



Loving, Growing, Serving in Faith

APRIL 2018

Dear Community of Faith,

Easter Sunday falls on April 1st this year which is also April Fools' day. While it sounds bad, I don't think it really is all that big a problem. I don't think people really observe April Fools' day so much. Perhaps we might incorporate the two emphases and say, **"Don't be a fool! Easter is much more than bunnies and chocolate!"** I know you know that, but you might be surprised at how many don't. I urge you to attend the Easter worship and join in the praise of our victorious and risen Lord. In fact to begin the celebration we are gathering at 9 AM together to enjoy a continental breakfast in fellowship hall. Some members have signed up to bring food, but everyone is welcome to join us!

WHAT?! The 2018 calendar is a bit odd, but it provides us with a great opening to explore just how odd Easter is and in particular the original ending of the Gospel of Mark. Did you know there is no Easter story in the original ending of Mark?! (Ok, I'm a biblical nerd – but all pastors are!) The original ending of the 16th chapter of Mark is this:

"So they [the disciples] went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid."

WHAT?! The first and oldest gospel of Mark doesn't mention Easter until several years later when as biblical scholars tell us an addition was written to correspond to the other gospels' accounts of the Resurrection. Can you **believe it? I'm not fooling you. Fear is found at the original ending of Mark's rendition of Jesus' story.** Not joy, not celebration, not happiness but fear. Maybe this original ending gives us pause to think about how many times we may have experienced some very tragic or difficult event in our lives and wondered **"how is this going to end?"** It might have been difficult to feel anything but fear or grief or a great amount of confusion. These were the emotions felt by the disciples, Mary Magdalene, Mary of Bethany and others upon Jesus' death. Jesus was crucified. Of course, there was fear – could the disciples be next?

But Easter tells us that the original ending does not need to be the final draft! Easter bursts from the pages of scripture! Christ is alive in the testimony of the disciples whose joy could not be contained by their fear. The additional verses that tell us of the resurrection of Jesus are part of the larger story not to be forgotten – a larger story of God's unfailing love, God's amazing grace, God's power to bring life out of death.

The early Christians were known as "fools" by those who did not understand or would not understand the event of Jesus' resurrection. I'm not so totally sure that just by reading it I fully understand it either. Perhaps the understanding comes through faithfully trusting in a God who makes life where there was death, a new hope for a new day, and joy out of what could have been a very horrible ending. Enter into the ending of Jesus and find hope for your new beginning.

In Resurrection Hope,
Pastor Brian LeBaron

Growing in Faith

We are committed to growing as disciples of Jesus Christ.

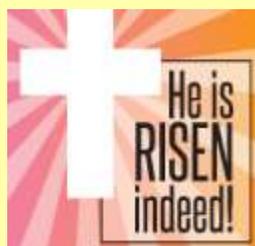
Some of the ways we live this out are through our personal devotion, small groups, and worship.

EASTER WEEK SCHEDULE

March 25 Palm Sunday	10:00 am	Faith UMC
March 29 Maundy Thursday Service	7:00 pm	Faith UMC
March 30 Community Good Friday Service	7:00 pm	Church of Brethren
April 01 Easter Continental Breakfast	9:00 am	Faith UMC
April 01 Easter Worship	10:00 am	Faith UMC

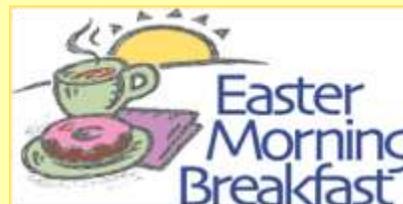
EASTER CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Easter Continental Breakfast at Faith UMC at 9:00 am



What better way to celebrate Easter morning than with friends and family in Fellowship Hall for a **9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast!**

A light breakfast featuring juice, coffee, donuts, coffee cakes, and fruit will be waiting for you before you attend the 10:00 worship service April 1.



Volunteers are needed to help with the event, and a sign up sheet will be circulating during worship and Sunday School times for your donations and serving help to make this an enjoyable time of fellowship for all.

Make this a wonderful beginning to Resurrection Morning as you celebrate the Easter joys of fellowship and faith!

Jean Frey

HELPING WITH WORSHIP SERVICE

Share your time, talents and gifts in April and beyond

Please consider signing up one, two, or three times to help during our worship services. We need greeters, liturgists, flowers for the altar & volunteers to bring and serve fellowship refreshments. The signup sheets for the next four months are at the back of the church or call Marilyn at the church office. (815.946.3212) We hope you will enjoy picking dates that suit your schedule while giving in different ways to our church.



THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

SCOUT PHOTOS



Boy Scout Sunday Feb 4, 2018



Girl Scout Sunday March 11, 2018

“GREET...MEET...and EAT”



Sunday, April 8 at 5:00 p.m., members and friends of Faith UMC are invited to an event for all ages-- **“Greet...Meet...and...Eat”** will be an opportunity to have good food and good conversation in an informal setting at the church.

The event will be held on the main floor, in the Lounge, Library and Scout Rooms where your Sunday evening meal will be prepared for your enjoyment. The menu will feature appetizers and salads, pulled pork sandwiches, chips, and desserts. Table service and drinks will also be provided, so all you need to do is sign up and plan to have a good time! Donations of appetizers, salads, and desserts are appreciated, but are optional.

Reservations will be needed by April 4 and can be made by calling the office (815.946.3212) or by signing up on the clipboard that will be circulating during worship and Sunday School and in the Narthex.

This event is being sponsored by the Loving Team: Marla Buskohl, Jean Deuth, John Deuth, Barb Sims, Ashley Deuth, Donna Gillingham, Karen Scholl, Jan Bates, and Jean Frey.

We hope YOU will plan to attend!!



The Loving Team, Marla Buskohl, Chairman

Serving in Faith

We are committed to serving the people of Polo and the world.

Some of the ways we live this out are through our giving of time, talents, and financial gifts.

APRIL MISSION FOCUS KIDZ CAFÉ



In 2013 the churches and concerned citizens of Polo started a summer program called Kidz Café. Free lunches were served to the children of our community 3 days a week. This was a hot meal prepared for kids taste and nutritional needs in mind. The salad bar and the addition of a shuttle service were just a couple things that were added to this program in part due to the generous donations that we received. Kidz Café has become a popular summertime meeting place for kids and their families. This valuable ministry continues today as there is still a need for a summer lunch program.

The Polo school district still has over 50% of its students that qualify for free or reduced lunches. Kidz Café starts again in June 2018. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated..

APRIL 12th WORK DAY at VILLAGE OF PROGRESS



Outdoor Cleanup Work

APRIL 12, 2018

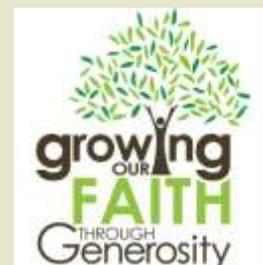


Last summer the Village of Progress in Oregon suffered extensive flood damage. They have completed much of the interior renovation. To celebrate this community effort, they are planning a May 18 Open House. To help prepare for this celebration, the Serving Team has volunteered to do clean-up work in the gardens and other landscaped areas around the building. If you would like to join the work crew on Thursday, April 12, let Nancy Ocken know at 815.440.5768.

POLO FAITH UMC FINANCIAL INFORMATION

February 2018 Polo Faith UMC Financial Information

Monthly Income (General Fund)	\$	9,035
Monthly Expenses Paid	\$	13,177
Balance Current Fund	\$	(4,798)
Outstanding February bills	\$	5,300



Expense amount does not include elevator or our outreach projects.

Thank you for your generosity throughout the year. If you are able to give a little extra now to support the basic costs of running the church, it will be greatly appreciated.

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WHEELS OF FAITH



**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO NEEDS A RIDE?
CALL 815.677.8194**

Our Wheels of Faith bus is

making 3-5 trips a week taking people shopping and to the doctor. If you know of anyone who could use this wonderful service, please share the new flyer with them or the new number. The newest bus has a wheel chair lift and is air conditioned and will be comfortable for everyone.

EVERY FRIDAY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM



"In Collaboration with the Polo Sub Stop we are hosting an After School Program from 3:15 to 5:00 PM. There will be fun games, tasty snacks, a place for kids to "hang out." This program is targeted to the upper elementary 5th grade and up into junior high. Pastor Brian and other adults will provide supervision and facilitation.

COMBAT HUNGER

NEEDED NOW!

**Fruit
Hamburger helper
Boxed potato products**



April ongoing needs for Polo Lifeline are these:

Coffee & Tea bags	Cream of Chicken Soup
Cake mixes	Cream of Mushroom Soup
Cereal	Cheese
Spaghetti & sauce	Canned chicken
Bread	Cake mix
Ketchup	Deodorant
Canned carrots	Toilet Paper, wipes
Pork & Beans	Child lg. diapers
French Style Green Beans	Child's large diapers & wipes
Canned tomato products	Pain Relievers

Monetary donations are always welcome. Thank you for supporting our local food pantry!

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY



**Our Table
Community
Meal**

5:30—7pm

What: Free home-cooked meal
When: The last Monday of the Month

April 30, May 28

Where: Faith UMC, 702 E. Dixon, Polo, IL

We hope you will join us for this opportunity to get to know our neighbors better. Bring your friends.

**Fifth Sunday Lunch
At Prairie State Apartments
April 29 at 11:30 am**



Come and join us
for lunch at Prairie State Apts.
as we serve
chicken and biscuits, salad and dessert and enjoy
fellowship with our neighbors.



THANK YOU

We'd like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to Faith United Methodist Church and Pastor Brian. Pastor Brian orchestrated a move January 25 and 26 when we moved from Polo to Dixon. Three trucks and a trailer arrived at 214 N. Jackson Ave., Polo. Three hours later the house was empty. Thank you to Pastor Brian for the U-Haul truck, Phil Frey for his truck and trailer and Randy and Nancy Ocken for their pickup truck which were all crammed full. I just stood back and let the movers do their thing because I couldn't keep up with the speed things were moving.

Loading contents of a 4 bedroom two story house and garage, doing everything in reverse the next day in Dixon, were Pastor Brian, Phil & Jean Frey, Jeff Frey, Mark & Diana Maginnis, Randy & Nancy Ocken, Ron Rackow, Daniel and Michael Deuth, John Deuth, Julie and Bryon Bowers, and Paul Piatek. I am sorry if I missed anyone. If you helped in any way, please accept our THANKS.

Thank you to Jean Frey for the brownies Thursday and the barbeque and chips for lunch on Friday after the unloading was done in two hours. The Dixon house is smaller so we still have a garage full of boxes and furniture we cannot use. Hopefully a garage sale this spring will eliminate what we can't accommodate.

We are enjoying the house and the neighborhood which at this time is pretty quiet. We are anxious to meet some of the neighbors which will happen when we can get outside more.

Again THANK YOU to all who helped and God Bless each of you for giving your time to help Jean and me get moved to Dixon. We are at 520 Devonshire St., Dixon, just off Brinton Ave. south of the prison.

Carolyn and Jean Sterenberg

SECOND HAND ROSE



ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
April 3 - 7, 2018



Faith UMC provides workers for the Tuesday-Saturday weekly schedule every 5 weeks.

The schedule is:

- Tuesday & Wednesday 11 am-2 pm & 2-5pm
- Thursday & Friday 1 -5 pm, (or you can work 1-3 or 3-5 if 4 hours is too much)
- Saturday 9-12 noon

If you are willing to learn this fairly easy but important job, we will have you work with someone who has more experience.

If you would like to join our team, please call
Ginny Snodgrass at 779.770.6393 or the church office.



Loving in Faith

We are committed to loving God and all people.

Some of the ways we live this out are through our praise, prayers, and fellowship.

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

<u>Ongoing Prayers:</u>	Nancy Mackey	Growing tensions and divisions in our country
Verla Attig	Wallace Mackey	Our need for thoughtful political discourse
Lenora Bakener	Annabelle Muench	
Kay Dillard	Tabitha Naylor	
Joy Farrell	Eldon Ports	
Jean Frey	Arvilla Siddens	
Faith Glaman	National and World Leaders	
Betty Good	Our struggles to love our neighbors	
Harlan Long		
Marlene Mackey		



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

01 Amanda Montross	19 Dorothy Vallandingham	07 Pam & Scott Fluck
01 Jim Ports	20 Ellie Dyer	20 Ron & Julia Hammer
02 Dave Bucher	21 Katie Ports	25 Amy & Paul Piatek
04 Pat Gilbert	22 Roger Palmer	28 Jeff & JoDee Van Oosten
05 Lucille Woodin	22 Judy Hite	
05 Dave Ditzler	22 Sandy Holbrook	
10 Jackson Buskohl	23 Charlotte Heavener	
11 Christine Ditzler	27 Sandy Hummel	
13 Ralph Richards	27 Wyatt Queckboerner	
14 KeeLey Meyer	29 Bernice Horton	
17 Toby Aguilar	30 Reagan Elizabeth Terry	
19 Chuck Long		



APRIL WORSHIP SERVANTS

APRIL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MEETING

Greeters:

04-01-18 Matt & Margie Shore
Need 2 volunteers

04-08-18 Ron & Julia Hammer
Need 2 volunteers

04-15-18 Jan Bates, Ginny Snodgrass
Need 2 volunteers

04-22-18 Paul & Beverly Wiemken
Need 2 volunteers

04-29-18 Mark & Diana Maginnis
Need 2 volunteers



April 19
1:30 P.M.
Scout Room

Hostess: Dorothy Kjolsing
Program: Rosemary Troxel
Devotions: Jean Frey

AD COUNCIL MINUTES MARCH 19, 2018

Ad Council Meeting Minutes March 19, 2018

Attendees: Laura McKean, Marla Buskohl, Margie Shore, Judy Norris, Nancy Ocken, Randy Ocken, Pastor Brian Le Baron, Phil Frey, Randy Hayes, Ron Rackow, Lucille and Bud Woodin, John Deuth, Jean Deuth and Marilyn Sura

The meeting was called order by Phil Frey. Randy Hayes gave the devotions.

The minutes of the Feb. 19 meeting were approved following a motion by Nancy Ocken and seconded by Randy Hayes.

Finance: February's expense report shows a balance of (\$4,798.29). The report was provided in print by Ron Hammer; absent due to moving in activity into their new domicile.

Trustees: No meeting. Chair Mark Maginnis is out of town.

SPRC: They met on Feb. 27 and are working on evaluations of non-pastoral staff. In May there will be an annual evaluation for Pastor Brian LeBaron.

Loving: They met on March 12 and are finalizing the arrangements for the next Our Table (March 26) with the Church of the Brethren. An Easter continental breakfast will be held at 9 am in Fellowship Hall. On Sunday, April 8 there will be a GREET... MEET...EAT event at 5:00pm for members and friends to mix and mingle. Marla passed around copies for review of the updated Funeral Luncheon Policy and a fee schedule for wedding events. It was suggested all fees should be collected before the event. Marla and Pastor Brian will work on changes and present revised versions at the next Ad Council meeting.

Serving: So far UMCOR donations have purchased six cleaning buckets. Pennies from Heaven fund is approximately \$1,200. Prairie State Apt. fifth Sunday lunch will be on April 29 and creamed chicken with biscuits, salad and desserts will be served. The next work date is on April 12 at Village of Progress in Oregon. April's Mission Focus will be Kidz Café.

UMW: Pastor Brian was the speaker at their soup and salad luncheon on March 15. Polo's United Methodist Women earned a 5 Star Unit designation. They pledged \$2040 to the Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Women and give donations to fourteen other groups.

Accessibility: Randy Ocken reported that everyone on the elevator committee went to see the lift at the Dixon's First United Methodist Church. A lift would be half the cost of installing an elevator as it is a simpler installation. It would take approximately a month to install a lift after a contractor was chosen. Blueprints need to be drawn, then bid packets would go out to contractors and then bids would be submitted for review by the elevator committee. The earliest start could be in June although most contractors would rather start this type of project in the late fall. Lucille Woodin asked if the money designated for the elevator could be used for the lift. As the lift meets the same function as the elevator it would qualify. District Supt. Young-Mee Park has indicated that if our Ad Council approves this lift, the conference approves this change of devices. We do have the money now to go ahead with this project.

Ron Rackow wondered if we could install the unit in the narthex and not disturb the lounge kitchenette and the coat racks. The finished installation would be 6' x 7'. Everyone went out to the narthex and downstairs to determine if there would be enough space, but there is not; as installation footprint would severely restrict the hallway egress outside the fellowship hall entrance. Plans include to relocate two sections of the coat racks and to remodel the kitchenette into a "L" configuration. The sink, coffee maker, microwave and cabinetry would be retained. The lift holds 750 pounds and would hold a person in an electric wheelchair and a caregiver. It would also hold a rolling cart making it easier to load supplies to the kitchen. Typically 4 average individuals can transit in a ride whereas with higher weight persons 3 would be typical capacity.

The motion from the accessibility committee that we move ahead to install a lift to complete the accessibility project carried unanimously in a vote. Randy will call the architect on March 20 to start this phase.

Pastor Brian submitted a proposal to the Town & Rural committee proposing a collaborative ministry with the community. The "YES" (Young Eagles Success) initiative would include three monthly events over the course of our summer run of Kidz Café. Professor Carl A. Cole (Mr. C) leads these events and works with all faiths and schools. "YES" Club workshops would focus on values and character clarification. The PCHS is interested in collaborating with FUMC in this by hosting an assembly or two at the Junior and Senior High. The motion to support this Keagy Grant proposal of the "Yes" Club initiative with \$1,000 carried. John Deuth volunteered to start work on another summer fundraiser dinner with a view towards raising local matching funds for the anticipated Keagy Grant.

Next Ad Council Meeting is April 16. Brian closed the meeting with a prayer. Devotions are yet to be assigned.

Submitted by Marilyn Sura, Office Manager, Ad Council Secretary

HONOR ROLL STUDENTS

Second Quarter Honor Roll Students from Faith UMC

We want to add our congratulations to the students in Aplington Middle School and Polo High School for their achieving the distinction of making the Honor Roll status for the second quarter of the year.

6th Grade A Honor Roll: Courtney Grobe
6th Grade B Honor Roll: Piper Martin-Pressley
7th Grade A Honor Roll – Cody Buskohl
7th Grade B Honor Roll – Avery Grenoble
6th Grade Straight A Honor Roll – Karlea Frey
7th Grade Straight A Honor Roll – Alexis Moore



PCHS students earning scholastic honors for the Second Quarter *High Honor Roll* were: Freshman, Abby Gorzny; Junior, Lucas Hammond; and Senior, Baylee Wiemken.

The Second Quarter *Honor Roll* included Juniors AJ Williams and Justin Young and Senior, Dakota Meyer. First Semester *High Honor Roll* students are Freshman, Abby Gorzny, Juniors, Lucas Hammond and Justin Young, and Senior, Baylee Wiemken.

The First Semester *Honor Roll* members are Tyler Maginnis and Dakota Meyer, both Seniors.

Congratulations to each of you and your families for your recognition of your hard work and scholastic talents!

Faith UMC Loving Committee

CELEBRATING GRADUATIONS in MAY



It may seem like a long time away, but Faith UMC Loving Team is already planning for Graduation!

Sunday, May 20, we want to honor our college, high school and middle school graduates with a Sundae Fundae. Yes, that's right! Ice cream sundaes right after church in honor of the accomplishments of our young people.

We would like your help in giving to the office the names of graduates whom you know who should be included in this morning of celebration; we don't want to miss one graduate in this day of recognition.

We thank you ahead of time, moms, dads, grandpas, grandmas, and family members for your help in getting the names of your grads to us. We want to recognize their achievements and celebrate the gifts God has given to them.

Sincerely, the Loving Team

2018 EASTER FLOWERS



John & Jean Deuth	In memory of Tom Corcoran, Jim Corcoran, Elwin & Betty Deuth	hyacinth
Donna Gillingham	In memory of Dick Gillingham	hyacinth
Randy & Donna Hayes		tulips - 2
Jim & Robin Jefford	In honor of their grandchildren	lily
Brian & Kathy LeBaron	In memory Jim, Margaret Baxter In memory of Bruce Evans In memory of Jerry Sjoberg	lily hyacinth tulip
Virginia Snodgrass	In memory of her mother & 3 sisters	hyacinth
Betty Stoner	In memory of Carl Stoner	hyacinth tulip
Barb Sims	Laurie (Sims) Hasken, Lisa Sims, Mike Sims	tulip
Marilyn Sura	In honor of family and friends	tulip
Drew & Tena Terry	In memory of Jackie Terry	hyacinth
Gladys Typer	In memory of Bill Typer	lily

SUCCESSFUL BLOOD DRIVE



Thank you to everyone who donated blood on February 27, 2018.

Carol Brown reports 31 signed in, 2 were rejected. There were six new donors and 89 lives were saved!



Watch calendar, website and bulletins for upcoming committee meetings

May Newsletter Deadline is April 13

Copies of the Ad Council minutes and financial reports are available in the green folder on the table outside the office.

This newsletter is created by human hands directing Technology. If you notice any errors, kindly let us know. We will be happy to make any corrections. We reserve the right to change the wording of any articles submitted to reflect kindness, consideration, and the best intentions of all.

STAY IN TOUCH

Faith United Methodist Church
Pastor Brian LeBaron
Cell: 815.541.4207

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