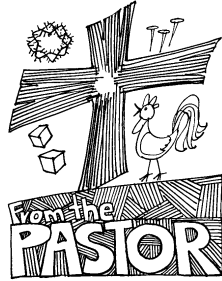


Dear Partners in Ministry –

During the time between Easter and Pentecost (May 23), I will be preaching from the Book of Acts. It is a wonderful telling of the story of the birth of the church. There are plenty of prison escapes, shipwrecks, conversions, and controversy.



Saul/Paul is not the only dramatic conversion. Simon Peter also has a huge conversion moment when he realizes that God doesn't require us to be Jews before we can be Christians. Just think how Peter felt when he was first served shrimp or pork by Christians of Greek or Italian heritage. "Acts" is full of birth pangs as churches were formed and inclusiveness became the norm. Paul and Peter never fully resolve their conflicts but they both serve Jesus Christ and the church faithfully.

I write this because for the annual meeting I wrote about what is next for the church based on a lecture series at Eden Seminary. I believe there will be significant change. Change, as evidenced by "Acts" is Biblical, scriptural. Change is what we as Christians have always been about.

I await with confidence the new thing God is doing.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Sue

**THANK YOUS**

Dear Friends of Feed My People:

Spring is finally here after a long, cold, and stormy winter. But life for some of our clients is still stormy. They are still struggling to provide for their families. However thoughtful and caring people like you help to bring a little springtime to these clients because you help us in our mission. Thank you for your donation of \$125.

Yours in Christ,

(signed) John and Carol DeGuire, Executive Co-Directors

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Dear Friends of St. Philip's:

I would like to thank all of you for your cards, visits, prayers, and phone calls. You find out how much St. Philip's is a caring church family when something happens to you – like my fall. I appreciate all your concerns regarding my well being.

Jacque Walker

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

A sincere thank you to the congregation of St. Philip's Church for all the cards, flowers and prayers gratefully acknowledged by our family. St. Philip's was always a part of Walt's life.

(signed) Don and Linda Boucher and the Kim Miller Family

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Thank you for your cards, prayers, visits, and flowers during my recent surgery and hospital stay.

(signed) Tom Nottelmann

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~



Keep in your prayers Al Farrow who had surgery done on his shoulder. It was good to see him at church Sunday – sling and all.

## **50+ GROUP**

The 50+ group will be going to the River City Casino on Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. There is no bus service so either come to church at 9:30 am to carpool or meet us at the south entrance of the casino at 10 a.m. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**



The May activity for Women's Fellowship will be meeting for lunch on Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Time and place will be determined at a later date. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

## **BULLETIN BOARD**

Know you are probably getting tired of reading this announcement but please be sure to check the bulletin board each week after worship to see what is going on in the near future and also to sign-up for liturgist, children's time and the welcoming team and any event you might want to attend. It helps the committees a lot when they know how many to plan on, and if the Sunday morning jobs are filled.

## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP COLLECTION FOR MAY**

During May the Women's Fellowship will be collecting canned goods of all kinds. This will be the last month for Women's Fellowship to collect food until next fall. Thanks to all who have donated.

## **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

St. Philip's work day for Habitat for Humanity is coming up soon. It is set for Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are planning to help that day, please sign up on the bulletin board as soon as possible so Pastor Sue can get you the information packet. Nearly \$800 was raised in our Lenten Banks for the UCC Habitat House.

Thanks to all who filled their banks and made our Lenten outreach successful. Now volunteers are needed to raise the roof on our new house. Please volunteer !!!! Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

## **STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING**

Part of our mission work includes an offering for Strengthening the Church. This offering will be collected on Pentecost Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Your gift to Strengthen the Church builds the UCC's future now by funding The Stillspeaking Ministry, new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership formation – especially among women and people of color.

The God is Stillspeaking Ministry spreads the message of God's extravagant welcome, reaching out especially to those who have felt there is no room for them within Christianity and the church – the excluded and alienated, the spiritually homeless, the questioning. In the last two years, Stillspeaking reached an estimated 25 million people through national, regional and local advertising.

Your offerings are directed to your church's Conference, Local Church Ministries, and the Stillspeaking Ministry for these church development, leader development and Stillspeaking purposes.

## **SANDWICH MAKING TIME**

May 2<sup>nd</sup> will be the time again for the youth to make sandwiches. If possible, plan to stay and help.

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

We will begin the VBS evening work on Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at Virginia's. Bring an item for the salad bar and your scissors.



We are now planning for this exciting week of August 2-6. These are some of the items we

will need. If you have any of these, please keep and we will collect at a later date. Be sure you label the items, so we can return them to you.

- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| aluminum foil                | buttons                    |
| white mini lights            | aluminum pie plates        |
| black light                  | artificial vines/ greenery |
| lava lamps                   | books, magazines,          |
| silver disco balls           | posters relating to        |
| multicolored disco ball lamp | space                      |
| 1 telescope                  | spray foam insulation      |
| styrofoam balls              | for asteroids              |
| dryer vent hoses             | large pieces of card-      |
| rectangular paint palettes   | board                      |

**SECURITY REMINDER**

Just a reminder to all who use the church building. If you are the last one to leave the premises will you please check to make sure all the doors are securely closed and locked and all the lights turned off – including the restroom ones. We have had trouble with some of the doors not closing properly and find the doors open the next day. Thank you for your assistance.

**CASUAL SUNDAYS**

We will begin our summer casual dress this year on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Please use your discretion as to what is appropriate to wear for church. Be comfortable but also be respectfully. Thanks !



**COMING EVENTS**

- May 2      Communion  
 Learning Ministry Mtg. after church  
 Sandwich making  
 Youth Sunday
- May 3      Bible Study 9 am  
 Church Council 7 pm

- May 4      Bell Choir 7 pm  
 May 5      Choir 7 pm  
 May 9      Birthday Sunday  
 May 10     Bible Study 9 am  
              Romans Disciple Study 7 pm  
 May 11     Bell Choir 7 pm  
              VBS Workshop Day 6 pm  
 May 14     50+ Group – River City Casino  
 May 15     St. Philip’s Habitat Work Day  
 May 17     Bible Study 9 am  
 May 18     Women’s Fellowship Luncheon Trip  
 May 19     Outreach Ministry 10 am  
 May 23     Strengthen the Church offering collected  
 May 24     Bible Study 9 am  
 May 31     Office Day  
 Memorial Day

closed –  
 Holiday



**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- |                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| May 1      Olivia Severson  | May 17     Carl Philips       |
| May 3      Tom Kammerer     | May 18     Nancy Krenning     |
| May 5      Mike Shelton     | May 19     Mary Lou Farrow    |
| Brad Werner                 | May 21     Jason Yung         |
| Loyd Thurman                | May 23     Sue Bowles         |
| May 8      George Brand, Jr | May 25     Maurine Wenk.      |
| May 9      Stacey Witte     | May 26     Sheannon Hlacknick |
| May 10     Alice Hillyard   | Brandi Armistead              |
| May 11     Lindsey Knoll    | May 27     Haylee Thibodeaux  |
| Dorothy Vinyard             | Keaton Wodicker               |
| Vince Gottschlich           | May 29     J.P. Ried          |
| May 14     Kimberly Kelly   | Sandy Stevenson               |
| May 15     Pam Henson       | May 31     Kirk Tangeman      |
|                             | Laura Bym                     |

**LITURGISTS, USHERS, ACOLYTES AND CHILDREN'S TIME FOR MAY**

**Liturgists**



May 2 Youth Sunday  
May 9  
May 16 Gary Karcher  
May 23  
May 30

**Welcoming Teams**

May 2 Youth Sunday  
May 9  
May 16 Joy Lopez  
May 23  
May 30

**Children's Time**

May 2 Youth Sunday  
May 9  
May 16  
May 23  
May 30



**Acolytes**



May 2 Alex Balzer  
May 9 Rachel Fischer  
May 16 Madeline Williamson  
May 23 Harrison Fischer  
May 30 Jordan Lewis

**MOTHER'S DAY**

Thanks to Sandy Stevenson for these.

This is for the mothers who have sat up all night with sick toddlers in their arms, wiping up "barf" laced with Oscar Mayer wieners and cherry Kool-Aid saying, "It's okay honey, Mommy's here!"

This is for the mothers whose priceless art collections are hanging on their refrigerator doors.

And for all the mothers who froze their buns on metal bleachers at football, hockey, baseball or soccer games instead of watching from the warmth of their cars, so that when their kids asked, "Did you see me, Mom?" they could say, "Of course, I wouldn't have missed it for the world," and mean it.

This is for every mother whose head turns automatically when a little voice calls "Mom?" in a crowd, even though they know their own offspring are at home –or even away at college.

For all the mothers who read "Goodnight, Moon" twice a night for a year. And then read it again. "Just one more time."

For all the mothers who bite their lips until they bleed when their 14 year olds dye their hair green.

What makes a good Mother anyway?

Is it patience? Compassion? Broad hips? The ability to nurse a baby, cook dinner, and sew a button on a shirt, all at the same time.

Or is it in her heart? Is it the ache you feel when you watch your son or daughter disappear down the street, walking to school alone for the very first time.

The jolt that takes you from sleep to dread, from bed to crib at 2 a.m. to put your hand on the back of a sleeping baby?

The panic, years later, that comes again at 2 a.m. when you just want to hear their key in the door and know they are safe again in your home?

The emotions of motherhood are universal and so our thoughts are for young mothers stumbling through diaper changes and sleep deprivation....and mature mothers learning to let go.

For working mothers and stay-at-home mothers.

Single mothers and married mothers.

Mothers with money, mothers without.

This is for you all. For all of us.

Hang in there. In the end we can only do the best we can. Tell them every day that we love them. And pray.

