

APRIL 2025

# THE CROWS NEST

SPRINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



---

## INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- [Rebecca's Reflections](#)
- [Lenten Services](#)
- [West Branch Food Pantry](#)
- [BYOP Plant Swap](#)
- [Confirmation Class](#)
- [New Member Class](#)
- [Stewardship Note](#)
- [Vacation Bible School](#)
- [Conference, District, and Circuit News](#)
- [How to Evangelize Effectively](#)
- [Ministry Reports](#)

---

## REBECCA'S REFLECTIONS

"So if anyone is in Christ,  
there is a new creation:  
everything old has passed away;  
see, everything has become new!"  
2 Corinthians 5:17

We are halfway through Lent and Easter is coming—This passage from 2 Corinthians is a good reminder of how faith can change our lives. If we believe in God and the power of God's gift in Jesus Christ, we can be transformed. What was old is gone; and what is new is a new creation, a new faith.

This is what we experience as we travel from Palm Sunday through Holy Thursday, as we suffer with Christ again on Good Friday, and as we reach the ultimate goal of resurrection on Easter. Each step along the way can cause us to turn aside—but God goes with us no matter what. If we are strong and we hold on to the faith, we can once again know the joy of resurrection.

Make a point to connect with worship this Holy Week and Easter. Join us for the various worship services on Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday (at WBUMC), and Easter Sunrise and Easter worship.

Have a blessed Holy Week and enjoy the coming of Spring!

Rebecca

---



## *Lenten Services*

Ash Wednesday, March 5, 7:00 pm at WBUMC

Palm Sunday, April 13, Worship with Confirmation Celebration, 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7:00 pm at SUMC

Good Friday, April 18, 7:00 pm at WBUMC

Easter Sunrise Service, April 20, 6:30 am  
Breakfast following

Easter Service, April 20, 10:00 am

---

**WEST BRANCH FOOD PANTRY**

This year, the COME committee will be collecting non-food items for the West Branch Food Pantry. Collections will continue through the entire month and you can find the collection bin the foyer of the church. Any items collected will be distributed to the pantry after the 4th Sunday of the month.

**March** - During the month of March, we collected the following Spring cleaning items:

- 2 packages of rubber gloves (\$4.00\*)
- 4 packs of sponges (\$8.00\*)
- 7 boxes of Magic Erasers (\$22.68\*)
- 2 Swiffer dusters (\$17.88\*)
- 5 Swiffer wet pads (\$49.95\*)
- 4 bottles of dish soap (\$3.88\*)
- 5 spray bottle cleaners (\$16.95\*)

*Total donated through March \$789.52\**

**April** - Please bring feminine hygiene products (tampons, pads, pantyliners, Depends, etc.)



*\*Price determined by a Google search of average costs*

# BYOP Plant Swap

(bring your own plant)

**AT SPRINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Bring a piece of your houseplant, extra bulb or tubers, or divisions of other plants to share!

Drop your plants off at the church Friday from 6-8 p.m. or Saturday from 8-9:30 a.m.



## CONFIRMATION CLASS

The confirmation class has been very busy learning about grace, faith, and what it means to be a member of the community of faith. We will be confirming our confirmands on Palm Sunday, April 13th, during worship. Our class this year is Konner and Dylan Whitlatch, Laney Grace, and Rylee Grace, who has been confirmed but wanted to participate in the class. With all three churches, there are 10 students in the class, and all will be confirmed in their churches on Palm Sunday. Please continue to pray for this group of students.

---

## MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Anyone who would be interested in becoming a member of Springdale UMC, please contact Rev. Rebecca. She would like to have a class in May for persons who are interested.

---

## APRIL WORSHIP

**Theme for the Month: Lent/Easter**

**April 6:** Fifth Sunday of Lent, Communion Sunday.

Scripture: John 12:1-8

Sermon: "Anointed"

**April 13:** Birthday Sunday, Palm/Passion Sunday, Confirmation, fellowship after church.

Scripture: Luke 19:28-40

**April 17:** Maundy Thursday, Communion; foot washing

Scripture: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Meditation: "Love One Another"

**April 20:** Easter Sunday

Scriptures: Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18

Sermon: Easter Joy

**April 27:** Second Sunday of Easter, WBARC pulpit share

Sermon: Chris Humrichouse

---

## SONG OF THE MONTH



## BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Claire McConnaha
  - 3 - Penny Gafeller
  - 4 - Amanda Tisinger
  - 6 - Jonathan Blayer
    - Angie McConnaha
    - Natalie Miller
    - Dave Phillips
  - 7 - Garrett Tisinger
  - 8 - Emily Nelson
  - 12 - Xander Maxson
  - 13 - Allison Lacina
  - 22 - Aimee Bergmann
  - 23 - Rev. Rebecca Carver
    - Mike Schropp
  - 24 - Hunter Mast
    - Carolyn Richards
  - 25 - Hanna Tisinger
    - Taylor Tisinger
  - 28 - Carl Heck
    - Jake Paul
  - 30 - Roberta Bowie
    - Lori Phillips
- 

#### ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 - Joanna and John Fletcher (17)
  - 14 - Jamie and Max Kober (7)
  - 18 - Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Stoolman (15)
- 

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2 - Discipleship Night @ WBUMC; SUMC preparing meal
  - 3 - Lenten Study @ SUMC, 9 a.m.
  - 6 - Adult Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Worship, 10 a.m.; Confirmation at SUMC 3-5 p.m.
  - 9 - UMW, 6:30 p.m.
  - 10 - Lenten Study @ SUMC, 9 a.m.
  - 13 - Adult Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Worship, 10 a.m.; Palm Sunday/Confirmation Sunday; Fellowship
  - 17 - Lenten Study @ SUMC, 9 a.m.; Maundy Thursday Service @ SUMC 7 p.m.
  - 18 - Good Friday Service @ WBUMC 7 p.m.
  - 20 - Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m.; Breakfast to follow; Worship 10 a.m.
  - 27 - WBARC Pulpit Exchange - Chris Hummichouse; COME Meeting 11 a.m.
  - 28 - BINGO @ Crestview 2 p.m.; Ad Board 5 p.m.
- 

#### ITEMS FOR THE TAKING

- Two 2-drawer filing cabinets
- Toys on the table of the West Wing

If you are interested in any of these items, please reach out to Rebecca or an Ad Board member. Any items remaining at the **end of the month** will be donated or discarded.

---

#### STEWARDSHIP NOTE



Our United Methodist membership vows encourage us to participate in the life and ministries of the local church through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Each year, we have a stewardship campaign to highlight those opportunities. Unfortunately, many times the focus of those campaigns shifts to just the financial side of things. Yes, our monetary gifts are very important to the life of the church. But even more important is our willingness to live out the other vows.

In Mark 12:41-44, Jesus sees a poor widow putting two small copper coins in the offering plate. Seeing this, Jesus lets the disciples know that this woman gave more than all the rest because she was giving generously. I wouldn't be surprised if we were to find out more about this widow, we would learn that while she didn't have much money, she found other ways to contribute. And that should also be celebrated.

In the General Rules of the Methodist Church (found in the Book of Discipline), John Wesley called early Methodists to "do good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all [people]." Our Springdale family is amazing at doing this. Playing Bingo at Crestview; working the Hacap food truck; creating tie-blankets; collecting goods for the food pantry; praying for our family and neighbors....the list goes on and on. Those are all parts of stewardship....we are finding ways to serve others. In doing so, we are opening ourselves up to be more and more receptive to God's grace.

As we work through 2025, remember that our vows call us to work in the church in many different ways. Some may be able to give financially, others may be able to volunteer to serve, some may share their faith story with others, some may spend time in prayer for our church and community, and others may simply be able to be present. Each of those are vital to the life of the church, both locally in Springdale, and in the greater world.

Steven Grace  
Lay Leader and Board Chair



**REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 1ST!**  
**COST \$10 PER PERSON/\$30 FAMILY CAP**

**JULY 13TH COST \$15 PER PERSON/\$45  
FAMILY CAP**



**EARLY BIRD RAFFLE! REGISTER BEFORE  
JUNE 1ST TO BE ENTERED &  
GUARANTEED A TSHIRT!  
DRAWING HELD FIRST NIGHT OF VBS FOR  
2 WINNERS!**



**JULY 20TH: 5:30 TO 8:30PM\***  
**JULY 21ST-24TH: 5:45 TO 8:30PM\***  
**JULY 27TH: 10AM PROGRAM**  
\*DINNER SERVED EACH NIGHT



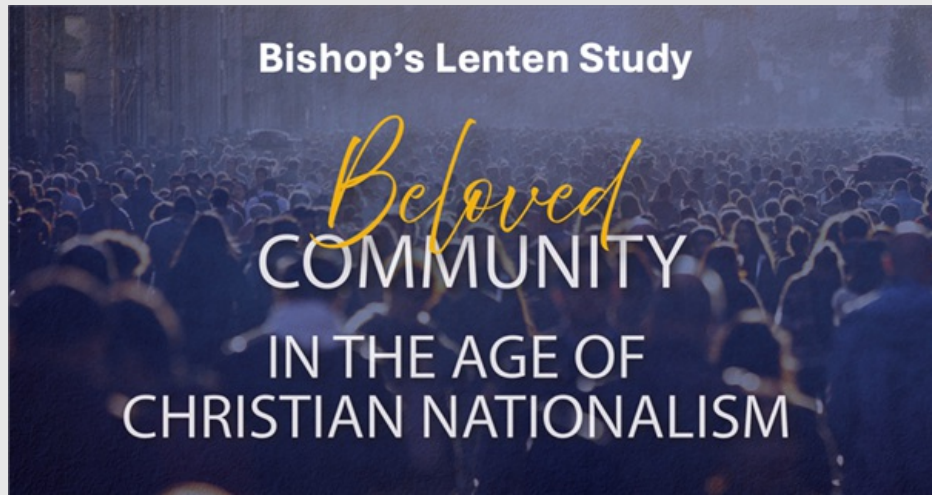
Hosted by Springdale UMC and West Branch UMC

---

**CONFERENCE, DISTRICT AND CIRCUIT NEWS**

---





Guided by the Gospel's call to "love your neighbor as yourself," Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai will examine how the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's vision of beloved community can be a counterpoint to Christian nationalism and reflect on the lectionary passages for the Lenten season and the call of the church as we approach the season of resurrection.

In this three-part study, she will explore the theological concept of grace and discuss how **love**, **service**, and **solidarity** can help churches expand their impact and reach.

Bishop Bigham-Tsai will share her experiences building a beloved community within and beyond the Church.

Tuesday evenings, April 1, April 8, and April 15 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. These will be recorded and available soon after for your small group studies. [Register today!](#) You will be emailed a ZOOM link soon after.

**APRIL PRAYER LIST**

April 6: Rochester UM Church and West Liberty UM Church

April 13: Letts UM Church - Riverside and Trinity UM Church

April 20: Columbus Junction UM Church and Columbus City UM Church

April 27: Winfield UM Church, Morning Sun UM Church, and Kingston UM Church

**CAIN Concert**

Laurie Balmer, Volunteer Outreach Coordinator, is looking for volunteers during the CAIN concert coming to Cedar Rapids on Thursday, April 24 at 4:30 p.m. They are in need of World Vision, Merchandise, and VIP Experience volunteers. The age requirement is 18 (14-17 with an adult). Volunteers will get in for free and get to enjoy most of the show. This can also count towards community service hours if needed. If you are interested, please contact Laurie at 205-719-7452 or [laurie@loopevents.org](mailto:laurie@loopevents.org).

---

**HOW TO EVANGELIZE EFFECTIVELY**

by Greg Laurie

When I was younger, I had the privilege to get to know the great evangelist, Billy Graham. And when he asked me to help him with illustrations in his sermons, I felt like I'd been enrolled in the finest evangelistic university on Earth. No one did it better than Billy. And he didn't just do it publicly, I saw him do it privately.

We were at a restaurant once, just talking, and our table happened to be by a walkway. He was so gracious and took the time to meet everyone who recognized him. It was a beautiful quality to see. When you would sit down with Billy, it wouldn't be long until he would say something like, "Well, tell me about yourself." He didn't like to talk about himself. I think he always had that heart.

Being around him inspired me because he kept it simple. He once said in an interview with David Frost that he studied to be simple.

I think one of the secrets to his success was delivering the gospel in an understandable way. It was always clear. And he preached for a decision. Billy once said to me, "I don't think I'm a very good preacher. But I believe God has given me the gift of giving the invitation." It was one of the rare times I had to disagree with him. He was both a very good preacher and given that gift by God.

### **Every Christian is Called to Evangelize**

There is a God-given gift of an evangelist, and Billy had it. But, though some are gifted to be an evangelist, and some may not be called to be an evangelist per se, every Christian is called to evangelize.

As Paul said to Timothy, "Do the work of an evangelist" (2 Timothy 4:5 NKJV). We're all called to preach the gospel.

We've been entrusted with the Great Commission—to go into all the world, preach the gospel, and make disciples of all nations, teaching them all things that Christ has commanded us.

By the way, evangelism and discipleship are really inseparable. Our mission from Christ is to proclaim Jesus, lead people to Him, and then get them grounded in their faith. New believers need older believers to stabilize them, but older believers need new believers to energize them, right?

That's why I always encourage older people to get some younger people in their lives, because younger people need older folks, older folks need younger folks.

### **How Not to Evangelize**

Maybe there's someone reading right now who has someone they want to share the gospel with but feels nervous or even scared to offend. Let me give you an example of what *not* to do.

One day, I was in a hamburger restaurant, and a lady recognized me. She said, "Are you Greg Laurie?" I said, "Yeah, I am." She said, "Well, nice to meet you." And then she gestures toward her husband, "This is my husband; he's a heathen. Can you say something to him to help him believe in Jesus?" And the poor guy was just getting ready to take a bite when this happened. He just froze and looked at me like a deer caught in the headlights. I felt so bad for the guy. I said, "Hey man, enjoy your burger. Okay, God bless you."

So, that's how you *don't* do it. Don't embarrass a person. Don't create unnecessary friction. When it comes to evangelism—if you have the luxury of some time—you want to build a bridge, not burn one.

### **How to Evangelize Effectively**

Jesus was not only the Messiah, the Savior of the world, and the Creator of the universe, but He also happened to

be the greatest evangelist of all time.

And look at the way He interacted with people. Look at Jesus in John 3 with Nicodemus. Look at Jesus in John 4 with the woman at the well. Nicodemus is religious and moral. The other is immoral, living with a man, married and divorced many times. Yet, Jesus built bridges with both of them.

### **Stepping Stone Not Stumbling Block**

Our objective is to be a stepping stone, not a stumbling block. If you want to win some, you need to be winsome. So talk to a person. Everyone's favorite subject is themselves. Say to someone, "Tell me about yourself. . . What do you think about this? What do you think about that?"

I was in a cab once in Hawaii and the driver was named Tom. We're driving along and I prayed, "Lord, if you want, open a door for me to share the gospel with Tom."

We ended up coming across what's called a ghost bike. It's a bicycle painted white on the road with flowers in front of it. It was put there as a memorial to someone who died in a road biking accident. So they called them ghost bikes.

I said, "Tom, what are those bikes and why are they painted white?" He said, "Those are ghost bikes." And he explained it to me. I said, "That's so sad. Tom, what do you think happens when you die?" It took him about five minutes to give me his philosophy. He thought you died and came back as a higher or lower life form. Basically reincarnation. I listened to him, didn't interrupt him, and didn't say you're wrong. When he was all done, he said, "Well, what do you think about the afterlife?" Then, I shared the gospel. After I was done, he said, "I like your version of the afterlife better than my version." I said, "Well, Tom, it's not my version. This is what Jesus said."

### **Give and Take**

See, it's give and take. When you're a preacher, it's a monologue. But when you're in conversation with people, it's a dialogue. So be a good listener. Find out about the person you're talking to so you can then appropriately bring the message of the gospel.

When it's all said and done, it's about sharing the message of the death of Jesus on the cross and His resurrection from the dead.

### **The Power of the Gospel**

Coming back to Billy Graham. I once asked him, "If an older Billy could speak to a younger Billy, what would you say to yourself? What would you tell yourself to preach more on?" And he said, "I would say preach on the cross of Christ and the blood because that's where the power is."

I think what's true of preaching is also true of one-on-one evangelism. The power of the gospel is when you get to the message of the death of Jesus for them and why they need their sin forgiven.

I'll leave you with this last bit of encouragement. . . I have a friend who is a pastor and he'll just say to someone, "Let me ask you a question. Has anyone ever told you there's a God in Heaven who loves you?" Sometimes they say no, and they move on. Other times they'll say no, and they'll be moved by it. I've seen it open the door for really interesting conversations.

You might be surprised by where a simple sentence like that gets you. The hardest part about evangelism is getting started. It's breaking the ice. But sometimes, you just have to take that little step of awkwardness. And I tell you what, if that person responds, that will be a life-changing moment for both of you.

---

## **MINISTRY REPORTS**

### **Springdale UMC Leadership Board meeting—3/25/2025**

#### **Full Leadership Board: 6:00 p.m.**

Attendance: Steven Grace, Rebecca Carver, Jessica Grace, Manda Frauenholz,  
Jo Leighty, and Paula Rogers

1. Opening Devotion and Prayer— Paula shared a devotion about sharing faith with friends and family
2. Trustees
  - a. Accessibility
    - a. Current building is severely out of compliance but we have been grandfathered in. If we start something to become compliant, we have to keep going.
    - b. Paula scanned what she felt was pertinent information into Google Drive. There is also a binder of all the meeting minutes if anyone is interested in looking at them.
    - c. Steven charges the board to pray about this process. The seed has been planted with us again and there's a reason for that.
  - b. CCLI
    - a. Jessica is questioning what we are paying for exactly.
    - b. We will need the streaming license once we start streaming worship.
    - c. Rebecca is going to talk to Phil about what we are doing and how they are using it at St. Marks.
  - c. Ice dams on roof
    - a. Rushton Sheet metal quote: \$3,200—does the steep part of the roof, and fixes/replaces gutter in the SW corner
    - b. \$200 discount if we can approve and have them do the work this week
    - c. Amanda moved to approve the sheet metal quote. Jo seconded. Motion carried.
  - d. Carpet Cleaning
    - a. Paula will contact Randy's to get a bid to discuss next month.
3. SPRC
  - a. Upcoming Dates
    - a. Pulpit Exchange—Chris Humrichouse on April 27; Rebecca at Friends Church.
      - a. Steven will plan on leading worship with Chris providing the sermon
      - b. June 15 - Amanda will be preaching as Steven and Rebecca will be at Annual Conference
  - b. SPRC Evaluation
    - a. Review on own and have ready for April Meeting
  - c. Sunrise service needs—breakfast, etc.
    - a. Jo, Penny, and the girls will coordinate the breakfast
    - b. Jo will let us know if they need any youth help
  - d. Easter service needs—flowers, cross, and a sound person, etc.
  - e. Need sound person on Maundy Thursday
  - f. Church Email
    - a. Steven and Paula are the only ones who have access
    - b. They will continue to monitor but Paula will forward things that are relevant to appropriate people.
4. Stewardship
  - a. Treasurer's Report (Through 2/28/25)
    - a. Jessica will pay our WBARC dues
    - b. Paula moved to approve the February 2025 budget. Manda seconded. Motion carried.
  - b. Financial Update for Newsletter
    - a. March, June, September, December
  - c. Quarterly stewardship focus
    - a. Steven will put together something for the newsletter and for worship
5. Other
  - a. Goal Setting continuation
6. Goal setting
  - a. Mission: To make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world
  - b. Vision: "Springdale UMC is a welcoming church family that worships passionately, nurtures each other holistically, and engages in ministries beyond our walls"
  - c. Board: 1-year/3-year
  - d. Church 1-year/3-year
7. Next Meeting:
  - a. April 28, 2025, 5:00 p.m.
8. Closing Prayer

Prayer Requests: Rhoda (Crestview Room 205) and Linda Hammond



In attendance: Paula Rogers(Chair), Diane Heick, Julie Mather, Rev. Rebecca Carver

March donations for the West Branch Food Bank: 2 packages rubber gloves, 4 sponges, 7 magic erasers, 2 Swiffer dusters, 5 Swiffer wet pads, 4 bottles dish soap, 5 spray cleaners. Paula will deliver donations. April donations will be feminine hygiene products, May-toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, June-baby supplies.

2025 Goals—Paula will email out the 2024 goals, we will review and update next meeting.

SUMC will serve Discipleship meal and provide desserts at WBUMC on April 2.

UMCOR Sunday is March 30, Jo will give the Children's sermon.

Looking for someone to help organize the Sunrise breakfast.

April 27 will be the pulpit exchange with Chris Humrichouse from the Friends Church.

April 13 will be Confirmation Sunday, Birthday Sunday, and Fellowship after church. Paula will line up the beverages.

#### **Lenten Services**

Palm Sunday—April 13—SUMC

Jo will get palm branches

Maundy Thursday—April 17—7:00pm – SUMC

Jo will prepare for communion.

Good Friday—April 18—7:00pm – WBUMC

Easter—April 20—SUMC

Sunrise Service-Frauenholz Family

Sunrise Breakfast—Jo Leighty, Penny Gafeller and families

10:00 am Service—Flowering of the Cross—Rev Rebecca and Paula.

Easter flowers—Diane will have a sign-up sheet for those who would like to bring flowers in memory of someone and will have insert for bulletin.

Plant Swap—Friday May 16—6:00-8:00 set up and accept donations. Saturday May 17-8:00-9:30—set up and accept donations. Swap 10:00—12:00. Paula will look into getting a Master Gardener or Miss Sara from Cedar County Conservation to help give information and advice.

VBS—Sunday July 20-Thursday July 24 with program and potluck picnic on Sunday July 27.

Next meeting—April 27 following church

#### **Worship Committee Meeting 3/10/25**

Present: Rev. Rebecca, Manda, Paula

1. Palm Sunday Service (April 13th 10am)- Palms have been ordered(Jo) Confirmation Service - Laney Grace, Konner Whitlatch, Dylan Whitlatch  
Fellowship afterwards?

Rebecca to create confirmation certificates

1 corsage and 2 boutineers for the confirmands - Manda to have Barb to it.

Joel Wilcox will be here to sing

2. Maundy Thursday - April 17th - 7pm @ Springdale UMC

Jo to do communion

3. Sunrise Service (April 20th 6:30am)- Frauenholz Family

Breakfast - A. Ask on FB Page/email list if anyone wants to take over coordinating?

Potluck Style and sign up for dishes

Need someone for the sound booth

4. Easter Regular Service (April 20th 10am)

a. Paula getting flowers for the flowering of the cross

b. Diane will be playing an organ piece for Easter

c. Will need someone in the booth for 10am Service

5. Pulpit Exchange with WBARC April 27th 10am - Chris Hummirchouse

6. Mothers Day - May 11th 10am

- a. Who will bring flowers - Jo?
- b. Paula to google search to see if there are any cool ideas?

7. Graduation Sunday - (May 18th 10am)

Dawn Johnson, Zeb Brown, Dawson Brick, Calvin Clemens, Teagyn Hartz

UMW gets the gift for graduates

Joel W. Will be here to sing

Fellowship time after church

8. June 15th - Rebecca and Steven at Annual Conference. Manda Preach

- a. Need someone to cover in the sound booth?
- b. Fathers day gifts - Jessica Grace? - Paula to ask her.
- c. Fellowship after church

9. 150 year celebration Outdoors? June 22nd? 10am

- a. Homecoming service
- b. Get save the dates out now - Paula
- c. Create a facebook event - Manda

10. June 29th Songs and Snacks (10am)

Next Meeting June 2nd 6pm