

CONNECTION

April 2025
MONTEZUMA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Our Mission in Ministry Together:
*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world starting in
Montezuma, Iowa*



(John 11:25-26) 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Why do we color eggs for Easter?

Because Jesus DYED for our sins.

Happy Easter!

“Do You Believe This?”

In John 11, Jesus got a notice that Lazarus in Bethany, the brother of Mary and Martha, was dead. So, he went to their house. On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” I am just awe-struck by this conversation between Jesus and Martha. Martha had zero understanding of what Jesus meant. She meant her brother’s resurrection in the future, but Jesus meant ‘raising Lazarus now.’ I can picture Martha being astounded that Jesus resurrected her brother right there. He was no longer in the tomb. Does this surprise you?

The question posed by Jesus, “Do you believe this?” resonates deeply with me. It prompts a personal reflection: “Do I truly believe at this moment that Jesus is the resurrection and the life? Do I genuinely believe that I will experience eternal life even after death?” I contemplate how our actions might change if we fully embraced this belief. Philips Brooks articulated, “Let every man and woman consider themselves immortal. Let them grasp the revelation of Jesus through His resurrection. Let them proclaim not just, ‘Christ is risen,’ but rather, ‘I shall rise.’” Embracing this conviction allows us to transform our lives in the present. It enables us to discover new vitality even when circumstances seem devoid of life. Through this belief, we can perceive light illuminating a dark tomb. As Christ dwells within us and alongside us through the Holy Spirit, we are inspired to experience the future in the present. It is through this belief that we can effect change in our lives today.

The Easter Season serves as an opportunity to reflect on the various ways resurrection can manifest in our lives. Jesus did not sacrifice himself on the cross merely for us to lead comfortable and well-adjusted lives. His mission is profoundly more significant: He aims to transform us into His likeness before we are welcomed into heaven. As individuals embodying the spirit of Easter, we are called to rise and effect positive change in this world. Wishing you and your families a JOYOUS EASTER!

Blessings Y’all, Pastor Brian & Family.



April
Birthdays!

01 Leila Henkle
05 Nickie Duinink
05 Makaela Meyer
06 Melvin Ranfeld
08 Greg Northcutt
11 Mary Tompkins
13 Mia Boulton
15 Danny Van Roekel
16 Jamie Brennan
21 Russell Cox
25 Chloe Snook
28 Madison Van Zee



22 Chris & Jamie Brennan
19 Years

Mark & Julie
Lageveen



Congregation: I would like to thank ALL "Helping Hands", who carried and transferred piano, all Alter accessories, hymnals, etc from the basement to the sanctuary upstairs.

Thank you,
Phyllis Freeborn
Worship Committee



April 6th

Greeter: Shirley Linn & Robin Bolen
Fellowship: Jeremy & Bridget Miller
Liturgist: Robin Bolen
Childrens sermon: Bonnie Cox
Audio: Greg Floyd
Video: Ron Hensel

April 13th

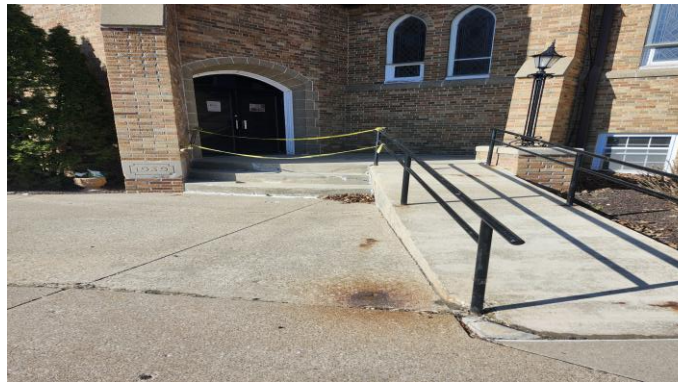
Greeter: Ron & Bea Hensel
Fellowship: Mark & Julie Lageveen
Liturgist: Brian Cushman
Childrens sermon: Carrie Stockman
Audio: Mark Lageveen
Video: Doug Johnston

April 20th

Greeter: Brigitte Van Roekel & Sherri Spain
Fellowship: No Fellowship
Liturgist: Phyllis Freeborn
Childrens sermon: Vera Latcham
Audio: Olivia Burnett
Video: Dennis Latcham

April 27th

Greeter: Howard & Jacque Johnston
Fellowship: Phyllis Freeborn & Shirley Linn
Liturgist: Ron Hensel
Childrens sermon: Nancy Allen
Audio: Dean Teeselink
Video: Mark Lageveen



Saturday, April 19th from 7-10 AM we will be hosting an Easter breakfast fundraiser. The trustees will be cooking up some delicious biscuits and gravy and serving coffee and assorted juices. Breakfast is dine in or can be taken to go. A freewill offering is appreciated and will go towards the repair of the front steps and ramp.

Are last year's Easter shoes too small? Don't match your new outfit? No problem, we have a solution...

Bring your new or gently worn shoes to us to be rehomed. Not only are you helping the environment, but you are supporting a great cause. Check with your friends, neighbors, share the information on your Facebook page, get the word out. We still need approximately 1,300 pairs to meet our goal and only have until the end of April to get it done. Step on



"Honestly, honey! - For one vacation, can't you leave your ministry home?!"
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Pastor Brian will be on vacation from Tuesday, April 29th through Monday, May 5th.

Rev. Dr. Lilian Seagren is filling in on Sunday, May 4th.



April 6th is communion. Wednesday, April 9th is communion delivery in Montezuma. Thursday, April 10th is communion delivery in Grinnell.



UMW is having a meeting
Friday the 11th @ 1:00 PM

Sunday, April 13th
is Palm Sunday



Good Friday is
on April 18th



Easter Sunday is
April 20th.
He is risen!!



Quarter Sunday
April 20th
I Love My Church – Supply Fund



Wednesday, April 23rd Pastor Brian is
in Newton for the Circuit Meeting
from 9-12



Prayer Request – Prayer Request – Kathy McCulley, J.O. Parker, Roger Elscott, Melissa Vinton, Sherry Cardis Carpenter, Lacreia Heiman, Sally Moore, Rhonda Farwell, Our fire department, Our police officers, Our first responders, Our healthcare workers, Our military, Our community, Our church, Our elected leaders, The state of Iowa, The United States of America.

Name: _____ Date: _____



Earth Day

Every Day

Find all of the Earth Day related words from the list below. The words can be up, down, forward, backward, or diagonal.

D T O D V E O C Y S M N A E C O B
S R O N L L E X T I N C T I O N D
A E S A W C O N S E R V A T I O N
Z E E L S Y O Z Y E M Y Q B T X F
A S R R R C Q M D T A N N N L I T
O S U Z D E U U P I T Z G A K V W
Z Z T A K R C N O O W L B E R E Q
O X A K V E A V R E S O L L K C U
N S N J N K E W Y E L T U C R L K
E S U E R L C L I G S K R S E I W
B N R A P R I L T A F O R E S T A
X G T O W B X T I R N Z U W W T T
Y D E U A A G S X M A C W R Y E E
S P N Q S J A J C W A S V R C R R
M W A W T A R N N Y F T H V U E N
O E L T E N V I R O N M E N T T S
G Q P O L L U T I O N M B V H I J

AIR	ENVIRONMENT	OCEAN	RESOURCES
APRIL	EXTINCTION	OZONE	REUSE
CLEAN	FOREST	PEOPLE	SMOG
CLIMATE	GLOBAL	PLANET	TRASH
COMPOST	LAND	POLLUTION	TREES
CONSERVATION	LITTER	RECYCLE	WASTE
ENERGY	NATURE	REDUCE	WATER

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Lectionary Readings for April 2025 C

April 6

Isaiah 43:16-21 (Purple)
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

April 13

Isaiah 50:4-9a (Purple)
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Psalm 31:9-16
Luke 19:28-40

April 20

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (White)
Acts 10:34-43
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
John 20:1-18

April 27

Psalm 118:14-29 (White)
Acts 5:27-32
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

April 2025

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

		1	2	3	4	5
6 10:00 Service Communion	7	8 Mandatory All Church Meeting- CAT discussion 5-?	9 Communion delivery in Montezuma	10 Communion delivery in Grinnell	11 UMW Meeting @ 1	12
13 10:00 Service Palm Sunday	14	15	16	17	18 Good Friday	19 Breakfast Fundraiser 7-10 AM
20 10:00 Service Easter Qtr. – I Love my Church	21 National Kindergarten Day Finance Meeting @ 5	22 Earth Day	23 Pastor Brian is @ Circuit Meeting in Newton 9-12	24	25 Arbor Day	26
27 10:00 Service	28	29 Pastor Brian is on Vacation	30			

Apr 20 - Easter