kearns
April 27	UMW—Talk on India Trip (Jeanne Eisele)

*Check our website for more information: [www.umcmadison.org](http://www.umcmadison.org)*