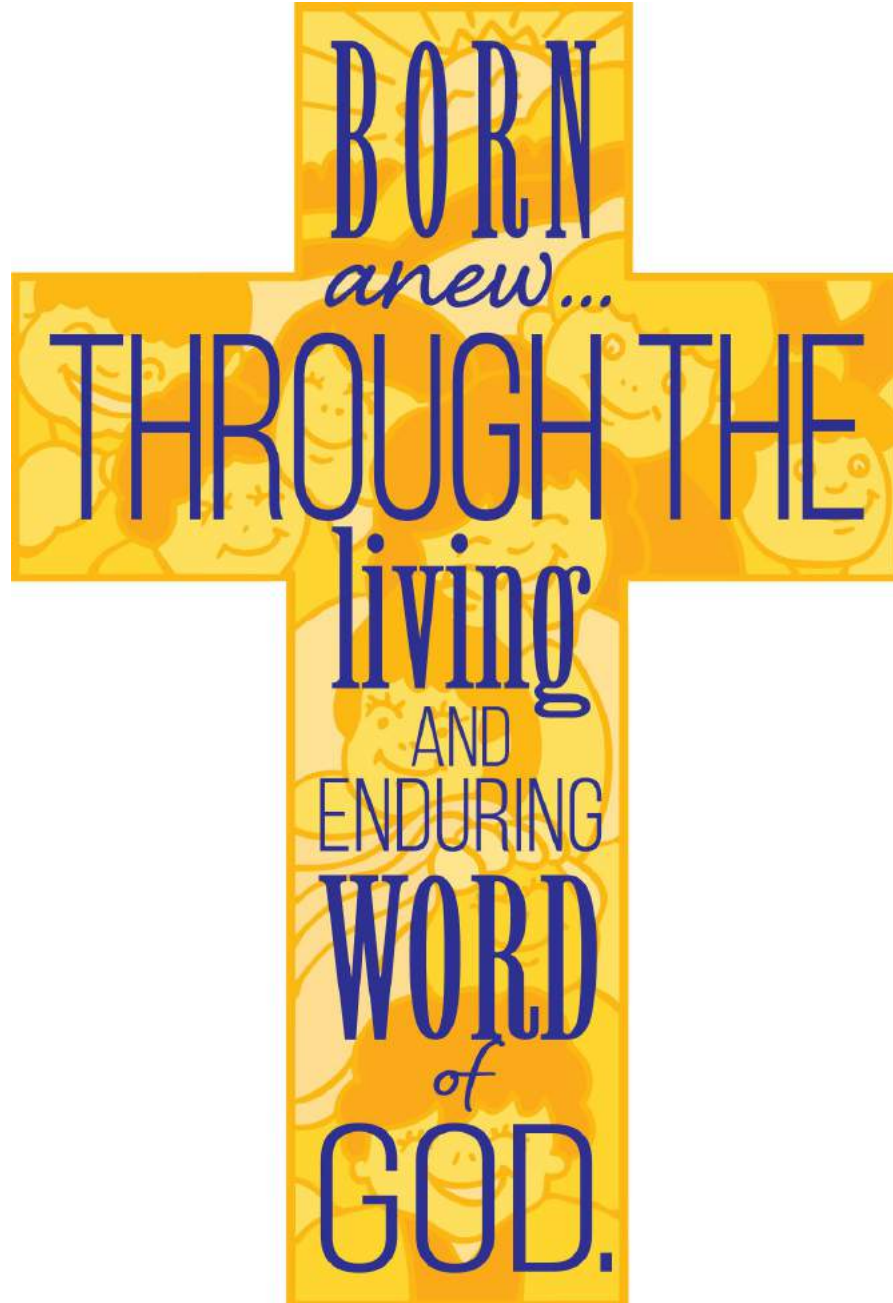
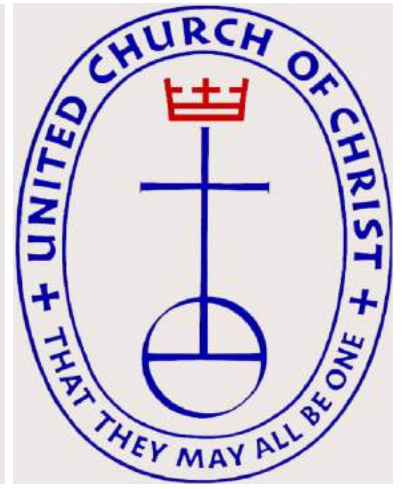


The Hilltop News



APRIL 2017

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Pastor

Rev. Margaret Diz Philip

Council

Kelly Day, pres.

Neil Glaser, treas.

Liz Konneman, sec.

Dale Konneman, grounds

Bill Fyock & Janet Moehsmer,
bldg. fund

Carol Fyock, member-at-Large

Music Director

June Jones

Custodian

Neil Glaser

Office Admin.

Gail Schneider

1 PETER 1:23, NRSV

St. Thomas United Church of Christ | 17842 Wild Horse Creek Rd. | Chesterfield, MO 63017

636-532-3556 | <http://stthomasucc.org/> | ucc.st.thomas@gmail.com or info@stthomasucc.org



“Sweet Jesus” a Myth

Jesus put together a whip out of strips of leather and chased them out of the Temple, stampeding the sheep and cattle, upending the tables of the loan sharks, spilling coins left and right. He told the dove merchants, “Get your things out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a shopping mall!” That’s when his disciples remembered the Scripture, “Zeal for your house consumes me.”

John 2:15-17 The Message

This person sometimes referred to as “sweet” wasn’t at all. He was compassionate. He was loving. He was merciful. He was courageous. He was the ultimate change-maker, but he was not sweet. It is however, convenient to think of him that way because then his life and his words won’t challenge us. But then, if he was so sweet, why did they crucify him? Ann Weems, whose poems I have always loved, puts this beautifully in this poem found in her book, “From Advent’s Alleluia to Easter’s Morning Light”

“Diluting the Gospel”

Our church school teacher tried to dilute the story,
but I had a picture of Jesus with the whip in his hand.

The whip was snapping.....I could hear it....

The moneychangers cowered against the whip’s threat;

Tables were overturned.

Some of the men were up and running.

The cows and sheep were scattering.

Doves were scrambling in their cages.

Coins were rolling and flying in the air.

Roman money turned into Tyrian shekels

required for the annual head tax

that went into temple treasury.

In other words, it was church business.

But Jesus thought otherwise:

God’s home was being desecrated.

He drove the moneychangers out of the temple.

But that was then
and that was that.

Except of course,
they did tear down the temple...

Jesus’ temple
and he did rebuild it three days later.

Crucifixion. Resurrection.

Then the disciples understood
that the church was the Body of Jesus.

*Peace,
Margaret*

Wish List:

Jelly

Canned Chicken

Pasta

Pasta Sauce

Dinner Mixes

Macaroni & Cheese

Cereal

Toilet Paper

Shampoo

Conditioner

*Thanks
Ron!*

We’d like to thank

Ron Peters for

donating a

4-drawer file

cabinet. It was

sorely needed for

filing music!

APRIL MINISTRY— St. Louis Arc

Their mission is to empower people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to lead better lives by providing a lifetime of high-quality services, family support and advocacy. They work hard to provide the kind of individualized services that can really help make a difference to an adult... to a child... to a family. Services provided are designed to maximize choice and to support people, as they build quality lives within the St. Louis community.



Programs Provide a Lifetime of Support



Family Support



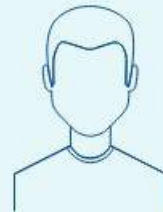
Prenatal and Infancy



Early Childhood



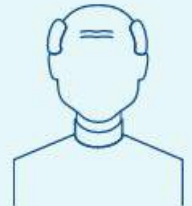
School Age



Transition to Adulthood



Adulthood



Aging

St. Louis Arc serves the community with programs ranging from Premie Therapy to Newly Diagnosed to Early Intervention, Social Skills, Summer Programs and Assisted Living. There is a Resource Library and a Blog. There are many ways to help, including volunteering with activities or fundraisers, monetary donations and car donations. Youth Opportunity Program (YOP) state tax credits are available. More information can be found at <https://www.slarc.org/>.

WHEN WE CAN'T FIND EASTER

Easter is the most joyous Christian holy day ... except when it's not. What do we do when our mood isn't what we think it "should" be? The kids are sugared up, we're juggling family gatherings (and maybe conflicts), our everyday challenges remain, and festive hymns — however rousing — fail to lift our spirits. We wonder, "What's *wrong* with me, that I can't seem to find Easter?"

Been there, done that. And it's okay. *You're* okay.

Jesus' resurrection doesn't scoop us out of our troubles, but the death-defying Christ walks through them beside us, on our own Emmaus road (Luke 24). We aren't alone. When we can't find Easter, Easter somehow finds us — if not on this designated Sunday, perhaps two days from now, or next week or mid-May. Watch for it; keep your heart open. Christ is risen indeed — and you shall be too.



—Heidi Mann



MEDICAL EQUIPMENT DONATION DRIVE
SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2017
9AM THROUGH 2PM
WALGREENS at Clayton & Baxter
636-527-7873

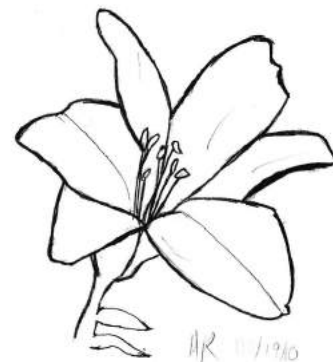
Donations accepted include manual and power wheelchairs, electric hospital beds, shower chairs, cane/crutches/walkers, grab bars, elevated toilet seats, portable commodes, lift chairs, seating cushions, back supports, folding ramps—every type of item except oxygen and medications. These items are donated to anyone in need, at no cost or fee. For more information or for other donation sites, visit <http://stlhelp.org/>.

The St. Thomas Sunday School is selling Easter Lilies for the sanctuary again this year. If you are interested in purchasing one or more, please complete the following. Order forms must be turned in to Terry Gelhot on or before Sunday, April 9. The cost is \$10.00.

Name _____

In honor of _____

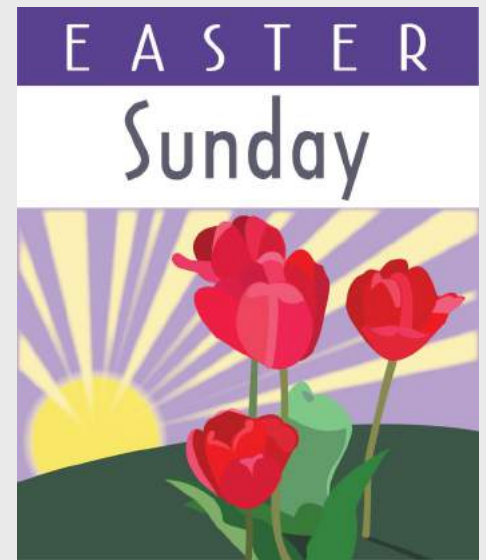
In memory of _____



Total \$ _____ Please make checks payable to St. Thomas UCC Sunday School.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

APRIL 16—6:15am



This year, 2017, Easter Day is April 16, and is one of the most common dates for Easter. The earliest possible date is 22 March as Easter is always on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after March 21. This means that there are 35 possible dates, but Easter has not fallen on the earliest date since 1818, and will not do so again until 2285. It will not fall on April 16 again until 2028.

Easter last fell on the latest possible date, April 25, in 1943 and will next fall on that date in 2038. Someone has worked out that the cycle of Easter dates repeats after exactly 5,700,000 years, with April 19 being the most common date, happening 220,400 times.

Check out the table at https://www.staff.science.uu.nl/~gento113/easter/easter_text2b.htm, a page on the Mathematical Institute of Utrecht University 's (Netherlands) website.

COUNCIL CONTACTS

President	Kelly Day	314-307-7890 kmday44@gmail.com
Treasurer	Neil Glaser	636-391-0279 njglaser@att.net
Secretary	Liz Konneman	636-458-5643 enkonneman@live.com
Buildings & Grounds	Dale Konneman	636-458-5643 dalekonneman@hotmail.com
Building Fund	Bill Fyock	636-536-7351 billfyock@gmail.com
Member-at-Large	Carol Fyock	215-300-4629 carolpartlowfyock@gmail.com



2017 ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING COLLECTION - APRIL 9

Where There is Water

THINK OF ALL THE WAYS THAT YOU HAVE USED WATER SO FAR TODAY.

Did you take a shower this morning? Did you flush your toilet? Or wash your hands? When you made, or ate breakfast, was water used? How about when you cleaned up after the meal?

Now imagine walking each morning to gather water for your family, knowing the water you were collecting was unclean and could make the members of your family sick.

Next, let's imagine that each year for several months you don't have access to water because it was the dry season and your water source had dried up. How would you get by? What parts of your daily routine would you have to abandon? How would you provide water for your family?



Unfortunately, these are realities for many people around the world.

In a rural community in Cambodia, the only water available was from a shallow, hand-dug well. Each day during the rainy season, a grandmother named Som Bee would walk to the well to collect the water for her family. But the water from the well was unclean, sometimes leading to health problems, including diarrhea.

Thanks to your support, the community was able to address the unclean water problem by installing a ring well. The members of the community received training on how to filter the water, and to keep it clean for daily use.

Because of your support, the members of the community now have access to clean water year-round, and they are sick less often.

Because of your support, Som uses the clean water for her garden to help her grow tomatoes, pumpkins, spinach, gourds, cucumbers and mushrooms. Of course, her family eats the vegetables, so they now have a healthier diet!

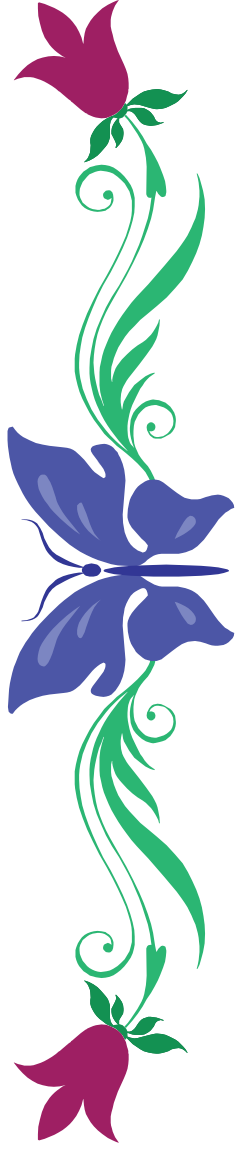
Som's garden is so bountiful, she is also able to sell some of her vegetables in her local community, earning money to support her family and buy other items that her family needs.

Your support has reached 16 villages in central Cambodia with clean, safe water. You were here with Som and her neighbors as they gathered to build their well. Now, you are with Som each time she leaves her home and only walks a matter of yards to the well. You are here when she waters her garden and prepares nutritious meals. You are here as her granddaughter grows healthy and strong.

You are here. And their future is brighter because of your support.

Generous giving to One Great Hour of Sharing will aid those most vulnerable by funding health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries and both international and domestic disaster response.

April 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 *Luke Winchester	4 *Kelly Day	5	6	7	8
9 Palm Sunday *Ken Gelhot	10	11	12	13 *Taylor Clark *Brian Mudd 7:30pm Maundy Thursday service	14	15
16 6:15am Sunrise Service	17	18 *Bonnie Schur- mann	19	20 +Ken & Barbara Hutchinson noon - Spring Luncheon no Book Club	21	22
23 *Betty Lindauer	24	25	26	27	28	29 *Linda Bopp *Leroy Brune
30 *Jeanne Clark						

St. Thomas UCC
17842 Wild Horse Creek Road
Chesterfield, MO 63005
www.stthomasucc.org

Phone: 636-532-3556

E-mail: ucc.st.thomas@gmail.com

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



Worship: 8:30 (summer) & 10:00 am (all year)

11:00 am Fellowship Time

We are ADA Accessible.

Childcare is provided during Worship.

Office Hours: 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Please call first if you need to stop by!

Office Phone: 636.532.3556

About Us

Mission Statement

We are St. Thomas UCC, a caring faith community welcoming all to share with us. You will find us supportive, nurturing, and encouraging. Our worship is traditional yet contemporary, applying scripture and Christ's teachings to everyday life. Accepting all who come as family, we are St. Thomas UCC.

Value Statement

We are a close-knit welcoming community. We cherish and honor the traditions of our 100 years past. With respect and compassion we work together. We strive to grow in our faith by serving the community. We embrace and celebrate our youth and the promise of each new generation of God's children. We seek God's blessings and wisdom in the joys and challenges of our daily lives. We grow in our understanding of Christ's teachings while being respectful of our differences.

Vision Statement

We seek to :

- Invite others to join in our faith journey
- Explore worship opportunities
- Enhance our fellowship and service outreach
- Expand our use of technology
- Increase our community involvement