



# COALVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER



### Steps to a Spiritual Spring Cleaning

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” —Psalm 51:10

When I think of Spring, I can't help but think about “Spring Cleaning.” Oh my do I remember those days of sweat and toil. My MawMaw would take out the rugs, hang them over the clothes line and give me a paddle so that I could beat the dirt out of them. I think this may be why my baseball swing was so good as a young boy. She would start from one end of the house and go thru the whole house cleaning. It was a lot of work, but it was worth it when MawMaw looked over the finished product and smiled and declared—“Now, let's go make some fruit tarts since the cleaning is done. Sometimes our spiritual lives need a deep cleaning, too. As you refresh your space at the start of this new season, don't neglect the space inside—your very soul. Here are three questions to ask yourself as you take a spiritual inventory.

#### What Needs to Go?

If we are honest, some things should go straight to the trash. We're talking broken, falling apart, cobweb-covered this and that we probably never should have owned in the first place. Think of a tucked away box that hasn't been opened in ages. That's what our sins can be like. We harbor all this guilt and shame over past mistakes and hide them away in the untouched corners of our hearts, never to see the light of day. What if we unpacked all that baggage and laid it before God? What if we actively turned

away from our sins (that's called [repentance](#)), and said, “Here you go, God. All the broken pieces of my life are yours now.”

**“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” —1 John 1:9**

Have you ever asked someone to forgive you for something you did—an unkind word, a thoughtless act, a deliberate lie, a broken promise, etc.? You probably have, because you wanted to get rid of the barrier that existed between you. But how did you know they actually forgave you?

**You knew it in two ways: You knew it by their words, and by their actions.** If they said they forgave you, it gave you confidence that they actually did. But if they said you didn't deserve to be forgiven—then you knew they hadn't forgiven you. In the same way, if they welcomed you and were friendly toward you, you were confident they had forgiven you.

In a far deeper way, this is how we know God has forgiven us: We know it by His words, and we know it by His actions. God does not lie—and when He promises in [His Word](#) to forgive us when we come to Him in repentance and faith, we can trust that promise. But we also know God has forgiven us because of His actions—and especially what He did for us in Jesus Christ. On the cross, all our sins were transferred to Christ, and He took upon Himself the judgment we deserve. He became the final sacrifice for our sins.

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God is ready to give you a new start. Take the first step by [seeking His forgiveness](#) and asking for His direction as you move forward in your newfound freedom.

**>> Maybe you've given your sins to God, but how can you know for sure He's forgiven you? [Read this short response from Billy Graham.](#)**

### What Can You Give Away?

It can be daunting, but also gratifying, to pare down our possessions. So often, we hold onto things we haven't used in years because *maybe* we'll need them one day. Or we feel an attachment to something and can't bear to release it to the donation pile. But those things have a tendency to bog us down and clutter our lives. In the end, it feels good to let them go.

So what part of our faith life can we give to others? **"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."** —Matthew 5:14-16

As followers of Jesus Christ, we aren't supposed to keep Him all to ourselves. He commands us to share His Good News with

others. Maybe we could speak to someone we know about Christ's love for us. Maybe we could get someone to become our prayer partner. Maybe we could just look for opportunities to serve as Jesus would serve.

### What Needs Some Love?

Don't worry, you don't have to let go of *everything*. Perhaps the pillows just need to be fluffed, the shelves dusted or the universal "junk drawer" reorganized. Our spiritual lives can usually use some tidying up, too. Think of all the letters the Apostle Paul wrote to churches about keeping the faith. It takes work, he told them—constant energy to get along, set a good example and generally be faithful to Christ.

There's no shortcut to [a relationship with Jesus](#). It takes time and effort—elbow grease, you could call it. Whether your faith life needs a fresh coat of paint or total renovation of the heart, there's no better time to jump in than now. Start with one thing at a time—maybe it's alone time with God, spending time in the Bible or treating others as He would.

Wherever you begin, remember you're not spring cleaning alone. God Himself can help you cut through the spiritual clutter in each area of your life.

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**Senior Luncheon, Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11:30 in the fellowship hall. All are invited.**

## CORNERSTONE

Hello from Cornerstone! Welcome to April. We invite everyone to come out to our Sunday Sidewalk Service on April 28th at 11 a.m. We will set up outside of the CLC (inside the CLC if rain) and serve lunch following. This is our 12th year of sidewalk services. Bro Len first came up with the idea to have an outdoor service for any passersby or people in the community who may not feel comfortable coming into the sanctuary building. The sidewalk services have turned into a blessing for us. We really enjoy the time of outdoor worship and fellowship and just a different setup than our normal Sunday worship. We invite all to come out and join us and bring your family and friends. The topic for this service is faith, "somewhere in the middle."

2 Corinthians 5:7, NRSV ...For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Mark 9:24, NRSV ... "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

\*No second Sunday luncheon in April.

April marks 11 years since Cornerstone started playing at the contemporary service. Thank you for all the love and support over the years.

Also, 3 of our guys have April birthdays. Give a shout out to Richard, Ian and Wayne!



*On March 21, 2024, we lost one of our beautiful beloved church members.*

*It is with sadness that we had to say goodbye to Barbara Shuttleworth. She was dearly loved and will be missed by many.*



**Jesus is risen indeed! Luke 24:34**

Brothers and Sisters, as the spring season begins, **so does the Easter season.** It is the end of the Lenten season of fasting and penitence. **Yes, Easter Day is the beginning of the celebration of Jesus' resurrection.** It lasts for 50 days and represents the fulfillment of the prophecies of the OT, and the revelation of God's plan of salvation for all mankind.

Most of us decorate with the Easter theme way before Easter. I always did too. But several years ago I saw Easter decorations in an office and asked why these were still out. The truth came out to me and I fully accepted that. Lent, fasting and penitence is one thing and lasts for 40 days. Our minds and hearts are focusing on that purpose. **We need to focus on one thing at a time. We need to grasp the fuller meaning of Jesus' resurrection that is so very powerful, full of grace, mercy, peace, love, freedom, joy, and so much more.** My mind and heart can truly rejoice in the salvation given to us through His mercy and grace, and our faith in Him and Him alone. **Hallelujah!** Now, I'm decorating and celebrating as never before. I love the Easter season for many reasons. **Join with me in continuing this joyous season.** 🙏

**Please put on your calendar, National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 2, 2024.**

More info will come as we get closer to that date. 🙏

## *From Jan*

### **Youth**

Recently the youth and young adults enjoyed an outing to a Mexican restaurant. Fun was had by all. They also did a great job hiding the eggs for the Easter Egg hunt and helped with the games etc. We are so blessed with this group!



### **J.A.M.**

Our Sunday School and J.A.M. kids did an excellent job bringing in the Palm branches and singing their song. If you were not there you can watch the video on the church Facebook page or you can ask me and I will be happy to show it to you. They worked really hard on learning it, and I am so proud of them. Our children's ministry is growing. Please pray for them as they are the future of our church!



**Birthdays**  
**Anniversaries**  
**Monthly Events**  
**Scheduled Meetings**  
**Weekly Events**  
**CLC – Christian Life Center**  
**FH – Fellowship Hall**

**S – Sanctuary**  
**CW – Contemporary Worship**  
**TW – Traditional Worship**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> SL – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Luncheon**  
**AB – Administrative Board**  
**BG – BUNCO Group**  
**CB – Cornerstone Band**

**FISH – Young Adults**  
**JAM – Children’s Ministry**  
**MT – Mission Team**  
**SL – Senior Luncheon**  
**UMYF - Youth**

April 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Daniel Mitchell	2	3 11:30 AM, SL, FH	4  6 PM, Choir, S 7 PM, CB, S	5 Bruce Garner Jan Garner  7 PM, AA, FH	6
7 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S  4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC 6 PM, FISH, CLC	8	9 Scarlett Ortiz	10 Garry Mason	11 12, 1 PM, WPC 12 – 3 PM, BG, FH  6 PM, Choir, S 7 PM, CB, S	12 Janice Laut Coleston Dearman  7 PM, AA, FH	13 Max Cobar  12 PM, CLC Reserved
14 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S  Edie Rushing  4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC 6 PM, FISH, CLC	15  6 PM, AB, S	16	17	18  6 PM, Choir, S 7 PM, CB, S	19  7 PM, AA, FH	20 9 AM – 12 PM, Paint Class, CLC
21 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S  4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC 6 PM, FISH, CLC	22	23 Ian Bahm	24	25 Wayne Claude  CLC, PREP  6 PM, Choir, S 7 PM, CB, S	26  FOR  7 PM, AA, FH	27  Sidewalk Service, CLC
28 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, Sidewalk Service, CLC  4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC 6 PM, FISH, CLC	29 Don Jones Dustin Ray Richard Winsor	30 Donald Gum	<b>Backpack Blessings</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> – tuna 14 <sup>th</sup> – mac & cheese 21 <sup>st</sup> – peanut butter 28 <sup>th</sup> – small cereal			