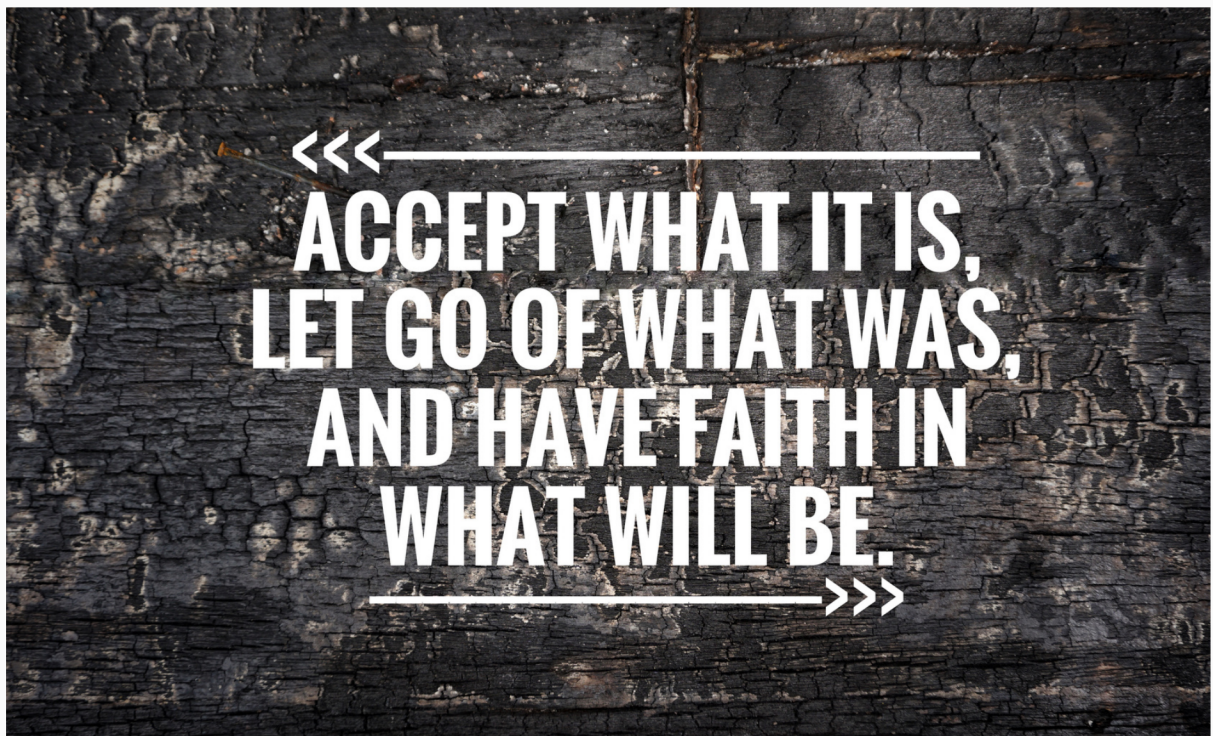


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# CONNECTION

Official Newsletter of Camphor Memorial UMC



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## Bishop's Corner- "Easter message: Resurrected"

FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP LANETTE PALMBECK

"When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they could go and anoint Jesus' dead body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they came to the tomb. They were saying to each other, "Who's going to roll the stone away from the entrance for us?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. (And it was a very large stone!) Going into the tomb, they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right side; and they were startled. But he said to them, "Don't be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised. He isn't here. Look, here's the place where they laid him. Go, tell his disciples, especially Peter, that he is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you." Overcome with terror and dread, they fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid. —Mark 16:1-8 (Common English Bible)

In the quiet—just before the dawn of Easter morning—United Methodists of Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Granger, Iowa, members of our church and community, would gather at the foot of the cross on a hilltop just outside of town. It must've been around 6:30 in the morning. We would huddle together to keep warm, waiting for the sun to rise.

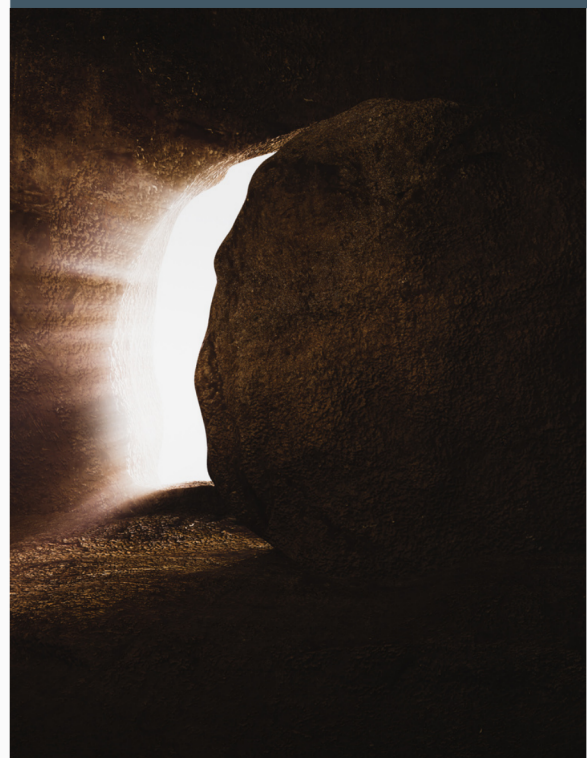
In the warmth of our faith, we had been drawn by the promise of resurrection. And as light broke into the darkness, a voice from the crowd would proclaim: "Christ is risen!" And we would turn to one another proclaiming, "He is risen, indeed!" And we would sing the songs of resurrection hope.

In the heart of every United Methodist, Easter is not merely a commemoration but it's a celebration of the transformative power of God's love. Death had been defeated. Light and life were not overcome. Jesus lives. Love has prevailed.

As we reflect on our recent journey of Lent—marked by remembrance, repentance, and a reordering of our life, our faith, and our priorities—we were reminded of the depth of our human frailty and the boundless mercy of our Creator. We revisited that mercy in the solemn observances of Holy Week: the breaking and sharing of bread; the lifting, blessing, and sharing of cup.

**"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him."**

-MARK 16:6 (CEB)



## Bishop's Corner- "Easter message: Resurrected"

FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP LANETTE PALMBECK

Do you remember? The washing of feet when Jesus asks, "Do you understand what I have done for you?" Do you remember? We then walked with Jesus to the garden, witnessing his deepest prayers and then his arrest. Do you remember? And then we approached the cross on Friday, having walked the path of Jesus' suffering, contemplating the weight of human suffering and the sacrifice of love—a sacrifice that knows no bounds. Do you remember? And on Saturday, we waited.

It was on the hillside on Easter morning that our hearts were lifted, our spirits renewed, and our faith reaffirmed. For on this day, on Easter day, the stone is rolled away, and the tomb stands empty, echoing with the promise of new life. Christ is risen, indeed!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of our faith, the beacon of hope that illuminates our darkest moments and guides us through the shadows of doubt and despair.

In the resurrection of Jesus, we find the assurance that death does not have the final word, that suffering is not the end of the story, and that love triumphs over all. It is a proclamation of victory over sin and death, a testament to the enduring power of God's grace to transform hearts and lives.

As United Methodists, we are called to embody the Easter message in our lives, to be agents of justice and reconciliation, and instruments of peace in a world marred by division and strife. We are called to bear witness to resurrection hope that shines brightly in the face of adversity, offering healing to the broken-hearted, comfort to the grieving, and compassion to the marginalized.

May this Easter be a time of renewal and revival, as we embrace the joy of resurrection and the promise of abundant life. Let us live each day with the certainty that Christ is risen, He is risen indeed, and that nothing can separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Happy Easter, friends! Every morning is Easter morning from now on. This we proclaim in the name of the resurrected Christ. He is risen, indeed. Alleluia and Amen.

**"In the resurrection of Jesus, we find the assurance that death does not have the final word, that suffering is not the end of the story, and that love triumphs over all"**

-BISHOP LANNETE PALMBECK





## Leadership Corner: Christian Education

BY DE ANNA CONOVER, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Dear Camphor Family,

Welcome to the Christian Education Corner! My name is De Anna Conover, and I have the honor of serving as Camphor's Christian Education Director.

Our goal for Christian Education at Camphor is GROWTH in 2024. Pastor Oglesby's vision for Camphor inspires us: to grow in our relationship with God, each other, and the community. This vision aligns with the Wesleyan Quadrilateral: Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience. Our Christian Education ministry foundation is based on the following scriptures:

- Proverbs 1:7 (NIV): "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

- Proverbs 18:15 (NIV): "The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, for the ears of the wise seek it out."

- 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV): "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Our Christian Education programs thrive, including Adult Sunday School (Sundays, 8:45-9:45 am). This quarter's theme is "Examining our Faith," following the previous quarter's focus on "Faith that Pleases God." We are also relaunching Children's Church (Sundays during church service),. We are continuing Camphor Connects Wednesday Bible Studies (Wednesdays, dinner at 6 pm; class from 6:30-7:45 pm), and will kick off Summer Vacation Bible School (August 19th-23rd).

Look for more information and Christian Education events in the Church announcements and this newsletter. We would love to continue growing with YOU! You are cordially invited to join us in fellowship and learning together. May God continue to bless you richly!

Yours In Service,

De Anna



# Methodist Corner

Camphor Memorial UMC is a predominantly Black/African American Church who is part of the United Methodist Church, a global connection whose mission is "To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World". Being rooted in Jesus, Grounded in Wesleyan theology, inclusive of all people and being engaged in the work of Justice and Reconciliation, we strive to grow in our love with God, with one another and the community we are called to serve. Check out to see what is going on in our connecational system



## General Conference 2024

The postponed 2020 General Conference of The United Methodist Church, a denominational gathering of elected delegates from around the world, is meeting April 23 through May 3, 2024 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

At a General Conference, delegates discuss and vote on petitions and resolutions proposed by individuals, agencies, annual conferences, and other groups within the denomination.

Some of the key legislation include proposals to shift to regional conferences in The United Methodist Church, revise the church's social principles, and deal with disaffiliation matters.

**“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”**

JOHN WESLEY

## MN Annual Conference 2024

The Book of Discipline reminds us that the purpose of the annual conference is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.”

The 170th Session of The Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, will be held May 29-30, 2024, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington.

The theme of this year’s Annual Conference is “Jesus. Redeemer.” based on Isaiah 43:1



# Fun Corner-March's Answers

Here are the Answers to March's Fun Corner

Goal: Name the books of the Old Testament that begin with these lines:

1. "The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:  
Meaningless! Meaningless!"
2. "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth--for your love is more delightful than wine"
3. "After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord..."
4. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."
5. "After the death of Joshua, the Israelites asked the Lord.  
'Who will be the first to go up and fight for us against the Canaanites?'"
6. "In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land."
7. "How deserted lies the city, once so full of people."
8. "When King David was old and well advanced in years, he could not keep warm even when they put covers over him."
9. "In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah..."
10. "The Lord called to Moses and spoke to him from the Tent of Meeting."

## March Answer Key

1. Ecclesiastes
2. Songs of Solomon (also known as Songs of Songs)
3. Joshua
4. Genesis
5. Judges
6. Ruth
7. Lamentations
8. 1 Kings
9. Ezra
10. Leviticus



## Fun Corner

Test your Bible IQ with these questions about Bible Firsts

1. What feast was celebrated with the first fruits of the crop?
2. Who was the first Christian convert in the province of Asia?
3. Who is the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep?
4. What were the Corinthians to lay aside on the first day of the week?
5. What is the first fruit of the Spirit?
6. Who shall be the First?
7. What are Jesus disciples' to seek first?
8. Where were Jesus' disciples first called Christians
9. Who had the first fight?
10. Who made the first clothes?



Write Answers Here

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Answers will be given in the May Edition!



## Prayer Corner

When we unite in prayer and openly share our needs with God, a profound sense of strength emerges. Let's invest some time in prayer, lifting up the concerns and requests listed in our prayer corner:

### Prayer Requests

Horace Harper  
James Cummings  
Yahaya Kon (brother of Mary Toe)  
Karen Morgan  
Mario McCoy  
Corey Capers (Hospice Care)  
Sharon Martin  
Gary Martin  
· Dr. Leon Rodrigues  
· Clifton Fuller  
· Dr. Barbara Doyle  
· Jackie Sinkfield Fleming

### Seniors and Homebound

Verlene Booker  
Glenice Booker Butler  
Margaret Carter  
Shirley Cummings  
Ginnie Dennis  
Doris Douglas  
Charlotte Drake  
Johnette Houston  
Pat Jemie  
Carrie Lewis  
Barbara Wulf

### Prayer for the Month

#### **“Help Us Face the Test” - Kwasi I Kena (from Africana Worship Book-Year B)**

Gracious God, the trials of life often catch us unawares. We stumble, shocked, and wonder how it happened. But don't let us wallow in self-pity. As we struggle to stand again, remind us that today's faith came from yesterday's trials, that today's maturity came from yesterday's mistakes, and that today's endurance came from yesterday's exhaustion.

Build a new character inside us- A character undaunted by trials and tribulations. Help us face the test that produces faith, the faith that produces endurance, and the endurance that leads to maturity along the way. We'll pause to pray and praise you for every new step and every inch of progress. Amen.

**“Let us then  
approach God’s  
throne of grace with  
confidence, so that  
we may receive  
mercy and find  
grace to help us in  
our time of need.”**

-HEBREWS 4:16 (NIV)





# Volunteer Corner

Learn more about how you can get involved here at Camphor Memorial UMC!

## Become a Communion Steward!

Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church are looking for volunteers to serve as Communion Stewards. The Stewards are responsible for the administration of Holy Communion with the Pastor.

If you have served as a Steward before or are interested in becoming one, please contact Mr. Harold Golden via text at (763)-442-5806.



## Join the Altar Guild Team



We are seeking two volunteers to help maintain the seasonal colors for the altar and welcoming area of the narthex. The ideal candidates will not be afraid to climb step ladders, have an eye for patterns and colors, and possess sewing skills.

The colors are changed approximately seven times per year. In addition, the volunteers will be responsible for cleaning and maintaining linens and parchments and polishing other altar decorations.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please feel free to call, text, or email Coral at 651-707-2624 or [coco.garner57@gmail.com](mailto:coco.garner57@gmail.com).

# Camphor 4-1-1

## Worship/Music Ministry

- Rehearsals (All held in Sanctuary):
  - Sanctuary Choir:
    - Every First and Third Wednesday (4pm-6pm)
    - Every First and Third Saturday (1pm-3pm)
  - Woman's Chorale
    - Every Second Wednesday (4pm-6pm)
    - Every Second Saturday (4pm-6pm)
- Rose of Sharon Praise Dance Rehearsal: Every Second and Fourth Saturday (9am in Sanctuary)



## UMM and UWF



### United Women in Faith

General Meeting: Saturday April 13th at 10am  
(Fellowship/Narthex Area)



### United Methodist Men

General Meeting: Saturday April 13th at  
10:30am (Conference Room)

## Ministry Teams Events

Usher Team Meeting: Every First Sunday  
(12pm in Conference Room)

Trustee's Meeting: Every First Saturday  
(10am via Zoom)

Congregational Care Team: Every Third Sunday  
(11:30am in Conference Room)

## Christian Education

Camphor Connects Wednesdays:  
Every Wednesday at 6pm (Camphor Memorial UMC)

Adult Sunday School:  
Every Sunday from 8:45am-9:45am (Conference Room)



CAMPBOR MEMORIAL UMC  
585 FULLER AVENUE  
SAINT PAUL, MN 55103

651-224-0341 | [www.camphorconnects.org](http://www.camphorconnects.org)

**Office hours**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 am to 4 pm.**

**Camphor Memorial UMC Staff**

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"Growing in our relationship with God, one another, and the community God has called us to serve."



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