

CONNECTIONS

Our purpose is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world



Message from the Pastor



UPCOMING EVENTS

Palm Sunday
4/5

Maunder Thursday
4/9

Good Friday
4/10

Easter Sunday
4/12

Blood Drive
4/20

Native American Ministries
Sunday 4/26

Comm Chorus Concert 4/26

Dear Friends,

What’s so important about Easter? It’s important because it proves that Jesus was who he claimed to be. He was God in the flesh, and he came to earth to save us.

Three events occurred in a dramatic succession on that Easter weekend: the trial of Jesus, then the death of Jesus, and finally the resurrection of Jesus. Let’s look at each of those events and their implications.

Jesus actually went through six trials. In that one night, he was brought before Annas, Caiaphas (the high priest), the Sanhedrin (the religious Supreme Court), Pilate (the governor of Jerusalem), Herod (the governor of Galilee), and then back to Pilate. At the end of those six trials, what did they find to accuse him of? Nothing. He had done nothing wrong. They brought in people to make up phony charges, but those didn’t stick. Finally they convicted him on one count: claiming to be the Son of God.

That’s the sole reason Jesus went to the cross. They didn’t like that claim.

Jesus claimed to be the Savior of the world. In John 12:47b, he is recorded as saying: “I have come to save the world and not to judge it” (NLT). He allowed himself to be put on trial so there would be no doubt about who he was. He could have stopped the trial at any moment. He knew he would be proven guilty and put on the cross — but he allowed it to happen. It was all part of the plan.

After a night of beatings and mocking, after being crowned with painful thorns, Jesus was crucified. Crucifixion is probably the most brutal and torturous death penalty ever devised by men. His hands were stretched out wide against the cross and nailed through the two bones in each wrist. As the nails went through this part of the flesh, they would strike the nerve that travels up the arm and cause excruciating pain.

With Christ as our center, we are His extended family, compassionately sharing Jesus’ love with all people. Our congregation is on a lifelong journey of discipleship to become more like Christ.

Prayers and Praise



PRAYER requests

In the Hospital

Please remember those in Continuing Care Facilities

Luanne Genga
Novi Lakes Health Campus

Bobbie Winters
Superior Woods

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Stephanie Boltrick
Daughter of Nancy Boltrick

Christopher Stone
Son of Mike & Dawn Stone

Michael Stone
Son of Mike & Dawn Stone

Blake
Grandson of Betty Hughey

Jared Stabnau
Grandson of Harvey & Elaine Stabnau

Cody Ford-Aimone
Grandson of Mike & Lynda Aimone

Justin Renton
Grandson of Donna Sweeney

Chad Koenne
Grandson of Dick & Lila Timm



April BIRTHDAYS

Joyce	Forest	1
Yvonne	Pierce	1
Mike	Rochon	2
Mike	Antic	6
Diane	Ferguson	9
Richard	Gamble	11
Mike	Bournival	11
Ryan	Gierak	13
David	Fleming	13
Conner	Sampson	13
Hannah	Baynesan	14
Wyn Ann	Marosi	17
Doris	Crocker	18
Tom	Taylor	18
Nancy	Boltrick	21
Sean	Payne	21
Bruce	Lewke	21
Blake	Bluhm	23
Elizabeth	Knieper	24
Gavin	Fleming	27
David	Brownlee	27
Lynda	Aimone	28
Lauren	Cook	29



April ANNIVERSARIES

Jim & Susan	Walker	2
Cliff & Debie	Gurkin	6
Chris & Kelley	Anderson	8
Doug & Patricia	Cook	30

If you hung this way for any period of time, the muscles around your chest cavity would become paralyzed. You'd be able to breathe in, but you couldn't breathe out. Death on a cross would have been a simple matter of suffocation — except the Romans didn't want to make it that easy. They'd take a person's knees and bend them a little bit and nail the feet to the cross. So a man would hang there in absolute agony until the pain in his chest was about to explode — and then he would lift himself up on his nailed feet to grab a breath. When the pain in his feet grew unbearable, he'd let himself back down again — until the pain in his lungs became unbearable. It was an incredibly torturous event. Eventually, the soldiers would break the legs of the criminal to hasten death by suffocation.

In the case of Jesus, they didn't have to break his legs, because he had already died. But just to make sure, they stuck a spear in his side. Water and blood came out of the chest cavity, which, doctors say, only happens if the heart rips. You can call it what you want, but Jesus died of a broken heart.

Why did Jesus have to die? Because he alone was able to pay for our sins. We deserved punishment, but Jesus paid the penalty.

After Jesus died, they took his body down and put him in the tomb, and a giant millstone was set in front of the cave. The religious leaders — worried that Jesus' body might be stolen — asked for Roman guards to be posted in front of the tomb. They didn't want him coming out! But of course, he did.

You know the story. But it's important to remember that Easter is not some memorial to a nice, good religious teacher who lived 2,000 years ago. It's a celebration of the fact that he is alive today. I'm living proof — and so are the billions of Christians who will celebrate Easter this weekend.

“By being raised from the dead he was proved to be the mighty Son of God, with the holy nature of God himself” (Romans 1:4 TLB).

Easter is the Good News about God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who came as a human baby, born into King David's royal family line. Four historical records say he showed himself to 500 people at one gathering. Can you imagine witnessing his death and then seeing him walking around Jerusalem three days later? What an amazing thing!

What does this mean to us today? In one sense, Jesus Christ is still on trial. He's on trial in the heart and mind of every person who has not yet acknowledged him as the Son of God, the Savior of the world.

What's your verdict? You see, Easter really boils down to only two issues. One, is Jesus who he says he is? Is he God? Or is he a lunatic or a liar? And two, if he is who he says he is, when are you going to start following what he says to do with your life?

In the grip of His love,



Rev. Jim Walker



Easter Baskets:

Missions is creating Easter baskets for 8-12 girls who live in Girlstown. Please check our display for needed items. Items are needed by **Sunday, April 5th** and can be dropped off on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 10:00am-1:00pm**. Contact Julie Skelton or Dee Groeneweg if you have any questions.





Holy Week Services may be viewed on Facebook.
More details forthcoming.

April 5th

PALM SUNDAY

April 9th

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 10th

**GOOD
FRIDAY**



April 12th

Easter Sunday

...death no longer has
dominion over him.

Romans 6:9 ESV





Blood Drive
Monday, April 20th
10:00am

300ml*
blood

can save

1 PRECIOUS
LIFE





Sunday April 26th

Community Chorus Concert 4-26



Food Closet



Thanks to all of our Emergency Food Closet volunteers. Our distributors are: Tara Cleveland, Judy Hulett, Ginny Matteson, Alice Payne, Debra Japp, Debbie Smith, Joyce Forest, and Nancy Boltrick. Our weekly packers are: Alice Payne, Sheri Brown, Rick & Madeleine Speare, Mary Jane McCrory, Debra Japp, Scott & MaryJo Zechiel, Jerry & Kathy Caldwell, and Carl & Wyn Ann Marosi. Our coordinators are Minette Brownlee and Marilyn Wood. David Brownlee is our graphic artist and Darlene Crawford is our Jack-of-all-Trades!

Thanks to everyone else who has donated their time, talents and dollars to make the Emergency Food Closet a successful mission for our community!



The Post Office "STAMP OUT HUNGER" Food Drive is **Saturday, May 9th** from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Many hands are needed with this huge endeavor! Please help if you can and bring a friend!

April Food Closet Item of the Month: Canned Vegetables

Food Closet



Dear Friends,

Due to the Covid-19 virus, our Emergency Food Closet is in need of your help. Unfortunately, we are experiencing difficulty obtaining food items for the food closet to due limited purchasing amounts and shortages. Therefore, if you are able, can you please assist by providing the following items:

Canned vegetables
Canned fruit
Canned soup (no creams)
Cereal
Macaroni and cheese
Baked beans
Canned tuna
Canned chicken
Crackers
Graham crackers
Spaghetti sauce
Canned spaghetti noodles
Pasta
Chef Boyardee products
Toilet paper

Please note: Drive-thru pick-up is available for our clients.

Items maybe dropped off at the church Tuesday-Wednesday between 10:00am-1:00pm.

Thanks to everyone who is able to donate their time and dollars to make the Emergency Food Closet a successful mission for our community!

Stay safe and healthy!

Your Emergency Food Closet Team



Pastor Jim's Retirement

For 13 years now, the Walker family has played an integral role in the life of Belleville FUMC. With Pastor Jim's impending retirement this summer, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee has set aside a time to join together, celebrate, and thank Pastor Jim and Susan for sharing their family, their ministry, their witness, and their steadfast care with our congregation for all these years.

Please save the date of **Saturday, June 6, 2020, 1:00-3:30 p.m.** to gather as a congregation and send the Walkers off into the next chapter of their lives.

Look for additional details in the May newsletter.



Events & Activities



2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Services are cancelled this week.</p>						
<p>5 Palm Sunday 9 a.m. Worship 9 a.m. Children's SS Classes 10:05 a.m. Children's Choir (FH) 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Adult SS Class 6:00 p.m. Youth Group (YR)</p>	<p>6 7pm Comm Chorus (S)</p>	<p>7 6 p.m. Christian Ed Comm Mtg (AR) 7 pm Ad Council (AR)</p>	<p>1 8 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study (L) 7 p.m. Prayer Group (AR)</p>	<p>2 9 Maundy Thursday 10 a.m. AA (FH) 6 p.m. Praise Band Prac 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service 8 p.m. AA (FH)</p>	<p>3 10 Good Friday</p>	<p>4 11 8 a.m. Beg. Yoga (FH/Classroom) 9 am Gamblers Anon (AR)</p>
<p>12 Easter Sunday 9 a.m. Worship 9 a.m. Children's SS Classes 10:05 a.m. Children's Choir (FH) 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Adult SS Class 12 Noon Worship Comm Mtg (L) 6 pm Youth Group (YR)</p>	<p>13 Office Closed 7pm Comm Chorus (S)</p>	<p>14 7 p.m. SPRC (L)</p>	<p>15 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study (L) 7 p.m. Prayer Group (AR)</p>	<p>16 10 a.m. AA (FH) 6 p.m. Praise Band Prac 7:30 p.m. Choir Prac. 8 p.m. AA (FH)</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 8 a.m. Beg. Yoga (FH/Classroom) 9 am Gamblers Anon ((AR))</p>
<p>19 9 a.m. Worship 9 a.m. Children's SS Classes 10:05 a.m. Children's Choir (FH) 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Adult SS Class 12:00 p.m. Finance Comm Mtg (L) 6:00 p.m. Youth Group (YR)</p>	<p>20 1pm Blood Drive 7pm Comm Chorus (S) 7pm Garden Club (FH)</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study (L) 7 p.m. Prayer Group (AR)</p>	<p>23 10 a.m. AA (FH) 6 p.m. Praise Band Prac 7:30 p.m. Choir Prac. 8 p.m. AA (FH)</p>	<p>24 5:30p Comm Chorus Dress Rehearsal (S)</p>	<p>25 8 a.m. Beg. Yoga (FH/Classroom) 9 am Gamblers Anon ((AR))</p>
<p>26 Native American Ministries Sunday 9 a.m. Worship 9 a.m. Children's SS Classes 10:05 a.m. Children's Choir (FH) 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Adult SS Class 1:30pm Comm Chorus Concert (S) 6:00pm Youth Group (YR)</p>	<p>27 6 p.m. Trustees Mtg (AR) 7pm Comm Chorus (S)</p>	<p>28 7 pm Missions (L)</p>	<p>29 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study (L) 7 p.m. Prayer Group (AR)</p>	<p>30 10 a.m. AA (FH) 6 p.m. Praise Band Prac 7:30 p.m. Choir Prac. 8 p.m. AA (FH)</p>		<p>Food Closet Item of the Month: Canned Vegetables</p>