
The Cornerstone

The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Psalm 118:22-23

Volume LXXII Number 16

April 18, 2024



***Christians Celebrate the Festival of God's Creation
Sunday, April 22, 2024
Planet Vs. Plastic***



EARTH DAY

2024

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed individuals can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead, the famous anthropologist, said this, and it plays out in the story of [Earth Day](#). One man, distressed over the environmental degradation he saw, initiated the first Earth Day 53 years ago. He claimed his “me power.”

Another man, employing his organizing skills, joined him and made the expansion of Earth Day possible so that it now reaches billions of people in 192 countries. Together, they turned the effort into “we power.”

We, too, can change the world — with our individual and corporate actions. Let’s celebrate the possibilities, claim our power, and get to work! And here are just a few ideas around this year’s theme...Planet Vs. Plastic:

- For a few days, keep a tally of all the single-use plastic items you encounter. Become hyper-aware of plastic bags, excess packaging, water bottles, disposable cutlery, straws, and cups that litter your life before they stay in landfills or oceans for eons. Share your count with at least one other person. Awareness is the first step to positive change.
- Treat your family to alternatives to the usual single-use plastic items in your home. For example, consider bamboo toothbrushes, shampoo bars, aluminum water bottles, and reusable silicone baggies. You can also visit a refill store. Move away from “throw-away.”
- Tell your friends what you are doing to reduce the plastic waste in your life. Talk about why that change is important to you. Recount your changes as steps on a journey and invite them to join you in tackling the problem. Encourage them and avoid creating any embarrassment.
- At work, check out the coffee station. Styrofoam cups and plastic stirrers get thrown away but never go away. Look for non-plastic alternatives for coffee cups. Buy a package of linguine pasta, break the strands in half, and use them to stir the coffee or tea. The pasta-stirrers can be composted or thrown away without the same harm that plastic generates.
- Arrange to clean up a nearby stream or roadway as a service project. Weigh and share the results.
- Donate to organizations that are addressing the plastic problem on a larger scale. Your financial support enables them to reach far and wide. Check out these examples: [EarthDay.org](https://www.earthday.org), [Plastic-Free July](https://www.plastic-free-july.com), The Story of Stuff Project, specifically, [The Story of Bottled Water](https://www.storyofstuff.org).
- Money talks. Boycott companies that use excessive plastic packaging. Purchase from businesses that are committed to environmentally friendly practices and plastic-free products. Look for [B Corp certification](https://www.bcorporation.net). Read the “About” tab on websites. Complain if you receive something with plastic packaging. Buy food not wrapped in plastic.
- Currently wending its way through Congress is the bill [H.R. 6053](https://www.congress.gov/bills/118/6053): “To amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to reduce the production and use of certain single-use plastic products and packaging, to improve the responsibility of producers in the design, collection, reuse, recycling, and disposal of consumer products and packaging, to prevent pollution from consumer products and packaging from entering into animal and human food chains and waterways, and for other purposes.” Contact your representative to advocate for its passage.
- Approach this Earth Day — and every day — with gratitude. Our Creator God has gifted us with an amazing planet — not wrapped in plastic. Our faithful response is to cherish and care for this treasure.

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United
Women
in Faith

Impaired Memory & Dementia
A Presentation by Dr. Priya Angi
A Board Certified Physician in Geriatric Medicine

June 6, 2024 10:00 a.m.
First United Methodist Church
103 Monmouth Road
Oakhurst, NJ 07755
732-531-1150

There will be a time for questions and refreshments after the presentation.



NEW DATE!
SCRIPTURE AS ART
May 5th, 2 pm

Mark 5:1-18

All are invited to express this focus
scripture in some sort of artistic
expression-paint, dance, song, fabrics...
the possibilities are boundless. ZOOM link to come.

Worship SERVICE

April 21, 2024
4th Sunday of Easter

Counters: Gerry Busfield, Randy Danielson,
Jane Gittines

Greeter: Barbara Gruezke

Usher: Gerry Busfield

Acolyte: Kitty Amato

Lay Reader: Diane Maher

Fellowship Hosts: Spencer Vidich & Bonnie
McNamara

Altar Flowers:

Given in loving memory of Inhong Hur by Soon,
Elizabeth, & Kathy.

Given in loving memory of Mary E. Goodwin by
Bonnie McNamara.

Alar Rose:

Given in honor of Joy More's leadership as
office administrator.



**CHURCH
WORKDAY**

May 4th 8 AM

The Trustees are hosting a church workday. There is something for everyone to do-from the abled-bodied to those with limited ability. Please join us!

**OUR APRIL COMMUNION OFFERING
BENEFITS
MERCY CENTER**

Worship SERVICE

April 28, 2024
5th Sunday of Easter

Counters: Mary Bailey, Cheryl McLoughlin, John
Montgomery

Greeter: Len Gruezke

Usher: Jay Aretino

Acolyte: Ashely Bailey

Lay Reader: Sue McRae

Fellowship Hosts: Scott & Russel Danielson

Altar Flowers:

Given in loving memory of Viola Miller by Janice
& Dave Hiers & family.
Given by the late Bill Litts.

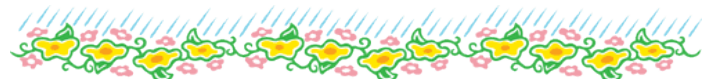


PRAYER GARDEN

You are invited to pray in the Prayer Garden, taking whatever time you need in this holy space, appreciating God's presence in nature.

Prayer Focus for April

Lead me this day, dear Lord, to ensure that I find quiet moments for myself and mostly for you.



Retired Ministers & Spouses Luncheon



On April 25th, the above group is using our church for their meeting. Joy More could use some help:

Someone to pick up bagels, cream cheese, and butter for the morning.

Help setting the tables the night before.

Help putting food and drinks out.

Someone to make coffee.

Someone to pick up lunch.

Help cleaning up.

Donated desserts.

Please call the church office if you can help. All items will be paid for prior to pick-up.



UWIF ANNUAL GARAGE SALE-GET READY! OCTOBER 19TH

More details will follow as time draws closer. Remember all proceeds raised support missions that help women and children in need locally and around the world.



Something to think about:

In the middle of your little mess, don't forget how big you're blessed!

Tsedalech Tesfaye, our World Vision Child from Ethiopia, is sponsored for the month of April by John Montgomery in loving memory of his mother, Liane Malinofsky.

NEW LIST (4/11)



The Little Free Pantry

Please think of stocking canned fruit, canned corn, canned peas, canned carrots, canned black beans, canned kidney beans, rice, canned pasta meals, canned chicken, Spam, canned chili & beans, beef stew, sardines, salmon, canned tomatoes, diced tomatoes, pasta sauce, pasta, toiletries, toilet paper, dish soap, and laundry detergent in the bench.

A good idea this week:

Cereal





WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS

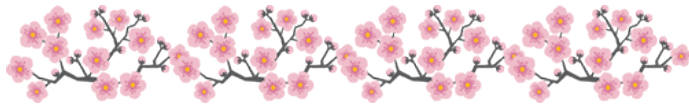
April 21-April 27

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18



Mercy Center Collection

Mercy Center is need of the following items: canned beans, dried beans, peanut butter, nut butters, rolled oats, canned fruit in juice, canned low-sodium or no sodium vegetables, low-sodium soups, canned tuna in water, canned chicken, brown rice, quinoa, whole grain pasta, low-sodium pasta sauce, non-microwave popcorn , canned stews, unsweetened applesauce, whole grain or low-sugar cereals, olive oil, canola oil, canned tomatoes, dried fruits, honey, & broths & stocks. Please place any perishable items in the Fellowship Hall kitchen refrigerator and tell the office that you did so. All other items may be placed in the cart and bin in the church foyer.

Believe In Him

Margaret Juckett

Christ died for us upon the cross
To save our souls from being lost.
He suffered from both nail and thorn-
Tasted bitter gall and sadly scorned.

Christ gave His life that we might win
A home eternal without sin;
He died for us with no regret,
Was crucified for our own debt.

Believe in Christ whose life He gave;
Honor His name for the price He paid.
He fulfilled prophecies of the Lord
Who sacrificed His Son for our reward.

Believe in Him.

Truly and gratefully, believe in Him.

