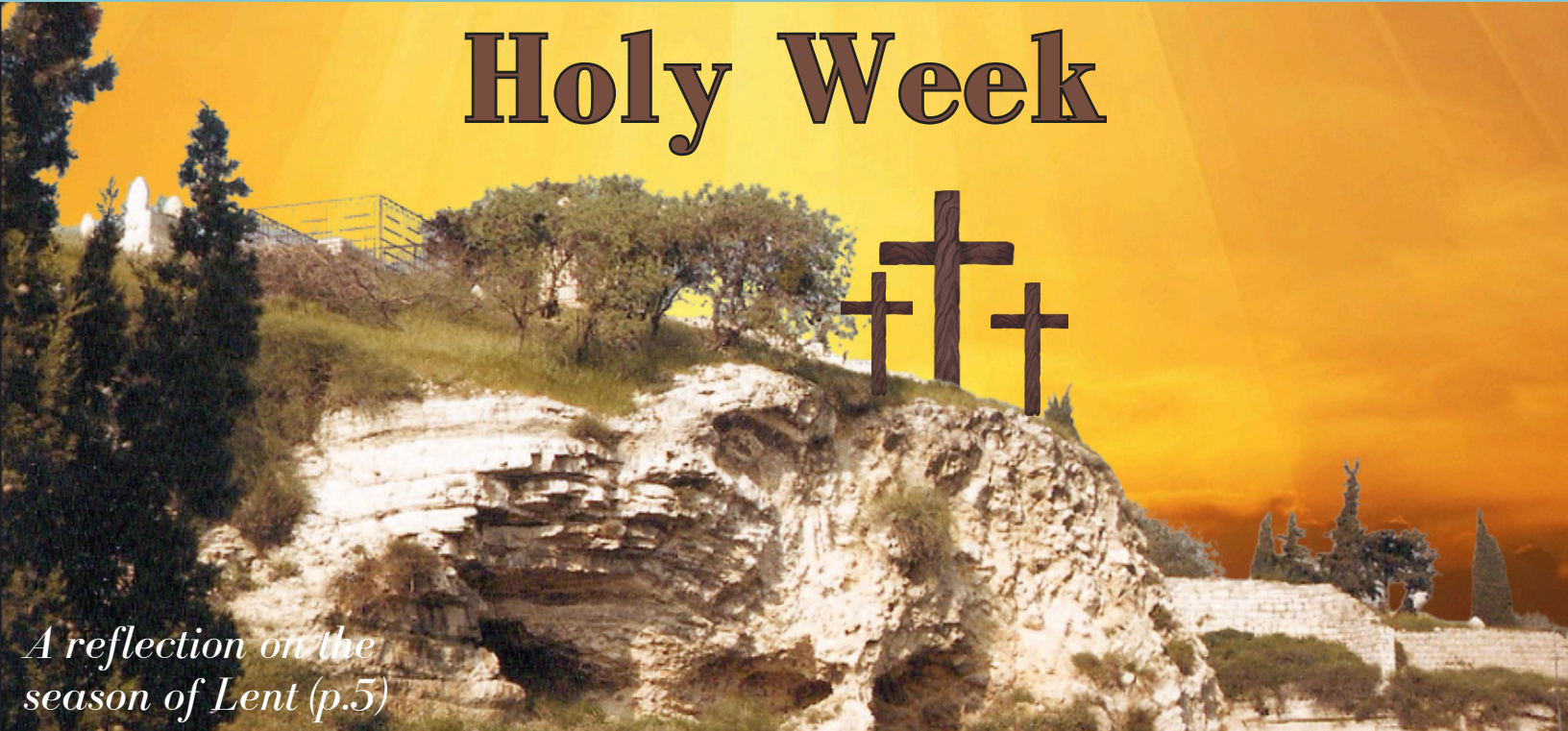


Together In Faith

Preparing servants who make a difference in their community and the world by knowing Christ, following Christ and sharing Christ.

Holy Week



A reflection on the season of Lent (p.5)

Pastor's Corner

BY REV. RUTH VANDERSANDE

Good News is coming this month! Holy Week is here and all that comes with it. This is the most celebratory time of the year for us as Christians. This time of year, we celebrate new birth, the new life that comes from Christ. While we like to think this happens in a moment, embracing that new life is a life-long process of sanctification. Now when we accept Christ of course, we receive our salvation, or as Wesley called it justification. However, we still

have transforming work to do, the grace of God working in us as we are remade, reshaped to be more like God each day.

This process of sanctification is where Christians typically spend most of their time. There's the head knowledge, learning about who our God is through scripture, our Christian history, theologies, knowing how God has called us to act in the world around us. Then there's the heart knowledge, embracing the relationship God has called us to, trusting God, learning how to live out the head knowledge. These things both take time, a lifetime to be precise.

(Continued next page)

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:45 am
Traditional Service

11:15 am
Contemporary Worship

SUNDAY SCHOOL

10 am - All Ages

YOUTH GROUP

6th - 12th Grade
3:00 - 4:30 pm

Cannot attend service in person? Join us online!

Facebook.com/FlushingUMC
or Youtube/user/flushingumc

*(Continued ...
Pastor's Corner)*

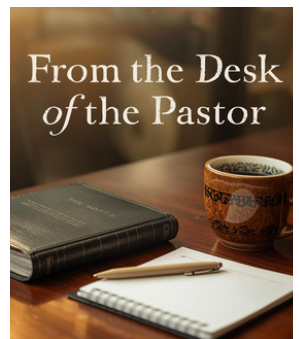
Because there is always more to know about God and more to grow in relationship with God. The journey is always filled with ups and downs, just look at the journeys of Peter and Paul in Acts. Sometimes we will feel closer to God, and others we may struggle.

But, at this time of year, we can remind ourselves of the importance of each new day. Every day is a gift from God, a chance to learn and to grow. God is always there waiting to embrace you, to draw you back to Himself. So take time this month to enjoy the emerging life around us through spring, but also to embrace the New Life that Christ has waiting for you each day.

This month in worship we will be finishing our *Are We There Yet?* sermon series. It has led us through various stops in scripture in the journey of the people of God. So, stay tuned for more of the journey through Easter Sunday. And don't forget to join us for our Holy Week services, beginning with a Kid's play on Palm Sunday, a joint Maundy Thursday service with our Mission Zone, a joint Good Friday Service, and of course Easter Sunday! I look forward to worshipping with you this month.

In Christ,

Rev. Ruth VanderSande



*April Sermons,
Hymns & Scriptures*

**Lenten Sermon Series:
*Are We There Yet? Debunking the Arrival Fallacy***

April 5 Sermon: *Setting Out Again*
Scripture: : Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20
Hymns: Christ the Lord is Risen Today #302,
Up From the Grave He Arose #322, He Lives #310

April 12 Testimonial (1 service @ 10am)
Scripture: TBA
Hymns: TBA

**Sermon Series:
Season of Rest: Rest. Work. Play.**

April 19 Sermon: *Release into Rest*
Scripture: 1 Kings 19:1-9
Hymns: All Things Bright and Beautiful #147, O Jesus, I Have Promised #396, It is Well With My Soul #377

April 22 Sermon: *A Rhythm of Rest*
Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Hymns: Hymn of Promise #707, Battle Hymn of the Republic #717, He Leadeth Me #128



Holy Week Schedule

March 29 - April 5

Palm Sunday

We are having one service at 10:00am. Then join us afterwards for a potluck brunch! Bring a dish to pass, your appetite and enjoy some fellowship.

Maundy Thursday

Mission Zone Service

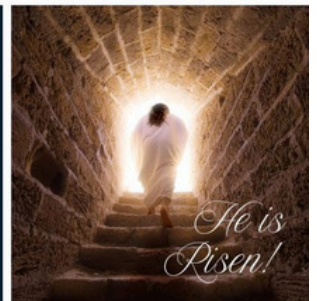
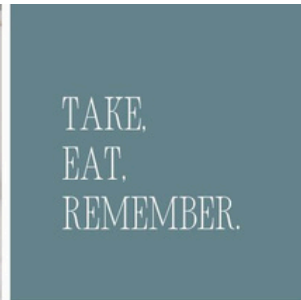
will be here this year @ 6pm
We will be gathering together with our mission zone for our service this year.

Good Friday Ecumenical Service

@ 6pm
The Flushing Presbyterian Church will be joining us this year, here at Flushing UMC!

Easter Sunday

Join us one of our Easter services.
8:45 Traditional Service
11:15 Contemporary Worship



Pastor's Bookshelf

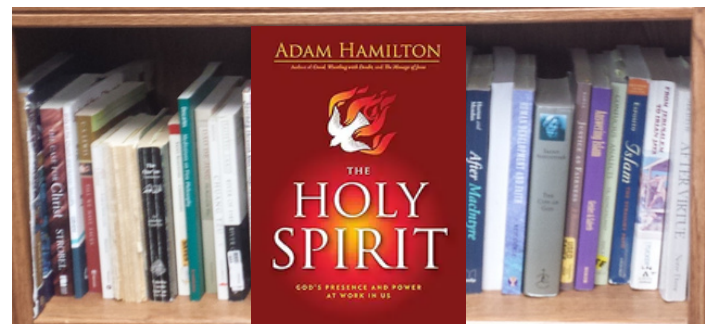
BY RUTH VANDERSANDE

This month I am recommending the book:

The Holy Spirit:

Gods Presence and Power at Work in Us

by Rev. Adam Hamilton



The Holy Spirit often isn't talked about as much as we maybe should. As a pastor I have heard many times, what does the Holy Spirit do? They know that the Spirit is a part of the Trinity, but struggle to define the Spirit's role. While the Holy Spirit's work may feel complicated or mysterious, there is a lot to be said about the work of the Spirit in Scripture. This book helps to broaden our understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit in Scripture and in our lives. It can be utilized as either a Small Group book or as an individual study. I hope you get the chance to study more about the Holy Spirit this month.

Missions News and Updates



United Women in Faith Presents:
5th Annual Walk/Run-a-Thon
Save the Date!! **Saturday, May 16, 2026**
Walk/Run Start: 10:30am ~ Basket Drawing 12:00 pm

Cash For Kids

Cash for Kids Flushing Schools benefit from Bueche's that have Kid's Amount found at the bottom. They receive 1% of the total of the receipts that they return to the store. Recently a total of \$2,257.17 equal to \$22.57 was given to Seymour Elementary. Funds earned are used for items not in their budget. A basket is available at the Mission table to collect receipts. Thank you for supporting our schools!

Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

Tabs from cans (soda, soup, pet food, etc.) are being recycled for cash to provide support for the homes where families stay when their kids are receiving medical care. There is a basket at the Mission table for the tabs.



Your donations of food, household supplies and personal care items are greatly appreciated. Family Promise continues to provide stabilization supplies to families. Especially needed are the following items: fruit juice, juice boxes, kids' cereal, canned meat (tuna, chicken, stew, pasta) spaghetti sauce, canned vegetables (corn and peas), canned fruit (peaches, mixed), soup (chicken noodle and beef). Microwaveable and easy to prepare foods are always useful for kids and families staying in temporary housing.

Urgent Need From FCOOC

This year, Flushing Christian Outreach Center is also asking for socks and underwear for both Men and children. We have not been able to keep up with the demand and need your help. Thank you for all you do to support the needs in our Flushing community.



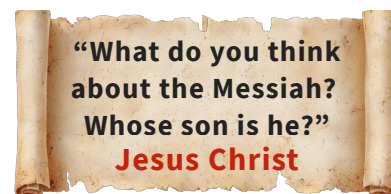
The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn.

Isaiah 61:1-2

A Thorny Path

Devotional By Rose Dessinger

Read: Matthew 21-23



Holy week sure had its emotional ups and downs, didn't it? It all started on Palm Sunday. Everyone was excited about Jesus' arrival. Most of them probably have never seen him before. But they sure heard of him. They had heard the stories where he performed signs and wonders. How he healed the sick and the lame. Raised the dead. Fed 5000. This guy sounded amazing! So these people were expecting Jesus to reign as their king. They threw palm branches on the ground before him shouting "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Matthew 21:9) as he comes in on a donkey.

How easy it is to follow Jesus when he's does what you want or what you like. When he's shows up, gives you what you need and acts nice. It's easy to follow someone who is liked by everyone. Jesus showed up loving and healing people. We love this Jesus. This Jesus is easy to follow.

But then look at what he does on Monday. He begins to upset everyone. Jesus enters the temple and overturns the tables of the money changers, declaring: "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'" (Matthew 21:13) Tensions escalated from there...and Jesus showed us even more of his cranky side.

So now Jesus is showing why following him WASN'T so easy. Throughout the week, he had confrontations with the chief priests, Sadducees, and Pharisees. Now he's getting into the hard stuff. The part where he calls for change and shows where we all fall short...every day. The part where he shows exactly who he is and upset teachers of the law in the process. He even cursed a fig tree. Teachers claimed that he taught "without authority". But Jesus began speaking seven woes to teachers of the law and Pharisees. He even called them hypocrites and broods of vipers. He spoke in parables, gave wisdom and warnings beyond their understanding...or tolerance. He called them to do, believe and understand difficult things. And they got angry!

Following this Jesus just got a whole lot harder.

"For many are invited (to the Wedding Banquet), but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14).

"So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's" (Matthew 22:21).

You can almost hear their thoughts: "Who does this guy think he is? He's just a son of a carpenter!" This is not the Jesus people find easy to follow. We want the easy Jesus. The loving Jesus. The humble and meek Jesus. But this Jesus? This Jesus calls us to change our hearts. He calls for radical love: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' and 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (Matthew 22:38-39). Even those who hate us, disagree with us or mock us. This Jesus calls us to lay our lives down for God and to follow him. Even (and especially) when it gets too hard. It's hard to follow THIS Jesus. After all... who can measure up?

The point of Holy Week was to show us something important. While following Jesus is an absolute must, we cannot do it on our own. It's not just our pride that gets in the way. Our own weakness prevents it. During Holy Week, Jesus pointed out where the Israelites fell short. The truth is many believers today still carry a quiet, constant pressure that they are still falling short. Doing it on our own is a huge burden. The finished work of Jesus speaks directly to this fear. God never designed your life with Him to be sustained by performance. Grace did not begin your relationship so your effort could maintain it. What God gives is not earned, measured, or preserved by how much you do. Jesus endured the cross to free you from a life of spiritual striving. He cares about your heart.

Good Friday came because there was only One perfect and Holy Son of God who could do what we could not. Jesus laid his own life down for the sins of the world and nailed the record of our debt to the cross. There's only One who can save us. Only One who can reconcile us to the Father so we can have a relationship with him. Because of Jesus, we now have his Holy Spirit who enables us to follow this difficult road and do what we are call to do. Following Jesus just got a whole lot easier. Now THAT is good news! Amen.

Scripture Reading for Lent

Holy Week arrives Sunday, March 29th this year. Let's look at an important Old Testament Scripture that points to this very important Holy Week...where the coming Messiah was foretold 600-700 years before our Savior, Christ Jesus was born.

Isaiah 53 (NIV)

1 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

3 He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished.

9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

10 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

11 After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Finance

Snapshot thru February 2026

Total Budget for 2026
General Fund: \$300,000

Total received in Feb 2026:
General \$ 22,573
Interest \$ 476
Rent \$ 100
Capital Fund: \$ 250

General Fund Expenses
Paid in February: \$ 25,720

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY !**

April Birthdays

Scot Workman	1
Barb Johnston	8
Bob Baker	13
Carolyn Malaski	17
Jason Keef	18
Dawn Hiller	30

Do We Have Your Birthday?

Each quarter we celebrate upcoming birthdays.

But we do not have birthdays of those who are not yet members.

We want to celebrate YOU!

Please send your full birthday to Rose Dessinger in the office.

Getting To Know Your Neighbor

THIS MONTH, LET'S GET TO KNOW:

Dennis Robertson

Briefly tell us about yourself:

How did you come to Christ?

I came to Christ when I got sober.

Favorite Bible Verse? Romans 7

What are your hobbies? playing guitar

What's a fun fact about yourself?

I've been sober for almost 16 years.

What do you do for a living?

I am a foreman for an underground electrical construction company. Also an heavy equipment operator.

Favorite Food: anything sweet but, I have gave up sugar.

Travels-Where have you been and where would you like to go? Proud member of the praise team FUMC!



Things You'll Never Hear in Church:

- Hey! It's MY turn to sit on the front pew!
- I was so enthralled, I never noticed your sermon went over time 25 minutes.
- Pastor, this winter we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas
- Since we're all here, let's start the worship service early!
- I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!

Bulletin Bloopers

- This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
- "Parents are asked to remind their children to be on their best behavior."
- The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'
- Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.
- Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to the church secretary.
- The spring retreat will be held May 10th and 11th.

Community Garden

It's that time of the year to be thinking of and planning for the upcoming growing season. We were able to provide fresh produce last season for FCOC

from May-September from the 4 raised beds on the west side of the church. Volunteers are needed. If you are interested in helping, contact Carolyn.

Ways To Give

PayPal Giving Fund

has no extra charges to us or you! Click here:

<https://www.paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/391105>

or scan our QR Code:



Text to give thru Vanco

Text flushingumc to 73256, followed by your gift amount,

For example:

"flushingumc \$100" sent to the number 73256

or go to:

onrealm.org/FlushingUnitedM/Give



Prayer Room

Please remember in your hearts and prayers for:

- + Katie, for a new kidney donor
- + Gene & Meribeth with health challenges
- + Bonnie, with cataracts surgeries
- + Cathy, healing for back
- + Hittle family on loss of Jared
- + Diane, recovering from pacemaker surgery
- + John, who had a mini stroke
- + Loren, with unresolved issues
- + Connie, with lung/knee issues

C	R	O
S	S	
O	K	U

Solve as a normal Sudoku except that nine different letters are

used instead of the numbers 1 to 9. The shaded cross *also* contains each of the 9 letters once only.

When complete, one of the rows or columns will contain a Bible word or phrase - a clue is given to help with this and a reference to where it can be found.

(All Bible references from NIV)

G		S			R		B	
			E	I				G
R		B	H	G		N	I	
E						G	S	I
	G						E	
S	N	T						B
	H	G		S	E	I		R
B				H	T			
	S		R			B		H

Clue: Becomes lighter.
[Ecclesiastes 8:1]

Articles for the May 2026 Newsletter is due by:
April 22, 2026

Talk To Us

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Flushingumc.org
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Flushing, MI 48433

Rev. Ruth's email:
pastor@flushingumc.org
(734) 436-9099

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Christian Ed. Director: Melissa Whalen
Accompanist: Jinah Chun
Custodian: Marlene Cooper
Play Place: Lindsey Wagner,
LillieAyn Smith

Published the last Wednesday of the month
Editor: Rose Dessinger

Worship Servants

Scripture Readers 8:45am

- Apr 5 - Melissa Whalen
- Apr 12 - Larry Ridge
- Apr 19- Sue Ridge
- Apr 26- Laurel Allyn

Usher/Greeters 8:45am

- Apr 1 - Travis & Melissa Whalen
- Apr 12 - Bob & Linda Baker
- Apr 19- Bill Dessinger, Ellen Hulet, Dave Lewis
- Apr 26- Carol Dick, Larry & Sue Ridge

Computer /Sound Board 8:45am

- Apr 5- Karen Florida
- Apr 12- Travis Whalen
- Apr 19- Rose Dessinger
- Apr 26- Nancy Elsner

Hospitality 10:00am

- Apr 5- Bob & Linda Baker
- Apr 12- Marlene Cooper
- Apr 19- Ruth Brown
- Apr 26- Larry & Sue Ridge

Worship Leader 11:15am

- Apr 5- Autumn Cichowski
- Apr 12- Kris Supernaw
- Apr 19- Teresa Casteel & Eric Mason
- Apr 26- Autumn Cichowski

H	G	I	N	S	T	S	I	B
S	R	E	H	G	R	I	B	
S	B	S	E	I	T	R		
B	H	R	B	H	S	I	N	S
N	E	H	S	B	T	R	I	G
I	B	H	T	R	N	G	S	I
T	I	N	G	S	H	B	R	E
G	I	S	N	T	R	H	B	E