

# St Luke UMC

501 E 19th Street N  
Newton, IA 50208  
641-792-5736

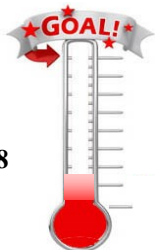
March 1, 2024



# THE BI-WEEKLY Flame CATCH THE FIRE!

## 2024 Apportionments

**\$16,882**



\$188

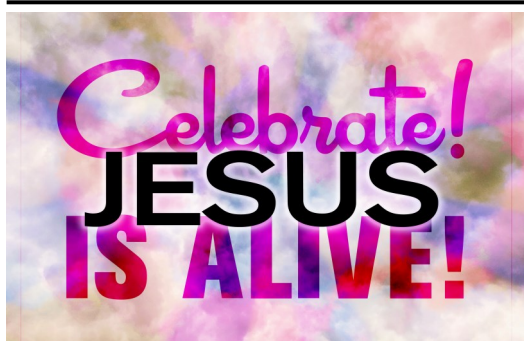
## Financial Update



Thank you to everyone for your continued support of St Luke ministries. These offerings were received in the month of February:

Total of \$29,749 which included:

- \$ 130 - Building Fund
- \$ 105 - Apportionments
- \$ 57 - Heifer International
- \$ 61 - Disability Awareness
- \$ 40 - UMCOR Ukraine



## Where to Find Us

**Pastor:** Rev. Chad Jennings  
chad.jennings@stlukenewton.com  
Office: 641-792-5736 Cell: 319-929-1867

**Adm. Assistant:** Jennifer Etter  
Church Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

[worship@stlukenewton.com](mailto:worship@stlukenewton.com)

Phone: 641-792-5736

**Newsletter Editor:** Corinne Kleppe  
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Phone: 641-831-2639

**Article Submission** by the 13th of month.

**Website:** [www.stlukenewton.com](http://www.stlukenewton.com)

**Website Manager:** Stephen Pageler

**YouTube:** St Luke United Methodist Church

**Facebook:** [St Luke Newton](https://www.facebook.com/StLukeNewton)

**Prayer:** [prayer@stlukenewton.com](mailto:prayer@stlukenewton.com)



Join us Thursday, March 28 at 6:30 pm for a Maundy Thursday Worship Service. Hope to see you there!



**Sunday, March 31 at 9:30 AM**  
**Live Streaming Available**



## My Story

“And I will raise you up on Eagles wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of my hands” lyrics from On Eagles wings.

High in the tree tops one Sunday morning I saw a pair of bald eagles, surveying the fields below. Over the next few weeks, I have seen these same eagles, various times. Sometimes in the trees and other times soaring high above. Each time, I find myself smiling as I watch these beautiful birds and I thank God for their increased numbers.



A fully grown bald eagle can have a wingspan of 6 ½ to 8 feet. That is taller than most humans. From the ground, when you see a bald eagle soaring above, their wingspan doesn't look that wide, but up close, like the one I saw from a boat in Alaska, they are impressive birds. These birds are built to soar.

*<sup>30</sup> Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; <sup>31</sup> but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:30-31*

The Bible encourages us to look to nature to follow the lead of animals and birds. To allow our faith to soar and to let God renew our strength. Sometimes we have to look to the beauty of nature to find our inner strength and to build up our faith. Keep an eye out for God's reminders all around us. Will you allow God to raise you up on Eagles wings?

Corinne Kleppe



Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

- Isaiah 40:30-31 -

## Online Worship

If your schedule keeps you from attending worship, join our live-streamed worship services or watch past services by visiting our St Luke United Methodist Church YouTube channel. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the church office and we will be happy to help you.



## UMCOR Sunday Offering Sunday, March 10th

For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special offering, laying the foundation for the United Methodist Committee on Relief's ministry of relief and hope. UMCOR's work of alleviating human suffering around the world includes disaster relief and supplies, disaster risk reduction, health, and humanitarian development.

**UMCOR  
SUNDAY**

Gifts to the UMCOR Sunday offering cover the costs of doing business. This helps UMCOR keep the promise that 100 percent of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs. UMCOR has no source of revenue for administration except from UMCOR Sunday.

Because of UMCOR Sunday, when you hear about a disaster or humanitarian crisis and you give to UMCOR, you can be assured that one hundred percent of the money you designate goes toward people in need.

## Easter Lilies Welcome

If you would like to share an Easter lily to decorate the altar for Easter in honor or memory of someone, please write your name and theirs in an email or note and send it to the church office or Pastor Chad. If you order the lilies to be delivered, have the florist call ahead before delivering to be sure someone is available at the church to receive them.



## 2024 Easter Offering

The NOW committee has chosen two very worthy causes for our 2024 Easter Offering. Our offering for Lent/Easter this year will be divided evenly between the two.

Recipient # 1: Flannel Fund for diapers. Did you hear we have surpassed our original goal of 300 cloth diapers? When we delivered 771 diapers to Midwest Mission in February, we have now donated over 10,000 cloth diapers. Karen will be telling us more about this ministry in a separate article. For our diaper project to continue, we need to be able to purchase flannel when it is needed. This year ½ of the Easter offering will be set aside for the purchase of flannel. All of these tiny diapers that have been and will continue to be made, are a blessing to mothers around the world.

Recipient #2: UMCOR National Disaster Response. When disasters strike within the United States and its territories, this fund allows UMCOR to respond quickly. Following a hurricane, a tornado, a wildfire and possibly even a blizzard, UMCOR responds, with food, supplies, assistance both financial and in-kind to support local relief work. This year ½ of our Easter offering will go toward the UMCOR National Disaster response fund.

Corinne Kleppe, NOW missions



United  
Women  
in Faith

## United Women in Faith

March 20 - 1:15 pm  
At St Luke UMC

*“And whatever you do; whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” (NIV)*  
Colossians 3:17

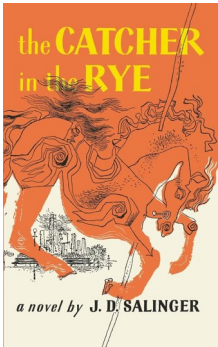
Program: Sharing/Giving/ Missions  
By: Jan Lewis  
Hostess: Joyce Stonehocker

March 1 - World Day of Prayer  
March 23 - 155th Anniversary of UWF  
March 31 - Easter

## Happy Birthday UWF!

### The Banned Book Class

The Adult 2 Sunday School class has decided to read “banned” books. We are currently reading *The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger. The book is about the life of a seventeen-year-old boy called Holden Caulfield. His story begins at Pencey Prep, a school he’s been kicked out of for flunking almost all of his subjects. After having a fight with his roommate, Stradler, he leaves Pencey Prep a few days early and decides not to go straight home. Along his way he meets former teachers, old friends, his younger sister and many others.



We invite you to join us. We meet at 10:30 am (following worship) in Room 5, the 3rd room on the left, in the education wing.

### Grocery Sacks Needed

We are in need of plastic grocery sack donations. They will be used to make plarn (plastic yarn) to weave sleeping mats for the homeless. If you have any extra plastic grocery sacks you would like to donate please bring them to Joyce Stonehocker or put them in the donation box at the church.



### Days For Girls

The next Days For Girls sewing day will be Thursday, March 28 from 9 am - 2 pm at the 1st Presbyterian Church. Questions? Contact Rose Evans. If you would like more information about Days for Girls you can visit their website at [www.daysforgirls.org](http://www.daysforgirls.org).



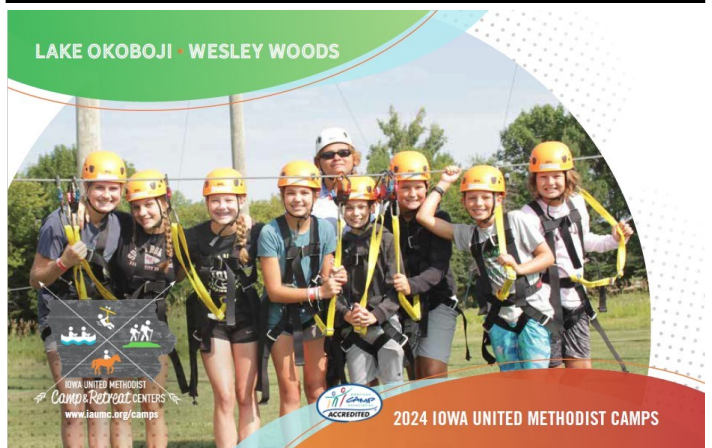
### Calling VBS Volunteers!

We want you! To help us spread the word of God to local youth during Vacation Bible School which is June 24-28. We need volunteers in the areas of: classroom teachers, crafts, snacks, recreation, music, and drama. If you are able to help, please contact Ann Leonard at [annericleonard@gmail.com](mailto:annericleonard@gmail.com) or call/text her at 641-521-2463.

### Newsletter



If you know someone that would like to receive the monthly Newsletter via email, please send their name and email address to the church office to be placed on the email list, at: [Worship@StLukeNewton.com](mailto:Worship@StLukeNewton.com).



### Camp Season Is Coming Soon

It’s time to start planning and signing up for camp at one of the beautiful Iowa United Methodist Camps. Catalogs are available at the church or you can go online to check out what’s available at [www.iaumc.org/camps](http://www.iaumc.org/camps). Get ready for your adventure of a lifetime.

### The Realm of the Impossible

The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something and enter God’s realm, where everything is possible. He specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for his almighty power. Nothing is too small for his love.

—Corrie ten Boom

## Midwest Mission Thank You

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at St Luke UMC - Newton, IA,

Your generosity makes a difference! Thank you for your donation of the diapers to the ministry of Midwest Mission.

When you make a gift to Midwest Mission, you are affecting change. We have seen it with our own eyes and we have heard the stories, even in person.

While staff were in Jamaica with one of our partners last year, they saw the buckets you've helped pack, visited children in group homes who received the cleaning supplies needed for basic sanitation. They heard the gravity of what receiving a Personal Dignity Kit means through choked up voices pouring out overwhelming gratitude. A bar of soap, shampoo, a washcloth, toothbrush and toothpaste and a small hand towel are often shared with their families. Without your gifts, these gifts wouldn't happen.

We've seen first-hand the delighted eyes of children who received Student Kits and the confidence it gives them to work hard. Sometimes the Kits even provide needed distractions in the midst of a crisis. We talked with mamas who have received and often share their Layette Kits. Little ones are better protected from the elements and stay healthier. We have witnessed the joy that comes when a Rice Meal is provided and a belly is filled to help sustain a life. We have watched someone receive a sewing machine or even a bike that gave them the means to earn a living.

Showing God's love in a practical way to those who need help in their time of crisis is paramount to the ministry of Midwest Mission. Your gifts create those tangible differences! Plus, it's heavenly math ... multiplication that we can't always explain, but know that it is God's way of increasing his blessings through you. Knowing you are part of our family blesses us and those we care for. Your donation allows us to help change lives. Your heartfelt prayers and financial support truly matter.

Thank you for making a kingdom difference,

Chantel Corrie  
Executive Director

PS. Please know that we at Midwest Mission pray over the recipients of the gifts your donation helps garner, the volunteers who assemble and repurpose those supplies, and we pray for you with gratitude through Christ's love. We appreciate your continued prayers and support as we send humanitarian aid in the form of disaster relief, health, education, and micro business supplies in the name of Jesus.



## 2023 Mission Report

Okay it was early February, but I started seeing flowers...everywhere! It all started with the hubcaps on the vehicles outside the dorm at Midwest Mission. Soon, others were helping me to create flower using our hands, feet, and some of the items we were working with during the day. They all became flowers to me. Mission is definitely "in bloom" in 2024. But, before we get too far into this new year, let's look back at missions in 2023. Here are just a few highlights from our 2023 giving:



- Total 2023 Giving = \$14,969.91 without apportionments/ \$30,248.91 with apportionments
- # of Missions given toward in 2023 = 37
- Largest \$ recipients in 2023 = Heifer Project Intl and Midwest Mission
- Christmas offering 2023= \$696
- We also had several in-kind offerings and multiple volunteers throughout 2023.

Once I have completed the report for the annual conference, I will post the entire report on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Corinne Kleppe, NOW Missions



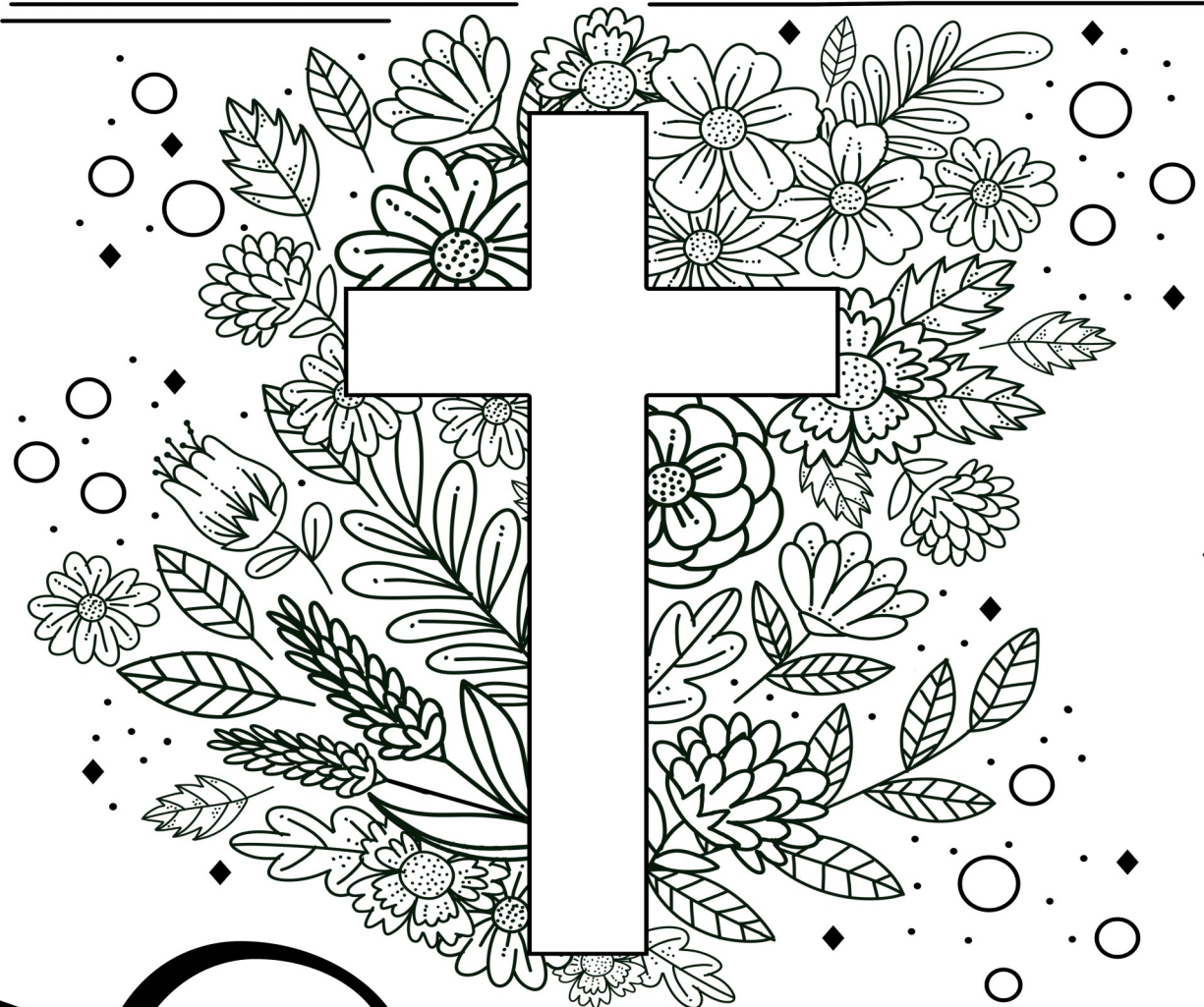
**SET YOUR CLOCKS  
FORWARD ONE HOUR**  
Daylight Saving Time Begins  
**Sunday, March 10**

## Sunday School Offering March through June 2024

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays during the months of March, April, May and June, the Sunday School offering will be designated as support for Missionary Florence Mefor. Florence serves as a mid-wife and nurse with the Mutambara Mission Hospital in Zimbabwe. Her work focuses on expecting and postpartum mothers and children under 5 years old. Florence has delivered hundreds of babies and prays that God will continue to give her the strength to continue to do God's work with the mothers. (excerpt from The Mission Family – Iowa Missionaries newsletter). If you would like to support Florence and you can also give by placing your gift in the offering plate on Sunday morning and noting Florence Mefor on the memo line of your check.

As always, the first Sunday of the month, Sunday school offering go toward administrative costs and for Sunday School materials.

# COLORING PAGE



HAVE A  
**Blessed**  
EASTER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">MARCH</h1>					1	2
<b>3</b> <b>9:30 am Worship w/ Communion</b>  <b>Sunday School to Follow</b>	<b>4</b> 6:30 pm Mon. Night Study Group via Zoom	<b>5</b> 6:30 pm P.E.O. Chapter ME FH Rsrvd	<b>6</b> 6:30 pm Praise Team  7:15 pm Choir Practice	<b>7</b> 9 am - 3 pm Quilts of Valor FH Rsrvd	8	9
<b>10</b> <b>9:30 am Worship</b> <b>Sunday School to Follow</b> <b>UMCOR Sunday Offering</b>  	<b>11</b> 6:30 pm Mon. Night Study Group via Zoom	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm Praise Team  <b>7 pm</b> <b>Page Turners</b> <b>FH Rsrvd</b>  7:15 pm Choir Practice  	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <b>9:30 am Worship</b> <b>Sunday School to Follow</b>  	<b>18</b> 2:15-3:45 pm TR—Rm 5  6:30 pm Mon. Night Study Group via Zoom		<b>20</b> <b>1:15 pm UWF Meeting</b> <b>Sam's Place</b>  6:30 pm Praise Team  7:15 pm Choir Practice	<b>21</b> 11 am - 5 pm Quilt Guild FH Rsrvd  <b>5:30 - 6:30 pm</b> <b>P.E.O. Reciprocity</b>  7 pm Quilt Guild	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>  <b>9:30 am Worship</b> <b>Sunday School to Follow</b>	<b>25</b> 2:15-3:45 pm TR—Rm 5  6:30 pm Mon. Night Study Group via Zoom	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:30 pm Praise Team  7:15 pm Choir Practice	<b>28</b> 9 am - 2pm Days for Girls @ First Presbyterian  6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>  <b>9:30 am Worship</b> <b>Sunday School to Follow</b>	6:30-9 pm FH Rsrvd					

**Read Calendar closely for events not appearing elsewhere in Newsletter. Thank you.**

<b>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS</b>	
<b>March 3</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
Ushers	Amy Murphy
Greeters	Dennis & Pam Smith
Reader	Amy Murphy
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Barb Swihart, Amy Murphy
Coffee Time	Amy Murphy
<b>March 10</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
Ushers	Amy Ryan
Greeters	Pam Andrews
Reader	Jeff Carter
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	
Camera	Megan DeJong
Care Core	Jenni Patty, Lisa Marston
Coffee Time	Peg Kimberley
<b>March 17</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
Ushers	Peg Kimberley
Greeters	Nancy Ryan
Reader	Emily McConkey
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Karen Clark, Joyce Stonehocker
Coffee Time	Pat Patty
<b>March 24</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
Ushers (2)	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg
Greeters (2)	Peg Kimberley
Reader	Barb Kaldenberg
Acolyte	Payton & Brenna Figland
Keyboard	Bev Thomas
Projection	Caleb Leonard
Camera	Ben Leonard
Care Core	Barb Kaldenberg
Coffee Time	Mike & Barb Kaldenberg

### March Worship Assistants

For 2024 we are going to continue with passing sign up sheets around for 3 months at a time. This worked very well last year in getting more volunteer positions filled. We have had a wonderful response of volunteers for our first 3 months of 2024 and would like to thank everyone who has so graciously signed up. Most positions are filled now through



March but there are still some spots open. If you would like to volunteer or see what positions are available you can email the church office at: worship@stlukenewton.com, use the sign-up sheets on the servant's counter or you can add your name to our online sign-up sheet. Here is the link to sign up online:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LV73f57IkMBVLyocfiFvS7GsvYM03YPBSzoXUHXQL7s/edit?usp=sharing>

We appreciate all those who have so willingly volunteered to help on Sunday mornings. Thank you St Luke Family!

<b>March 31</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
Ushers	Corinne Kleppe
Greeters	Carolyn Cook
Reader	
Acolyte	
Keyboard	Jan Lewis
Projection	Rachel Pageler
Camera	Ethan Pageler
Care Core	Jenni Patty
Coffee Time	Lori Leix



### Worship Assistants

Please find a sub or trade if you cannot do it as scheduled. Then contact the church office so we can print correct names.



## A Special Blessing for those with March Birthdays

- March 3 Roy Patty  
Rhondi Machin
- March 4 Abby Jennings  
Shirley Guillaume
- March 6 Ethan Pageler  
Rosemary Hartschen
- March 7 Brad Patty
- March 8 Aniston Chambers
- March 9 Kathy Trotter
- March 13 Megan DeJong
- March 14 Rusty Deppe
- March 16 Jenni Patty  
Camryn Lemons
- March 18 Daryl Pals
- March 20 Shelley Vasquez  
Nathan McConkey  
Jeff Eisbrener
- March 24 Peg Ehler  
Chad Jennings
- March 25 John Onstot  
Ethan McConkey
- March 27 Hannah Marston
- March 29 Alan Andrews

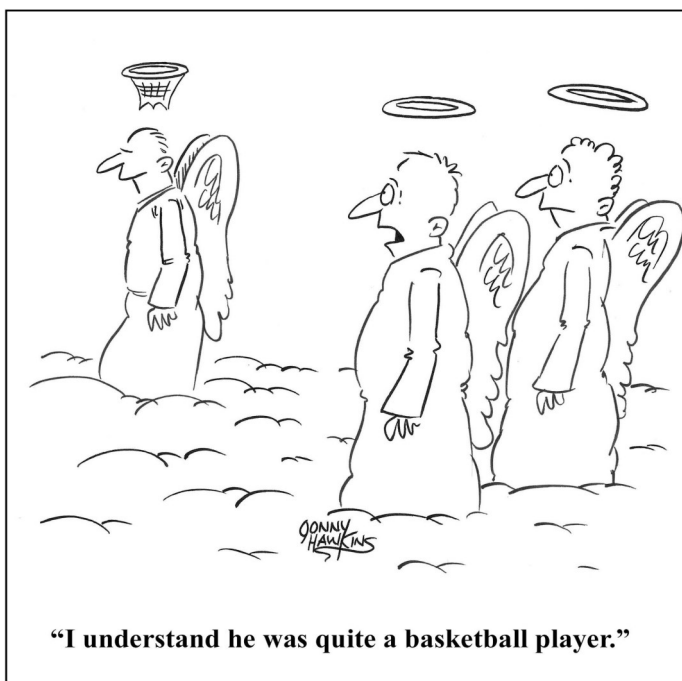


If your birthday is missing or incorrect, please contact the office.



### March Salvation Army Food Pantry Request

Macaroni and Cheese,  
Tuna and Hamburger Helper



# Holy Week

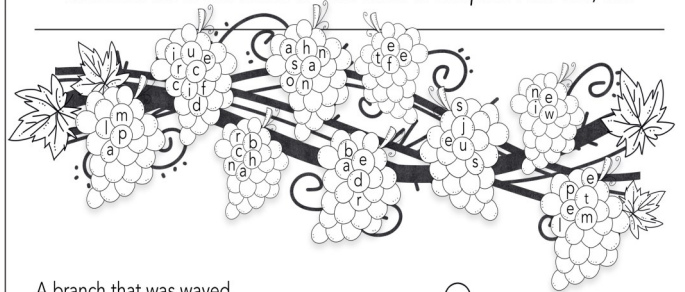
<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>
<b>MARCH 24</b>	<b>MARCH 28</b>	<b>MARCH 29</b>	<b>MARCH 31</b>
WORSHIP 9:30 AM	SERVICE 6:30 PM	NO SERVICE	WORSHIP 9:30 AM



## A LASTING LESSON

Before dying on the cross, Jesus teaches the disciples an important lesson.

Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.



- A branch that was waved \_\_\_\_\_○
- How Jesus was put to death \_\_\_\_\_○\_\_\_\_\_
- A stick attached to the vine \_\_\_\_\_○\_\_\_\_\_
- People shouted this to Jesus \_\_\_\_\_○\_\_\_\_\_
- Jesus washed these \_\_\_\_\_○\_\_\_\_\_
- This was broken and eaten \_\_\_\_\_○\_\_\_\_\_
- The Messiah \_\_\_\_\_○\_\_\_\_\_
- A drink from grapes \_\_\_\_\_○\_\_\_\_\_
- Jesus drove the money changers from here \_\_\_\_\_○\_\_\_\_\_

"I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5, NIV

Answer: palm, crucified, branch, wine, temple, much fruit