

APRIL - MAY NEWSLETTER



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Mt. Olivet family of faith,

It was wonderful to see so many of you on Easter Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. I am especially thankful for those of you who brought friends and family to join our worship celebration. The presence of so many gathered together made for a joyful time for all.

I am working on this newsletter just a few days after Easter and I am running a little low on my creative juices after our Lent, Holy Week, and Easter celebrations. Rather than stare at a blank screen all week trying to write something for you, forcing our secretary to have to scramble at the last minute to get this newsletter out to you, I decided I wanted to share one of my favorite Easter poems with you. It is by Jan Richardson who writes beautiful poetry and makes meaningful art to accompany all sorts of different days and seasons on the liturgical calendar. I hope you find it meaningful.

Seen

A Blessing for Easter Day

You had not imagined
that something so
empty
could fill you
to overflowing,

and now you carry
the knowledge
like an awful treasure
or like a child
that roots itself
beneath your heart:

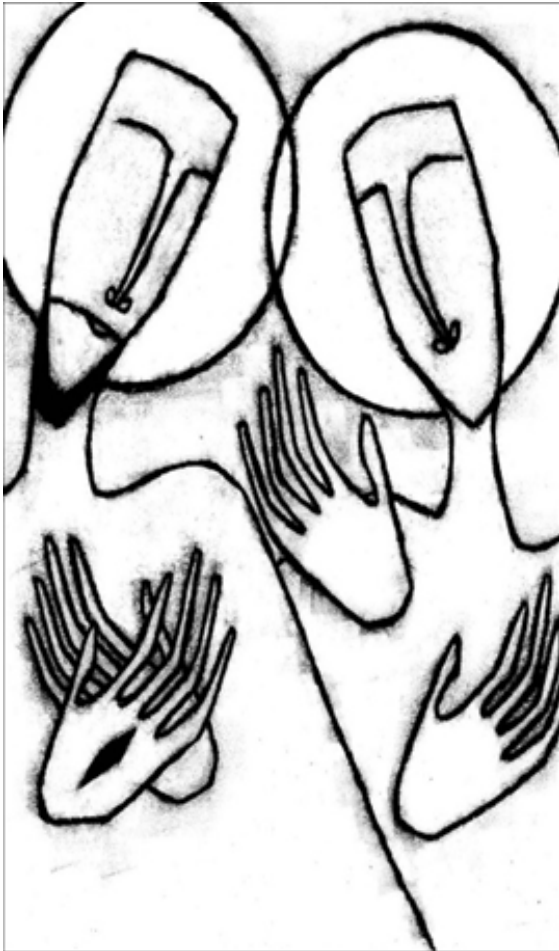
how the emptiness
will bear forth
a new world
that you cannot fathom
but on whose edge
you stand

So why do you linger?
you have seen,
and so you are
already blessed.
You have been seen,
and so you are
the blessing.

There is no other word
you need.
There is simply
to go
and tell.
There is simply
to begin.

God's blessing on you and your family this Easter season (did you know
Easter lasts for 6 weeks!)

In Christ, Pastor Kimberly



MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Midweek Lenten services were great this year. It was wonderful to have so many of you attend. We directed our offering for the Perry Middle School Fellowship of Christian Athletes. A special thank you to Linda Huntington and Bill Olson for the musical leadership. Thank you also to Teresa Painter, Steve Golay, Pr. Lou Hoger, Marlene Johnson, and Gene Grell performing our dramatic monologues. And thank you to everyone who read Scripture for the services as well.

EASTER LILIES



Thank you to Marlene Johnson, Gene Grell, Stan Johnson, Roger and Pat Smith, Elaine Rains, Brenda and Steve Golay, and Doug and Martha Stetzel who donated an Easter lily in memory of loved ones and helped beautify our worship space.

BREAD BREAKERS

Bread Breakers will meet on Wednesday, April 8 at noon at Mt. Olivet for a Baked Potato Bar Lunch. Please invite a friend and come enjoy a time of fellowship. In May, we will meet for a salad and dessert potluck on Wednesday, May 13 at noon. Bring a salad or dessert to share and don't forget to invite a friend!



THANK YOU!

Thank you to Claire Drizness, Liz Eastman, Gene Grell, and Bev Koob for organizing and serving the St. Patrick's Day Bread Breakers and thank you to everyone who contributed to the freewill offering that day for the Perry Emergency Food Pantry.

Thank you to everyone who brought items for our Lent Stuff the Altar for Sleep Space. Your donations are appreciated and will help many in our community. Our congregation also received a \$10,000 grant for this program from the Immanuel Vision Foundation in Omaha and we thank them for their generosity.

Dear Mt. Olivet family,

Thank you for the care package! It was such a wonderful surprise! I appreciate you guys for thinking of me! Brynley Hayes

ATTEND A STOP THE SCAMMERS EVENT

Join the Iowa Department of Insurance and Financial Services, the Iowa Attorney General's Office and AARP for a FREE educational Stop the Scammers event. It will be held Tuesday, April 14 at the Hotel Pattee from 8:30-10am. Reservations are required and can be made at <https://iowafraudfighters.gov/stop-the-scammers-event>

FRIENDS IN FAITH

Friends in Faith had a great day of camp fun at Mt. Olivet on Sunday, March 22. We played loads of games, worked on teamwork, had Bible Study, enjoyed lots of snacks, and learned all about how we are beloved children of God with special gifts and different ways of thinking and doing things that make us great at serving God.



OUT OF OFFICE

Pastor Kimberly will be out of the office Wednesday, April 15-Tuesday, April 22. If you need any assistance during that time, please contact council vice president Roger Niemeyer.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to our graduate Cole Nelson who completes his studies at Iowa State this semester. We will celebrate Cole's accomplishment during coffee hour on Sunday, May 17.

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

April 12: Teresa Painter

April 19: Marlene Johnson

April 26: volunteer needed

May 3: volunteer needed

May 10: volunteer needed

May 17: Marlene Johnson

May 24: volunteer needed

May 31: volunteer needed

If you are interested in helping with Altar Guild, which is the group that sets up and cleans up communion each week, please talk with Pastor Kimberly. It would be great to get a couple more volunteers to share in the serving.

WORSHIP LEADERS SCHEDULE

Please arrive by 8:15am to get the sanctuary ready for the 8:45am service.

April 12: Van Kirk family

April 19: Huntington and Kingsley families

April 26: Niemeyer family

May 3: Hayes and Higbee families

May 10: Nelson family

May 17: Lamm family

May 24: Golay family

May 31: Burgett family

SIGN UP TO MOW!

Do you like to mow? We are looking for some volunteers to help with mowing the church lawn this summer. There is a sign-up sheet by the mailboxes. Please help us take care of our beautiful church grounds.

CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY - APRIL 26

We will have a church clean up day to tidy up the grounds and tackle some indoor cleaning projects following worship on Sunday, April 26. Please stick around and help out. Many hands make light work.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Our thoughts and prayers are with Laura and Joe Samuelson and their family at the death of their brother Paul on Thursday, April 2. Services will be held at a later date.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Barb Daiker, spouse of former Mt. Olivet pastor the late Rev. Bernard Daiker. Barb passed away on Friday, April 3. Funeral arrangements are pending.

STAR WORDS

How is your journey coming this year with your star word? Star words were handed out in worship back in January to help guide our devotional life this year. Here are some reflection questions to help you continue on the journey.

1. Where do you find the hope and good news of the resurrection in/through your star word?
2. As we prepare for Pentecost, how has the Holy Spirit lit a fire in you in/through your star word? What new thing has it inspired you to do?

EASTER EGG HUNT

Thank you to Social Concerns and the confirmation class for putting together an Easter Egg hunt for our Sunday School youth. We had a great turn out and the kids had lots of fun.

