



# The Messenger

United Methodist Church – 2210 Sixth Avenue East, Alexandria, MN 56308

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April 2019

Editor: Ginger Mayer

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On the first Wednesday of Lent, at the Adult Study, the question, “What is a healthy church?” came up. The context was our study by Rev. Mike Slaughter, “Made for a Miracle” and the question “What’s next?”. I made a comment about “Healthy Church Initiative” (HCI) being a way to discern “what’s next”. So, what is a healthy church?

I said that there were three parts to a healthy church and proceeded to get only two of the three correct. So, here are the correct three components.

**Passionate Worship** – Worship is fundamental to being “church”. For John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, public worship (worship with others) was one of several “means of grace” – a means of experiencing God’s grace in our lives. We come together in worship to offer praise and thanksgiving to God who creates us, gives us breath, and loves us. We also come together in worship to offer God ourselves and all we have for God’s purposes. Weekly worship connects us in tangible ways to God and God’s people and it revitalizes us for our week ahead. Worship can also be a place where people who don’t know God’s love and forgiveness can experience it with God’s people. In my view, someone’s experience at worship begins and ends in the parking lot. The welcome, kindness, and acceptance they encounter with our people who greet, usher, serve, and engage them will enhance their experience of passionate worship. The people at Alexandria UMC who contribute to this include the pastor (me), the Worship Team, our musicians, the Hospitality & Family Life Team, and everyone who greets, ushers, and provides for the fellowship time before and after worship.

**Small Group Ministries** – A healthy church has active, small group ministries that connect people to God and each other around a common interest. Small group ministries include, but are not limited to, Sunday school, adult Bible study, youth groups, men’s groups, women’s groups, prayer groups, etc. Small group ministries should not only include some fellowship time, but also some scriptures, some study, and some prayer. Small groups were not only another “means of grace” but were the foundation of the Methodist Movement for John Wesley as he organized the Methodists in each community into classes and bands. At Alexandria UMC we have the Children’s Ministry Team along with the Director of Children’s Ministries, Youth Ministry Team along with the Director of Youth Ministries, Adult Discipleship & Spiritual Formation Team, and the United Methodist Women (Joy Circle and Friends Circle) leading our small group ministries.

**Mission** – Worship and small group ministries are mostly about what we do for ourselves as individuals and as a church. Mission, for a healthy church, is about what we do for others in need, especially in our own communities. Are there families who need food; people without adequate, affordable housing; women and men who need life sustaining work; people struggling with addiction, depression, other mental illnesses, loneliness, or mobility issues; students who need kind, gentle tutoring or reading buddies? There are a host of issues that we, as Alexandria UMC, can help with. Yes, there are community organizations that work to provide relief for these problems, such as the Food Shelf, but that doesn’t mean we can’t work with them, support them in their work. There may also be some unique mission field that will become an option in the future for us. For John Wesley, mission work to help others allows us to grow in “Social Holiness”. (Worship and Small Groups are part of our “Personal Holiness or Piety”.) At Alexandria UMC the Missions & Social Concerns Team, the Care Team, and the Community Wood-Fired Oven Team are the groups leading the way for our Missions.

Sometimes, these three overlap. A small group ministry, say a women’s group, discovers they have a talent and passion for repairing homes and will turn that into a ministry to the elderly who cannot afford to pay for repairs.

Resurrection Sunday (aka Easter) is all about new life in God’s Economy. It is all about God’s work in us, the church, to bring God’s Life to the world. As we enter the season of Resurrection and reflect on our life as Alexandria UMC, how do we become, or grow into, or be revitalized as a “Healthy Church”? What’s next?

Grace and Peace in Jesus the Christ,

Pastor Gary



Nursery is available on Sunday morning during worship services and coffee fellowship time. Nursery is for children 5 and younger. If you have an older child and need a place to go with them during worship time, the Youth Room is available. There is a speaker in the room to listen to the sermon. Toys are available in Cart Two.

Reminder that we are following our Building Use Policy—the church entrance doors will remain locked unless there are two people present in the building. Please call ahead before you come to church, as there are times when we are not in the building, even though we are working. Also, most days

**Published by Alexandria  
United Methodist Church  
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### **Office Hours**

**Pastor Gary**—Tue-Friday

Admin. Assist. Ginger Mayer

Office is open (9:00-1:00)

Mon-Tue-Wed-Thurs-Fri

**Kayla**—Tue (8:00-2:00)

Wed (11:00-5:00), Thurs (9:00-12:00)

**Brenda**—Aug thru June Wed & Thurs-  
days (5:30—8:30) July only Wednesdays  
(530-8:30)

### **Publication Date for the next *Messenger*:**

is the last week of March  
Articles for the March issue  
need to be in the office by  
NOON on Wednesday March 20th

### **Worship Attendance**

Service	2019		2018	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
Mar 3	43	76	66	75
Mar 10	12	32	41	67
Mar 17	61	70	72	84
Mar 24	45	39	32	24
Mar 31	62	73	75	65



*In your prayers, please remember all in positions of leadership, people serving in dangerous and difficult settings, returned and returning service people and their families, all who seek and await*

# April 2019 Youth Ministry Newsletter

Come and join our monthly group in the lounge called *Stuff N' Things – Middle School & Beyond*. We meet the 1st Sunday of the month from 9:15-10:15. Food will be available! The dates left for this school year are: April 7, & May 5. Stop in and check it out!!



March was Minnesota Food Share Month. Our Youth Group was collecting donations for our local food shelf and had a goal of bringing in 150 pounds of food, and they brought in 154 pounds!! Because they met the goal they will have a special night of activities in May.

Lent activities continue as we near Easter. No Wednesday night activities on Wed. April 17th. The Confirmation students will be helping Holy Thursday service on April 18th again this year. Watch for details!!



The Spring Bake Sale is April 27th in conjunction with the UMW Rummage Sale. Watch for sign up sheets!!

**Just a reminder the Confirmation Retreat is on April 20th and Confirmation Sunday is April 28th**





## SUNDAY SCHOOL

This month we continue into the season of Lent and celebrate Easter. As the calendar moves us closer to Easter, our Bible stories also move us closer to the time of Jesus' arrest and death. We will hear the Bible story about Peter's denial. It is a story of fear, failure, and remorse. We then go back to the beginning of Holy Week with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with the waving of palms. We go out of sequence so the children can learn about Palm Sunday with the rest of the congregation. This leads us to Holy Week where we remember Jesus' death and resurrection. The amazing miracle we celebrate on Easter Sunday. We will finish the month by learning about Peter's forgiveness and continuation of Jesus' earthly ministry.

### SCHEDULE:

**April 7th:** Peter Pretends

**April 14th:** Jesus Enters Jerusalem

**April 21st:** Easter - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

**April 28th:** Feed My Sheep

### BIBLE VERSE:

"I've seen the Lord." John 20:18 CEB



### OFFERING:

During the month of March we will collect an offering for Kids Fighting Hunger.

## COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

We are teaming up with the Alexandria Jaycees again to host our Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 13th. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the hunt beginning promptly at 10:00 a.m. We are still in need of lots of candy to fill our eggs and volunteers to stuff the eggs. There is a basket in the Narthex for donations. There is also a sign-up sheet with several different opportunities for adults and youth to help with the event. Be sure to check it out! The egg hunt attracts more than 100 children from our community and is a great way to show others our hospitality and invite them to our church!

### Community Easter Egg Hunt



ALEXANDRIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
2210 6th Ave E

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13th | 10:00 a.m.**

FREE EGG HUNT • EASTER BUNNY • SNACKS • BIKE GIVEAWAY

Sponsored by Alexandria UMC & Alexandria Jaycees



## FAMILY LENTEN ACTIVITIES

We continue with our family Lenten activities on Wednesday evenings during April. Supper will be served at 5:30PM followed by worship and small groups for adults, youth, and children. Children will finish making their Resurrection Eggs or Easter Story Stones just in time to bring them home for Holy Week. Following Easter we will return to our regular schedule on Wednesday evenings for 3rd-5th graders.



### SCHEDULE:

**April 3rd:** Eggs-citing News!

(Symbols: cloth, rock, empty tomb)

**April 10th:** Easter Canvas Painting

**April 17th:** Holy Week - NO ACTIVITIES

**April 24th:** Regular activities for 3rd-5th grade

## KIDS FIGHTING HUNGER PACKING EVENT

Save the date! We will be going to Kids Fight Hunger for a packing event on Wednesday, May 15th from 5:30-7:00 p.m. The whole congregation is invited to come. We will meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. and carpool together.



## *April Volunteers*

### **Liturgists:**

Apr 7, 14	8:00	Carol Meyer	Apr 7, 14	10:30	RosAnn Flenner
Apr 21, 28	8:00	Roy Good	Apr 21,	10:30	Ken Voigt
			April 28,	10:30	Kara Gerdes

### **Ushers:**

8:00	Arlana Langner, Dave & Karen Morgan
10:30	Helen Glade, Paul & Jessica Nelson

### **Greeters:**

Apr 7	8:00—Sue Walker	10:30—Mitch & Allison Loch
Apr 14	8:00—Darren & Tess Evink	10:30—Burse Jordan
Apr 21	8:00—Roy & Connie Good	10:30—Curt & Betty Sax
Apr 28	8:00—Ted & Geri Zabrosky	10:30—Virginia Ketter

### **Coffee Servers:**

Apr 7	Rob & Kim Tryggeseth, Bob & Jackie Olson
Apr 14	Mike & Jean Bristow , Steve & Marsha Haugen
Apr 21	Rolly & Kay Kortlever, Nancy Carroll
Apr 28	Confirmation: Duane & Kari Erlandson, Mitch & Kali Kaeter

### **Organists/Pianists:**

Apr 7	Gale Maxwell	Apr 19.	Good Friday
Apr 14	Kristen Wilson	Apr 21 .	Easter
Apr 18	Holy Thursday	Apr 28	

### **Nursery Workers:**

Apr 7	Karen Murphy	Apr 14	Grace Evink
Apr 21	Karen Murphy	Apr 28	Grace Evink

### **Acolytes:**

Apr 7	8:00—Colton & Jackson Cavers	10:30—Gavin Olson
Apr 14	8:00—Grace & Abby Evink	10:30—Brookelyn Scribner, Dari Meyer
Apr 21	8:00—	10:30—
Apr 28	8:00— Colton & Jackson Cavers	10:30—Carter Erlandson, Jacob Balcome

# APRIL

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2 9:30 B & P 9:30 Coffee Group 11:30 Staff Meeting 2:00 Prayer Group 3:00 Bible Study	3 5:30 Supper 6:00Lent Worship 6:30 Lent Study/ Activities for adults, youth & children 7:30 Youth Ministry Team Meeting	4 1:00 Care Team 4:30 Adult Dicipleship 6:00 Worship Team	5	6
7 8:00 Worship 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:15 Preschool—5th Grade Sunday School & Adult Discipleship 9:15 Stuff N Things 10:30 Worship	8	9 9:30 B & P 9:30 Coffee Group 11:30 Staff Meeting 2:00 Prayer Group 3:00 Bible Study 4:30 Book Study	10 5:30 Trustees Meeting 5:30 Supper 6:00 Lent worship 6:30Lent study/ Activities for adults , youth and children	11 6:30 Church Council	12	13 10: 00 Easter Egg Hunt
14 8:00 Worship 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:15 Preschool—5th Grade Sunday School & Adult Discipleship	15	16 9:30 B & P 11:30 Staff Meeting 2:00 Prayer Group 3:00 Bible Study 4:30 Book Study	17	18 9:30 Joy Circle 6:30 Friends Circle 7:00 Pm Maundy Thurday Worship	19 7:00 PM Holy Friday Worship	20 9:00 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat
21 <b>Happy Easter</b> 8:00 Worship 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:15 Preschool-5th Grade Sunday School & Adult Discipleship 10:30 Worship	22	23 9:30 B & P 11:30 Staff Meeting 2:00 Prayer Group 3:00 Bible Study 4:30 Book Study	24 5:30 Supper and Praise 6:00 –7:30 Confirmation 6:20 3rd—5th grade activities	25 Rummage sale set-up	26 Rummage sale set-up	27 Rummage sale
28 8:00 Worship 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:15 Preschool—5th Grade Sunday School & Adult Discipleship 10:30 Confirmation	29	30 9:30 B & P 11:30 Staff Meeting 2:00 Prayer Group 3:00 Bible Study 4:30 Book Study				

## ATTENTION!!

Do you or someone you know need help with heat and electric costs? Energy Assistance may be able to help! Energy Assistance provides financial assistance directly to heat and electric companies for income eligible renters and homeowners. It is not too late to apply and funds are still available. Contact West Central MN Communities Action today! Phone: 800-492-4805 Website: [www.wcmca.org](http://www.wcmca.org) Email: [eap@wcmca.org](mailto:eap@wcmca.org)

**SPRING SOCIAL EVENT:** Monday, April 15th--Spring Social Event (former Adult Fellowship) @ Fat Daddy's 5:30 P.M. Order your choice from menu. Need 25-30 people to have the private room. Questions, call Helen Glade 763-3031.

**GARDEN PLOTS AVAILABLE!** Our own Alex UMC Fellowship Gardens have raised 4'X8' plots available for use for the 2019 growing season! These are made available to church and community members at no cost. We have gardening tools available for your use; you simply provide the seeds or plants and TLC. If you are interested (or know someone who might be interested!) email Heidi Ryan at [heidibrownryan@gmail.com](mailto:heidibrownryan@gmail.com) or call 320.815.2275.



# *Birthdays*

3 Mel Nomsen	18 Jim Jensen Dean Lindstrom	25 La Donna Schake
4 Brynne Pass Kelli Stember-Tung Bryce Vogt	19 Tehya Haburn	29 Bob Rishavy
5 Ann Heydt Tony Primus	20 Dave Battey Donna Phillips	30 Joyce Martin Heidi Ryan
9 Gerry Olson Marti Stember	22 Isabella Vogt Kaylee Vogt Brigitte Witt	
10 Betty Springman Maureen Winger	24 Nevin Brede Gale Maxwell Muriel Smith	
11 Nicholas Schlapkol		

# ATTENTION!!

**ORGANICS RECYCLING:** Many of you may be doing your own organics recycling already. Children also do it in school at lunch time. Now our church is participating in the organics recycling program. Anytime a meal is served in Fellowship Hall you are encouraged to put your napkin and any food (including bones) left on your plate into the organics container provided before you put it on the counter by the dishwasher. People working in the kitchen will add food scraps, coffee filters and grounds and paper towels before tying the compostable bag that lines the container. Then it is to be taken to the outdoor drop-off container located just inside and to the left of the gate into Butterfly Hill Nature Preschool playground. Items collected are transferred to a large industrial composting site and turned into nutrient-rich compost used primarily by commercial landscapers, in road construction projects and in gardens. When compost is added to soil, it reduces the need for fertilizers and pesticides, and increases water retention. Information provided by Pope/Douglas Recycling states that “39 percent of what is in the garbage is comprised of organic materials that can be diverted for composting through organic recycling”. Seems like a win-win project and good stewardship of our planet earth. Thanks for doing your part

**HYGIENE KITS:** Hygiene Kits (previously known as Health Kits) provide the basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of natural disasters. They are distributed by UMCOR to people within the United States that have seen their homes and communities ravaged by tornados, fires, and flooding. The need for the kits is on going and there are times when UMCOR's supply of kits has been depleted. In the last two years, thanks to your generosity, we have delivered several hundred of these kits to Annual Conference. So once again, we bring this need to the attention of our congregation as a missionary giving opportunity. By purchasing the items for the kits in larger quantities, we are able to maximize your giving. Therefore, rather than having you purchase items for the kits, we encourage you to make a monetary donation. We will then purchase and assemble the kits for delivery to Annual Conference on June 18th. If you would like to make a monetary donation, make your check payable to Alexandria UMC and note "Hygiene Kits" in the memo section of your check. All donations need to be received by Sunday, May 5th. Missions / Social Concerns Team.

**STORE CARDS:** The question has been asked “how come we have money tied up in gift card inventory when we need money to pay bills?”: We currently have \$5500 of dedicated funds in the account for gift cards. This money was given specifically for this purpose and cannot be used for anything else. As cards are sold the money received goes back to this account to be used to replenish our inventory – at any given time money in the account and inventory of cards adds up to \$5500. At the end of the month the “fee” for selling the cards – 5% is transferred from the gift card account to the general fund to be used for current expenses. If you have any questions, please check with our card sellers between services.

**REMINDER:** The Spring Rummage Sale is April 27th . More information will be listed in Parish news and the Sunday bulletins regarding drop off times and what can be donated



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**Return Service Requested**