

*"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."* - Galatians 2:20a



## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

- **Palm Sunday: April 14** - Palm processional at all three services; Palm Sunday Brunch, 9am-noon, in Wesley Hall, served by our youth. Cost is \$5.00 per person and all proceeds go to benefit the youth summer mission trips! PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT OUR YOUTH. We are also looking for adult volunteers to help with set up, cooking, and clean up. If interested, please contact Lisa Thomas at [Franknlisa7473@gmail.com](mailto:Franknlisa7473@gmail.com). Thank you all for your continued support of this amazing ministry. We hope to see you there!



- **Maundy Thursday: April 18, 7:30pm** – Tenebrae Service (Service of the Shadows) and communion at the rail.
- **Good Friday: April 19, Noon to 4pm**, in the Chapel – reflection, meditation, and communion.
- **Easter Prayer Vigil: April 19, 4:00pm through Easter Morning, April 21, 8:30am** - Always a profound spiritual experience, an around-the-clock Prayer Vigil will begin at 4:00pm on Good Friday, April 19, in the Chapel, and continue in one-hour shifts until the beginning of services on Easter Sunday morning, April 21. A sign-up board will be outside the Chapel, Sanctuary, and Beacon Hall during Lent and individuals, groups, and families are encouraged to sign up for a time slot. Volunteers will be at the Chapel entrance during overnight hours (11:00pm-7:00am) and devotional material will be available. Please make this a part of your 2019 Lenten Journey. The hour will pass quickly as you connect with the passion of Jesus Christ and read, pray, or even make music on behalf of our church, the community, and the world. Questions? Contact Michael Parry at 440.773.1301 or [mparry3638@gmail.com](mailto:mparry3638@gmail.com).



- **April 21 - Easter Sunday:**
  - **7:00am** - Sunrise Service at Rockport United Methodist Church, 3301 Wooster Road, in their outdoor chapel
  - **8:30am** - Chapel Service
  - **10:00am** - Sanctuary Service at 10:00am. Fuller Sounds Handbell Choir, Erie Shores Brass Quintet, and the Chancel Choir will perform.
  - **11:30am** - Harbor Service



## CANTATA SUNDAY - APRIL 7

On April 7, the Chancel Choir and RRUMC Octet will present Camille Saint-Saens' *Requiem Mass*. Widely considered as one of the greatest settings of the Latin requiem mass text, this work is a beautiful marriage of Saint-Saens' gifts at both choral and orchestral writing.

If you were a fan of the Mozart or Faure *Requiem* presented in recent years, you will love this piece! Featuring sweeping choral textures, intricate instrumental passages, and a wide variation of vocal textures - from solos, trios, and even double chorus!

Please plan to join us for this powerful work that moves into the heart of our Lenten season.





## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTORS

Family and Friends of Rocky River United Methodist Church,

I hope you'll grant me a few moments of your time. I am reaching out on behalf of Rev. Dan and myself in regards to the results of the Special General Conference of the United Methodist Church that concluded on February 26. This communication is open to all but intended specifically for folks from our church family who supported the One Church Plan and the idea of the UMC making ordination and marriage unions available to people from the LGBTQ community. As your pastors, our silence immediately following the rejection of the One Church Plan at the

Special General Conference, we fear, could potentially be perceived as us speaking more loudly and in ways we never would intend in a moment when expressions of love and kindness are most needed. Given Rev. Dan and my beliefs on this issue, we know many of you may not wish to hear from us at all right now, but we feel this shouldn't keep us from reaching out in love.

We are not writing to gloat or to add to the deep pain and frustration we know you must already feel. In fact, quite the opposite. Although it doesn't align with our views, we can honestly say that we felt absolutely no joy upon hearing that the One Church Plan was rejected. If this is a victory for those who share our views, it is very hollow as we simply cannot find joy in a decision that is going to crush the spirits of countless people within the body of Christ who are advocating for something they are passionate about and who are motivated by a desire to advance God's love in the world. We cannot find joy in anything that is going to further alienate a group of people (members of the LGBTQ community and those advocating for them) who need and deserve to experience the radical and welcoming love of God as much as anyone else. It may seem contradictory to offer such sentiments as two individuals who desired the UMC to affirm its current stance on this issue, but this is how we feel. And we want you to know that, even while we support the decision the Special General Conference has made, our hearts ache for each of the individuals who will feel disregarded and frustrated on the other side.

We don't pretend to know the perfect answer to help our denomination, or even our church family at RRUMC, to find peace or unity in an issue that is incredibly divisive. At some point down the road, it is not at all unlikely that this same issue will come before another General Conference and the results will be very different, and we will be amongst those who will be coping with what we will experience as a devastating "loss". But the truth is, friends, we all lose when the church is divided. We all lose when people are feeling disregarded and judged. We all lose when any hope of healthy communication deteriorates and faithful followers of Christ resort to slinging mud at each other.

Our prayer is that we would return to prayer on the question of how to move forward and how to continue to be family on the other side of this. Our prayer is that the UMC would work all the more diligently to speak a message of love and welcome to people of the LGBTQ community, despite having spoken out about our belief that God disapproves of embracing such a lifestyle, and despite the fact that such efforts will likely be rejected on almost all accounts. Regardless of our differences, and the incredible difficulties this whole ordeal will have made for us in doing so, we still are called to witness to and love all people. Our hope is that we are all the more dedicated to doing so on the other side of this vote.

In addition, our prayer is that those at RRUMC representing differing views would continue to be able to worship together, follow Christ together, and love others together as church family. But for any who conclude that this is not possible for them given the stance of the denomination or your pastors, know that we will deeply grieve such a decision, but will also respect it and release you with love and affection to a different church home which you feel is better suited to provide for your faith journey.

While this is not the proper time or context for further digging into such matters, know that we remain open to and would welcome opportunities to discuss our beliefs and hearts on this issue, not via email or written exchange, but in person. As your pastors, we still love you and cherish your role within this church family, and will continue to be the best pastors we can be for you until/unless you indicate otherwise.

Peace in Christ, Pastor Paul Bennett (and Rev. Dan Bogre)



**Post-General Conference Information:** East Ohio Conference Bishop Tracy Malone's post-conference message to her churches is available to view at <http://www.eocumc.com/eogc19/index.html> (~5 minutes long). A video recording of the March 10 post-General Conference informational gathering led by Bishop Malone and members of our East Ohio delegation is available for viewing at <https://www.youtube.com/user/EastOhioUMC> (~90 minutes long).

## MARY ANNE & RICHARD CAVICCHI CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SEMINAR SUNDAY APRIL 7, 4:00-7:30PM



Join us for "*Three Faiths, One Spirit, Deepening Shared Values,*" an interfaith dialogue with **Dr. Alan Kolp**, Faith and Life Professor at Baldwin Wallace University; **Rabbi Enid Lader**, Beth Israel - The West Temple, Cleveland; and **Dr. Carl Sharif El-Tobgui**, Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at Brandeis University. Followed by a question and answer session.

Also, at 3:00pm, in the Sanctuary, the Case Western Reserve University Klezmer Music Ensemble will perform, allowing you to experience the sounds of the shtetl (Jewish village), the synagogue, and the soulful and jubilant Jewish wedding.

For more detailed information or to sign up to attend, visit the sign up table after worship on Sunday or go to <https://www.rumc.org/cavicchi-seminar-sign-up>

As part of the interfaith seminar, Rocky River UMC has been invited to attend:

- The Muslim Sabbath on Friday, April 5 at the Islamic Center of Cleveland. The sermon starts promptly at 1:00pm and will end by 2:00pm.
- The Torah Study and Shabbat Service with a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, April 6, at Beth Israel – The West Temple. The Torah Study will begin at 9:15am ending at 9:55am. The Shabbat Service will begin at 10:00am and end by 12:15pm.

If you are interested in attending either/both of these, please send an e-mail to the address below with your interest so we can RSVP to our hosts those days.

Questions? Contact [cavicchichristianed@gmail.com](mailto:cavicchichristianed@gmail.com).

## BELL CHOIR RINGERS WANTED!

Have you ever thought about ringing handbells?

The Fuller Sounds Handbell Choir has immediate openings for you. They rehearse on Tuesday evenings from 7:30-9:00pm and ring approximately once monthly for the 10:00am worship service. Ringing experience is not necessary but the ability to read musical notation is. Please contact Carmen Massaro, director, at [cgmassar@aol.com](mailto:cgmassar@aol.com) if you are interested. Thanks!

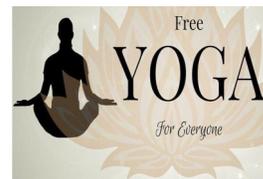


## FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE

by **Gayle Donahue, MSN, RN**  
([gdonahue@rrumc.org](mailto:gdonahue@rrumc.org))

### Health Ministry Survey

The Health Ministry team is interested in offering you new opportunities to meet Christ in the midst of your story as you experience health. We would like to focus our offerings on the topics you would like to participate in. We have developed a short survey to identify your needs and interests. Please let us know your thoughts by completing the survey only once, either on paper or online before April 14. The paper survey will be available at worship. The electronic survey will be available on the church website. If you have any questions, please leave a message for Gayle Donahue, Faith Community Nurse, in the church office or by email at [gdonahue@rrumc.org](mailto:gdonahue@rrumc.org). Results of the survey will be published in the June Circuit Rider and posted on the Health Ministry bulletin board for your review. Thank you for your time and interest in helping the Health Ministry Team to help you meet Christ in the midst of your story.



**Yoga Class. Wednesday, April 3, at 6:30pm**, join health ministry in a yoga class designed for all ages, children and adults, in the café. Claire Kaufman will lead the class with a ten minute Christian

meditation for relaxation and 45 minutes of yoga exercise. Sign up in church office is appreciated.

### Have you wondered about the experience of dementia?

Wednesday, April 10, Lisa Anthony from Arden Courts will present "Walking the Path of Dementia." In addition to learning about the changes that may affect all five senses, Lisa will offer ideas on how to support people with dementia. Join us in the café with your brown bag lunch from 11:00am-1:00pm. The presentation will be from 11:30am-12:30pm. Beverage and desert provided. Please call the church office to register and reserve your seat.



**Planning to travel this summer?** The last Conversations of Health for this academic year could be your key to healthy and joyful

travels. Jeanne Hoopes, a very experienced world traveler, will share with you tips for important choices for your adventure. Visit with Jeanne on Sunday, April 28, in the parlor from 11:10-11:45am.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

**JUNE 16-21 (registration ends May 1)**

Attention middle school and high school students in grades 6-12, the Middle School Mission Trip has been planned and is also open to high school students this year!! Join us as we travel to Akron, Ohio and Project Shine from June 16-21.

Cost to volunteer is \$225 and registration ends May 1. Please hurry, space is limited and will fill up quickly. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Thomas at

[franknlisa7473@gmail.com](mailto:franknlisa7473@gmail.com). For more information on Project Shine, please visit their website at [www.projectshineakron.org](http://www.projectshineakron.org).



## 30 HOUR FAMINE

**APRIL 26-28**

Please join us as we raise money and awareness for world hunger on April 26-28. Students in grades 6-12 will fast for 30 hours and participate in fun activities that help them learn about the realities of world hunger. In the weeks before the famine, they'll raise funds to feed and care for kids in need around the world, and they'll grow closer to God's heart for His children. The students will stay at RRUMC during the famine and will enjoy a potluck brunch on Sunday. We are also looking for adult volunteers to help with this event! If you have any questions or would like to participate, please contact Lisa Thomas at [franknlisa7473@gmail.com](mailto:franknlisa7473@gmail.com).

## MISSION ZONE MONTHLY COLLECTION

**Children's Free Store Donations:**

- March - underwear
- April - toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex



Donations can be placed in the bin outside room 210 or in the Sunday school classrooms.

## MISSION POSSIBLE

**FRIDAY, APRIL 12**

Join us on Friday, April 12, at 6pm for our last Mission Possible of the school year. All ages are welcome! We are partnering with Providence House to provide personal hygiene kits for the adults and children who use their services. If you feel called, please donate toothpaste, tooth brushes, and shampoo for both kids and adults. We are also in need of the following items: deodorant, hand sanitizer, Kleenex, and toilet paper. Please label your donation "Mission Possible" and drop it off in the bin outside of room 210. Questions? Contact Quinn Bennett at [qbennett@rrumc.org](mailto:qbennett@rrumc.org).



## ICE CREAM SEDER MEAL

**FRIDAY, APRIL 19**

Come one and all and join the children of the church on Good Friday, April 19, at 6pm for a Seder Meal ice cream style. We would love to make this event multi-generational. Good Friday is a time to reflect on all that Christ did and does for us in our lives. This will be a chance for our generations to learn from one another in a fun and educational atmosphere. We look forward to seeing you there! Questions? Please contact Quinn Bennett at [qbennett@rrumc.org](mailto:qbennett@rrumc.org).

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AND UPWARD MINI-CAMP SIGN-UPS

**REGISTRATION BEGINS, MONDAY, APRIL 22**

Vacation Bible School and Upward Mini-Camp sign-ups start on-line at our web site (under the "children" tab) on April 22 at 7:00am.



This year's theme for Vacation Bible School is "Life is Wild, God is Good." It will be June 24-28 from 9:00am-12:00pm. Questions? Contact Quinn Bennett at [qbennett@rrumc.org](mailto:qbennett@rrumc.org) for information regarding VBS.

Upward Mini-camps are the week of July 8-12 from 9:00am-12:00pm. Questions? Contact Jason Kraft at [upwardrrumc@yahoo.com](mailto:upwardrrumc@yahoo.com) for information on the Upward Mini-Camp.

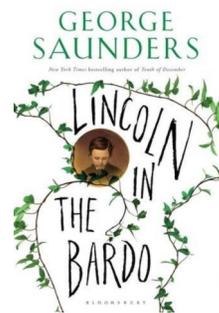
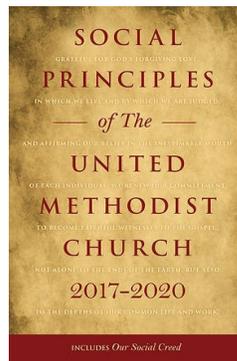


Both programs only take 100 children and fill up fast, so make sure you mark your calendars and register for these two fun summer events.

## RIVERMEN STUDY - THE SOCIAL PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**APRIL 16, 7:00PM**

Join RiverMen on Tuesday, April 16, at 7:00pm, as we continue our monthly study on the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church. The topic for April is "the Social Community." Questions (or need a book)? Contact Steve Harry at 440.668.3514 or [StephenT.Harry@yahoo.com](mailto:StephenT.Harry@yahoo.com).



## BOOK CLUB

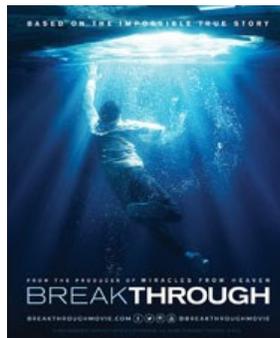
**THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 10:00AM**

Join us on the third Thursday of each month in the church parlor. On **April 18, at 10:00am**, we will discuss "*Lincoln in the Bardo*" by George Saunders. Questions? List of future books? Contact Bruce Biggin at [brbiggin@netscape.net](mailto:brbiggin@netscape.net) or 216.221.5880. Always happy to see new faces, and regular attendance is not required.

## SISTERS WITH AMAZING GRACE

**APRIL 24, EVENING**

Sisters With Amazing Grace is going to the movies! We are targeting Wednesday, April 24, in the evening to see the faith-based movie "*Breakthrough*" about a boy who fell through the ice in Missouri and was trapped for more than 15 minutes. The perfect miracle to celebrate during the Easter season. Check the bulletin for the exact movie time and location as the event gets closer - we are working with the theater for a private showing. E-mail Andrea Kimmel at [andreakimmel2003@yahoo.com](mailto:andreakimmel2003@yahoo.com) with any questions.



## CONNECTIONS IN CARING, GOD'S LOVE, PASS IT ON... APRIL 14 & 17

Join us the third Wednesday of each month from 1:00-3:00pm in the library and the third Sunday of every month after worship services in the café to prepare more blessing bags. These keepsakes are then placed in baskets located in the Narthex, by the church office, and by the entrance by the parking lot. Take one and *pass God's love on* to a neighbor who needs encouragement, to a teen who you would like to recognize, to a co-worker you would like to thank, ... For more information contact Jane Amata at [jamata@seniorconciergeservices.net](mailto:jamata@seniorconciergeservices.net) or MaryElin Halek at [maryelin3487@yahoo.com](mailto:maryelin3487@yahoo.com).

## MILESTONES

### April Anniversaries

(50 or more years and those in 5 year increments)

4/4	Pat & Ralph Keating	66 years
4/12	Betsy & Gary Lanzen	50 years
4/12	Laura & Kyle Foss	5 years
4/17	Danelle & Craig Martin	15 years
4/30	Mary Lou & Dick Sanders	53 years

### April Birthdays

(age 90 and above)

4/1	Robert Arkes	90 years
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### In Sympathy

Family and friends of Allen C. Jackson, who passed away on February 15.

Helen Nahigian and family, in the passing away of her brother-in-law, Dr. Stanley Nahigian, on February 9.

Dee Vosmik and family, in the passing away of her husband, George Vosmik, on March 7.

## IN GRATITUDE

The flowers from the altar are just beautiful. Also they smell so good. Thank all of you for remembering me. Love, Ginny Knudsen

Dear Church, Thank you for the beautiful bouquet of flowers last Sunday. We deeply appreciate your kindness to Dave, Yours in Christ, The Dave Glynn Family

I appreciate all of your kindness to me. Thank you, Mrs. Elaine Kirbach

Thank you for the beautiful flowers left for me on Sunday. I am enjoying them on this snowy day. Thanks again, Carol Harrington



## EASTER HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The Church and Church Office will be closed on Easter Monday, April 22.

## NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS by Karen Freeh, Nursery School Director ([rhumns@gmail.com](mailto:rhumns@gmail.com))

Spring is almost here, we can almost feel it! The Nursery School students had a great time celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday. We read our favorite Dr. Seuss books and created fun "Seussical" hats and masks. Dr. Seuss and his characters and books are great building blocks for the fun and love of learning for our preschoolers.

Please help us spread the word about the Nursery School to all young families in our community. We continue to have openings in our Young 3s and also our afternoon 3s and Pre-K Programs. Call to schedule a tour or to hear more about our programs - 440.331.7676 extension 230 or e-mail [rhumns@gmail.com](mailto:rhumns@gmail.com).



"Today You are You, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is Youer than You."

- Dr. Seuss, **Happy Birthday to You!**



## UMCOR SUNDAY

**MARCH 31**

Do you know about UMCOR? UMCOR stands for United Methodist Committee on

Relief and will be recognized during the Sunday service on March 31. When watching disaster unfold around the globe, many of us feel the call to help but are at a loss as to what we can actually do to help. UMCOR Sunday is the day for congregations around the globe to help. UMCOR offers aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer:

- When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded.
- When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded.
- When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded.

**And when the next crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond.**

Our generosity as a church on UMCOR Sunday covers the operating budget of UMCOR. This allows them to funnel 100% of other donations received throughout the year directly to relief efforts. UMCOR Sunday is where we come together to help. If you want to learn more about UMCOR visit: [www.umcsgiving.org/UMCOR](http://www.umcsgiving.org/UMCOR).



## GREAT NEWS!!!!

I want to introduce all of you to our newest staff member at RRUMC. Church, meet Lisa Sierk, our new Director of Endowment Ministries. We know how important the Theo and Belle Moll Society

is to our church and to our ability to help people meet Jesus Christ in the midst of their story. That endowment has refurbished the steeple, purchased two new boilers and a chiller, put new carpet in the Sanctuary, given us a new parking lot, and so much more, all while not impacting our operating budget at all. Lisa brings so many gifts, so much passion, and most importantly a faith in Jesus Christ that will all come together to keep our mission and vision alive and well and changing lives. I cannot wait for all of you to get to meet her. We will introduce her on a Sunday morning in the very near future. Lisa's e-mail address is [LSierk@rrumc.org](mailto:LSierk@rrumc.org). Please reach out to her if you have been thinking about including RRUMC in your will and estate planning. At the very least, reach out to her and welcome her with our typical RRUMC love and grace. Please pray that Christ uses Lisa, as our Director of Endowment Ministries, to keep helping people meet Jesus Christ in the midst of their story. - Rev. Dan

## REMEMBER THESE EVENTS:

### Brookside Food Center -

**April 10 & 11**, 10:00am-12:00pm and/or 12:00pm-2:00pm. Assemble and distribute bags of food at the Brookside Food Center. Questions? Contact Dave Sagerser at [dsagerser@aol.com](mailto:dsagerser@aol.com) or 216.525.0779. Check the easel in the Gathering Area to sign up.



**3rd Mondays - April 15**, 7:00pm Please join us for this monthly open mic & jam night. Questions? Contact Chris Burns at [cburns@rrumc.org](mailto:cburns@rrumc.org).

**Algart Hymn Sing - April 16**, 2:00pm, at the Algart Home at W89th and Detroit. Questions? Contact Bob Secrist, 216.521.2365.



### United Methodist Women - Lydia Circle - April 25,

1:30pm in room 209. Our speaker will be Sharon Seyfarth Garner, the daughter of Sunny and Len Seyfarth, and a United Methodist Minister.



Sharon attended the United Methodist Conference in St. Louis as a translator. She works at Euclid United Methodist Church. Questions? Contact Sally Smith at [jimsalsmith@ameritech.net](mailto:jimsalsmith@ameritech.net).

## MISSION POSSIBLE RECAP



Anna Lulu packing groceries for Front Step Ministries. Seventy-eight bags were packed by 12 families during this Mission Possible event held on February 8, 2019.

**Rocky River United Methodist Church**  
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Rocky River, OH 44116-1873  
Ph: 440.331.7676  
Fax: 440.331.7637  
E-Mail: office@rrumc.org  
Web: www.rrumc.org

DATED MATERIALS - PLEASE RUSH  
Mailed March 21, 2019

### Ministry

Daniel F. Bogre, Senior Pastor  
Paul A. Bennett, Associate Pastor  
Robert B. Hibbard, Pastor Emeritus  
Christopher M. Burns, Harbor Worship Leader  
Sheri B. Swartz, Director of Church Ministries  
Quinn E. Bennett, Director of Children's Ministries  
Gayle E. Donahue, MSN, RN, Faith Community Nurse  
Craig W. Cowles, Cleveland Campus Free Store Director  
Lisa P. Sierk, Endowment Ministries

### Music Ministry

Matthew Dolan, Director of Music  
Darius J. McBride, Children's/Youth Choir Director  
Carmen G. Massaro, and Lynn Young, Handbell Choirs  
Jeffrey A. Acker, Organist

### Mission Ministry

Rev. Paul Webster, Kanyama, Zambia

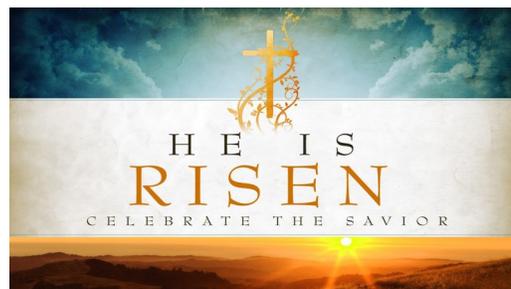
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Deadline for May Circuit Rider:  
April 4

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE STORY!

## SAVE THESE DATES...

- March 31 - Easter Flower Orders Due
- March 31 - UMCOR Sunday
- April 1 & 8 - Wellness Journey Continues
- April 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 - Open Gym Basketball
- April 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 - Men's Prayer Group
- April 3 - Health Ministry Yoga
- April 7 - Cantata Sunday
- April 7 - Cavicchi Christian Education Seminar
- April 10 - Health Ministry Brown Bag Lunch / Dementia
- April 10 & 11 - Brookside Food Center
- April 11 - Shawl Ministry
- April 12 - Mission Possible
- April 14 - Palm Sunday / Brunch
- April 14 - Health Ministry Survey Due
- April 14 & 17 - Connections in Caring
- April 15 - 3rd Mondays Jam
- April 16 - Algart Hymn Sing
- April 16 - RiverMen's UMC Social Principles Study
- April 18 - Book Club



## SAVE THESE DATES...

- April 18 - Maundy Thursday / Tenebrae Service
- April 19 - Good Friday
- April 19 - Ice Cream Seder Meal
- April 21 - Easter Sunday
- April 22 - Church and Church Office Closed
- April 22 - UPWARD Summer Camp registration begins
- April 22 - VBS registration begins
- April 24 - Sisters With Amazing Grace
- April 25 - Lydia Circle
- April 26-28 - 30 Hour Famine
- April 28 - Conversations of Health / Travel Health
- May 1 - Deadline for Middle School Mission Trip registration