



Dear First UMC Family of Faith,

It will be so wonderful to see you face-to-face (or at least eye-to-eye) as we finally are able to gather safely to worship in-person again! So much has changed in the world in the past 13 months since you were last able to worship together. There are also parts of each of us that have forever been changed. We have a great opportunity to **rediscover** and **redevelop** our relationship with God and one another.

Before we can begin this **renewal** process, it's important to remember the times and traditions that we enjoyed as a congregation. Many of them may continue, some may be delayed or modified, and a few of them will need to become sweet memories. It's too early to tell which are which, so we need to have patience and grace as we learn and discern together. Here are some more *re-* words and ways to help us:

Return to God. In Jeremiah 24:7 God says, "I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the Lord; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart." I know many of you faithfully join worship online or meditate on the scriptures, songs, and sermons in the bulletins you've received each week. Hopefully you have taken time to continue and even deepen your prayer life and study of Scripture and inspirational works alone or through our Zoom Bible Studies. Some of you needed to step back from serving in mission due to health concerns as others could step up safely to serve more people in need. Whether your faith has become stronger or feels a bit shaky after 13 months apart, it's always a good time to return to God as our source of hope and meaning. We must return to God in our hearts in order to have a great return to worship in our building.

Renew your mind. Romans 12:2 teaches us, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will." Some of our priorities and practices as a church may need to be transformed. Are we willing to put our customs and preferences to the test and see what God's good, pleasing, and perfect will is (and isn't)? Before we can be renewed, God often has to remove some things in our lives.

Reunite with one another. The pandemic has kept us physically apart, but political posturing and pride have probably been more devasting in separating people. We will probably never all agree on public policies, but we are called to come together in Christ. As spiritual siblings there will likely be squabbles, but as we mature in our faith, we'll practice more humility and openness to God and each other. As Colossians 3:15 says, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful."

We'll continue to offer online worship every week for those who are unable to join us safely or who live too far away to attend. But I'm excited and eager to finally be your in-person pastor too! God is on the move, and helping us to reimagine a stronger mission and future together!

Joyfully in Jesus,

Pastor Rebecca



In Memory of

Our Mothers: Dolores & Myrth Tom & Nancy Bogumill

Our Parents & Martha Sack
Dennis & Gwen Carey

Walter & Viola Carlson, James & Naomi Johnston David Carlson

Doris CarlsonDavid Carlson Family

David Swenson Alberta Cunningham & Pricilla Cedar Mary Ann Dykes

> Phil & Bev Jones, Scott Jones, Kermit & Florence Goertz Jon & Bonnie Goertz

Vincent K. Howard

Judy Howard

Our ParentsDuane & Beverly LaCrosse

Sister-in-Law Diane Farrel Sophie Marschall

Peter Mittenzwei & Jerry Evans Roger Mittenzwei

David & Grace Seiser
Lynn Reichelt

Grace Wylie
Bob Wylie



In Honorof

Marie Mullins Linda Leighton

Our Parents Dick & Sharon Rayborn

> **Bill Seiser** Lynn Reichelt

My Family Geri Slock

Thank You to Bill Owen for the gift of Easter Lilies





We grieve this month at the loss of:

Janice Normand, a long time member of our congregation and sister of Darlene Kell, died March 1st.

Patricia Krause, a long time member of our congregation and aunt of Beth Burke, died March 11th.

Jean Zuelke, a long time participant of UMW, Prayer Shawl group, and Savvy Seniors, died March 13th.





Due to the restrictions for the COVID -19 outbreak, Savvy Seniors will not meet for the month of April. We will resume our fellowship as soon as the restrictions are lifted. Hope to see you soon!

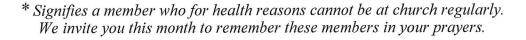


- 2 Loretta Schmidt
- 3 Frank Higgins
- 4 Barb Ritchie Catherine Harmon
- 5 Jane Dovenbarger
- 6 Diane Vernon Russell Bennett
- 8 Lois Drengler Jordan Fons
- 9 Karen Petersen
- 10 John Chang



- 11 Darlene Kell Dane Larson Tom Kufahl Presley Wyrick
- 12 Dottie Nietert
- 14 Morgan Rohland
- 16 Linda Leighton
- 17 Eldon Horton
- 18 Jon Goertz Jayden Voss
- 19 Barb Maguire
- 22 Dale Langbehn Ken Attoe

- 23 Lily Atonio
- 24 Kelsi Anderson Emery Kuehn
- 25 Nancy Turner
- 26 Arlene Trull Lin Strong
- 27 Geri Kosmerchock*
- 29 Adam Decker
- 30 Kieran Grogan Sharon Rayborn



THE MISSION-DRIVEN UMW HAS NEW PRODUCTS IN THE FAIR TRADE CABINET



Coffees--Just in for Spring!

Organic LoveBuzz, med-dark roast whole bean (\$8.00/12 oz) *New!*

Organic Mama Tierra light roast ground coffee from Oaxaca, Mexico (\$10.00/16 oz bag) *New!*

We still offer 12 oz bags of ground decaf—\$9.00 and regular Cafe Salvador—\$8.00

Prefer Tea? All varieties of our organic teas are \$4.00/box. Try the English Breakfast for a little boost or Jasmine Green (**New!**). If you want a relaxing herbal cup, try Rooibos, Ginger or Peppermint (**New!**).

Chocolate treats for your enjoyment!

Pick your favorite organic, Fair Trade chocolate bars for \$3.00 ea. in these flavors:

Dark Chocolate Lemon Ginger

Dark Chocolate Orange

Dark Chocolate Mint Crunch (New!)

Panama Extra Dark

Dark Chocolate Almond & Sea Salt (New!)

Milk Chocolate

Chocolate with Coconut Milk (vegan, soy and gluten-free) (New!)

Your purchase helps our UMW mission projects, UMCOR, and supports farmer-owned coffee cooperatives in Central America and Mexico, as well as small tea farms in India, Sri Lanka and South Africa.

Thank you for shopping BY CAUSE!

WELCOME BACK TO WORSHIP IN-PERSON!



After showing our care for over a year of online, mail, and parking lot worship services, the Ministry Council and Staff are excited and eager to welcome people back together to worship inside our building. Based on the latest in COVID research, data, and vaccines, along with the 66 households who took our survey to help guide us, we are pleased to present this plan to safely begin gathering in person.

Phase One begins Sunday, April 18*

*If County case numbers rise dramatically after Spring Break/Easter time, we will postpone our Phase One opening date.

Sunday Schedule:

 $8:00 - 8:40 \overline{AM}$ - Worship in the Fellowship Hall

8:45 – 9:30 AM - Adult Sunday School in the B.K. Smith Room

9:40-9:50 AM - Hymn Singing in the Courtyard (weather-permitting: 50+F and dry)

10:00- 10:40 AM - Worship in the Sanctuary (Live-streamed and recorded on YouTube)

Stay-Safe Care Plan:

- Masks must always be properly worn indoors (and outdoors if singing)
 Children aged 5 years and younger are not required to wear masks
- No physical-contact greetings (no hugs or handshakes yet, but hopefully later this year)
- No food or drinks (BYO water bottles with lids are welcome throughout the church)
- Maintain at least a 6-foot distance between people from different households in all areas including Sanctuary, Parlor, Fellowship Hall, and other areas where people may congregate.
- No singing indoors (hymns may be performed by a few singers 20 feet + from congregation)
- Soft congregational speaking will be allowed (for Lord's Prayer, Call to Worship, etc.)
- Nursery, children, and youth classes and groups will hopefully resume in September 2021
- Room use will be limited to one group each day
- Follow good hygiene practices such as hand washing and sanitizing
- Disinfectant wipes will be placed in each bathroom-please wipe up after yourself
- The upstairs Game Room will remain closed through the summer

We will begin Phase Two when most people are able to be immunized, County case numbers are considered low by the health department, and scientific research verifies it is safe enough to be closer, sing together, etc. Thank you for your patience as we take the first steps in returning to in-person worship!



SANCTUARY SPRUCE-UP SATURDAY, APRIL 10TH FROM 9:00-12:00.

The Aesthetics Team is sponsoring a cleaning of the sanctuary and narthex. We invite church members to come and help prepare our worship space as we plan to gather in person again soon! Everyone will wear masks and maintain physical distancing while we joyfully prepare our building and hearts to re-open.

DO YOU STILL WANT TO RECEIVE THE WEEKLY BULLETINS AND MONTHLY MESSENGER AT HOME?

As we transition to in-person worship, we plan to distribute bulletins and the monthly Messenger newsletters directly to you on Sunday mornings. If you're unable to join us on Sunday mornings and would like to have the bulletins and the Messenger sent to you by email or postage, please call (715-842-2201) or write the church office with this information:

Please email me! Name:_		Email address:	
(or) Please print and mail to	o me!		
Name:	Home Address:		

UPDATE: THE "ROAD" TO BECOMING A RECONCILING CHURCH

It has been just a little over a year now that the pandemic took hold of most of the world and slowed everything down to a stop, at least for a while. One of the things that was stopped before its completion was the movement toward an all-church vote, within our congregation, to what the Reconciling Church committee hoped would make FUMC-Wausau a reconciling church. The committee had invited some speakers in for testimonials, provided information, and tried to establish a comfortable forum for asking questions about what this would mean for our church. Unfortunately, we were not able to finish the process a year ago, so the committee has restarted this action and activated itself once more, moving forward with the steps needed.

While the General Conference for the United Methodist Church has postponed its gathering for yet another year, until 2022, a number of members of our congregation feel this is an important issue that needs to be addressed sooner rather than later. Regardless of the overall Church's vote/stand in 2022, many people in our church feel Jesus and God welcome all people into the church, into our faith, no matter what their race, sexual orientation, background, financial status, etc...is. We do recognize that many of you, including those on the committee, have a number of questions, such as "What will our church look like after this vote?", "Will we/How will we look different if we go the reconciling route?", etc...The committee members encourage everyone to reach out with their questions, comments, and concerns as we move forward in the next few months.

The goal is to have a special charge conference for a vote about becoming a reconciling church in the not-too-distant future. Please watch for more information on this very important issue in the United Methodist Church, and do not hesitate to reach out for more information. Members of the committee are: Gary Getzin, Margaret Getzin, Mary Ann Dykes, Dick Rayborn, Wes Ebert, Maggie Schoenfeld, Jen Johnson, and Bonnie Goertz. A <u>welcoming statement</u> for FUMC-Wausau has already been written by the committee and approved by the Ministries Council. It is:

In response to God's unconditional love for all people made known to us in Jesus Christ, we are called to be a welcoming and affirming community.

We, the First United Methodist Church of Wausau are believers and seekers who include young and old, families, couples, and singles, rich and poor. We include and welcome persons of all races, ethnicities, backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities and differing physical and mental abilities.

We welcome into the full life of the church all those who God sends us. Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to building and maintaining a community where all are loved.



CONFIRMING OUR FAITH

Please be praying for seven youth who have been deepening their faith as they prepare to be confirmed next year. They are Gideon Adams, Oliver Hornby, Pete Johnson, MacKenzie Marquardt, Michael Marzu, Logan Rohland, and Jayden Voss. Every week as they watch our worship service (and soon will attend), they reflect on three questions: 1) What part of the service helped me feel closer to God? 2) What part of the service was difficult to relate to or understand? 3) What is God asking me to think about or do differently?

We have a 24 session class curriculum that covers a basic understanding of our Christian faith, the background of Methodism, and what it means to commit to our faith and church. After 6 weeks of classes this fall, we decided to wait until after Easter to safely resume our classes again for 6 weeks between April 7- May 12. We'll do the same this next school year - 6 weeks of classes in the fall, and 6 weeks in the spring of 2022 culminating in Confirmation in May of 2022.

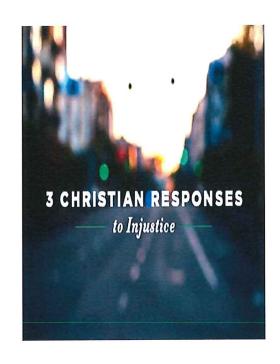
When the students are not in classes, they have been building relationships with their mentors (as much as COVID has allowed), particularly through serving together at Claire's Critter Closet. Many thanks to Denny Carey, Margaret Getzin, Dan Maguire, Dan Marzu, Ray Nowaczyk, Diane Zahn, and Mike Zahn for serving as mentors for these two years and hopefully beyond as friends!



Wednesday Evening Group April "Injustice" Study:

The Wednesday evening study group will be spending the first three weeks of April (7, 14, & 21) examining cultural injustice in modern times, focusing on the lens through which we view these tragedies and how we are called as Christians to respond. On Wednesday 28th April, we will have a make-up session from our "World Religions" Study back in January/February examining Judaism in comparison with its relation to the Christian faith. These meetings are held on Wednesdays at 6:00 P.M. for an hour via Zoom; see below for the access code. All are welcome to join. Please contact Daniel Flesch at daniel.flesch@outlook.com if you have any questions.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7479163398 Zoom Access Code: 747 916 3398



Wednesday Evening Group May & June "Acts" Study:

The Wednesday evening study group will be offering a book study for the months of May and the first half of June titled "Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit" by Matthew Skinner. Mr. Skinner is a new testament scholar and a full-time professor at a Lutheran seminary, yet he is ordained teacher-elder through the Presbyterian church and serves a Presbyterian congregation part-time. While not Methodist, his research interests focus on unifying forces of Christianity. The book is available for purchase online, and while encouraged, it is not required for those who wish to partake. All meetings are held on Wednesdays at 6:00 P.M. for an hour via Zoom; see below for the access code and meeting dates. All are welcome to join. Please contact Daniel Flesch at daniel.flesch@outlook.com if you have any questions or need help with the Zoom link.

Wednesday, May 5th

Wednesday, May 12th

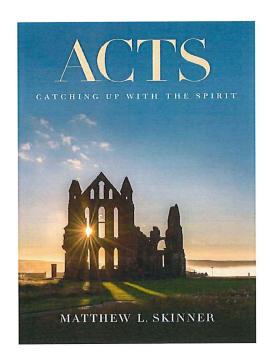
Wednesday, May 19th

Wednesday, May 26th

Wednesday, June 2nd

Wednesday, June 9th

https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcRjPjy0h4 Zoom Access Code: 747 916 3398





A Beginner's Bible Reading	Plan – Month 8	,
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Name:	Month:	

Daily (5 or 6 days a week):

- Pray—Ask God to help you understand and believe what you are about to read.

 Read and mark—Read one passage from the list below. Then put a mark in the box beside the reading.

 Think—For example: What new thing did I learn? What puzzles me? How does this passage fit into the big story of the Bible? What does it teach about God and his plans? Is there a reason to praise God? A promise to claim? An
- example to follow? A sin to avoid? A command to obey? An Idea for loving God or my neighbor? A prayer to pray? Pray—Talk to God about what you read.

 Share—Tell a friend (or your parents) one thing that you learned. Or ask them one question about what you read.

Extra (once a month if needed):

Read 5 passages in a row, all at oncel Remember to put a mark beside all five readings.

God cares for his exiled nation

Ezckiel 1:1-10, 15-19, 26-28"The appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord"
Ezekiel 5:1-13Ezekiel shaves his hair and demonstrates Jerusalem's destruction
Ezekiel 8:1-6, 16-18Ezekiel is shown abominations in the temple
Ezekiel 10:18-22; 11:22-25The glory of the LORD leaves the old temple
Ezekiel 34:1-15"I will cause you to be inhabited as in your former times"
Ezekiel 34:16-28'I will give you a new heart, and put my Spirit within you"
Ezekiel 37:1-14"O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD"
Ezckiel 43:1-12The glory of the LORD fills the new temple
Daniel 6:1-13Daniels' enemies trick the king and trap Daniel
Daniel 6:14-28
Daniel 7:1-14
Daniel 7:15-28The interpretation of Daniel's vision
Esther 3:1-6; 4:1-17Haman seeks to destroy the Jews and Mordccai and Esther respond
Esther 5:1-5; 7:1-10The king welcomes Esther, hears of Haman's plot, and hangs him

God brings his nation back from exile

Ezra 1:1-11; 3:8-11
Ezra 4:1-4; 5:1-2; Haggai 1:1-11. Enemies frighten the returned exiles but prophets encourage them
Ezra 6:14-22The returned exiles finish rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem
Zechariah 3:1-10A vision of Joshua the high priest
Zechariah 8:1-17"Thus says the LORD: I have returned to Zion"
Zechariah 9:9-17"Behold, your king is coming to you mounted on a donkey"
Ezra 7:1-13, 25-28Ezra, "a scribc skilled in the Law of Moses," comes to Jerusalem
Nehemiah 1:1-4; 2:1-6, 11-18Nehemiah prays and makes plans to rebuild Jerusalem's walls
Nehemiah 4:1-14; 6:15-16Enemies oppose the Jews but God helps them build the walls
Nehemiah 8:1-18Ezra reads from the Law and the people joyfully obey
Malachi 2:17-3:5; 4:1-6"Behold, I will send my messenger I will send you Elijah"

This plan has 25 readings per month, with about 15 verses per reading. Month 8 has 355 verses—an average of 14.2 verses per reading.



April Mission offering will be for Red Cliff. This mission serves the residents of the reservation and deepens the relationship with the native community there. The donations will provide supplies for the early childhood programs and clothing for the children.

STAFF

Rebecca Voss Pastor

rebecca@fumcwausau.org

Faith Formation, Music Director Martie Pahris martie@fumcwausau.org

Bookkeeper Martie Pahris finance@fumcwausau.org

Joan Stroyny Secretary

joan@fumcwausau.org

Building Engineer Andy White

> 903 Third Street, Wausau, WI 54403 Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.Monday - Thursday (715) 842-2201 fumc@fumcwausau.org www.fumcwausau.org



NEWS FROM STAFF/PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

In recent SPRC meetings through Zoom, members have been working hard to establish realistic, fair guidelines for the staff to work with regarding vacation time, sick days, time for appointments, etc. Stan Schacht has been very instrumental in bringing examples and language to the committee that has been useful and understandable, along with Pastor Rebecca's input. It is the goal of the committee to have the working policy in place by July 1, gathering feedback from the staff members involved as we move forward.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has prevented in-person celebrations, but we did recently recognize two staff members on their 5-year anniversaries with our congregation. Martie's was actually a little late, more like 5 1/2 years, but we wanted her to know how much she is appreciated for all the gifts she brings to us through her roles in the church—music leadership, Christian educational leadership, and her work with the finances of the church. We also recognized Rob's five years with us as our organist and lead pianist.

Even through the pandemic, both of these church leaders were in attendance at all the virtual service tapings and remained active in their roles with us. They were celebrated with gift certificates to Janke's Book Store from SPRC.

SPRC is looking for some volunteers in a couple of places. Our church secretary, Joan, is hoping to take more advantage of some time off this year, which means we need reliable, responsible people to help in the office when she is gone. Duties would include answering the phone, letting people into the building while it still remains locked, and possibly some light office computer work under the direction of Pastor Rebecca and/or Martie. Training would be provided as needed.

We are also looking for some possible volunteer office hours to cover Martie's positions when she is gone. Please contact Bonnie Goertz at 715-359-9871, bgoertz@charter.net or Joan in the church office (715-842-2201) if you are interested in helping out with one of these positions as needed. The hours asked of the volunteers would cover the church's normal office hours Monday through Thursday, 9am-1pm.

RANDOM THOUGHTS by Mike Zahn **Death and Dying**

"Jesus wept." John 11:35

I got the call at around 7:00 pm:

PHARMACIST: "This is the pharmacy- when do you think you'll get to XYZ facility tonight?"

ME: "Probably around 9:00."

PHARMACIST: "Well, okay, they'll have to wait until then, I guess. I'll let them know."

ME: "What's up?"

PHARMACIST: "They have a resident in hospice who is in a lot of pain and they're out of morphine for the dose scheduled for 7:30. Just get there as soon as you can."

ME: "Okay, I'll see what I can do."

I was going north on Hwy. 51 out of Wausau to my next med delivery and this facility was south of Wausau. It would screw up my schedule, but I knew what I had to do. At the next exit I turned around and headed south. I got there at 7:26.

While we're here in this life, we do the best we can to comfort the dying. It would be nice if we all lived to a ripe old age and passed away painlessly in our sleep, but it doesn't always work out that way. So we weep for the suffering before, and then weep for the grieving after. Jesus wept.

On Good Friday we weep in mourning. But on Easter we celebrate resurrection and life!

FUMC Wired

Website: fumcwausau.org
with links to the weekly sermon
in text and podcast

facebook.com/WausauFUMC

WiFi Network: FUMC Guest (password: fumcpublic)

Phone: 715.842.2201

Our Financial Picture for February 2021					
	February Expenses				
\$ 11,767.00	Staffing	\$ 17,109.41			
-					
\$ 4,352.00	Programming	\$ 1,211.81			
\$ 2,963.00	Apportionments	\$ 4,017.00			
	Building Operations Total Expenses Net YTD	\$ 5,219.47 \$ 27,557.69 \$ (6,838.78)			
	\$ 11,767.00 \$ 4,352.00 \$ 2,963.00 \$ 1,636.91	February Expenses \$ 11,767.00 Staffing \$ 4,352.00 Programming \$ 2,963.00 Apportionments \$ 1,636.91 Building Operations \$ 20,718.91 Total Expenses			



THERE IS LIGHT AHEAD-APRIL 2021

"The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day." ~Proverbs 4:18, NLT

How is your Lent going? Does it feel long, dark, and empty? Lent can feel that way when we give up fun activities or foods that we like. This year in particular, we are also still dealing with the pandemic. Closed or limited occupancy to our favorite places, the need to stay away from people, and the illness and death rates all increase the feeling of darkness. But is that it? Is that all there is?

There is light ahead. Literally there is light ahead when you look at when the sun sets in the next few weeks. The sun set at 7:37p.m. at the end of March. It will set in April at 8:30p.m. May: 9:17p.m. June: 9:34p.m. There are brighter days ahead.

There is light ahead. On a dark morning, the women will come to the tomb just to find it empty.

Christ arose! Christ arose!

There is light ahead. The virus will be beaten down. Our communities will open up. We will be able to see and hug our families again. Our church will open up again. But what will be left of our church? What have we given to the church to sustain it during this long haul? How have we given of our time, talents, and treasures over the last few months... and how will we give for Easter and the next few months to make sure we can continue our church's mission and ministry?

Be the light now so it can burn brighter later!

Rev. Krystal Goodger, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation



Dear First United Methodist Church,

Thank you very much for your generous donation of \$266.75. It is greatly appreciated and will be put to good use for our guests and organization.





Wesley United Methodist Church in

Wausau, is in need of a part time Financial Secretary, 6-10 hours a week, \$15 per hour. If interested, please contact their church office at 715-842-3768.





Church Purpose:

Live & Share God's Love with peace, joy & hope

WORSHIP IN APRIL

April is a tricky month. We might get fooled on April 1. This year, April 2 is call "Good Friday", which seems like a very odd thing to call the remembrance of Christ's cruel death. On April 4 we celebrate Easter and the Good News that Mary discovered and shared about Jesus rising from the dead. But "news" is often negative. This Easter season we'll explore some words and ideas that don't often go with the word *good*. Join us to find out how things like doubt and fear can be good when seen through Jesus' words.

Sunday, April 4 Easter Sunday

Good News-Ps. 118:14-24, Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18

#302 (UMH) Christ the Lord is Risen Today

#314 (UMH) In The Garden

#308 (UMH) Thine Be the Glory

Sunday, April 11 First Sunday after Easter **Good Doubt-**Ps. 133, 1 John 1:1-2:2, John 20:19-31 #327 (UMH) Crown Him with Many Crowns #420 (UMH) Breathe on Me, Breath of God #467 (UMH) Trust and Obey

Sunday, April 18 Second Sunday after Easter **Good Fear-**Ps. 4, 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-43 #57 (UMH) O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing #141 (UMH) Children of the Heavenly Father #364 (UMH) Because He Lives

Sunday, April 25Third Sunday after Easter
Good Power-Ps. 23, 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18
#318 (UMH) Christ is Alive
#138 (UMH) The King of Love My Shepherd Is
#381 (UMH) Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us