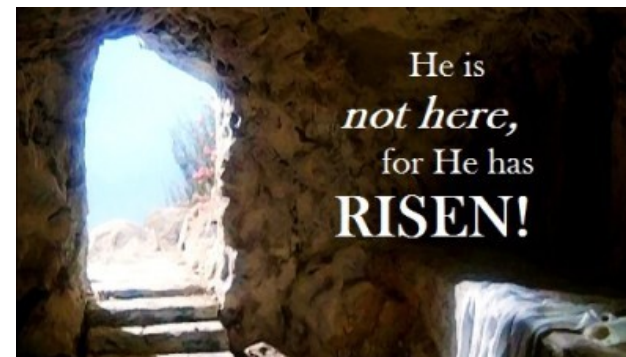


APRIL 2021



“Christendom has had a series of revolutions and in each one of them Christianity has died. Christianity has died many times and risen again; for it had a God who knew the way out of the grave.”

– G.K. Chesterton, *The Everlasting Man*

Dear Family of Faith,

As we near our second year of worshiping the Risen Christ on Easter Sunday, worshiping together while apart, I am feeling many emotions. As I’m sure many of you are, as well. As I thought about this article I came back to the quote from the 20th century author and theologian G.K. Chesterton. While the word revolution may seem like too strong a word for what Christianity has been through in this year of the world pandemic, political division, and the necessary unmasking of racial injustice, we have been through a year of change, upon change, upon change. We are weary, we are uncertain, we wonder what the future will hold. We miss our families, our church family, we grieve the ones we have lost, and the ones who continue to suffer the effects of Covid19, and oh how we miss the “good old days” of a routine we knew well and understood,

even and especially in all its predictability.

As we approach another Easter of worshipping together, while apart, I have an invitation for you. As Easter approaches, may we let its message of our Risen Savior Jesus speak loudest of all. Our hope, our strength, our comfort and our peace this year has come from the power and presence of Jesus, who lived and died and rose for us, leaving the cross and the tomb empty. Death and destruction are not the final word in the presence and Love of the Risen Christ!

The cross shows us that we are Loved by the One who has walked the way of death and despair for us. Jesus knows the sorrows of this year: the separations and distancing, the loss of people we loved to Covid19, the sorrow of a nation divided by politics and race, the inequities around the globe and in our neighborhoods that has been shown over and over again. And yet...and yet we have not gone through this alone, we do not walk these days alone. We are loved, comforted and guided by our Savior whose empty tomb shows us that Love is stronger than death, than division, than injustice, than despair, because we are loved by our God "who knows the way out of the grave."

We are Easter people. We are people who have stood at the foot of the cross, who have waited through the silence of Holy Saturday, and then rejoiced once again on Easter morning. We will rejoice together again on April 4th: Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed! Even in a world pandemic we are Good News people. So this Easter, and beyond, may we live the Good News we have been given: the cross and the tomb are empty, death has been conquered, eternal life is ours, we follow our God "who knows the way out of the grave". Christ is Risen, now and for all time! Alleluia! Amen!

Believing in the Power of the Resurrection,

Pastor Becky

Where is Pastor Becky April 5-18th?

I will be on a week of Study Leave after Easter working on Sermon plans and the Year with the Bible Classes. I will also be on a week of vacation, staying at an AirBNB cabin up on Lake Michigan, in Wisconsin. I need to sit beside water and rejuvenate! If you have pastoral concerns during these weeks please contact Laura Brown, Karol Ellison or Aneita Buss and they will get you in touch with the pastor on call. The Sunday Gatherings will continue on these weeks!

equipment, and can be done anywhere. If you haven't been active for a while, start with a walk down your driveway. Every few days, increase your walk to several times a day. After a week or so, start going a little farther, and as you feel more steady and flexible, continue to increase your time and distance. Before long, you'll find yourself walking briskly along. Do you dislike walking, but love dancing, or gardening, or cycling? Do what you love, and get out there and move!

Current recommendations for physical activity encourage at *least* 150 minutes (2 hours and 30 minutes) of moderate-intensity aerobic activity or 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes) of vigorous-intensity activity (or an equivalent combination) each week. At the moderate level of activity, 150 minutes breaks down to 25 minutes a day in 6 days (take one day off for a Sabbath rest), and you can break those 25 minutes into 2-3 sessions per day. A walk after every meal sounds lovely, and may (in my dreams) get you out of doing the dishes! If you have any health conditions, please check with your doctor for guidance, before starting any exercise activity.

Final words: Getting fit shouldn't mean getting sick. Please practice social distancing, hand washing, and masking when you are out walking, or if you are exercising with others. You are not required to wear a mask while exercising alone, but if you are near others, wear your mask. If you find wearing the mask hinders your breathing while being active, there are mask accessories that lift the mask away from your mouth and nose without compromising the mask effectiveness. (For more information, contact me.) Wishing you all Easter Blessings!

Laura Brown, RN Parish Nurse



PALM SUNDAY AND HOLY WEEK

MARCH 28TH-- PALM SUNDAY



While you watch Palm Sunday worship at home you may find yourself remembering past Palm Sundays with our children and Sunday School teachers marching around the Sanctuary with their palms! This year you are invited to find something green to symbolize the palms (green paper, a green shirt, a green mug), and during the singing of "All Glory, Laud and Honor" you are invited to wave your green "palm branch" and march around your computer or TV! Let us be nothing short of Creative and exuberant!

For the Sunday Gathering By Zoom at 11:00 a.m. on March 28th you are invited to bring stories of your favorite Easter memories, for yourself, your family, the church. Are there favorite foods you serve for Easter Dinner? Do you have stories of Easter Egg hunts that were fun or memorable. Plan to come and share stories from your lives!



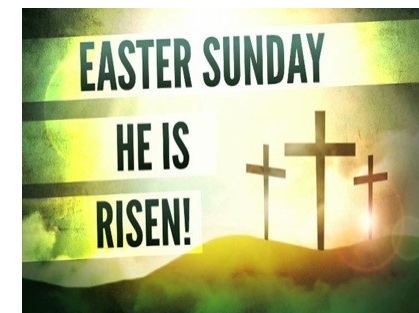
**MAUNDY
THURSDAY**

THURS. APRIL 1ST--7:00 P.M.--Maundy Thursday by ZOOM- A Communion Service.

We will gather by Zoom for this service, the invitation will be sent out on March 29th with the Bulletin. Please have a candle that you can safely burn throughout the service. We will share the Lord's Supper as we remember the Last Supper. We will experience a Tenebrae Service in a new way. I look forward to worshipping and remembering with you, Pastor Becky

SUNDAY APRIL 4th ---- EASTER SUNDAY MORNING

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!
Plan to worship with us on YouTube, then at 11:00 a.m. come to the Sunday Gathering to celebrate Easter together! Then let us spread the good news....we serve a Risen Savior!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Becky Sherwood	Pastor
Karol Ellison	Church Secretary
Laura Brown, R.N.	Parish Nurse
David Blakey	Choir Director
Gail Glockhoff-Long	Bell Choir Director
Linda Miller	Organist
Sarah Lack	Nursery Attendant
	Indoor Custodian
	Outdoor Custodian

Please Keep Our Nursing Home and Homebound Members in Your Prayers

Crosstown: Ramona Zude; Friendship Manor: Betty Knollman; Friendship Manor—Silver Cross: Bill Sneed; The Fountains: Dorothy Horton; Allure of Genesis: Kay Etzel; Park Vista: Betty Hogue; Hammond Henry Long Term Care Living Center: Betty Hogue; Personal Residences: Ted Frels, Lloyd Strohm, Bev Warren

Please remember in your prayers those who serve in the armed forces. May God bring comfort to them and their loved ones, until all are reunited in peace. Lance Corporal William (Billy) Betsworth (Bethel's grandson), Junior Kassehin, ROTC, National Guard, Michael Kassehin, Army, Ft. Campbell, KY, Major Kyle Curry, 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade, Warrant Officer Dustin Hergert (Dixie Volk's nephew), Marines.

Please keep our college students in your prayers, that they may know God's love and guidance:

Greg Layer--West Point; Katey Maxwell—Augustana College; Drew Noakes—Black Hawk College; Devin Reynolds—St. Ambrose University; Ellie McNeil—University of Northern Iowa. If you have a college/technical school student to add to this list please call the church office.

Password for the current newsletter on our webpage

firstpresbyem.com: Username: fpc Password: messenger

PARISH NURSE NEWS

I don't know about you, but I'm tired of talking about COVID-19. Spring is here, and Easter, and the time of renewal on the earth with flowers, budding trees, and bird eggs in new nests. Everything seems to be lightening up, especially now with the time change.

As the winter passes into spring, the weather invites us to get off the couch and move. These early days of spring are glorious for taking walks, a true feast for the senses. After the long winter, it feels so good to stretch and move. Exercise doesn't have to be DVD's, classes or any other type of drudgery. Exercise is about being active. Spring cleaning is active. Preparing the garden for planting is active. Hiding Easter eggs for the children is active. Parking a little farther from the store is active.

Our bodies are built to be active. Activity is a huge part of a healthy lifestyle. According to the American Heart Association, "Even with risk factors for heart disease such as high blood pressure, diabetes or high cholesterol, people who enjoy regular physical activity have lower death rates than people who have no risk factors but who aren't physically active. What's more, people with heart disease who are physically fit live longer and have fewer heart attacks than heart patients who aren't physically fit."

Physically, regular physical activity helps: lower blood pressure, improve blood sugar, control body weight, decrease the bad cholesterol (LDL) in your blood, improves circulation, and improves sleep. Regular physical activity also helps the mind by reducing stress, improving memory, and makes you feel good about yourself.

What is the best physical activity? Any movement of your body is good if it makes your muscles move more than usual.

There are different types of physical activity. Aerobic activities involve steady, rhythmic movement of the legs and arms and are especially good for the heart. Aerobic activity includes brisk walking, cycling, dancing, and other activities that get your heart rate up and your body moving rhythmically. Stretching and strengthening activities help keep your muscles in good condition. Stretching helps you achieve and maintain flexibility and balance, which decreases the risk for falls. Strength training boosts your metabolism, and aids in weight control.

The American Heart Association advises "Adults with chronic conditions or disabilities should get regular physical activity according to their abilities and should avoid inactivity." In other words, if you are only able to walk the length of your driveway twice a day, you are already laps ahead of the one who just sits. Getting started is easy, just like going to the moon: one small step at a time. Walking is the easiest way to get activity into your life. It requires no special

A Note from the Finance Commission:

February Income	= \$ 8,219
February Expenses	= \$10,614
January—February Income	= \$53,708
January—February Expenses	= \$25,461

April Birthdays

- 8 Beverly Clark
Margo Murdock
- 12 Beatrice Gbadegbe
- 13 Shirlee Barta Nelson
- 17 Barb Newburg
- 18 Lance Newburg
- 19 Kenna Curry
- 23 Bella Apetcho
- 24 Linda Kreuder
Nathan Zude
- 25 Ronnie Brown
LeJeane Rahn
- 26 Kyle Curry
Jack McNeil
- 27 Clint Newburg

April Anniversaries

- 8 Mike & Pat Tyler
- 10 Clay & Susan Curry
- 22 John & Cathy Runburg
- 25 Ben & Adele Barrigah
- 29 Ronald & Amy Stone



THE CHURCH HAS A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS
fpcem777@gmail.com

As we have changed the sound system, it has necessitated changing our internet provider and email address. Please begin using this new email Monday March 8th.



SPRING WORK DAY!!!

The Property Commission is having a Spring Work Day on **Saturday, April 10 at 9:00 a.m.** and would appreciate anyone who can join us to help. East Moline holds a Spring Cleanup and the church is scheduled for the week of April 12. We are planning to clear out some unneeded equipment, primarily from the garage. We also have some other projects such as a general cleaning of the garage, putting away sidewalk salt for the year, clearing debris off the grass, filling in some low spots around the outside of the church, and planting grass seed along the sidewalks. If you are coming, please let Pat Wendt or Don Buss know.



**EXCITING CHANGES TO THE SANCTUARY
A NEW VIDEO, RECORDING
AND SOUND SYSTEM**

Installation begins March 22nd!

Your Session voted in November 2020 that the time has come to upgrade our sound, video and recording systems in the Sanctuary. Some of our equipment is on its last legs, our speaker system has left pockets of silence for years, and 2020 has taught us that we want to have our worship services on YouTube for years to come! The Session voted to have this work done by Conference Technologies, Inc., the company that Charles Reynolds works for.

As you are reading your newsletter the installation is scheduled to be taking place; it is a process that will take several days, skillfully guided by our very own Charles Reynolds! It is our hope that by either Palm Sunday or Easter the service you watch will be Livestreaming from our Sanctuary to YouTube. You can rest assured that you will be able to watch our services any time on YouTube for years to come!

If you have questions, feel free to talk to members of the Session or Pastor Becky and we will seek to answer your questions. If you have really technical questions then we highly recommend you ask Charles!

We are looking forward to these changes which will enhance our worshiping life together, Pastor Becky for the Session

Memorials are Helping Fund the New Video and Sound System!

Your Finance and Memorials Commission wants to let you know that this project is being partially funded by the memorial monies given to honor the lives of many of our members and friends who now live in Heaven. The Finance and Memorial Commission invites you to join them in remembering these good lives, who have worshiped God with us in the Sanctuary through the years. Through gifts given in their honor they continue to be a part of our life together: Shirley Belanger, Bethel Betsworth, Bev Butterworth, Don Brewer, Sherry Clayton, Gene Ehlers, Nina Ferreri, June Frels, Patt Fulton, Art Harker, Christa Hart, Richard Kirchhoff, Mel Knollman, Tommy Lambrick, Florence McCaulley, Beth Minssen, Linda Mordhorst, Bev Murdock, Brian Nelson, Peg Noakes, Barb Ohlsen, Dorothy Rahn, and Dottie Strohm.



Prayer Shawls are Meeting Again...By ZOOM

April 10th , 9:00 A.M

ZOOM invites will be sent out by Thursday April 8th. Laura Brown will be hosting the Zoom gathering this month. All knitters, crocheters and crafters welcome. Plus those who want to join us for good conversation!

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO NEEDS A PRAYER SHAWL?

WE HAVE PLENTY READY TO COMFORT YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!!

If you would like to give someone a prayer shawl...Call the church office, tell us the size of prayer shawl you need, color preferences , and we can put two prayer shawls in a bag out on the front door for you at a time you set. Take the shawl you want, leave the one you don't! It will keep contact to a minimum and still get those reminders of God's love and ours out to those who need a prayer shawl. Help us share God's love with those who need a hug!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

MAY & BEYOND!

As Worship Leader you will lead the Prayer of Confession, the Prayer of Illumination, and one of the scripture lessons; and some of the Communion Liturgy on Communion Sundays. We tape the worship service on Thursdays at 5:30, with the exception of the 4th Thursday when we tape at 5:00. Please arrive 10 minutes before the start time. The bulletin will be sent to you the day before. We all wear our masks throughout the service, except when speaking.



If you would like to join this ministry of being a Worship Leader contact the church office and let Karol or me know which Sunday you'd like to help lead worship for the people of God! Thanks in advance, Pastor Becky



Please help us care for each other...

MASKS ARE REQUIRED

IN THE CHURCH BUILDING

AND PLEASE HELP US PRACTICE PHYSICAL DISTANCING IN THE BUILDING, Thank You!

Thank you

Dear Pastor and Congregation of First Presbyterian Church:

The board, staff and volunteers at Churches United of the Quad City Area gratefully acknowledge and accept your most generous gift to our Christ-centered mission and CareLINK ministry.

This contribution of \$300 to the East Moline Cluster of Churches

helps us to serve families who are in need of assistance with either rent or utilities.

Thank you for your thoughtful and caring commitment to help those among us who are most in need.

Blessings, Rev. Dr. Melvin Grimes, Executive Director
Betsy Vanausdeln, Associate Director



Billy Sneed
Friendship Manor
1209—21st Ave., B306
Rock Island, IL 61201
(309) 732-3064

COVERING THE ADDITIONAL COST OF THE NEW VIDEO & SOUND SYSTEM

The Finance/Memorials Commission is working and planning on how we will cover the cost of the new \$30,000 video, recording and sound system. We have already paid the 60% down payment required with the order and have discussed how we will cover the remaining balance due at installation.

If funding the new video/sound system is something you feel you would like to participate in, we are more than happy to have your help. Please designate that your donation is for “The New Video/Sound System” and we will use it to pay the balance due.

Thank you – The Finance/Memorials Commission

Housing Assistance

Our Synod, The Synod of Lincoln Trails, offers grants of up to \$2,500 to assist people 55 and up with housing needs. Funds from the Cora J. Pope Trust can be given for home improvements, moving costs, or health care which would enable someone to remain in their home. Funding is prioritized for Presbyterians, but grants are also given to non-Presbyterians. If you or somebody you know would benefit from this funding, please call [815-681-8936](tel:815-681-8936) or go to CoraJPope.org for more information.



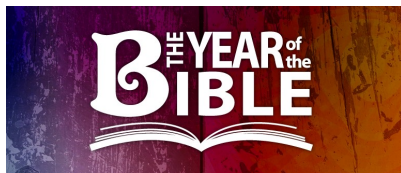
THE SUNDAY GATHERING
Come and See your Family of Faith!
11:00-11:45 A.M. BY ZOOM
Prayer and Fellowship Weekly

We will gather by Zoom at 11:00 a.m. Sunday Morning for:

- Passing the Peace of Christ
- Sharing Joys and Concerns and Praying Together
- Communion on 1st Sundays of the Month in real time
- Fellowship Time

Each Friday you will receive a Zoom Invite to the Sunday Gathering in your email inbox. Follow the link and join us at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. You don't need a computer to join; follow the directions to listen in and talk with us by phone! New to Zoom and want to practice before the Sunday Gathering? During the week, call Laura Brown 309-314-5605 or Suzanne Bailey 563-505-8424 and they will set up a practice Zoom Session with you!

We are really enjoying being together face to face. We've had between 10 and 30 people each week, from 6 year olds to 96 year olds! We've met some cats and dogs with their people too! We heard some good jokes and some almost good jokes :). We are looking forward to being face to face with more of you virtually each week for Prayer, Communion, Fellowship and being together!



THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES IN 2021
JOIN YOUR CHURCH FAMILY IN READING THE
BIBLE!
THERE IS STILL TIME!
Get your Book THIS MONTH!

GOD HAS GIVEN US A WONDERFUL GIFT—
 COME EXPLORE THESE LIVING WORDS IN 2021!

In this season of spending more time at home with the world pandemic, let's make time to spend the year with God's word! We will be using "The Year of the Bible" program; each day you will read 3-4 chapters from the Old and New Testament...by the end of 2021 you will have read the whole Bible!

The book we will use to guide us "*The Year of with the Bible*" costs \$5.00, and we have them in the church office and we can mail you your copy, or you can stop by the church to pick it up. We want everyone to be involved in this program, so please talk to Pastor Becky if you would like scholarship **help**

Watertown Food Pantry News

During the month of February we served 43 families consisting of 94 adults and 50 children. We at the Watertown Food Pantry are truly amazed, blessed, and thankful for the continuing financial and food item support of both FPC and the surrounding community.



As of March, we have started our 5th year at the food pantry. We have had many wonderful volunteers through the last four years and though we've been running with only two the last year, several will likely be returning soon. We would love to find someone who is interested in joining us on the coordinator level. If you know of someone who might be interested, please let us know.

Food pantry use is slowly increasing with the better weather. We continue to be in good financial shape but we can always use canned vegetables, cereal, ramen noodles, boxed meal mixes, canned fruit, canned tuna/ham/chicken, (frozen) hamburger, mustard, ketchup, jelly, and empty egg cartons which allow us to buy the five-dozen boxes of eggs and then re-package them into the cartons. All food items must be within their "fresh date" per Churches United regulations.

Watertown Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays from 12:30 - 4:30 pm. We are also on the list of pantries who will do emergency distributions if needed. (If **anyone** at church needs food assistance please **text** or **call** Pat at 309-752-3016 or call at home at 309-523-3973 - regardless of where you live or what day it is. **We can help!!**)

As always, please keep those who are just trying to make it through the day in your prayers.

Bless you all -

Mike & Pat Tyler



For ALL Women of the Church!
Tues. April 6th,
1:00 P.M.!!!!!!



Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

"LOVE CARVED IN STONE"--A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments

Chapter 6--Words of Love: Hold Your Marriage Sacred

If you would like to join other women in exploring the 10 Commandments and our lives, contact me and I'll order you a book! If you are new to Zoom, it is free. I am more than happy to get you started and practice with you anytime that is convenient for you.

Interested? The cost for a book is \$10. I can order and deliver them to you before our first lesson. Call my home phone 309-203-1135 or e-mail e.layer@yahoo.com. Please join us and stay safe! Ella Layer

P.S. A reminder that I will not be with you at the April gathering, so you can collaboratively lead the gathering together. See you in May! Becky

From the Presbytery of Great Rivers!

God is doing great things in Presbyterian churches all around us. Sign-up for the Presbytery of Great Rivers e-Newsletter at www.greatriverspby.org/newsletter

P.S. from Pastor Becky, this is a great way to pray for our 91 churches; each week there will be 2 new churches to pray for. Plus lots of news about the ministries we support with our annual per capita gifts.

with the cost of the study book.

Once a month we will gather together--initially by Zoom--on the 3rd Tuesday of each month during the day or in the evening, for a

review of what we've read and an introduction to what is coming next. Our NEXT Gathering will be Tuesday, APRIL 20TH from 10:00-11:30 a.m., OR 6:30-8:00 p.m. Each month you can come to either class, they are the same. **Questions?** Give me a call. Then let's get ready to spend the year with God's Word for us! In anticipation!, Pastor Becky



P.S. You can really start now and slowly catch up, or even start now and read the readings for each day and finish up next April! If you started in January and are already a little behind...that is normal, don't panic. Just add another chapter to each day's reading and you'll be caught up soon! Need a book? Call the church office and Karol will mail it to you, or you can pick it up.



OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH FPCEM AND THE QUAD CITY FOOD FOREST

The Adventure is about to Start...The team is in place! As you read last month, Quad City Food Forest, a local not-for-profit group approached us last fall about planting fruit trees, berries, and other long-term plantings in our lot that has the labyrinth in it. The Session voted on October 22nd to join with them in providing free fruits and vegetables for our neighborhood and the Quad Cities.

The team is in place and will have met with the Director, Ali Domino Keenan, for the first time by the time you are reading this. They are: Suzanne Bailey, Denise Maxwell, Pat Tyler, Susan Curry, Linda Barber, Gail Glockhoff-Long, and Betsy McKnight Latko. If you would like to learn more about the Quad City Food Forest they have a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/QC.FoodForest/> where you can see pictures and read about other plantings and harvests.

**WEEKDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS IN THE SANCTUARY
A CHANGE TO THE OPEN SANCTUARY PLAN**

Over the past year the use of the Sanctuary on Wednesday afternoons and evenings has been non-existent to sparse. So, if you would like to spend time in the Sanctuary with God you have two options! Come during the week, Monday to Friday between 10 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Karol will be here and you are welcome to come into the Sanctuary. She will even turn the heat on for you if it is too cold! OR you are welcome to contact Pastor Becky if you would like to come on a Wednesday afternoon after 3:00 p.m. and she will make sure the building is open for you. You are welcome to make an appointment for any time until 7:00 p.m.

You may be wondering how to use this time in the sanctuary? Come with prayers of thanksgiving for the ways you've seen God in your life and the lives of those you love. Bring the Prayer Requests List from the Sunday Bulletin and pray for all those people we are walking beside. Come in and let yourself know that God meets you there and just sit with God in the silence. Listen for the words God has for you. Bring your Bible and do some reading. Pick a few Psalms, or one of the Gospels. Bring last Sunday's bulletin and reread the passages for the day and think about what sermon you would like to hear about those words from God. Bring some music and your earbuds/headphones and listen to favorite hymns in the sanctuary. There are many ways to come and worship and pray, these are only a few!

O come let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker!
(Psalm 95:6)
Blessings as we continue on this journey of faith,
The Reopening Team and Pastor Becky



YOUTH GROUP AND YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Normal Schedule:

Youth Group on 2nd Sundays 3-4:30 p.m.

Sunday School with Darlos-- 3rd Sundays 3-4:00 pm.
(required for Confirmation)

You will receive your ZOOM INVITES on Fridays for that week's adventures!

SUNDAY APRIL 11TH Youth Group will not be meeting this month. We will gather again in May!

SUNDAY APRIL 18TH --YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL WITH DARLOS--BY ZOOM, 3:00-4:00 PM!

Get ready to learn with the amazing Darlos Stroud as you explore Women in the Bible!

DID YOU KNOW . . .

The Breakfast Optimist Club donates \$500 to the parents of children who have cancer to help defray any costs.

Please see Pat Wendt, Mike Tyler or Nick Maro for details.

ALSO . . .

The Quad Cities Diabetes Association will send any child between the ages of 8-18 who have Diabetes to any Diabetes camp of their choice in Iowa or Illinois.

Please call Pat Wendt and he will give you all the details.