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First UMC / Email Blast

Holy Week Continues:

Worship in our special services this week & invite friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors to join you!

- **MAUNDY THURSDAY: 7 PM**, Service featuring scripture, Praise Team, hand-washing, communion & anointing (**Church**)
- **GOOD FRIDAY: Noon**, Stations of the Cross (@ Grace Episcopal) / **7 PM**, Service featuring scripture & song (Church) / **8 PM**, Prayer Vigil begins
- **SATURDAY: Prayer Vigil continues / 6 PM**, Worship (Outreach Center)
- **SUNDAY: 6 AM**, Prayer Vigil ends / **6:30 AM**, Sunrise Service followed by Breakfast (Church); **8 & 10:30 AM** services (Church); **6 PM** Ignite Service (Outreach Center)
- **PLEASE NOTE that the Church & Outreach Center will be CLOSED on Good Friday (until worship) and on Monday, April 22.**

This Weekend in Easter Worship:

Sat @ 6 PM (OC) and Sun @ 8 AM & 10:30 AM (Church) – This weekend, we continue the “**My Story. God’s Glory**” sermon series with “**My God & Your God**”/ *Story of Mary & Risen Lord* from John 20:1-18. We will be singing *songs of the season* including “This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long!”

Ignite on Sun @ 6 PM (OC) / - This weekend join @ Ignite with “Believing” *With All Your Heart*” through John 20:1-18 and Psalm 149:1-5. **After this Alternative Service, please join in Fellowship and a light meal.**

SQUARE is in the Church / The Finance Committee is happy to announce that church members will be able to make *payments* for pledges, Scrip gift cards and other services using their **debit and/or credit cards** through Square, Inc. This will be able **BEFORE** and **AFTER** all worship services (please speak with those selling Scrip) and **DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS** at the Church. *We will welcome people to pay the fees for using this*

service, yet we are grateful to offer this for those who primarily use their debit and/or credit cards for purchases. [This will begin the weekend of Sat. April 20 & Sun. April 21].

Walk to Jerusalem Concludes! / WE MADE IT TO

JERUSALEM! Though the Walk officially ends at Easter, this Friday is the last day we will track our mileage and submit it. We encourage our congregation to continue walking after the program ends! There are so many health benefits that result from walking and being active. Here's this week's final health tip:

- More than 6 in 10 people walk for transportation or for fun, relaxation, or exercise, or for activities such as walking the dog. Physical activity helps control weight, but it has other benefits. Physical activity such as walking can help improve health even without weight loss. People who are physically active live longer and have a lower risk for heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, depression, and some cancers.

Don't forget our Facebook group "**First UMC Heart & Sole!**" Please stop by the page and leave a comment about WTJ, hopefully it was a good experience and you will continue to keep up with healthy habits.

Disaster Response / THANK YOU to all of our faithful volunteers who have served at the Church in Action Distribution Center and/or in many other ways! To keep you informed, the CIA (Church in Action) Center will need **First UMC volunteers on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 7 PM.** Our Great Plains Disaster Coordinator Hollie Tapley is arriving on **Monday evening, April 22,** and there will be volunteers from Kansas and other places serving in our area next week. Please stay tuned for emails from Sandy Martensen our Program Coordinator noting the ways that you can help.

Mental Health First Aid Training / The Care Team along with the Healthy Congregations Team of First UMC will be hosting **Mental Health First Aid Training** on **Saturday, May 4** from **8 AM to 4 PM** at our Outreach Center (Youth Underground). This training allows participants to better identify mental health issues and to be educated about helpful resources. ***Sign-up ASAP to participate. CEU's are available upon request.***

Regional Gathering with Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr / There will be a **Regional Gathering** of United Methodists on **Saturday, May 4 at 2 PM** in the Community Room of our Outreach Center (3602 16th Street). Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr. will be sharing information following the Special General Conference in February. This was rescheduled from Sat. March 23. Please plan to attend. *Cookies & refreshments are requested. If you can assist, please sign-up in the Church Office.*

Methodist Blood Drive: / **First UMC's May 6th Honor Blood Drive for Max Becker.** Max is a preparatory member of Columbus First UMC, he's five years old and enjoys preschool, playing T-ball, and helping his dad work on his race car. Max is also a blood recipient – he needs transfusions throughout the year for a blood disorder called hereditary spherocytosis, a condition that affects red blood cells and can cause anemia. Help make sure blood is on the shelves this spring so patients like Max can continue doing the things they love. Make your appointment to give blood at this upcoming drive in his honor.

“My Favorite Things” Success! / First UMC hosted the Second Annual “**My Favorite Things**” **Tablescapes** on Sunday, March 31, raising **\$5,039** for 2019 Mission Shares. Thank you to **ALL** who decorated tables & made desserts, donated items for the Silent Auction, invited guests and/or just simply participated in the event! Special Thanks to Cindy Rohde & Mary Plettner for their assistance in putting the event together (and getting items donated); to Amy Plettner for sharing her poetry; and to Emily Cunningham for sharing her musical talents!

Follow up from Spring Fling / First UMC held its first annual *Spring Fling* on April 14, we had approximately 125 people come to our Outreach Center for games, face painting, an inflatable bouncer house and many craft projects! It was a great event and First UMC staff would like to **THANK** everyone that supported the Spring Fling! It was a success and couldn't have been done without so much help!

CALENDAR: [mychurchevents.com]

<https://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/74025457/month/2019-04-01> [mychurchevents.com]

Mark Your Calendars:

April 18 – Maundy Thursday Service @ 7 PM (Church)

April 19 – **Church & Outreach Center CLOSED** / Good Friday Service @ Noon (Grace Episcopal Church) / Good Friday Service @ 7 PM (Church) / *Prayer Vigil begins @ 8 PM*

April 21 – Easter Sunday / Sunrise Service, 8 AM, 10:30 AM and Ignite Service

April 22 – **Church & Outreach Center CLOSED**

Community Connection! – *Please check-out the Community Bulletin Board located outside of the Church Office! Click on the hyperlinks to go to learn more about the events listed below.*

[Food Thoughts](#) – April 22, 29

[Educational Series on Dementia](#) – April 25

[Lay Servant Training](#) – April 27

[YFFC Annual Banquet](#) – April 28

[Healthy Lifestyle Class](#) – April 30