



## **West Branch Friends Meeting**

**April 2021**

**“All Things New”**

**Spring has sprung. Easter is here. New buds and new green shoots appear everywhere. It is the time of year that reminds us that rebirth and renewal are always possible. Oddly, I find that this might be the best time of year for resolutions instead of the calendar new year.**

**What new things need to take root and bloom in me? How can I be part of the necessary grounding and growing and blossoming in the world? What new ideas and “new starts” can I nurture or help others to feed and grow?**

**New life is springing up all around us. Let’s be part of that new life and find a renewed vigor for love and justice and action in faith. What say you?**

**Martin Luther King Jr. says this: “We must discover the power of love, the redemptive power of love. And when we discover that, we will be able to make of this old world a new world... Love is the only way.”**

**What love can you plant, nurture, and grow in this needy world?**

In Riotous Joy,  
Pastor Chris





## April Anniversaries, Birthdays, and Upcoming Events

### Birthdays

April 1: Corinda Wolfram

April 2: Bill Bowers

April 6: Chris Humrichouse

April 9: Hilda Bowers

Mark Alvarez

April 17: Nora Mae Scott

April 18: Jennifer Peck

April 20: Ben Wedeking

### Anniversaries

April 6: Bill & Hilda Bowers

April 11: Greg & Chris Humrichouse

## Upcoming Events

April 2: Good Friday

April 4: Happy Easter!

April 5-April 12: Pastor Chris on vacation

April 6: M&C meeting 7:00 pm

April 11: Pre-worship Discussion Group 9:30 am

April 13: Humans for Racial Justice 5:30 pm

Endowment meeting 7:00 pm

April 16-23 Faith Climate Action Week

April 18: Monthly Meeting (MMFWWATB) 11:45 am

April 27: Humans for Racial Justice 5:30 pm

Stewardship meeting 7:00 pm

Each Monday in April: Prayer Group at 9:30 am

## Circles by Jennifer Garrison Brownell

**The heavens are the Lord's heavens, but the earth he has given to human beings.**

— Psalm 115:16

Let's make a big circle.

Let's make it big enough for those we love and those we hate.

Let's make it so big that those we love prosper, and those we cannot love prosper, too.

Let's make a big circle where every single created thing knows that we  
are one family, because in this big circle, all living beings share  
the same first name, and that name is Beloved.

Let's make it big enough for the stars that shine at night and the blade  
of grass that pokes its head up through concrete.

Let's make it big enough for creatures of the sky — the bald eagles and  
the crows that chase them, and the hummers at your feeder.

Let's make that circle big enough for the creatures of the sea — the  
whale and the salmon and the monsters down below where it  
is too dark and cold for life and yet somehow life thrives.

Let's make that circle big enough for grizzly bears and anacondas and termites.

Let's make that circle big enough for seal pups and kittens with big  
eyes and baby birds in nests, reaching for the worm which is also part of the circle.

Let's make that circle big enough for arctic ice floes and tropical banyan  
trees and purple mountain majesties and the sand you just  
found in your sneakers from last summer's trip to the beach.

Let's make a big circle.

Faith Climate Action Week: April 16-23

Earth Day: April 22

What will you do?

# BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS

## Our Senior Friends

Larry Reiner

Lois Semotan

Marvin and Fran Fritz

Nancy Stacks

Ed and Maria Denmead

Mildred Torkelson



## Joys & Blessings

- New friends joining us in worship
- The joy of gifts shared in worship: our pianists, special music, and children's messages
- Friends helping each other in times of need
- For all those who have received their COVID vaccine
- Celebrating friendships
- Celebrating a good trip for Lois Long and her sister suffering from Alzheimer's
- Lyn Kane celebrating the anniversary of Justin's adoption
- Celebrating the joy of beginning to participate in live music
- Celebrating all of our birthdays and anniversaries
- Celebrating Meredith Glasson-Darling participating in global online reading and being published in "Pinch"
- Teresa & Allan's granddaughter Clare receiving a good medical residency match allowing she and her husband to live in the same place
- Allan's grandson participating in Jeopardy
- Celebrating the WB Fire Dept. and First Responders — giving out COVID vaccines.

## Requests for Prayer

- The Millett Family upon cousin Tracy's death
- Anita continuing to battle chronic pain as she recovers from nerve ablation
- The Scott Family battling COVID
- Diane who continues with cancer treatment
- Racial injustice particularly praying for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders at this time
- Mental health and the lack of funding for needed services
- The smooth distribution of COVID vaccine
- Margaret Fraser's 9-year-old granddaughter Sophia battling post-COVID condition
- Lyn's friend Steph diagnosed with breast cancer
- Teresa's mom Fran experiencing a great deal of hip pain

## A Treat for Eastertide:

### Hot Cross Buns

4 cups flour

1 package active dry yeast

1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

3/4 cup milk

1/2 cup vegetable oil

1/3 cup sugar

1/2 teaspoon salt

3 eggs

1 cup raisins

### Icing:

1 egg white, beaten

1 cup powdered sugar

1 tablespoon milk

1 teaspoon vanilla

Combine 1 1/2 cups flour, yeast, and cinnamon in a large bowl. IN a saucepan with a candy thermometer, combine milk, oil, sugar, and salt and heat it to 120 degrees. Once heated, pour mixture into flour mixture and then add the eggs. Beat on low to blend, scraping sides of bowl, then beat on high for 3 more minutes.

Using a spatula, fold in raisins. Add in the rest of the flour. When it gets too thick to work with a spoon, pour out onto a lightly floured surface and knead with your hands. Shape into a ball and place in a lightly greased bowl. Cover with a dish-towel and let rise for 90 minutes. Dough should about double in size.

Punch the dough down and place back onto a floured surface, cover, and let sit for another 10 minutes. Divide the dough into 12 to 15 portions, and roll each portion into a ball. Place the dough balls two inches apart on a greased cookie sheet. Cover with a towel and let rise again for 45 minutes. Using a sharp knife, make a crisscross cut into the top of each bun. Brush each bun with egg white. Bake at 375 degrees for 12 to 14 minutes.

While the buns are baking, mix up the icing by adding all ingredients in a bowl and beating with a mixer. Add more milk if you need to think it to drizzling consistency.

Allow buns to cool for about 10 minutes before drizzling the icing on top of them.