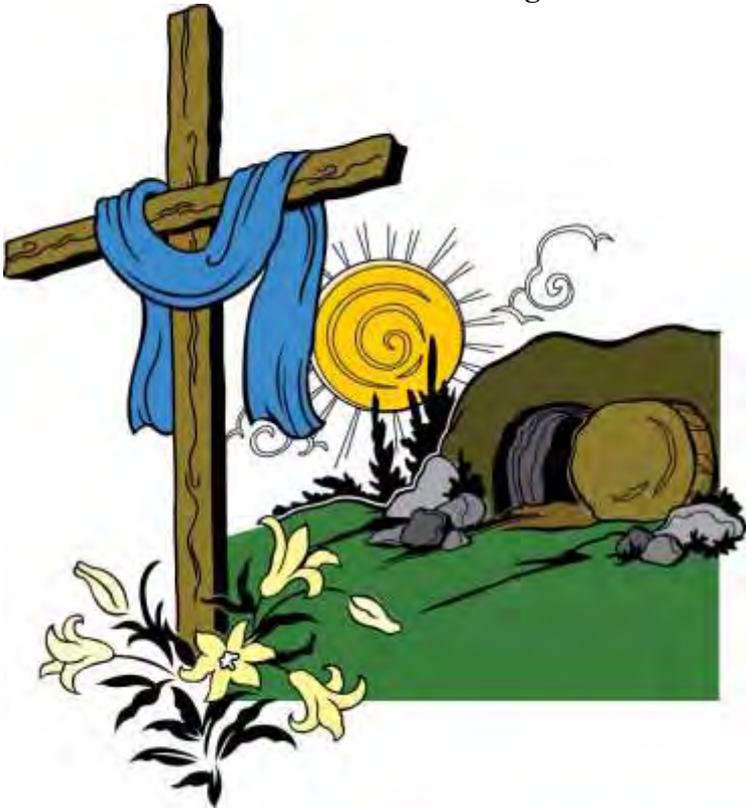


The Visitor

April 2018

301 South Main Street
Homer, Illinois 61849

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www.homer-umc.org



*Because He lives I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives all fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future and
Life is worth the living just because He lives!*

- Gloria and Bill Gaither

A two-year-old girl could hardly wait for Easter to come. She had a new dress to wear and new shoes to go with it, but her father wondered whether she knew the true meaning of Easter. “Kara,” he asked, “do you know what Easter means?”

“Yes, I do,” she smiled.

“What does it mean then?” her father asked.

With a smile on her face and her arms raised, she cried, “Surprise!”

There is no better word for Easter. “Surprise!”

That was the clear reaction of Christ’s disciples and closest friends that first Easter day. In Luke we read that Jesus’ disciples were distraught after his crucifixion. “Early on Sunday morning, some of the women took spices to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the mouth of tomb. When they went inside Christ’s body was not there. Suddenly two men in gleaming white clothes stood beside them. The women bowed down their faces with fright, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’” (Luke 24:5-7) Then they remembered Christ’s words. When the women came back from the tomb, they told the disciples what had happened. But none of the men believed them. Their words seemed like nonsense. Surprise!

Even though the disciples had heard Jesus telling them over and over that he must suffer and die, they clearly didn’t comprehend those words. Even though he had promised that he would return after his death, they couldn’t wrap their minds around such an incredible

message. Because of their inability to fathom God's plan, they were completely taken by surprise when the stone was rolled away and the tomb was empty.

Perhaps you and I have heard the resurrection story so many times that it has lost some of its power. It certainly doesn't come as a surprise to us. But even in its familiarity, don't let Christ's resurrection lose its wonder and its miraculous power to transform that which is dead in us into new life, new hope! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

The Apostle Paul's words remind us that because of the risen Christ we do not need to live in defeat or despair:

“So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” 2 Corinthians 5:16-17

“Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.” Philippians 3:14

Surprise! Jesus Christ is alive, and his resurrection power has been given to you and me! We are a new creation, and we press on to receive that heavenly prize.

This Easter, allow the risen Christ to bring new life to your heart and to your spirit. Live in the power of his resurrection and expect to be surprised by joy—a joy that can abide in our heart, regardless of our circumstances because we know that God is in control and we know that his love never ends.

The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Alleluia!

Pastor Teri





Join us for an Easter Egg hunt for Pre-K through Jr. High on **April 1**. The high schoolers will be putting together Easter eggs and

hiding them for Easter Sunday. You can bring a bag or basket, or we always have some bags to decorate here at the church in the BLAST room.

Chicken Noodle Dinner
April 21, 2018
5:00-7:00 pm



Free will donations accepted
Funds to support Homer UMC

Sponsored by the Kum Joy Nus Women's Group



Once again you will have the opportunity to see and get to know the "other half" of the Shane clergy team. On Sunday, **April 29**, you will have the wonderful pleasure of hearing

and seeing Pastor Don. Our styles are certainly different, but I happen to think his preaching is pretty wonderful. So please be sure to show your support and encouragement as he brings you a good Word.
Pastor Teri



Things are looking different in the library these days. Fiction books are still arranged in alphabetical order by the author's last name. But I am abandoning the Dewey Decimal system for the nonfiction books. Instead, books are being grouped by author, such as Max Lucado, when the author is a prolific writer. They are also grouped according to subject such as prayer, humor, fasting, men, women, and family. At this time, there are temporary labels (3X5 cards) for these on the shelves. Soon I hope to have permanent labels attached to the edge of the shelves.

Are you looking for some good fiction? One of my favorite series is the Mitford books by Jan Karon. These are about the fictional town of Mitford, which becomes very real as you meet the various residents of Mitford. The stories are built around Father Tim, his next door neighbor, a young boy, Dooley, and Barney a lovable dog.

Brock and Bodie Thoene are a couple who write Christian fiction. We have several series written by them. The Saga of the Sierras is a short series set during the Civil War era as gold seekers come to California.

Come check out things. And, keep reading!
Meredith



Are you ready for your life to change? Take charge of your life and your money now! Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University will be held on Sunday nights, starting April 8. For more information, please contact Jayme Stewart (jayme.a.stewart@gmail.com).

The Nurture Outreach Worship (N.O.W.) committee will meet on **Sunday April 8**, at 11:30 a.m. If you are a part of this committee, please make every effort to attend!



The focus of this work area of the church is threefold:
To engage our membership in...

1. (Nurture) Reaching out to those in our fellowship
2. (Outreach) Reaching out into our community and beyond.
3. (Worship) Offering new opportunities for praise and worship

In small membership churches, it is sometimes difficult to accomplish goals of mission and ministry. So the hope is that by streamlining the work of a variety of committees into one, we can accomplish much without anyone feeling overburdened. If each church member would be involved in at least one ministry, we would be amazed at just what God could accomplish through us. Please keep this group and our church in your prayers as we seek to follow where God is leading us.

N.O.W. committee members:

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Julie Brown | Cindy Hubert | Mary Jenkins |
| Sue Smith | Jayne Stewart | Bruce Barnes |
| Pam Tate | Jenny Tatman | Jeff Brown |



VBS 2018
Shipwrecked
Rescued by Jesus
June 25-29
6:00-8:0 p.m.

What's Your Story?

Everyone has a story to tell – a story of God's faithfulness in their life. We would love to include a personal faith story in each of our monthly newsletters. Please consider sharing your story.



Administrative Council
February 28, 2018

Attending: Pat Varvel, Bob Umbarger, Maxine Umbarger, Pastor Teri Shane, Lori Rushing, Mary Kay Anderson, Julie Katterhenry, Tom Smith, Dean Stewart, Jeff Brown, Corey White.

Call to order: Pastor Teri opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Mary Kay Anderson presented devotions from Max Lucado's Grace for the Moment, about sowing seeds. The January minutes were presented. Lori made a motion to accept the minutes. Jeff seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Church Treasurer's Report: Corey presented the January report. Tom moved to approve the report; Jeff seconded. Motion passed.

Trustees Treasurer's Report: Corey moved to accept the report as presented. Bob seconded. Motion passed.

Trustees: Next month, expenditures for the oven hood will be reflected in the Trustees Treasurer report. The trustees have set an all-church work day for March 24. The church has been receiving grain as donations. We discussed the best way to handle procedures for selling grain since part of the notification goes through Peg Poole. Jeff moved that Tom Smith handle the contracts for the grain and arrange price when it is sold. The money is to be deposited in general savings to be drawn from as needed. Dean seconded. Motion passed.

PPRC: A meeting will be scheduled in March to complete and discuss church and pastoral assessments.

Christian Education: Lenten Fair is approaching. We have activities planned. The Easter egg hunt will be on Easter Sunday. Mary Kay read a thank-you from Cunningham for hats, gloves, socks, and a financial donation from Kum Joy Nus.

Missions: We will be participating in UMCOR Sunday on March 11. A special offering will be taken.

Kum Joy Nus: The ladies will host the chicken noodle dinner on April 21, as a fundraiser for Kum Joy Nus' many mission outreaches.

Homer Churches Cooperating: They received money from the can collection and paid \$234 for milk for 18 students.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Teri presented a rundown of the calendar.

There is question of whether to continue community dinners. An idea was brought up to honor a group in the community such as firefighters and open it up to the community and maybe have it quarterly. Discussion will continue.

Work day on March 24 will be open to all to do a spring cleaning. Some lists can be generated.

Pastor Teri would like to do a congregational survey. There was much discussion about the type of survey and how best to distribute it.

The Stephen Ministry workshop trains lay caregivers. St. Matthew Lutheran Church is having a half day (9:00-1:00) event on April 14, if anyone is interested.

The American Legion Auxiliary is making homemade noodles, but they need a new place to work and asked if they could use our kitchen (since it is a certified kitchen). They would work around the church schedule and need two days. It was moved and passed to allow the Homer Legion Auxiliary to use our kitchen.

The next meeting will be March 21. Lori Rushing will do devotions.

A motion was entertained to adjourn. It passed, and we adjourned at 7:53.

Submitted by Mary Kay Anderson

Administrative Council March 21, 2018

Attending: Pastor Teri Shane, Mary Preston, Julie Katterhenry, Bob Umbarger, Maxine Umbarger, Mary Kay Anderson, Jeff Brown, Bruce Barnes, Lori Rushing, Corey White, and Tom Smith.

Call to order: Julie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Lori provided the devotional about faith written by Oswald Chambers, "My Utmost for his Highest." Julie opened the meeting with prayer. The minutes were read. Jeff Brown made a motion to approve the February minutes; Tom Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Christian Education: Mary Kay reported that this Sunday there will be a Lenten Fair after church. It is planned and ready to go.

Pastor/Parish: Jeff reported that the committee met last week and went over the new document for pastor assessment. He said they completed the report, and he

is compiling and putting the information into writing. He will present it to Pastor Teri for her signature when it is complete.

Trustees Treasurer's Report: Tom Smith presented the March report. The major expense (Illini Fire - \$545) was for the required maintenance of the fire suppression system involving the range hood in the church kitchen. The report was reviewed. Lori Rushing moved to accept the report as printed; Bruce Barnes seconded the motion. The report was accepted.

Trustees: Tom Smith reported that a workday is planned at the church for this Saturday (the 24th) starting at 8 a.m. The church kitchen will also be getting a thorough cleaning on Saturday. Tom Smith reported that he has sold the soybeans at a good price. The money will be deposited into the general savings account of the church.

Missions: Tom presented the 2017 yearly HUMC Church Wide Missions Annual Report in Sue Smith's absence. This report will be printed in the church newsletter for all to view. Our total 2017 outreach was \$16,001.74. It was also brought to the attention of the Administrative Council that we will need a new source of funding for the Upper Room if we want to continue receiving it. Julie and Lori both volunteered to fund it. It was also brought up whether we would like to do another mission trip in 2019. The Midwest Distribution Center was suggested as a possible mission trip project. It would not involve traveling as far or for as long a time. Further discussion on this project and/or others will follow in the coming months.

Kum Joy Nus: Lori reported that the ladies are planning and preparing for the Chicken Noodle dinner on April 21.

Church Treasurer's Report: Corey presented the February report. He has added two columns – Donations and Donations Year to Date. He also reported that the credit card application has been held up because he wasn't sure what monetary figures to put down for church assets and debts. It was suggested that he confer with Dean Stewart (Finance Chair) and look at last year's audit reports for those figures. Jeff Brown made a motion to accept the church treasurer's report as printed; Bruce Barnes seconded the motion. It passed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Teri presented a rundown of the March/April calendar. She also inquired how much does our church pay towards a person or child desiring to attend church camp. Tom Smith reported that it has been past practice that we pay 2/3 of the cost. We have one individual at this time interested in attending a church camp. The community dinners were brought up for discussion again. Julie would like to have available at the April Chicken Noodle dinner a survey/questionnaire to be filled out by those interested in the dinners. There will be no March community dinner. April will be the Chicken Noodle dinner. Therefore, the next one may be the end of May. It was also brought to the council's attention that we need someone to oversee and organize ushers and greeters for the Sunday worship services. Lori Rushing volunteered to take on this job.

The next Administrative Council meeting will be Wednesday, April 18, at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Teri closed the Council meeting with prayer. Mary Kay made a motion to end the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Bruce Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed and the Council was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Preston, Secretary



ushers & greeters

Ushers:

- April 1 Jamey Jenkins and Jeff Brown
- April 8 Tom and Sue Smith
- April 15 Don Patterson and Kurt Sexton
- April 22 Don Patterson and Kurt Sexton
- April 29 Troy Preston and Dean Stewart

Greeters:

- April 1 Kayla Carter and Lori Rushing
- April 8 Phyllis Smith
- April 15 The Woodmansee Family
- April 22 Lori Rushing
- April 29 Mary Kay Anderson and Robert Holloman

Acolytes: Volunteers

Sunday Morning Fellowship Schedule

- April 1 Dean and Jayme Stewart
- April 8 TCO
- April 15 Peg Poole and Lori Rushing
- April 22 Hubert and Craddock Families
- April 29 Kum Joy Nus



Altar flowers are a great way of remembering or honoring a loved one. Please consider providing fresh flowers one week. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.



Our ancestors gave us a gift of a church more than 100 years ago! Because of their generosity, that gift is still alive, vital, and functioning.

Do you want to pass that same gift on to your children and grandchildren? One of the best things any of us can do is to remember our church when we write our wills. It can mean everything to a future generation. Please remember your church in your will!

Please consider receiving the newsletter electronically. The electronic version has colorful pictures, searchable text, and a full index. By switching to the electronic version of the newsletter, you can save the church postage and copier costs each month. Please contact the office to make the change.



The newsletter deadline for the May edition will be April 23. Send articles to Becci Powers at humcnews@gmail.com.



April 2018 Events



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|--|----------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| 1 Egg Hunt, 10:30 Easter | 2 Girl Scouts, 6:00 Bible Study, 7:00 | 3 Cub Scouts, 6:30 Boy Scouts, 7:00 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 NOW Committee, 11:30 Financial Peace, 4:00-6:00 | 9 Bible Study, 7:00 | 10 Cub Scouts, 6:30 Boy Scouts, 7:00 | 11 | 12 4H, 6:00 Trustees, 7:30 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Girl Scouts, 11:30 Financial Peace, 4:00-6:00 | 16 Girl Scouts, 6:00 Bible Study, 7:00 | 17 Cub Scouts, 6:30 Boy Scouts, 7:00 | 18 Ad Council, 7:00 | 19 | 20 Kitchen Prep | 21 Chicken Noodle Dinner, 5:00-7:00 |
| 22 Financial Peace, 4:00-6:00 | 23 Girl Scouts, 6:00 Newsletter Deadline | 24 Cub Scouts, 6:30 Boy Scouts, 7:00 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Pulpit Exchange Financial Peace, 4:00-6:00 | 30 Pastor Teri Vacation | |  | | | |



April 2018 Celebrations



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|-------------------------|--|--|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 Kristie Wright | 2 | 3 Tracy Brown | 4 Doris Hopper Gina Wilson Cori Minick | 5 Elizabeth Morgan Kent Krukewitt Chris & Christine Preston Bonnie Taylor | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Jeane Taylor | 9 Matthew Craddock | 10 Jordyn Carter | 11 | 12 Tom Smith | 13 Megan Meister Gwendolyn Barnes | 14 Troy Preston |
| 15 | 16 Bob Eldridge Laura Jenkins Justin Minick Christian Smith | 17 Brad Wilson | 18 | 19 Donna Heppe Marisa Glenn | 20 Bruce & Trina Barnes | 21 Danny Hoth Faith Chestnut |
| 22 Katie Powers Pastors Don & Teri Shane | 23 | 24 Pastor Teri Shane | 25 Troy & Mary Preston | 26 Timmy Wilson | 27 Tyler Katterhenry Betty Tracy | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | |  | | | |

**Homer United Methodist Church
301 South Main Street
Homer, IL 61849**

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|--------------------------|-------|
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| Chicken Noodle Dinner | pg 4 |
| Pulpit Exchange | pg 4 |
| Library News | pg 5 |
| Financial Peace | pg 5 |
| Ad Council Minutes | pg 8 |
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