



the circuit **WRITER**

Monthly Newsletter of the Erlanger United Methodist Church

April 2016

The Pastor Pen

By Mark Shepherd

APRIL FOOLS DAY! How many times do we get tricked and (hopefully!) have a laugh! Sometimes people carry jokes a little too far, but it's fun to have a laugh once in a while and be silly.

April Fools also makes us aware that sometimes we make fools of ourselves without trying to make a joke. We've all thought about several of the presidential candidates doing that this year as we prepare for elections! It's hard, especially in the constant public eye, not to trip up and say something unfortunate or get words twisted. Then, with literally the whole nation watching and waiting to pounce, you can look like a fool pretty quickly.

The disciples had that problem too. They followed Jesus and listened first hand to him teach and watched him do his thing, but several times they made themselves out to be a little foolish – or at least slow to learn. And again, they have the eyes of not only the whole world, but the eyes of 2000 years across the whole world, looking right at them.

They were a good example to us, I think, that God can redeem anyone. Even after all their

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The Pastor's Pen Continued ...

blunders and mistakes, God used them in a mighty way to establish a church that would last for centuries! God saw something special in each of them, for sure, that others couldn't see because we all look for the blunders, not the special in others.

But God also knows what redemption through his spirit can do for us! Often the greatest of our foolishness is to sell God short. We, I think, would be amazed at what the church would look like if we had really trusted God to lead and guide us and followed faithfully where he leads us. We have too often been like the children of Israel who wanted to go back to Egypt into slavery. How much greater would the church be if we trusted God to provide and submitted to his redemptive power? We make some feeble attempts, but often we sell God short by saying, "We could never do something like that!" We couldn't, most certainly, but God can do it through us if we let him.

I was listening to a friend recently who had a challenge before him. "How on earth can I accomplish this?" he said! But he prayed about it and all of a sudden things started falling in place. Money came in and volunteers came in and he was able to do something wonderful and amazing because he didn't let himself short change God.

I hope you believe in a God of miracles. Most of all, I hope you don't continue to look at the blunders in your life and let yourself be defined by them. God sees something special in YOU, too, just like he did with each of the disciples. God sees someone that can do wonderful, amazing things if we only resist the temptation to short change him!

Let's not be foolish about our faith. Let's believe and step forward and let God work in us and through us. Good things are bound to happen when we do that.

See you in church

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Mark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

April 2016 Events

Sat	2 nd	9:00 am	Methodist Men's Meeting
Sun	3 rd	9:00 am	Communion / Chapel
		9:15 am	Sunday School
			Tone Chyme
		10:30 am	Worship
		11:45 am	Family Promise Meeting
		4:30 pm	Devotions
		5:30 pm	Youth
Mon	4 th	7:00 pm	SPRC Meeting
Tue	5 th	7:00 pm	Disciple Bible Study
Wed	6 th	12:00 pm	Caring Team
		5:45 pm	Sunday School Education Mtg
		7:00 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Manna Mission Meeting
Thur	7 th	11:00 am	WIM
Sat	9 th	10:00 am	Purpose Day
		6:00 pm	Emmaus Class Meeting
Sun	10 th	Native American Ministries Sunday	
		9:00 am	Communion / Chapel
		9:15 am	Sunday School
			Tone Chyme
		10:30 am	Worship
		4:30 pm	Devotions
		5:30 pm	Youth
Mon	11 th	7:00 pm	COM Mtg
Tue	12 th	7:00 pm	Disciple Bible Study

Wed	13 th	10:30 am	Children's Chapel
		7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thur	14 th	6:00 pm	Prayer Group
Sat	16 th	10:00 am	SAFE Sanctuary Training
Sun	17 th	9:00 am	Communion / Chapel
		9:15 am	Sunday School
			Tone Chyme
		10:30 am	Worship
		4:30 pm	Devotions
		5:30 pm	Youth
Tue	19 th	1:00 pm	Grace Edgett Board Mtg
		7:00 pm	Disciple Bible Study
Wed	20 th	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sat	23 rd	5:00 pm	Manna Mission
Sun	24 th	9:00 am	Communion / Chapel
		9:15 am	Sunday School
			Tone Chyme
		10:30 am	Worship
		4:30 pm	Devotions
		5:30 pm	Youth
Tue	26 th	7:00 pm	Disciple Bible Study
Wed	27 th	10:30 am	Children's Chapel
		7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sat	30 th	8:00 am	Youth – Wright Paterson Trip
		2:45 pm	Children – LEGO Exhibit

Looking Ahead: Art FUNdraiser - Saturday, May 7th. / Children – Bowling – Saturday, May 14th. / Graduation Recognition & Peace with Justice Sunday – Sunday, May 22nd. / 5th Sunday Offering – Sunday May 29th.



special
SUNDAY

PLEASE
give generously

UNITED
METHODIST

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES *Sunday*

..... *your* GENEROUS GIFT TODAY

EMPOWERS LOCAL SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT AND
EDUCATES NATIVE AMERICAN SEMINARY STUDENTS TO
SERVE GOD FAITHFULLY.

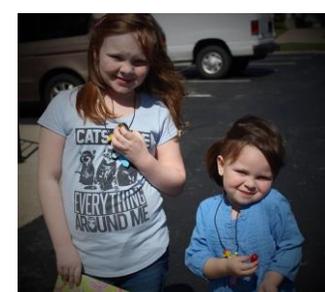


“If we do not help others learn about Jesus
and become part of the church, how can we
expect the church to survive or grow?”

—THE REV. KIRBY VERETT, CHAIR
Louisiana Conference Committee
on Native American Ministries

“You ... dressed me up in joy so that my whole being
might sing praises to you and never stop. Lord, my
God, I will give thanks to you forever.”

—PSALM 30:11-12, CEB



Easter Egg Hunt





Help Stop the Spread of Whooping Cough in Northern Kentucky

Recent reports of pertussis, also known as whooping cough, in Northern Kentucky have reached record levels, and the Northern Kentucky Health Department is partnering with community groups, including Erlanger United Methodist Church to help stop the spread.

Since November 2015, there have been 184 cases reported in Boone, Campbell, Grant and Kenton Counties. The outbreak has affected school-aged children in particular.

Early symptoms of whooping cough mimic the common cold, so it is often not suspected or detected until more severe symptoms appear. That means people with whooping cough spread the disease to others before realizing that they are infected. The symptoms of whooping cough can differ by age.

To help stop the spread of whooping cough, three steps are vital: vaccination, avoiding vulnerable groups when you have cold symptoms, and if diagnosed with whooping cough, staying home for five days after antibiotic treatment has started.

Vaccination: Although whooping cough can occur in vaccinated persons, symptoms are usually less severe and resolve more quickly than in unvaccinated persons. Young children typically receive five doses of DTaP, between two months and five years of age. A booster dose of Tdap is recommended for preteens at ages 11 or 12.

Because vaccine protection fades over time, adults and parents of teens age 10 years of age or older should ensure that Tdap vaccinations are up to date. Adults age 19 and older can receive a free Tdap vaccine by appointment at the Health Department's four county health centers. The Health Department is also working with local schools affected by the outbreak to provide immunization clinics for students, staff and family members.

Diagnosis: Individuals, especially teenagers, who have a cough lasting more than two weeks and/or one that progressively gets worse are advised to contact their health care provider for evaluation and avoid contact with others, especially infants, young children, the elderly and those with a weakened immune system.

If you live with someone who has been diagnosed with whooping cough, or have had prolonged close contact, contact your health care provider as well.

Treatment: Persons diagnosed with whooping cough should stay home from school or work until they have been taking antibiotics for five days.

For more information on whooping cough, please visit <http://www.nkyhealth.org>.



MARCH 2016

Tithes & Offering

Tithes	\$16,205.00
Sunday School	\$57.00
Loose Plate	\$496.85
GECDG	\$11,000.68
Interest/Dividends	\$8.37
Upper Room	\$5.00
Miscellaneous	\$89.00
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$27,861.90
Children's Ministry	\$40.00
Emmaus Emergency	\$41.00
Emmaus Various Proj.	\$61.00
Emmaus Zimmerman	\$49.00
Flowers	\$160.00
Good Samaritan Fund	\$45.00
Holiday Offering	\$2,115.00
Laws	\$20.00
Manna Mission	\$202.63
Methodist Men	\$50.00
Missions	\$312.95
Miscellaneous	\$638.00
Miscellaneous	\$175.58
Reimbursements	\$195.00
UM Special Sunday	\$90.00
UCV	\$100.00
Women in Mission	\$220.00
Youth	\$20.00
Zimmerman's	\$20.00
Building Fund	\$1,222.30
SPECIAL GIFTS TOTAL	\$5,777.46
GRAND TOTAL	\$33,639.36

Thank you for all
your offerings,
tithes and special
giving.

WOMEN IN MISSION UPDATE



Our next meeting is Thursday, April 7th, at 11:00 am. May 5th we will meet earlier for a tour of Master Provisions. Our appointment time is 10:30 am. The Church van will be leaving at 10:15 am. The facility is level concrete. A sign up sheet will be available closer to date. Other from the congregation are invited to join us. We invite you to join our WIM group. "Women In Mission" shall function as an organized ministry of Erlanger United Methodist Church Women. "Our purpose is to share God's love through cooperative effort that lend support to local, state and global missions."

Mission Committee News

We appreciate all who have supported, participated, donated funds, and supplies to mission efforts in the past. There will be several more project in the coming months. This focus is on the Sager-Brown trips this summer. The Youth trip is in July 16 – 23, Adult trip August 13/20. Lists of items needed for the School Bag & Health Care kits are listed below or available in the basket next to the container for these supplies on the desk in the Home Street Vestibule. Items for sale to support these mission trips are in the church office.

- 1) Faith inspired notecards with artwork by last year's team members (12 cards, 6 designs, blank inside \$10.00 each pack)
- 2) 2) Youth project – Motivational Calendars Planners \$5.00 each.
- 3) Individual patriotic decals \$1.00, Sheets \$2.00.
- 4) God's Pockets \$5.00

Your donations of funds and supplies are greatly appreciated.

Supply list

Blunt Scissors	Rounded tip only, no plastic scissors
Note Book Paper	Spiral, loose leaf pack or top bound pads / No composition books
Pencil Sharpener	Hand-held, Must be at least 1" long.
Ruler	30 centimeter, can be hard or flexible.
Pencils	Unsharpened solid color only.
Eraser	2 inch or larger Solid color only. No white.
Crayons	24 count box
Hand towel	15" x 25" or 17" x 27" sizes only. No Kitchen, cleaning or microfiber towels.
Washcloth	
Sturdy Comb	6" or larger / No pocket combs or picks
Nail file or clipper	Must be metal, no emery boards
Bath size soap	3oz and larger size, NO Ivory or Jergens
Toothbrush	Adult size only
Bandages	Adhesive, ¾" to 1" size
Plastic bag	One gallon, Sealable bags only





From the Erlanger United Methodist Men

Hi Folks.

Our second fundraiser of 2016 was held on Saturday, March 12, 2016. It was the Spaghetti Dinner and the cooks did a fabulous job cooking the spaghetti. Thanks to all the men for everything they did. Our expenses were kept low thanks to donations from Kroger, Gold Star Chili, LaRosa's, Warehouse/UCV and a few church members. Thank's to you, the net for Missions was \$724.29. 96 folks attended.



Here are some photos from the Spaghetti Dinner.



We will also have a fundraiser at LaRosa's in Crescent Springs on Wednesday, April 13, 2016. Lunch & Dinner. The United Methodist Men receive a portion of their proceeds for their mission work.



The Ice Cream Social is after church on July 17, 2016 in the Fellowship Hall. More details later.

Canned goods update for the United Christian Volunteers. Thru March 28, 2016, 1,431 food items have been delivered. Emphasis in April 2016 is on spaghetti & sauce. Our goal for 2016 is 6,000 food items. There are many folks in the local area that can't afford enough food for their families. Your support has gone a long way in helping this cause. Thank you. Whatever you bring will be greatly appreciated.

We would like to invite all men to join the Erlanger United Methodist Men. Our next meeting is April 2, 2016, Saturday, 9:00 am at Erlanger UMC in the Asbury Room.

Thank you and GOD Bless you all.

[The mission of the General Commission on United Methodist Men is to assist men to know Jesus Christ, to serve Him, to grow spiritually and seek daily to do His will.](#)



Prayer for the Pastor and Staff

Dear Lord, please surround our Pastor and our church staff with your love. Give them a spirit of humble service and help them to glory only in the cross of Christ. May they have the servants heart that Jesus had. May they reach out in compassion as Jesus did. I pray that you will use each of them to further your kingdom. Bless them as they work for you. Thank you for all they do to build the Erlanger United Methodist Church, and to build your kingdom. In Jesus Name, AMEN

BILL SLAVEN: Bill's cell phone number has changed; his new number is 859-307-4899.



Daycare Needs and Wants

There are a few things the daycare need or wants. Cash donations for any of the items listed can be place in an envelope with day care in the description. Items can be dropped off in the Home Street Vestibule. If you have any question please call Mary or Vina at 859-342-8059.

Needs:

- Coat rack
- Multicultural dolls
- 6-8 baby dolls, baby doll clothes
- Baby doll carriers, buggies, strollers
- Dress up clothes: hats, purses, old phones (cell or house), costume jewelry, dress up for boys too: hats, ties, worker costumes
- magnetic board and magnets
- colored pencils
- washable markers
- stamp pads
- area rug 5x7 or larger
- 6 pillows for area rug

Wants:

- pull down shades for windows
- animal puppets: farm, zoo or ocean creatures
- flannel board items
- old calendars for natures scenes such as animals, fish, ocean, flowers, USA pictures
- old Highlights, Zoo Book, or Ranger Rick magazines

April

Birthdays

Tim Herrmann	04/05
Amy Sullivan	04/03
Ron Tanner	04/11
Eleanora Wettig	04/11
Jennie Robinson	04/13
Bailey Love	04/14
Tina Royalty	04/15
Henry Evans	04/20
David Evans	04/23

Anniversarie

Mark & Sande Shepherd	04/21
Bob & Linda Martin Sr.	04/25

