

Kaneville United Methodist Church

Newsletter April 2024

OUR SACRED LAND

By Rev. Nancy Blade

The beauty of the Earth is not only a celebration for April 22nd, Earth Day. It is an everyday blessing, an everyday praise.

As I prepare litanies and devotionals for a General Conference* Earth Day celebration, I meet an indigenous person who walks us through “land acknowledgements,” and how her people talk about creation. She speaks the truth in saying that creation doesn’t need human beings, but we need creation. Without creation we would wither and die “like a cut rose” said theologian Howard Thurman. Others have noted that if humans perished, all the plants, animals, fish, birds, and insects would thrive.

This makes me wonder why God made us caretakers of creation. Genesis 2:15 in the NKJV says our job in the Garden is “to tend and keep it.” Historically we have read this as the garden is a free resource to mine for our own advantage. But quite possibly, given how poorly that turned out, we need “to work the ground and take care of it.” (NLV) In other words, “serve and protect.” Much like the police caring for community with bike safety, crime prevention and removal of danger, we also can see our role as the Creation Care police.

We rolled our eyes when a wise one said, “Don’t rake the leaves until the insects have left in the warm days of May.” Or when another said “Don’t put chemicals at the base of a tree to dewed them. It filters down to the roots and weakens the plant.” These behaviors are not activism. It’s caring for creation. So don’t roll your eyes.

When we lose a tree, we plant another tree. A windstorm in the fall of 2022 took down two pine trees and knocked down the power line to the prayer garden. It was a mess to clean up on the weekend of the funeral for Marilyn Holmann. In hearing the story of the wind and the tree’s fate, the family decided to purchase another tree, a flowering Easter Redbud, to honor their mother. The new tree was planted last fall at the northwest corner of the property. Soon we will have a ceremony to dedicate the tree and remember our friend. The tree does not need this to survive, but we do.

As spring rains nurture the soil, may your actions fertilize growth in others and creation.

Happy Spring!!

What Is General Conference?

Every four years the United Methodist Church meets with elected representatives from every annual conference (USA) and every central conference (International) to vote on changes to the Book of Discipline (how UMC is governed) and the Book of Resolutions (UMC policy and resolutions). There was a special General Conference in 2019 to discuss the LGBTQ differences and establish rules for disaffiliation, legislation which expired on December 31, 2023. There was no General Conference in 2020 due to the global pandemic, but now the global church is meeting for a regular quadrennial session, covering 2020 legislation and new legislation for 2024.

General Conference operates much like an Annual Conference in that there are legislative sections which review each petition to approve or deny. If approval is high (like 80%) it goes on the consent calendar. If it is voted down, it's automatically on the consent calendar but can be lifted with 20 signatures to discuss at plenary. The plenary sessions (attended by all full delegates, bishops, and agency reps with visitors in the bleachers) are filled with worship, reports, and voting. There is an equal amount of clergy and laity. Bishops usually rotate the gavel. Bishop Dan told me that he is assisting another bishop and not leading due to his junior status in the Council of Bishops.

Anyone can submit legislation for the Book of Discipline or the Book of Resolutions. As a member of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference, I submitted a change to the Discipline to require Annual Conference Committees to screen for "sustainable practices for energy, waste, and consumption" when choosing a venue for their annual meetings. The why on this goes back to poor recycling at the St. Charles hotel and the Schaumburg hotel, where we have held our June meetings. When I was in West Chicago, I brought over recycling bins only to find out the hotel staff were throwing garbage in there. I found out that I'm not the only one who's frustrated with their Annual Conference Committee. So, I wrote up a change paragraph 603.4 of the Discipline.

There's lots of good legislation being proposed. The big highlights are a new social principles, a proposal for regionalization (makes central conferences and jurisdictional conferences, as regional bodies adopting their own Book of Discipline, hymnal, etc.), a new pension system 😊 and structure for creation care work in conferences and local churches.

I will be attending the General Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina for the opening – April 22 – 24. I have helped with the planning for an evening Earth Day worship, a walking devotional in 5 languages, a protest for divesting from fossil fuels, and tracking creation justice legislation. If you would like to see more from my cohort group, check out our webpage UMCreationJustice.org. Some of my presentations on General Conference legislation are posted there and it is a great resource for earth care worship liturgy.

I look forward to telling you more later in the month. I covet your prayers as I do this important work.

Pastor Nancy

“A Blessing” by Peter W. Milar, An Iona Prayer Book, page 32, adapted.

May the good Lord show you how to be frugal, ‘till all are fed;

How to weep, ‘till all can laugh;

How to be meek, ‘till all can stand in pride;

How to mourn, ‘till all are comforted;

How to be restless, ‘till all live in peace;

How to claim less, ‘till all find justice.

Then you will be blessed indeed

and the earth itself will be blessed through you

Worship starting April 14th

After experiencing the death and resurrection of Jesus our April worship series will answer the faith question: “How Shall We Live?” UMC Elder and Earthkeeper Laura Baumgartner created this Discipleship Resources series to help us live into the faith that Christ is alive and we are alive.

“The season of Easter, or Eastertide, can be difficult to navigate. On the one hand, there is the ongoing unexplainable joy of Resurrection and the hope of new life. On the other hand, there is the inevitable feeling of “So, what?” as we notice that the world seems pretty much unchanged or perhaps even worse. This is exactly where we need to begin this series: “So, what? Christ is Risen!” That was our shout on Easter morning. “So, what?” “What difference has it made, is it making, and will it make in our lives day by day?” That is the question we are asking in this series for the beginning of the Easter season: How shall we live?

To guide us through this series and to help us answer this vital question, we have the Epistle of John. Perhaps it’s a surprising choice for some, but these letters can give us insight on life after Easter and how we might be witnesses to the kingdom, even as we wait for the fulfillment of the promise. We invite you and your congregation to explore what it means to be the church in a messy world as we consider how we shall live.”



Peacemakers

Our last session for the school year was April 1 when we focused on God's Teamwork. We had a blast comparing Yertle the Turtle to the Tower of Babel, building towers with our teams, making turtles, and eating ice cream! Thanks to Peggy Langness, Carol Alfrey and the KCCC staff for making this school-day-off ministry such a success.



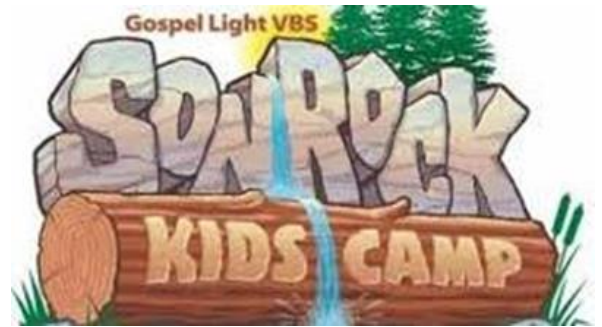
KIDZONE

As we wind down the school year and with Easter in the rearview mirror, we're focusing on Jesus during these last 2 months at KIDZONE. We'll be looking at Jesus's parables and miracles and preparing a skit or two in the process.

KIDZONE meets during the 9:30 worship service after children's time
for kids preschool-6th grade.

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars now for our 2024 VBS—SonRock Kids Camp, “Where Kids Build their Lives on the Rock: Jesus. Yep, we’re pulling out an old favorite from 2009 and revamping it for 2024. This adventure is based on 1 John 3:1, “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God.” Each day kids will learn from various people in the Bible what it means to be a child of God. The daily sessions are: Accepted by Jesus, Protected by Jesus, Saved by Jesus, Forgiven by Jesus, Living for Jesus.



As always, we need lots of volunteers to make this week a success! From storytellers and teachers to crafters and recreation staff, it takes a village to pull this off each year. Once again, we will host VBS outdoors in the church’s beautiful backyard, with crafts in the church basement. Dates are July 22-26, 9am-Noon.

This Grace of Giving

“But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” 2 Corinthians 8:7

Heavenly Father,

You withhold no good thing from us (Ps. 84:11). Today I pray that You would help my children learn that is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

May giving be a lifestyle in our home—not just something we think about on special holidays or at a birthday party but anytime we see someone in need (Matt. 5:42).

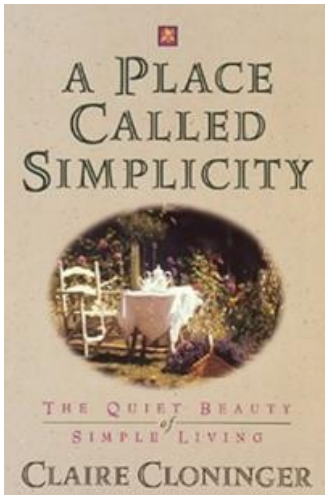
Sometimes it is harder for my children to share what is familiar—their own bike or a special book—than it is to give a store-bought gift. Show my children that the greatest gifts are often those that personally cost them something to give (2 Cor. 8:2).

And finally, help my children to give and to share with pure motives—happily, freely, but not to show off their generosity or to expect a return (2 Cor. 9:7).

Amen.

(Taken from Praying the Bible for your Children by David & Heather Kopp)

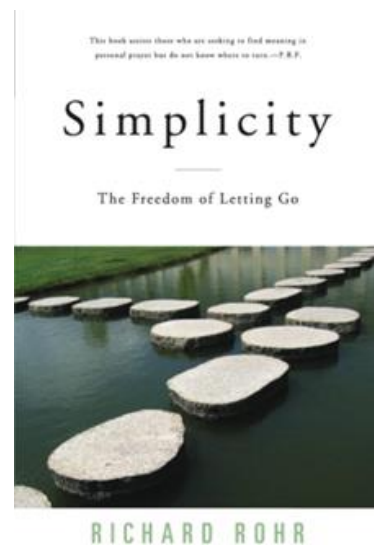
Check It Out!



In ***A Place Called Simplicity***, author Claire Cloninger encourages us to journey away from the clutter and clatter of daily survival toward a place of calm, order, and refreshment—the “simple” life many of us long for. She writes, “So often we have the mistaken idea that the more things and activities and relationships we have in our lives, the more meaningful our lives will be. Ironically, the converse is often true.” Join Claire as she explores the attitudes and ideas that go along with a simple life. From simplifying your home to your spirituality, you’ll find encouragement on your way to uncluttering your life.

For a more contemplative look at the topic, check out Richard Rohr’s ***Simplicity-The Freedom of Letting Go***, which examines St. Francis’s ancient call to the simple life of freedom and happiness. Rohr shows his readers how to:

- Recognize their radical dependence on others
- Understand why less is more
- Break through to contemplation and
- Embrace deeper spiritual freedom.



Both books can be found in the non-fiction section of the church library.

KUMC April Mission:

Tree of Life

Tree of Life Ministry, Pierre, South Dakota

Part of the working hands and feet of God to the Sicangu Lakota Nation residing on the Rosebud Reservation serving the body, mind, and soul. They feed, clothe, shelter and love.

They demonstrate His love, power, and grace to a broken, hurting society. Goals:

- Increase Soup Kitchen quality and quantity of food in support of greater overall health and wellness because of diet.
- Increase direct service in Thrift Store Ministry to increase revenue, create faster turnover of inventory and serve more individuals.
- Increase Volunteers in Mission visits to increase relationship building toward reconciliation, depth, and breadth of stakeholder's knowledge, thereby expanding the number of people praying, caring, and supporting them.

OUR ROOTS ARE IN THE COMMUNITY



“Tree of Life Ministry is a part of the working hands and feet of God to the Lakota Nation residing on the Rosebud Reservation serving body, mind, and soul. We feed, cloth, shelter, and love. We demonstrate His love, power, and grace to a broken, hurting society.

To the naked eye our service may look like a handout or a hand-up, however to God it may look like an answer to prayer. A much-needed witness of love toward salvation. Every donation is vital to this ministry. The gift may vary in size; however, the act of obedience and reward is the same.

Thank you for your support, love, and prayers.”

You can use the designated envelopes marked “missions” during offering or put on your check “missions” so we know where you want your contribution to go.

Plarn

We are still collecting plastic bags to make plarn mats for Midwest Missions. The loom will stay set up for anyone who would like to work on this special mission. We will also be working on it every Saturday at 1:30pm. Stop by & help out! Maybe a youth group or just friends getting together could come in and be a part of this mission.

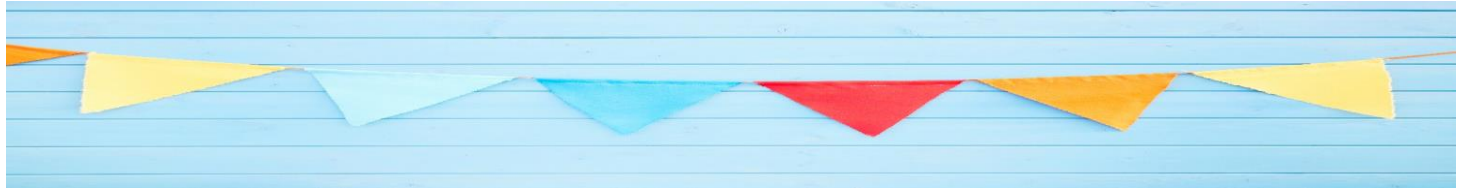
To prepare our plastic yarn, cut strips 5 inches wide. Do not weave together. Bring to the weaving area upstairs. We are starting our 3rd mat this month!!



Steeple Fundraiser

As many of you know we need to repair our steeple. The project will be taken on by the Azemi brothers. The month of May is the current target for starting this project. The Azemis have been out and assessed that tip of the steeple is leaning a little to the north. They will straighten and secure the structure inside before they start exterior repairs. An 80-foot lift will be rented for this project. The original estimate was \$35,000 and we have been able to raise just over \$25,000.

It's a big project but one that needs to be done. It will keep our building watertight & pest free. Make sure you mark on your donations "Steeple Project" so that they will go directly to this fund. Please help us achieve this goal however you can.



Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April 1	Rob Ottoson
April 2	Sophia Ottoson
April 4	Andy Frielink
April 5	Carol Bateman
April 6	Cherlyn Ladford Pheraba Lawson
April 10	Charlie Kahl, Sarah Slack
April 13	Ethan Ryan
April 14	Sue Ladford
April 16	Connie Marquis
April 17	Michelle Buck, Jack Miller
April 18	Arianna Weiland
April 19	Poul Flamand
April 21	Alana Meyer
April 22	Zachary Flanders, Al Miller
April 27	Denny Niceley, Alyssa Ryan
April 28	Trent Schleifer

Softball: KUMC will be playing softball again & the season starts soon! If you are interested in being on the team, contact Jack Kettelkamp. The team will play competitively on Monday nights. The price for the whole team is \$450, sponsorships are always welcomed.



Thank-you Ben Vanatta and all who helped make the 2024 Chili Supper such a success!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 6	Len & Karen Heinberg
April 28	Dan & Carol Alfrey
April 29	Terry & Melissa Fox

Celebrating
our Mothers

Mother Daughter-Banquet

Featuring
Musical Musings – Women who Rock!

Sunday, May 5, 2024
5:00-7:00 pm
Kaneville United Methodist Church

All women of the community invited.
Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

A-E: Salad
F-K: Desserts
L-P: Main Dish
Q-Z: Vegetable Dish

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
Psalm 95:1

Save the Date!

April 2024

	1	2	3	4	5	6
				Food Pantry 5-7PM		Men's prayer group 7AM 1:30PM Plarn weaving
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship 9:30AM Rich Rubietta	Solar Eclipse		Praise Band 6:30PM Choir 7:30PM			Men's prayer Group 7AM 1:30PM Plarn weaving
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship 9:30AM		9:30AM Card Ministry- Sandy Gould's	Praise Band 6:30PM Choir 7:30PM			Men's prayer Group 7AM 1:30PM Plarn weaving
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship 9:30AM	Earth Day		Praise Band 6:30PM Choir 7:30PM			Men's Prayer Group 7AM 1:30PM Plarn weaving
	Pastor at General Conference					
28	29	30				
Worship 9:30AM						

Upcoming event: Mother-Daughter Banquet May 5th