



Open Hearts,  
Open Minds,  
Open Doors...

The people of the  
United Methodist  
Church

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## April Grapevine

### Happy Easter Season!



Following Jesus, Thriving in Community and Healing the World. "Give thanks to the Lord because he is good, because his faithful love lasts forever. The Lord was my strength and protection, he was my saving help! This has happened because of the Lord; it is astounding in our sight. This is the day the Lord acted; we will rejoice and celebrate in it! –Psalm 118: 1, 14 & 24

Welcome to the Easter season of 2024. April has started this year with ringing the bell of joy, for Jesus has risen and the hope for all people has been declared, and is being celebrated for ever more.

It seems that the praising and shouting of Palm Sunday at the beginning of Jesus's entrance to Jerusalem, has died down and the dominant voices to crucify Jesus shortly before Jesus' death have been overridden by the mystery of the Easter morning. The disciples were told that Jesus was risen. The new voice of this psalm begins with thankfulness. It is the restoration of the provision of His (God) goodness on earth. The Psalmist seems to speak from experience about God's endless loving kindness which is everlasting. It establishes inspirational hope as attribution to God himself. It also claims the time and the day that the Lord has made for people to rejoice. Scholars believe that this was a part of the liturgical exaltation entrance of those who are partaking at the festival of Passover. A remembrance of God's deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt. This exaltation could be used by all people who were liberated from any circumstances in life or those who had proved to be in the shadow of death, but received liberation through the love of another person. This brings us to this time when we trust in the power of Jesus's resurrection from death for the sake of all people.

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**Thurs 8am-11:30am**

When we believe in His death and Resurrection, then why would we stop cheering for Him and His greatness? When we decide to follow him, we should further our knowledge of him through all we do. We are still reminded - Peace be with us all and be still that He is always God, Savior, and Redeemer to all, including us.

Happy Easter Season with the Lord's Grace been freely embedded within us.

Shalom,

Iunisi Tovo.



## Readings and Titles for April, 2024

### April 7, 2024

John 20:19-31 Acts 4:32-35

Title: From personal perception to communal transformation

Our attention will be turned to the community. The book of Acts reminds us that living in a community means taking care of one another and sharing the abundant blessings of god.

### April 14, 2024

1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48

Title: Becoming a witness with power entails.

Our scriptures today remind us that witnesses to the power of resurrection and new life in Christ Jesus are called to become instruments of God's mighty power of resurrection in Christ Jesus. We are also empowered and challenged to bring new love and impact to the world.

### April 21, 2024

Psalms 23 1 John 3: 16-24 John 10:11-18

Title: He is the Shepherd of all!

The stone that was rejected becomes the building's cornerstone. Despite the crucifixion, Jesus is the salvation for all humanity. The Lord is seen as the Shepherd for all. Christ has laid down his life for us, so we must follow his lead.



## **FUMC Readings and Titles for April, 2024**

**April 28, 2024**          Native American Ministries Sunday and Earth Day

Presentation by Darlene Bradley and Mike Mortensson

Acts 8:26-40    1 John 4:7-21    John 15:1-8

Title: He is the vinedresser!

Christ promises to be the vine that will strengthen us, as long as we are connected to him. Remain in God, by remaining in love. Remain in Christ by sharing the good news of God's love, whether by witnessing and teaching, as Phillip did or by caring for a brother or sister as John advises.

### **Prayer and Care Corner**

Robin Shanda's recovery, The Nelson Family,  
Teri Grey, Ken Fortunati, Bob Knight, The Schultz Family, Tina Guerra,  
Pastor Iunisi & Family, Beth Beazor, Nedra Beazor, Jett Trappe,  
and Barbara St Louis



## SAVE THE DATE

**JUNE 1ST 8:00AM-9:30AM**

**PARADE DAY  
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED  
PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE  
TO HELP OUT!!**



## RUMMAGE



We had a great year despite the rainy day for the Rummage Sale. We made almost as much as in previous years! In addition to our few Kallah members we want to thank the others who came to help. Chris Pinney, DeeDee Rydberg, Pat Schuch, Nancy Jones, Becky Wessling, Katherine Best-Smith, Steph Mashek, Ken Jones, Neil Yeager & Chuck Bishop. We couldn't have done it without the extra hands!

***Submitted by Judy Yeager***



**SMILE!**  
YOU'RE ON CAMERA





## FOOD CLOSET UPDATE

*submitted by Barbara St. Louis*

On February 28, 2024, our dedicated volunteers served 67 households which includes 150 individuals.

The new time from 11 am to 12 noon seems to be working out well. The beautiful sunshine on March 13th apparently kept many of our regular customers away. We served 51 households, including 117 individuals, 38 of which were senior, 3 of which were new.

The next give-out is March 27, a date too late to get reported in this edition of the Grapevine.

Thank you so much for all of your support. It is greatly appreciated.



## Forestville Happenings



The community Garage Sale will be held this year on May 4th from 11am-3pm. Applications are available on line at: [www.forestvillechamber.org](http://www.forestvillechamber.org) and are due April 29th.

The Annual Youth Park Parade will be on June 1st.

The Farmers Market will now be held on Fridays from 4pm-7pm.

The first market will be on June 7th.



**Will Be Open Saturday, April 6th from 10am-2pm.  
Be sure to stop in and check out the new Spring items!**



## Saturday, April 20, 2024 | Noon - 4pm | Courthouse Square in Santa Rosa

The annual Earth Day Festival will take place Saturday, April 20 from noon-4pm at Courthouse Square in downtown Santa Rosa. This FREE, family-friendly, zero waste festival brings the community together through fun activities, live performing arts, great food, and inspiring exhibits that raise environmental awareness. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate **Earth Day** and get involved by learning about solutions to address drought, climate change, and environmental concerns in our community.



Arbor Day, (April 26th) is a day to observe, appreciate and plant trees. It is seen as a day of optimism for the planet. It was first called Sylvan Day when it began in Nebraska in January of 1872, but was changed to Arbor Day shortly afterwards. While most holidays celebrate something that has already happened and is worth remembering, Arbor Day represents a hope for the future! The simple act of planting a tree represents a belief that the tree will grow to provide us with clean air and water, cooling shade, habitat for wildlife, healthier communities, and endless natural beauty — all for a better tomorrow. While Arbor Day encourages the planting of new trees, it also reminds us to care for those trees we have. Pruning, clipping, watering and feeding will keep our trees healthy and beautiful. So, sharpen those loopers, chain saws and pruning shears and celebrate Arbor Day!!

## APRIL 28 - EARTH DAY & NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

by Mike Mortensson

On April 28 Pastor Iunisi Tovo will preach a short homily and Mike Mortensson and Darlene Bradley will give a combined presentation on Earth Day and Native American Ministries. There will be special music and the Worship Team will be providing a lunch of Native American inspired food; Three Sisters Soup, Corn Bread, and Fry Bread. We hope to see all of you on this special day!

**EARTH DAY MEMORIES:** On April 22, 1970, I was marching down the center of State Highway 32 in Wabeno, Wisconsin on the 1<sup>st</sup> Earth Day. For many successive years I've been involved in Earth Day activities in various states and organizations, especially the Forestville United Methodist Church.



Joan and I attended the first UMC Jubilee in Arcata in the 1990s and came home to create the Earth keepers group that held classes, fairs, Worship Services, and many other activities at this Church and other Churches, and including a workshop at the next Jubilee, held at Sonoma State. We hope all of you will take some time this month to reflect on God's call to all of us to care for His creation.

**NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY:** I view Native Americans as the first Earth keepers in our country so it is fitting that we also celebrate the UMC's special Native American Ministries Sunday. This Special Sunday is a celebration designed to raise awareness and remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. A gap in knowledge exists in The United Methodist Church, in congregations and other United Methodist entities, relative to comprehending concepts of Native American life, cultures, languages, spirit, values, contemporary issues, and such. We affirm the sacredness of indigenous people, their languages, cultures, and gifts to the church and the world.



Your offering assists in developing programs which advocate for ministries with and by Native Americans, to share their diverse culture, history and traditions. Donations fund scholarships designated for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology. A significant shortage of Native American pastors and trained professionals exists and hopefully with this scholarship program those numbers will increase. Your offering allows the UMC to partner with existing native ministries to develop new programs on behalf of Native Americans; including mentoring programs, peer support systems, funding for economic development projects, and restoring traditional and historic ways that bring forth new leaders for Native American communities.





- April 4th Brent Beazor
- April 10th Emily Rose Thiessen
- April 12th Logan & Bryce Dower
- April 13th Tom Perry
- April 14th Ginger Minnich
- April 14th Amanda Wood
- April 17th Denise Wood
- April 18th Chelsea Carpenter



- April 12th Zane & Gigi Carpenter
- April 15th Mike & Marge Smith



**UWIF 12pm**  
Monday, April 8th  
Brown Bag Lunch Meeting

**Finance 12:15pm**  
Sunday April 14th

**Prime Timers 12pm**  
Wednesday, April 17th

**Kallah 11:30am**  
Monday, April 22nd

**Food Closet**  
**11:00-12:00pm**  
Wednesday,  
April 10th and 24th

**Church Council 12:15pm**  
Sunday, April 28th

### Worship Leaders and Scripture Readers

- |            |                  |                  |
|------------|------------------|------------------|
| April 7th  | Vickie Holden    | Michael Stanford |
| April 14th | Chris Pinney     | Mike Mortensson  |
| April 21st | Mike Mortensson  | Bobbie Fortunati |
| April 28th | Michael Stanford | Ken Jones        |

April 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Strings 9:30-11am Fireside	<b>3</b> Choir 4:30pm Bells 5:30pm	<b>4</b> Kindergymn 9am-1pm Strings 9:30-11am Fireside  Acorn Choir 6:30-9:30pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Thrift Store 10am-2pm</b>  Strings 9:30-11am  AA 7-9pm Hall
<b>7</b> <b>Communion Sunday</b> Worship 11am  AA Fireside 3:30-5pm	<b>8</b> <b>UWIF 12pm</b>	<b>9</b> Strings 9:30-11am Fireside	<b>10</b> Choir 4:30pm Bells 5:30pm  <b>Food Closet 11am-12pm</b>	<b>11</b> Kindergymn 9am-1pm  Acorn Choir 6:30-9:30pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Strings 9:30-11am  AA 7-9pm Hall
<b>14</b> Worship 11am  <b>Finance 12:15pm</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Tax Day (Taxes Due)</b>	<b>16</b> Strings 9:30-11am Fireside  <b>Trustees 7pm</b>	<b>17</b> Choir 4:30pm Bells 5:30pm  Prime Timers Noon	<b>18</b> Kindergymn 9am-1pm  Acorn Choir 6:30-9:30pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Strings 9:30-11am  AA 7-9pm Hall
<b>21</b> Worship 11am AA Fireside 3:30-5pm	<b>22</b> <b>Earth Day</b>	<b>23</b> Strings 9:30-11am Fireside	<b>24</b> <b>Administrative Professionals</b>  Choir 4:30pm Bells 5:30pm  <b>Food Closet 11am-12pm</b>	<b>25</b> Kindergymn 9am-1pm  Acorn Choir 6:30-9:30pm	<b>26</b> <b>Arbor Day</b>	<b>27</b> Strings 9:30-11am  AA 7-9pm Hall
<b>28</b> <b>Native American Ministries and Earth Day Worship Celebrations</b> Worship 11am  <b>Church Council 12:15pm</b>  AA Fireside 3:30-5pm	<b>29</b> <b>Kallah 11:30am</b>	<b>30</b> Strings 9:30-11am Fireside				