



# April / May TOWER TOPICS

## Worship @ St. Paul Lutheran Church

Sunday, April 19 @ 10AM

On Sunday, April 19, we are going to be worshipping at/with St. Paul Lutheran Church (721 12th Avenue). How unusual, right? How exciting! In August, THEY joined US, and now it's our turn to go to their church. Our choirs will once again be joining voices to provide exceptional music and Pastor Scott will bring the morning message. So, make plans now to demonstrate your neighborliness, ecumenical spirit, and our church unity by putting this special day on your calendar and then showing up together!! **Note that the service will begin at 10:00am.** (You'll get out earlier and can beat the lunch/brunch crowd!)

- Debbie Bradley

## Holy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 2 @ 7PM

We will be having a special **worship service on Thursday of Holy week – April 2, 2026** – to remember Jesus' last night with his disciples before the Crucifixion and Resurrection. The service will take place in our **sanctuary at 7:00 pm** that evening and will include Communion.



## Not Quite Home - From the Pastor's Desk, Study, or Pile of Papers...

### *A New Kind of Morning: Taking Our Lenten Lessons into the Light*

If you're feeling a bit of a "spiritual exhale" after Easter, you aren't alone. We've spent the last forty days doing some pretty heavy lifting together. We didn't shy away from the hard questions or the quiet, desert spaces of our Lenten series, and that kind of honesty can be exhausting.

But as we stand in the light of Easter, it's clear: We didn't leave those lessons back in the dust.

Looking back at our journey, the things we learned in the shadows actually make the Good News feel even more real. We've realized a few things that carry us forward:

In Lent, we stopped pretending everything was fine. We talked about our "dust" and our struggles and even going on a bear hunt or two. The "Good News" of Easter is that God meets us exactly there – not in some perfect version of ourselves, but in the middle of our actual lives.

We learned how to wait. We learned that even when things feel silent or "buried," God is still at work. That's a kind of resilience we get to keep long after the Easter flowers are gone.

Because we walked through the gravity of the cross together, our "Alleluia" feels earned. It isn't a shallow happiness; it's a deep, settled joy that knows how to survive a storm.

Being an "Easter people" doesn't mean we have to suddenly have all the answers or flip a switch into "perfect" mode. It just means we carry the honesty of Lent with the hope of the Resurrection.

The wilderness is behind us, but the growth we found there is just beginning. Let's keep walking this path with the same open hearts and shared grace we've cultivated over the last few weeks. Let's be the Easter people that this community needs – both in our church and everywhere around it!

Peace,  
Pastor Scott

# Living Hope:

## ***A series on 1 Peter for the Season of Easter***

The stone has been rolled away, the shouts of "Alleluia" have echoed through the sanctuary, and the Easter flowers are beginning to fade. But for the followers of Jesus, the Resurrection isn't just a day on the calendar - it's a new way of existing in a weary world.

Starting Sunday, April 12, we begin a five-week journey through the book of 1 Peter to help us look at "discipleship" today. Written to a "scattered" people facing trial and uncertainty, this letter serves as a gritty, hopeful manual for what it means to live as people of the Resurrection.

The writer of Peter challenges us to look past what is perishable to see the imperishable grace of God. They ask us to trade our instinctive reactions for a "something else" kind of living – one modeled by Christ himself. Throughout this series, we will explore how our identity is being rewritten from old to new, and how the "First and Last" words of God give us a hope that the world simply cannot shake.

Whether you feel like you are thriving or just hanging on, come discover how a "Living Hope" changes everything about our *now*, our *not yet*, and our forever.

### **Series Breakdown**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Text</b>	<b>Message Title</b>	<b>Key Focus</b>
<b>April 12</b>	1 Peter 1:3-9	"Not Yet and Now"	Joy in the midst of "various trials."
<b>April 19</b>	1 Peter 1:17-23	"Perishable vs. Imperishable"	Living with an eternal perspective.
<b>April 26</b>	1 Peter 2:19-25	"Action and Reaction..."	Breaking the cycle of retaliation through Christ's example.
<b>May 3</b>	1 Peter 2:2-10	"Old and New"	Growing into our identity as "Living Stones."
<b>May 10</b>	1 Peter 3:13-22	"Words - First and Last"	Giving an answer for the hope within us.

### **Wednesday Evening Bible Study**

Our Wed. night bible study is continuing with biblical videos and discussions on Wednesdays from 6:00-6:45pm in the church library (at the back of the Sanctuary). All are welcome to join, and for as many or as few evenings as you wish. Contact Grace Gooding if you have any questions. [gtg25701@gmail.com](mailto:gtg25701@gmail.com)

### **Wednesday Activities**

**9:00am** - Wednesday Willing Workers  
**11:00am** - Bible Study  
**5:00pm** - Dinner  
**5:45pm** - Children's Choir  
**6:00pm** - Bell Choir, Bible Study, & The Vine  
**6:30pm** - KFC  
**6:45pm** - Sanctuary Choir

### **News from the Woods**

Celebrate the Easter season and the coming of spring with Asbury Woods. Easter is a time for the Asbury Woods annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Day with lunch provided! If you plan to attend, please RSVP by 3/31/2026 to [asburywoods.wv@gmail.com](mailto:asburywoods.wv@gmail.com). Spring is also the time for preparation for summer activities. Looking forward to new friendships, traditions, and activities. Summer camp registrations will begin in April with an early bird special. Stay tuned to the Asbury Woods website and Facebook page.  
- Chris Thomas

## MISSION 2026

By this time you should have information about "Stepping into Spring Step Challenge." I hope you or your group will participate since this is one way the Conference is promoting support for our vital West Virginia Mission Projects. For nearly thirty years, the emphasis was on COME as a way to give and become acquainted with all the projects. MIM (Mission in Motion) has replaced COME. COME is no more, but we can still give goods and money through other fund-raising efforts.

As of Sunday morning, we had three walkers signed up and three sponsors. Scott and Emily will be walking to compete with other districts. Jane will just be walking to raise money for mission. Three is not nearly enough walkers or donors. All can participate. Children know to walk. Non-walkers know how to sponsor and donate.

Please do not forget the WV Missions. They are depending on our help, especially now that so much government funding has dried up.

-Jane Morse

## Spring Flower Sale!

It's that time again, time for flowers that is! Jane Morse is selling flowers to support the missions of United Women in Faith.

**The order deadline is April 26**

**Pick-up is Saturday, May 2**

Fill out the order form below and mail it with payment to First United Methodist at 1124 5th Avenue Huntington, WV 25701

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

GERANIUMS \$1.50

Red \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_

PURPLE WAVE PETUNIAS \$2.00 \_\_\_\_\_

HANGING BASKETS \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

## GIVING FROM THE HEART

In February we took the bold step of offering our church giving to the community. We chose missions that are doing great work, but could always use more help. From the lists being compiled, we hope to find new ways of reaching out as a church community.

-Jane Morse



## EBENEZER OUTREACH

Ebenezer Outreach is one of those WV Mission Projects doing great work in very limited space. We are presently waiting for grant money and donations to come pouring in so that we can proceed with our plans to expand the building. With more physical space, there will be room for much more community outreach.

For over fifty years, some of us have been asking for good a-v's of each mission. Finally, it is happening. A crew was filming at Ebenezer this week. I was honored to be one of those interviewed. Soon, churches throughout the Conference and beyond will be able to see and hear what is happening at all the WV Missions.

Ebenezer is looking for new board members. The board meets every other month and offers whatever expertise they have to offer. To get this building project completed, the children need YOU. Presently, there are 72 children enrolled. 13 bassinets have been given out in 2026.

-Jane Morse

## Cridlin Pantry

Cridlin Pantry needs our help! For the month of **April**, they need **96 cans of beef stew** and for **May**, **96 cans of diced tomatoes**. Bring a few cans with you to church to feed our community!

## Dorcas Circle

Dorcas Circle will meet on **Tuesday, April 14 at 1:00pm** and **Tuesday, May 12 at 1:00pm**. Join us!

## NA Meetings

Narcotics Anonymous meetings take place every **Friday night from 6:30-9:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall.

## AA Meetings

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings take place every **Tuesday night at 7:30pm** in the Multipurpose Room.

## Zeffy

### Donate to First UMC

First Church has partnered with a digital peer to peer network called Zeffy! It's a convenient option to make donations in the absence of a check or cash. We chose Zeffy because it has partnered with many other United Methodist churches and reputable charities. It also does not cost you or First Church anything, so 100% comes to First Church. You don't need to download an app. Just use the QR code and it will take you to the website! Go ahead, give it a try!



## Doorbell Ministry

A big THANK YOU to all the folks who donated to our doorbell ministry! Thanks to all the anonymous donors, plus Martha Cummings for donating blankets, Heather Metz for donating hand warmers, and John & Brenda Tanner for the coats, fruit snacks, deodorant wipes, and soap! These gifts have been a great source of support and hope for our unhoused neighbors who come to our doors seeking assistance. Also, thank you Jane McColgan and Edna Brooks for choosing the doorbell ministry to donate to in the month of February. Thank you so much for your support! All of y'all's donations keep this ministry thriving! Here are how many people your donations have helped these past couple of months:

**February:** We helped 27 people/families eat, get to work, clean themselves, and keep warm. We gave out over 25 care bags, 15 coats & blankets, 25 cups of hot cocoa/coffee, 20 \$5 fast food gift cards, 63 \$1 bus tickets, 4 \$10 fuel gift cards, and loads of gloves socks, and scarves!

**March:** As of writing this, we have helped 52 people/families this month. We have given away 28 care bags, 39 cups of hot cocoa/coffee, 11 coats & blankets, 94 \$1 bus tickets, 40 \$5 fast food gift cards, 9 \$10 fuel gift cards, and loads of socks, gloves, & hats!

It has been a bitterly cold winter! But, with spring here, we expect to get a lot more visitors at our doors. So, I am collecting donations for our "doorbell ministry" to support those in need. If interested in donating, here is a link & QR code to our care bag Amazon wishlist!

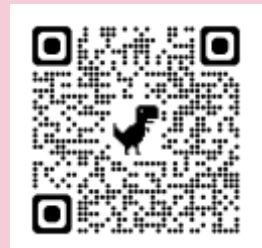
Each care bag currently contains a pair of socks, a couple snacks, eco deodorant wipes and soap, bandaids, and first aid ointment, chapstick, hot hands, an emory board nail file, a toothbrush and toothpaste.

We are also currently collecting used closed-toe shoes (adult size 7-13) to hand out. You would not believe how many people come to our doors without shoes on or with shoes filled with holes. If you have any questions, please email me at [firstumc@firstunitedmethodist.com](mailto:firstumc@firstunitedmethodist.com)

Thank you so much for your continued support!

<https://a.co/cieUUGe>

-Allie Bright



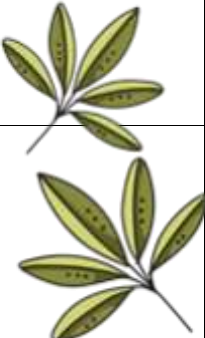


# April



## Birthdays!

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						
<b>5</b> Easter Sunday (Communion) Pick up your Easter flowers	<b>6</b> Office Closed	<b>7</b> 7:30pm AA Meeting	<b>8</b> 6:00pm Trustees Meeting	<b>9</b> 7:00pm Holy Thursday Service	<b>3</b> 6:30-9:00pm NA Meeting	<b>4</b>
<b>12</b> 5-7pm Youth 7:30-9pm Self-Defense	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 1:00pm Dorcas Circle 7:30pm AA Meeting	<b>15</b> 6:00pm Finance Meeting	<b>16</b> 6:30pm Finance Course	<b>17</b> 6:30-9:00pm NA Meeting	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10:00am Worship @ St. Paul Lutheran Church 7:30-9pm Self-Defense	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:30pm AA Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 6:30pm Finance Course	<b>24</b> 6:30-9:00pm NA Meeting	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 7:30-9pm Self-Defense	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:30pm AA Meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6:30pm Finance Course		

- 04/01 Robert Tebbetts
- Bill Weekley
- 04/02 Sean Adkins
- 04/03 Sara Allen
- Tricia Ward
- 04/07 Gina Davis
- 04/11 Ginnie Tebbetts
- 04/12 Gavin Eddins
- 04/14 Andrew Gooding
- 04/15 Jody Eddins
- Donna Griffith
- 04/17 Scott Archer
- 04/18 Mike Sheets
- 04/19 Benjamin Fults
- 04/22 Bonnie Hughes
- 04/24 Alexa Hensley
- 04/25 Chase Rutherford
- 04/26 Maribeth Anderson
- Kevin Sergent
- 04/29 Evelyn Rutherford

### Dinner Menu:

- April 1** - Pork BBQ, potato casserole, & corn
- April 8** - Ham, green beans, mashed potatoes
- April 15** - Chicken & dumplings, mashed potatoes, green beans
- April 22** - Breakfast for Dinner
- April 29** - Teriyaki chicken, fried rice, steamed vegetables



# may



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					<b>1</b> 6:30-9:00 pm NA Meeting	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 5:00pm Judge Julie Truly Musical & a Meal 7:30-9:00pm Self-Defense	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:30pm AA Meeting	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30-9:00pm NA Meeting	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <i>Mother's Day!</i> 7:30-9:00pm Self-Defense	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 1:00pm Dorcas Circle 7:30pm AA Meeting	<b>13</b> End of Year Bashi! (last night of Wed. activities) 6:00pm Trustees Meeting	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:30-9:00pm NA Meeting	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <i>Music Service</i> 7:30-9:00pm Self-Defense	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:30pm AA Meeting	<b>20</b> 6:00pm Finance Meeting	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <i>Tower Topics</i> Articles Due 6:30-9:00pm NA Meeting	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>26</b> 7:30pm AA Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6:30-9:00pm NA Meeting	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>						

- 05/01 Emily Lee
- 05/03 Marlene Sheets
- 05/05 C.R. Neighborgall IV
- 05/07 Rev. Craig Michael
- 05/08 Matt Birkhimer
- Kil Choi
- Kyle Foster
- 05/09 Christopher Gooding
- 05/16 Tess Anderson
- 05/17 Peggy Brown
- Nancie Perry
- Craig Sergent
- 05/18 Erik Legg
- 05/19 Rosie Bright
- Dan Choi
- 05/21 Wendy Bacon
- Vance Bunn
- Ella Kinsey
- 05/23 Avett Bannon
- Sally Duncan
- 05/26 Andrew Legg
- 05/27 Ted Johnson
- 05/28 J.D. Maue
- 05/30 Autumn Arthur



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Pastor: Scott Sears  
Music Director: Debbie Bradley  
Director of Youth & Young Adult  
Ministry: Schauna Chambers  
**Director of Children's Ministries:**  
Katrina Lee  
Finance Secretary: Amy Ward  
Church Hostess: Susan Nickels  
Office Manager: Allie Bright

**Sunday Worship Opportunities**  
Small Groups 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.



Next Tower Topics Deadline: May 22



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

***Eternal God! Grant us gratitude enough to look backward and be thankful; courage enough to look forward and be hopeful; faith enough to look upward and be humble; kindness enough to look outward and be helpful. Together let us pray...For those grieving, sick, or homebound,***

Randall Adkins, Dawn Aikin, Greg Archambault, Mike Archambault, Kathy Bartram, Tabitha Berry, Hulse Budd, Chase Childers, Chris Chiles, Debbie Conley, Mark Cornell, Mel Cummings, Jackie Eplion, Janet Foss, Brody Fulks, Mike Goodall, Donna Griffith, Olivia Haken, Jim Hamilton, Sonny Hammer, Al & Lynn Hurt, Brian Justice, Andy King, Emma Mace, Clarence Martin, Jane McColgan, Beth McVey, Family of Isaac Morgan (Brother of Stephen McGill), Bob Palmer, Nancy Palmer, Christie Payne, Joyce Ray, Jenny Reichenbecher Ellis, Janet Rowe, Marlene Sheets, Harlan Smith, Dan Smith, Ed & Alice Stone, Fred Tallman, Carolyn Waggoner, Family of Connie Walls (Jack Welch's sister), Gene Weekly, Anne Weeks, Joe Welch, Jean White, Carole Wilson

