



April 23, 2024

E-Pistle

Union Congregational United Church of Christ, St. Louis Park MN

Please Join Us for Worship Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Pastoral Musings

Dear Church,

We are halfway through the Eastertide season. The liturgical color for this season is white, symbolizing the light of Christ and the resurrection. The season's lessons center on the history of the early church and on stories of the resurrected Jesus' appearances. The season asks us to discern where we see new life and Christ's light among us. In many ways it is fitting that there are two task forces which have started during the Eastertide season. These task forces are charged with discerning Union's future direction. May Christ's light be with them as they complete their important work. May our prayers and support be with them.

See you in church, in person or virtually.

With Eastertide blessings,

Pastor Liz

When does Pastor Liz work? How do we contact Pastor Liz? How do we meet with Pastor Liz? Pastor Liz's workdays are Sundays 9 am to 4 pm with office hours from 11 am to 4 pm; Monday mornings, Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday afternoons, and Thursday afternoons. To call Pastor Liz, call the church and leave a message by pushing "2". I check voice mails frequently. You may also call or text me on my cell phone which is listed in the member directory. If you would like to make an appointment with me, please call or text me.

Faith in Action

On Sunday, April 28 we will welcome Leah Patton, Executive Director of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition. JRLC comprises four faith traditions—Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Muslim—and advocates for social justice concerns that all members agree upon and that make a difference to community members whose needs are often neglected. When JRLC was founded in 1971, it was the first interfaith public interest lobby group in the U.S.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Loose Coin offering for March and April is Move Forward

Their mission is to provide free, confidential, and immediate crisis and short term counseling services for youth and parents in the western suburbs. Program priority is to help families stay together and keep youth in school. Some transitional living sites and a drop-in center are also offered.

STEP is the St Louis Park community food and social service agency. They directly provide food and clothing to residents in need, as well as advocacy, referrals, and build a collaborative relationship. Their vision is to be the trusted resource for connecting community members with resources to fulfill their basic needs.

MCC Refugee Services (Minnesota Council of Churches' Refugee Services). Refugee Spring Update:

The Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services is four months into 2024 and has already welcomed 300 people, providing much needed items to families. Their donation shelves are in need of replenishing – especially hygiene products (towels & washcloths, bottles of shampoo, toothbrushes & toothpaste, unscented bars of soap/hand soap, deodorant, razors & shaving cream, feminine pads) and household products like all -purpose cleaner, dish soap, laundry detergent as well as shower curtains and hooks.

Please also see the “Build a Welcome Kit” handout on the information table at church for other needs. Many of you have donated things really needed by refugees. Keep up the good work!! The most recent new pillows and hand knit hats & scarves are always appreciated. Some like-new toys found a home with a refugee family.

Check with Janet Midtbo (612-414-5671, jdmidtbo@gmail.com) about gently used items you may wish to donate.

Flower Pick-up and Delivery

Deadline for signing up for Sunday flowers is the Sunday before your request date. The cost is \$35.00 and you will need to pick them up at Arts & Flowers (6011 Excelsior Blvd, St. Louis Park) between 10 a.m. and their closing at 4 p.m. and then deliver them to church Saturday anytime or early Sunday morning. The sign-up sheet and request cards for flowers is at the back of the sanctuary.

THIS WEEK’S PRAYER LIST

Those in need of support and healing:

Carol L recovering from broken hip
Ben H. recuperating at home with chronic health issues
Carl recovering from a stroke
Michael’s friend Jay
Michael B.
Owen Betty’s friend
The Clarno family and friends
The White family and friends
Mary K.’s sister-in-law Mary

Those *homebound or under care:

*Betty Jean
Ray

If you are in need of prayer, please email info@unionslp.com with your request to be added to the list.




April Birthdays

Arlene J.	4/6
Betty W.	4/8
Barb E.	4/19
Bayli G.	4/22

Epistle

Just a reminder regarding announcements for the Epistle. Please email requests to info@unionslp.com by the end of the day on Monday. Thank you.

Grounded in God's  of wonder and inclusion,
we work towards a just world.

Union Congregational United Church of Christ
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