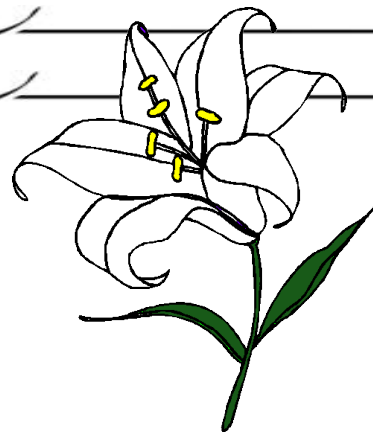


Jarrett's Jottings



Dear Friends,

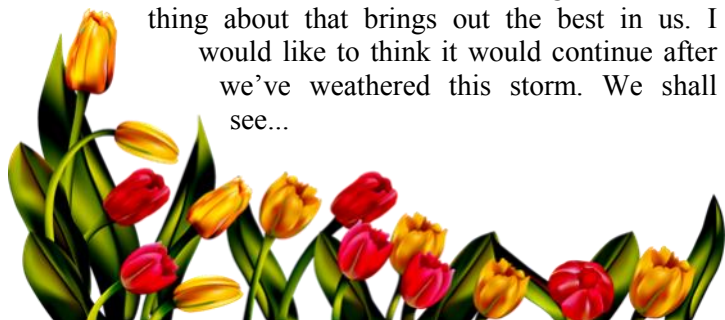
Let me begin with three simple words: **I MISS YOU!!!!** I miss seeing you on Sunday morning. I miss worshipping with you. I miss talking face-to-face with you.

The Easter celebration is this month. I feel like, in some way, I should be writing this column about Easter—maybe I should be. I don't know. I find I've been saying "I don't know" a lot lately. Perhaps you have, as well. We find ourselves in a situation for which none of us were prepared, and many of us don't like. Our routine and our way of life has been disrupted drastically. We've been told, more than once, what we should and can do, and what we cannot or should not do. It seems, each day, I shake my head and utter those words again: I don't know. I don't know when we will be able to again worship together, in person. I don't know when, or if, our kids will get to go back to school. I don't know when the "shelter in place" order will be lifted. I don't know....a lot of things for which I had the answer. I just don't know.

BUT.... Even though I don't know a lot of things, there are some things that I DO know:

#1—I do know that this WILL end. I don't know when and I don't know how; but this will end. We will not be facing a pandemic forever. We will be able to gather together again. We will be able to go to our favorite restaurant. Our kids will be able to play their ball games and participate in their activities. We will be able to leave our home without fear of "catching something". I know this, I believe this!

#2—We will get through this together. I have marveled, over these last few weeks at how people have come together. We have stepped in to help our neighbors. I've noticed a bit more empathy and compassion from people. We've been a tad more patient with each other. I think we all realize we're in this together. Something about that brings out the best in us. I would like to think it would continue after we've weathered this storm. We shall see...



#3—I know that God still reigns. There is nothing that can take God's place. There is nothing that can supplant God as the ruler of all things. Even in the midst of anxious moments, God is still God and God is unchanging—ever-loving, ever-gracious, ever-forgiving, ever-healing, and so on. I take comfort in all this. I take comfort in knowing that God is the same now as God was before all this started, and that God will be the same tomorrow. If there is nothing else in which to place our faith, it is this truth.

I suppose the big question is, what do we in the midst of all this? I know there are "official" answers to that question, and in many cases, we can only do what the government allow us to do. But getting beyond that...what do we do now that life as we know has hit the pause button? I will confess that I've rather enjoyed having this pause. No, I'm not glad to hear of sickness and death, and I'm not glad to be missing things that been put on hold. But I am glad to simply have a bit of a break. I think it has given me a chance to focus on what is really important. One of things I've been able to focus on more and more has been my relationship with God, my spiritual journey. These times have forced to reengage my relationship with God in new ways. I found there were a few things that needed attention and sharpening. One of these things was my engagement with Scripture. I simply had not been engaging Scripture as I should. I've resolved to change that! What's more...I'd like to invite you to do it with me! In another space in this newsletter, I'll share about that invitation.

These times also present us with a challenge beyond simply getting through this. The challenge is this: what do we do when this has passed? Do we simply go back to life as it was? Do we pick up where we left off? Or do we allow these days and times to shape us going forward? I am wrestling with this same question, even as I ask it of you. The only thing I've come up with so far is...I don't know. I don't know what things will look like, but I would like to think that things will be different. As with so many things, we shall see...

I do pray you are all physically, spiritually, and emotionally well. I miss you and I can't wait to see you all again!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jarrett

The Mustard Seed

April

Ministry Team:

Pastor ~ Jarrett Wells

Office Manager ~

Maria Hymes

Pianist/Organist ~

Jill Roegge

Choral Director ~

Tim Bartholomew

Financial Secretary ~

Lynne O'Hara

Treasurer ~

Susan Treadway

Youth Director ~

Andrea Wells

Custodian ~

Tonya White

Sunday Services:

Worship Service ~

9:00 a.m.

Sunday School ~

10:30 a.m.

Phone ~ 217-323-1257

E-mail ~

beardsumc@sbcglobal.net

Website ~

beardstownfumc.com

"Like" us on Facebook ~

Beardstown First UMC

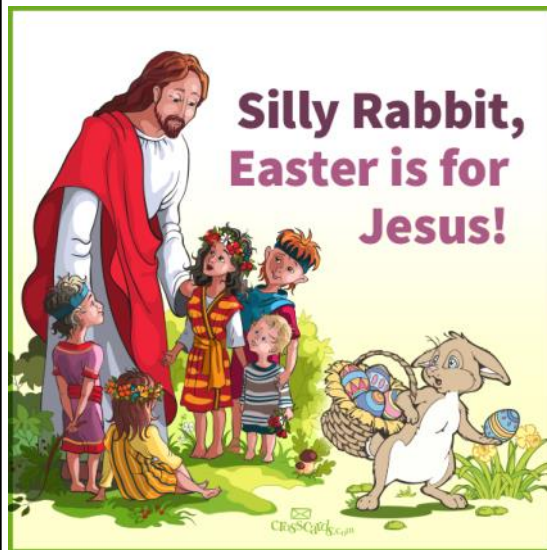
Birthdays

- 2 Danah Looker Hurst
- 3 Marilyn Becker
Trisha Chapman
Brett Nordsiek II
- 6 Beatrice Coats
Clinton Bell
- 7 Shirley Cronin
- 8 Peg Burgett
Cindi Reither
- 12 David Humphrey
- 13 Trey Reither
- 14 Mary Clarke
Susan Shaw
- 15 Ron Blakeman
Bill Robeson
Julie Thompson
- 16 Jerry Burgett

- 17 Matt Roegge
Sergio Ruiz
Drake Vermillion
- 18 Heather Riley Booth
- 19 Maddie Ashcraft
- 21 Sue Clendenen
- 25 Virginia Thompson
Avery Quigley
Kelly Herter
- 27 Sydnee Hamlin
- 29 Richard Walton
Nora Cowen
- 30 Ross Blakeman

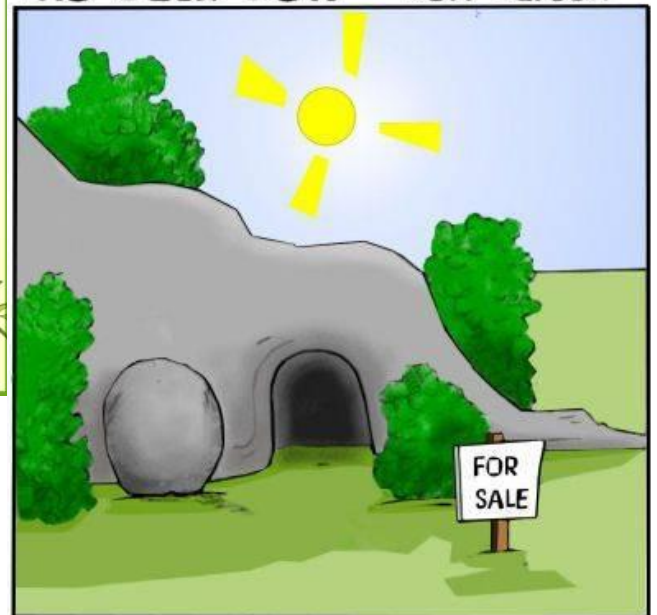
Anniversaries

- 1 Lonny & Debby Malcomson
- 2 Jerry & Jody Peacock
- 4 Rob & Maria Hymes
- 14 Wayne & Mary Kight
- 30 Richard & Barbara Walton



Happy
Easter
He IS Risen!

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



FOR SALE - Single owner tomb. Only used three days, and still has that new tomb smell. Reason for sale.. resident was resurrected.



Christian Love In Action

Currently C.L.I.A. is in need of: **Chicken –n– Dump-
lings & Beef Stew**. For now, please take your donated
items directly there. Hours are: Tuesdays from 12:00 -
4:00 p.m. and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Thank
you for donations. If you would like to contribute but
don't have time / remember to shop, you can give money
to Lynne O'Hara and she will pick up the items.

C.L.I.A. is also doing **Easter Boxes** again this year.
They will be filling 25 boxes and have asked us to do-
nate 25 cans of green beans by Sunday, April 5th.
Thank you.

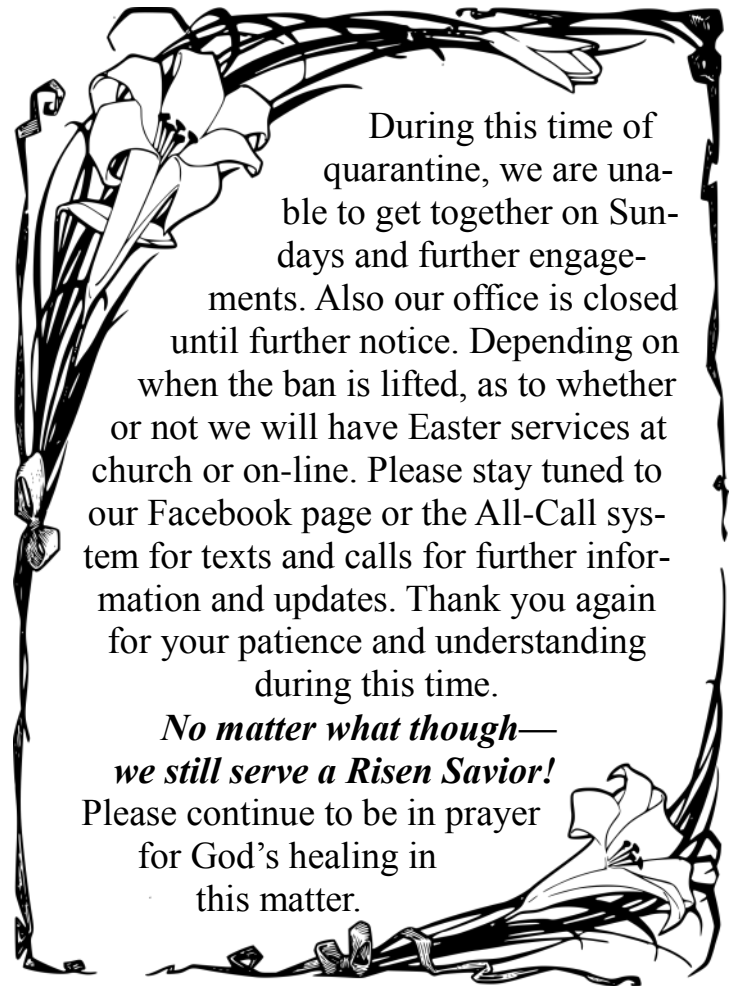
Cass County Food Pantry

The Cass County Food Pantry is another place that
helps Cass County residents in need of food. To help with
their mission, they are asking churches for donations for
the month of APRIL: **Spaghetti Noodles, Spaghetti
Sauce, Pasta Mixes, Canned Mushrooms**.

They are always in need of: **Peanut Butter, Jelly,
Macaroni & Cheese, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit,
Cereal, or Non-Perishable Food Items**. They have a
walk in cooler or freezer to hold perishable items, and are
able to take fresh produce items.

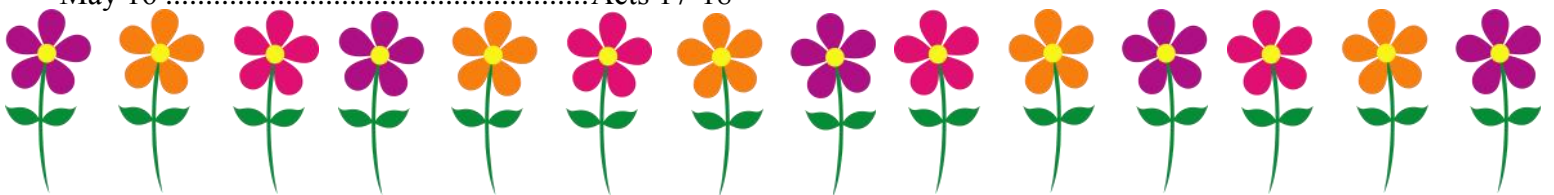
Read Through the New Testament

Pastor Jarrett is inviting us to read through the New Testament in 90 days, as a congregation, beginning April 1st. The reading guide for this plan is included in this newsletter. If this sounds familiar, you'd be right! We did this almost three years ago, BUT there is no such thing as reading the Bible too much. So...whether you've read the New Testament many times, or have never read the entire New Testament, YOU'RE INVITED! Let's journey through Scripture together. You never know what God might reveal...



90 Days Through the New Testament Reading Plan

April 1	Matthew 1-2	May 17	Acts 19-20
April 2	Matthew 3-4	May 18	Acts 21-22
April 3	Matthew 5-7	May 19	Acts 23-24
April 4	Matthew 8-9	May 20	Acts 25-26
April 5	Matthew 10-11	May 21	Acts 27-28
April 6	Matthew 12-13	May 22	Romans 1-3
April 7	Matthew 14-16	May 23	Romans 4-5
April 8	Matthew 17-18	May 24	Romans 6-8
April 9	Matthew 19-20	May 25	Romans 9-10
April 10	Matthew 21-23	May 26	Romans 11-13
April 11	Matthew 24-25	May 27	Romans 14-16
April 12	Matthew 26-28	May 28	1 Corinthians 1-3
April 13	Mark 1-2	May 29	1 Corinthians 4-6
April 14	Mark 3-4	May 30	1 Corinthians 7-8
April 15	Mark 5-6	May 31	1 Corinthians 9-11
April 16	Mark 7-8	June 1	1 Corinthians 12-14
April 17	Mark 9-10	June 2	1 Corinthians 15-16
April 18	Mark 11-12	June 3	2 Corinthians 1-3
April 19	Mark 13-14	June 4	2 Corinthians 4-6
April 20	Mark 15-16	June 5	2 Corinthians 7-9
April 21	Luke 1-3	June 6	2 Corinthians 10-11
April 22	Luke 4-5	June 7	2 Corinthians 12-13
April 23	Luke 6-7	June 8	Galatians
April 24	Luke 8-9	June 9	Ephesians
April 25	Luke 10-11	June 10	Philippians—Colossians
April 26	Luke 12-14	June 11	1 Thessalonians
April 27	Luke 15-17	June 12	2 Thessalonians
April 28	Luke 18-19	June 13	Titus—Philemon
April 29	Luke 20-22	June 14	Hebrews 1-5
April 30	Luke 23-24	June 15	Hebrews 6-9
May 1	John 1-3	June 16	Hebrews 10-13
May 2	John 4-5	June 17	James
May 3	John 6-7	June 18	1 & 2 Peter
May 4	John 8-9	June 19	1,2,3 John, Jude
May 5	John 10-11	June 20	Revelation 1-3
May 6	John 12-14	June 21	Revelation 4-6
May 7	John 15-17	June 22	Revelation 7-9
May 8	John 18-19	June 23	Revelation 10-12
May 9	John 20-21	June 24	Revelation 13-15
May 10	Acts 1-2	June 25	Revelation 16-18
May 11	Acts 3-4	June 26	Revelation 19-20
May 12	Acts 5-7	June 27	Revelation 21-22
May 13	Acts 8-10	June 28	**Make-up day
May 14	Acts 11-13	June 29	**Make-up day
May 15	Acts 14-16	June 30	**Make-up day
May 16	Acts 17-18		



EASTER WORD SEARCH

S R Y Q I I S Y M J D N Y S U C Q K B N
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 X Q G B L C P J A L B U N N Y S C Q A F
 X M T E N N O B W K Y Y N Z N Y Q S Y B

Easter	Jellybeans	Spring	Bonnet
Basket	Celebration	Candy	Fun
Bunny	Decorate	Hunt	Sunday
Hide	Chocolate	Lily	Parade
Eggs	Flowers	Chick	Lamb





The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said... ~ Matthew 28:5-6a

He is not here; He has
RISEN,
just as He said.
~ *Matthew 28:6a*



Bearstown First United Methodist Church
415 S. State St.
Bearstown, IL 62618
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The Mustard Seed

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