



Parkway Courier



Volume 53, No. 4

April 2018

Risen Christ – Risen Creation by Pastor Kathy Itzin

Easter. The Risen Christ. This event happened 2,000 years ago, but does it make a difference today? Has the world changed? Am I changed because of it?

Jesus died, and God gave him life again. To the disciples, and to his followers, it would have seemed like Jesus failed, at least until his resurrection. Jesus stood for everything good, he did wonderful things, and the power of God was with him. He was killed because of who he was, and what he did. His mission in life had failed, or at least that's how it appeared.

But then, like wildfire, it caught on and spread. People who knew him, and followed him, became re-energized, and re-committed. The Holy Spirit, Jesus' Spirit, became a reality in the life of his friends, and it has remained a reality in the life of every follower ever since. Jesus' spirit multiplied exponentially.

What the disciples and the world thought was a failure, was actually the magnificent start to a new beginning. God's actions made things never the same, ever again.

We still experience failure. We see God's good world full of hope and beauty, and the promise of new life, but we also see the effects of violence wherever we turn. We see the atrocities in Syria and kidnapping of girls in Nigeria. According to the Emergency Aid Coordinator of the UN, 20 million people in S. Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, and Nigeria will soon face starvation and famine unless there is a massive coordinated response by the rest of the world. School shootings in the US continue, and big challenges exist in protective services, health care, and affordable housing here at home. We haven't come close to achieving Jesus' vision of God's Kingdom here on earth.

Where is the Resurrection in all of this?

It's here. It hasn't swept the countryside yet, like we would hope. We are surrounded by a culture that encourages consumerism, that sends the message every day that we are 'not enough' unless we buy something. We live in a culture that fosters fear and encourages violence as the solution to that fear. We haven't achieved racial or gender equality, (even though we'd like to think we have), and the poor and homeless still live among us. Where is the Kingdom Jesus started?

Again, it is here. In the individual and communal actions of people of faith, (and those without belief), who are good hearted. In people who stand for Black Lives Matter, for gender equality, for rights of the vulnerable, and in those who try to make life a little easier or better, for someone else. In those who help their neighbor, and in those who care for others. In families, and in individuals who do the best they can in difficult circumstances.

When Jesus died, the problems of societies continued. But now, we can clearly see what fits with the Gospel message, and what doesn't. We don't need to be taken in by ways that lead to death of the spirit or body, because we know the Way that leads to real life.

Just as importantly, we also know that it isn't all up to us. Like Jesus, we, his followers need to do what we are called to do, but the world doesn't rest on our shoulders. The God who raised Jesus works with what we have to offer. Stand back. Jesus' Spirit is here!

April Scriptures

April 1 Easter Sunday

Isaiah 25: 6-9 (God will make a feast for all people...God will swallow up death forever and wipe away tears from all faces)

John 20: 1-18 (Mary Magdalene sees Jesus risen)

April 8 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4: 32-35 (The whole group of those who believe were of one heart and soul...and everything they owned was held in common)

John 20: 19-31 (Jesus appeared to the disciples, breathed on them, and gave them the Holy Spirit)

April 15 3rd Sunday of Easter

1 John 3: 1-7 (See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are)

Luke 24: 36b-48 (Jesus appears again to the disciples, eats fish, and helps them understand scriptures, and what's going on)

April 22 4th Sunday of Easter

1 John 3: 16-24 (How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods, sees a brother or sister in need, and yet refuses to help?)

John 10: 11-18 (I am the Good Shepherd)

April 29 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8: 26-40 (A eunuch from Ethiopia asks Phillip to baptize him)

John 15: 1-8 (I am the vine, and my Father is the vinegrower)



Out to Lunch Bunch

The Out to Lunch Bunch will meet at Famous Dave's, 7825 Vinewood Lane in Maple Grove on April 12 at 11:30 a.m. Good food, good company and conversation! Please call the church and let us know you will be coming. All are welcome! This is a lively bunch to lunch with.

Parkway Courier

Charlene Merz, Editor

The deadline for the May Courier is April 18.

Please bring your articles to the church office or email them to Parkwayucc@gmail.com

All articles are appreciated!

Mother's Day for St. Anne's Place

From the Board of Community Outreach

Each spring at Parkway UCC we collect donations for Mother's Day gifts for the women (all are moms) temporarily living at St. Anne's Place.

This is a homeless shelter only 10 blocks from our church for women and their children. The average stay is 11/2 - 3 months. While there, they are taught computer skills, how to navigate the social service system, and other skills to help them become independent in their future. St. Anne's Place houses 16 women plus their children.

Their program director suggested these items for gifts:

lotions scented/unscented

body wash/body gel

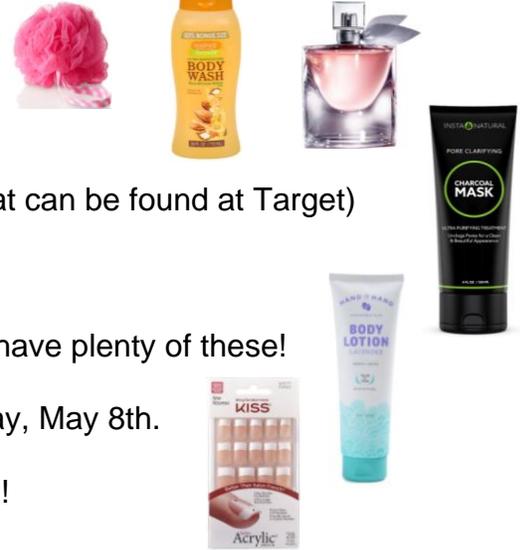
loofas

charcoal facial masks (paper ones that can be found at Target)

jewelry

press on nail kits

perfumes



PLEASE NO nail polish or toothbrushes etc.--they already have plenty of these!

Please put the gifts into the "gift bags" in the crib by Tuesday, May 8th.

If you are unable to shop, we will be happy to help.

We are: serving the Northside in Christian love!

Care Bags for St. Anne's Place or Families Moving Forward

by Charlene Merz

Remember when you were first starting out on your own? You had a new place to live and you needed certain household supplies. What supplies did you need?

I belong to a quilt guild and I was president of that guild in 2014. When you are the president you have to come up with a service project that the members of the guild participate in. I thought about what we could do and what ministries I love and I decided that we could make cloth bags that I could fill with starter items that families could use when they are moving from a shelter or homeless program to their very own new place to live. I explained my vision for these bags to Emily Braun and she agreed to partner with me in making this happen. She and I went to the Dollar Tree in Crystal and met with their Assistant Manager, Graham Merz. Emily and I made a list of items that we thought would be ideal for these bags and left a list at the store in case anyone came in and wanted to purchase some of the items for us. I have bought some items and Dollar Tree has donated some items and we are well on our way to filling these bags. However, there are still things we could use. If you are interested in helping, I am including a list of items that we have come up with, but we are also open to other ideas you may have. All items are trial size, 10-12 ounces or two to four to a package. Here are some ideas: Kitchen scrubbers, toothpaste and toothbrushes, Gain or Tide laundry detergent, Dawn dish soap, any bath bar soap, measuring cups, measuring spoons, toilet tissue, paper towels, rubbermaid, salt and pepper, Lysol liquid cleaner, dish towels and washcloths, bandaids, or any other items you decide would be good if you are just moving to a new place.

I will have a sample of one of these bags at church during coffee hour on April 15. Please contact Char Merz or Emily Braun if you have questions or would like to help or donate. Thank you!

Stigma, Costs, Treatments

This is the second of three articles on mental disorders by Dianne Star.

Our knowledge of mental illnesses and disorders has increased in the past 70 years. However, misconceptions and stigmas persist. Common ones are 1) mental disorders are a character flaw or a sign of weakness; 2) people with mental illnesses are violent; 3) people with mental illness cannot function normally; 4) mental health problems do not affect children and youth; 5) persons with mental illness cannot or should not work. These misconceptions affect persons with mental illnesses and their families and friends. Persons experiencing mental health issues are reluctant to seek help, and their families and friends do not want to encourage them to do so.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), nearly 60% of adults and 50% of youth ages 8-15 years did not receive mental health care in the past year. The average delay between onset and intervention is 8-10 years.

Parity in mental health insurance coverage is not available in all health insurance plans. Plans lacking parity can charge more or even deny coverage for mental health services, can limit the number of visits, can refuse to cover medication costs, or can require a person to call and get permission to get mental health care covered. The lack of parity adds to the stigma of seeking care. Access to care varies greatly among the states and even within a state.

Undertreatment and lack of treatment costs about \$444 billion a year for medical care, disability payments and lost productivity.

We know that treating physical illnesses in the early stages saves money and lives. Treating mental illness when first diagnosed would also save money and lives. Current treatments include medications, talk therapy, Electroconvulsive Therapy, and Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation. Because our knowledge of the causes of mental illnesses is not complete, it may take months, or even years, to find a treatment that works for an individual.

I am not the first one to suggest this, but I strongly support this idea - our insurance plans should cover one mental health exam every year beginning at age 5. Imagine the change that would have on the lives of individuals, their families and our society.

HAPPY/THANKFUL OFFERINGS

We are offering this gift because we are happy and/or thankful for:

March 4, 2018

32 years of Love,
Family and growth
and Kathy,
-Carol

March 11, 2018

Carolyn Hendel and all
she does in both her music
ministry and her support
of my sewing efforts.
-Emily Braun

March 18, 2018

I have an interview
at MN Aids Project for
a job. It is the kind of job
I went to school for.
Prayers appreciated.
-Tom Ley

March 11, 2018

Thank you for a visit
from our Associate
Conference Minister.

Blessing of 40 years!
-Durands

Do you have a Happy or Thankful Offering? You do not need to be at church to make that announcement. Just email the Courier at Parkwayucc@gmail.com and let us know what you are happy or thankful for and we'll get it posted in the Courier newsletter!



"Go the Extra Mile" Campaign

by Lonnie Rose

After a cold winter in hibernation, it is time to wake up the "Extra Mile Campaign" from its slumber and Spring it back into action. This has been a highly effective campaign to

help take some of Parkway's basic office, cleaning and social activity expenses out of the budget and allow the congregation to continue to be an active part in keeping those needs filled.

As before, there will be a section of the bulletin board outside the office that will have current supply, cleaning etc. needs posted. Some of our supply needs are specific to the equipment/cleaning needs that they are used for. We will try to have the necessary brands, sizes, quantities and other specifics that are important for those items so that Char, Molly and others will have the right products for their project needs.

Some of the common types or more detailed needs are:

- Multi fold or tri-fold towels for the restrooms
- Scott toilet tissue for the restrooms
- Solid and spray air fresheners for the restrooms
- Toilet wand refills
- 13 gallon trash bags
- 55 gallon trash bags

- vacuum cleaners bags (very specific-call the office for the size)
- Pin sol for mopping and other cleaning needs
- Softscrub for cleaning restroom sinks
- 11 x 17 copier paper for bulletins and the Courier

Examples of regularly used more basic supply needs are:

- Napkins
- Paper plates (dessert and dinner sizes)
- Coffee (regular and decaf)
- St. Anne's Place needs



If there are things that you like to have kept in supply or that are being missed, let Kathy or Char know and they can help get those things posted. With everyone helping to keep these basic supplies in stock, it will take some stress off the budget for other important Parkway needs.

April Coffee Hour: Board of Faith Formation

April Drivers

Flowers

1 Dave Hendel	4 Open
8 Char Merz	11 Open
15 Dave Hendel	18 Open
22 Char Merz	25 Open
29 Dave hendel	29 Open

E-mail address: parkwayucc@gmail.com

Rev. Kathy's e-mail: parkwayuccpastor@gmail.com

News of the Boards

Board of Diaconate

The board met on March 11. Maundy Thursday, Palm Sunday, and Easter plans were discussed and everything is in order for all these services.

Char visited the board and reported that when our computer program was converted to SimpleChurch, the names of about 40 members appeared on the church rolls. There has been no contact with these members for over 10 years. Should she meet with Mary Lou Stoltzfus or Margaret Heglund to confirm that they should be dropped from the church rolls? Consensus was no. If no one has heard from them in that length of time, just drop them.

Gerry Hartley announced that she needs to resign from the board for health reasons. We were very sorry to hear this, as Gerry has served faithfully and well for many years. She has been a wonderful, long-time member of the Diaconate, and she will be missed. She is still happy to help on an occasional basis. Thank you, Gerry!

Board of Finance

The board met on March 14. The church received a letter from the Minneapolis Department of Public Works about street resurfacing in our area this summer. The resurfacing project is part of the Public Works ongoing street improvement program. The purpose of the project is to extend the life of the streets in the area by overlaying them with a new layer of asphalt. The assessments to Parkway Church are \$18,072.83 in addition to our regular yearly assessments. A meeting was held on March 20 at the North Commons Recreation Center. Char and Jim and Ann agreed to go to this meeting to get more information on how the assessments are assigned.

Char reported the Endowment Fund had lost the \$6,445.98 gain from January and another \$88.20 due to the market fluctuations in February. Boo! Not a happy day for the Board of Finance!

Board of Community Outreach

The board met on March 4. One Great Hour of Sharing was collected on March 11. The board is collecting Mother's Day gifts for the moms at St. Anne's Place. Note the announcement in this Courier.

Char's has provided the board with some homemade fabric bags made by her quilt guild. She would like to fill them with items that families would need when they leave the shelter and move to their new residence. See article in this Courier.

Board of Property Report

The plexiglass in the outside sign has been installed. The hot water is turned off on one of the facets in the women's restroom because it has been leaking. A new faucet will be installed. Dave's Lock and Safe is coming to look at one of the entry doors on the front of the building. It has been stuck shut for a while. Jim and Todd met with the roofer to figure out the leaks by the handicap restroom.

Council

Council met on March 15. As well as the items reported for the above boards:

Kathy met with Susan from Salem Lutheran. Since she is an interim pastor, we should make a formal offer to them if we're going to consolidate. Greg and Kathy came up with a letter for Salem from our Council.

The Safe Nights program by Jim Koon was revisited. Greg is strongly in favor of participating in this program. Kathy would like more church discussion. There could be concerns and problems. We need to listen to everyone's input. It's a new program. Will we get enough volunteers? What happens if there is a problem? We will invite Jim back to speak to the congregation during a service or coffee hour. We will put an article in the Courier. New Business: Kathy discussed that Council needs to provide the food at the next linger lunch. Emily reminded us not to forget the glazing on the windows upstairs, they are leaking cold air.

Char mentioned the annual report. Kevin and Katrina volunteered to do it again this year.

Council is meeting with Robbinsdale and Union on April 7 and has decided to move Parkway's Council meeting to April 12 for discussion about the former meeting.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Gerry Hartley
Rose Marie Lund – (Durand's daughter)
Jim & Kay Leerssen
Marlene Mars
Harriet Thompson
Parkway Church
Eunice Shore
Brett Sprague
Laura Mylan - (Friend of Janet Zahn)
Jan Schwarz
Karen Anderson
Terry Lipelt - (Todd's brother)
Jimmy Johnson - (Sharon Chafin's cousin)
Lisa Flynn - (Carol Anderson's niece)
Bill Morrison
Steven, Shawn and Jessie - (Terri's family)
Veralyn and Dennis Bash - (sister and brother-in-law of Lester Boerger)
Paul and Donita Boerger - (Lester Boerger's parents)
Erin Gaines - (Frank Gaine's daughter-in-law)
Sandy Thompson - (Bob and Evie Thompson's daughter-in-law)

Bob Freeman - (Cancer surgery)
Donelle Arkley - (Michael Snitker's sister)
Grace Ashley-(Ro Shanklin's sister-in-law)
Maxine Rogers - (Lonnie Rose's sister)
Pam Eckert - (Friend of Dawn Stroschein)
Alan Johnston - (Alice Johnston's son)
Judy Oelkers - (Pat Durand's cousin)
Frank Gaines
Lu Butler
A.J. Houle - (Dick and Nancy Larson's son-in-law)
Sheryl Griefe - (Friend of Dick and Nancy)
Terry Nolan
Jean Rossmar - (David Goettsch's sister)
Carl Colburne - (Jean Rossmar's partner)
James Karst



8	Trevor Lewis	27	Christine Ouellette
13	Emily Magnuson	28	Pat Stone
22	Pat Durand	29	Dave Hendel
26	Lester Boerger	29	Evie Thompson

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Molly and Jennifer who were married at Parkway on March 30, 2018.

Best. Day.Ever.



Congratulations to Evie and Bob Thompson on the birth of their newest Great Granddaughter, Riley Lynn Rosenthal, born on March 26, 2018.

Parkway Courier

An Open and Affirming Church

Telephone: 612-522-2982

Fax Number: 612-522-1439

E-mail: parkwayucc@gmail.com

Worship Service: Sunday, 10 a.m.

Office Hours: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Monday – Thursday

Rev. Kathy Itzin, Senior Minister

Charlene Merz, Administrative Assistant

Bonnie McClain, Director of Music

Daniel Ritter, Organist

Carolyn Hendel, Bell Choir Director

Molly Merz, Custodian

Published by and for members and friends of

PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST





Parkway United Church of Christ

April 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Easter</i> 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 12:30 CWOW	7 p.m. Victory AA	10 a.m. Bible Study 4-7 p.m. Truth in Spirit	6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir Practice			2-5 p.m. Truth in Spirit
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 12:30 CWOW	7 p.m. Victory AA	10 a.m. Bible Study 4-7 p.m. Truth in Spirit	10:30 a.m. Bd Finance 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir Practice	11:30 a.m. Out to Lunch Bunch 5:15 p.m. Book Club 7:00 p.m. Council		2-5 p.m. Truth in Spirit
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 12:30 CWOW	7 p.m. Victory AA	10 a.m. Bible Study 4-7 p.m. Truth in Spirit	6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir Practice Courier deadline		6:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal	3:00 p.m. Wedding in Sanctuary
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Coffee Hour 12:30 CWOW	7 p.m. Victory AA Open Meeting	10 a.m. Bible Study 4-7 p.m. Truth in Spirit	6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir Practice			11:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m. HUB in social hall 2-5 Truth in Spirit
29	30					
10 a.m. Worship 10:15 Sunday School 11 Coffee Hour 12:30 CWOW	7 p.m. Victory AA					