

April 2025

MENDOTA ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
COME, SHARE, GROW

NEWS FROM ZION



Volume 4 Issue 8

The Emmaus Road...

17 He said to them, "What are you talking about as you walk along?" They stopped, their faces downcast.

18 The one named Cleopas replied, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?"

19 He said to them, "What things?"

They said to him, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet. 20 But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. 21 We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago.

Luke 24:17-21 CEB

One of the experience of the resurrected Christ that we haven't talked of is that of the Emmaus Road. Cleopas and another disciple are reflecting

on the events of the crucifixion as they walked from Jerusalem to Emmaus. A journey of only about 7 miles or 20 miles depending on which biblical manuscript used. Emmaus in Hebrew means, "warm wells" so perhaps hot springs were the reasons these two disciples were traveling there. Cleopas is named but the other isn't. Some biblical scholars believe that Cleopas is also the one the Gospel of John references as Clopas, a husband of one of the Mary's that were at the cross and witnessed Jesus' last breath.

As the others that encountered the resurrected Christ, they were in shock, traumatized and even disappointment. But upon encountering the resurrected Christ, everything changes. The resurrection enabled all of them to see that hope was not lost, but hope in Christ was for everyone.

The last weekend of March, I was helping lead a 3-day retreat called, Walk to Emmaus. Just as those 2 disciples encountered the risen Christ, those that a



WALK TO
EMMAUS
THE UPPER ROOM®

tend this retreat have a chance to come face to face with their relationship of Christ in their journey.

On this retreat, attendees hear 14 talks that cover the basis of the Christian faith. Several "surprises" are interspersed throughout the weekend. And there is food, snacks and fun. All with fellow travelers on this Emmaus journey. I was one of the spiritual directors on the walk, and each one that I attend fills my cup to overflowing as the weekend progresses. Men's and Women's walks are held twice a year, in the Spring and again in the Fall.

One of the intentions of Walks to Emmaus is to build up Christian leaders for the local church.

For more information about these Walk's see Pastor Jeff, I'd loved to tell you about it.



Dementia
Friendly
America.

For Faith Communities

Recently, Mendota was accepted to be designated a Dementia Friendly Community. A group of a wide range of sectors of community have been meeting for about a year, collaborating with each other and assembling needed information for the application of this designation. Sectors of our community include: City of Mendota, Police and Fire Departments, Humes-Graves Library, Local Banks, St. Pauls OSF Medical Center, Mendota Area Senior Services, YMCA, Mendota High School, Stonecroft, Allure, and local churches. Pastor Jeff and Pastor Elise Rothfusz from St. Johns Lutheran are heading up the faith community sector.

Dementia friendly faith communities can provide an important spiritual respite. As welcoming, compassionate environments, they can offer families coping with dementia opportunities for meaningful engagement and spiritual connection.

Through dementia friendly practices, entire faith communities can embrace and uplift people with dementia and their care partners.

Zion will be hosting the communities first public training session on Wednesday, April 23 at 7 pm.

By becoming a Dementia Friend, you will begin to recognize the signs of dementia, find resources for those afflicted and their caregivers, learn communication skills, help raise

awareness through education and reduce the stigma associated with dementia, and help create dementia friendly environments in our community.

In partnership with the Alzheimer Association, Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging, Alternatives for the Older Adult, INC., and other Regional, State and National programs, Dementia Friendly Mendota will be able to advocate for resources for individuals in our area with or caring for those with dementia.

Become a Dementia Friend

Dementia Friends gives people an understanding of dementia and the small things you can do that make a difference. Please join us.

Date: April 23, 2025

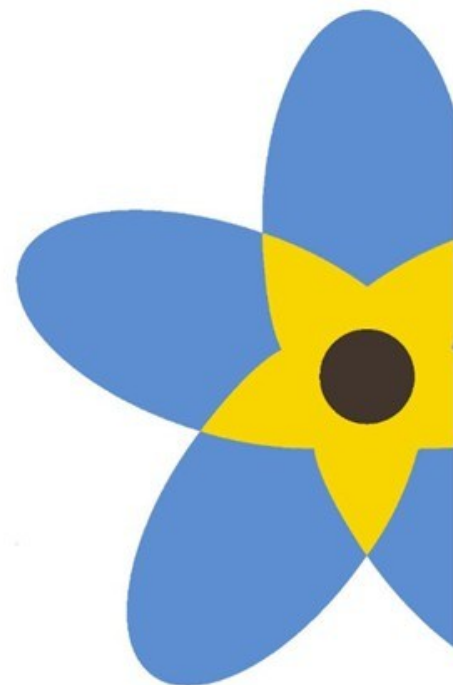
Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Zion Methodist
Church 808 Jefferson Mendota

Wheelchair Accessible - yes

Other Information: free, open to
the public

For More Information:
abrew17er@gmail.com



April

Comfort for the Brokenhearted

Day 1: Psalms 30:2

Day 2: Romans 8:18

Day 3: John 14:27

Day 4: Isaiah 41:10

Day 5: Nehemiah 8:10

Day 6: 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

Day 7: Revelation 21:4

Day 8: 1 Peter 5:7

Day 9: Psalms 147:3

Day 10: Matthew 11:28

Day 11: Isaiah 46:3-4

Day 12: Philippians 3:13-14

Day 13: Psalms 34:18

Day 14: Hebrews 13:5-6

Day 15: Isaiah 61:1

Day 16: Romans 8:39

Day 17: John 16:22

Day 18: 2 Corinthians 12:9

Day 19: Psalms 23:4

Day 20: Psalms 56:8

Day 21: John 11:25-26

Day 22: Matthew 5:4

Day 23: Romans 15:13

Day 24: Psalms 73:26-28

Day 25: Isaiah 43:18-19

Day 26: Psalms 27:14

Day 27: Psalms 145:18

Day 28: John 16:33

Day 29: Psalms 9:9

Day 30: Hosea 6:3



Zion United Methodist Church Calendar

April

2025

April Birthday's

4/1 Karliann Miars

4/3 Aliya Eames

Brooklyn Vasquez

4/4 Nancy Hochstatter

4/8 Frank Hochstatter

4/10 Steven Richardson

4/11 Henry Scoepf

4/16 Kate Nichole Biers

4/22 Zach Escatel

4/24 Jenifer Masini

4/26 Ben Bentley

4/29 Bill Piller

Joshua Granados

Kara Miars

Happy
ANNIVERSARY

April Anniversaries

4/10 Mark & Bev Richardson

4/15 Rick & Bonnie Patterson

4/23 Gary & Beth Browder

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Worship & Sunday School 9am	7 James Bond funeral 2pm	8 Prayer Group 7pm	9	10 Administrative Council 6:30pm	11	12
13 Palm Sunday Sunday School 9am	14	15 Prayer Group 7pm	16	17 Maundy Thursday Communion Service Zion UMC Thursday, April 17 th 7 pm	18 Good Friday Service 1 st United Methodist Church Friday, April 18 th 7 pm	19
20 Easter Service 9 am	21	22 Prayer Group 7pm	23 Become a Dementia Friends of Mendota Champion Zion UMC - 7pm	24 Worship Service at Allure 10 am Hymn Sing at Stonecroft 2pm	25 Articles for May Newsletter Due	26
27 Worship & Sunday School 9am	28	29 Prayer Group 7pm	30 Worship Service at Stonecroft 10am			

ZION'S LENT MISSION...

Lent Loot Collection to Benefit the Omoribe Project in Kenya

This Lenten season, we will collect change, paper money and checks to go to the Omoribe Project, which benefits needy school age children in Kenya.

Bev Richardson's cousin Cheryl Davidson and her husband Dale organize and raise funds for this very simple and worthy mission. Please pick up a Lent Loot jar at the back of the church and return your offerings to the bucket or in the offering box by Easter Sunday.

The Omoribe Story

The Omoribe Project began in 2013 as a ministry of Hill-spring Church in Sand Springs, OK. Their goal was to feed vulnerable children at a small Kenyan children's home. In February 2016, Omoribe Project, Inc., a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, was formed to further help the young children in this rural, predominantly farming community.

Omoribe Project



Planting hope, fulfilling dreams



Today there are about four dozen Omoribe children and youth who range in age from five to 21 years old. Most live in a dormitory on the grounds. Younger students go to school at the nearby Help for Orphans primary school. Older children attend a local high school or secondary boarding schools. Several students are currently pursuing college or tech school educations.

The Omoribe Project's mission has long been to provide food and school tuition to these kids who are orphaned or whose extended families are unable to offer even the most basic of necessities.

At Omoribe we believe that planting hope in the form of safe shelter, food and education can fulfill dreams of a better life. We believe in the God-given potential of these kids to be successful. Please consider joining us as we plant hope and fulfill dreams



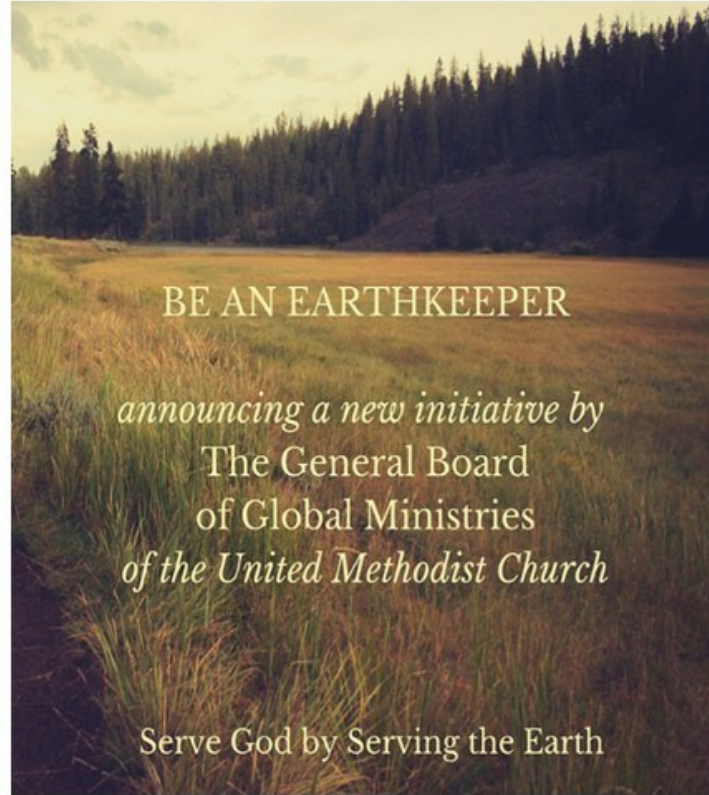
ZION'S APRIL MISSION...



Caretakers of God's Creation is a grassroots community of United Methodists who believe that a relationship with God's creation and a ministry of caring for and healing the earth are integral to what it means to be a Christian. Both Christian scripture and Wesleyan theology are central to our belief that the earth belongs to God, not us, and we are given the responsibility to be good stewards of it. Our mission is to be a transformative Christian witness, helping others to know God as revealed through creation and motivating them to act on behalf of environmental wholeness and justice.

The United Methodist Church is a global church, at work in approximately 130 countries around the world with 8 million members. Given the global nature of the environmental problems the earth faces and the strength of our numbers, we have faith that we will make a significant difference in the world.

In order to accomplish our task, we will raise the level of theological understanding and its mandate for earth, we will encourage, by example, joyful stewardship through sustainable living, and we will advocate for public policy engagement on local, state, national, and international levels. We partner with other Christian denominations, other faiths, and several inter-faith environmental organizations. It will take all of us working together to heal the planet, but because of our faith in Christ, we believe that all things are possible.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES





Join ZION Choir!

Everyone who enjoys singing is invited to join the Zion Choir! We sing a simple hymn or anthem in worship once or twice a month, in addition to special holiday services. We meet to practice at 8:30 in the church parlor on the Sundays that we are going to sing. See Bev Richardson if you have questions.

All are welcome!



Join us along with Paw Paw United Methodist Church for a Hymn Sing at Stonecroft Village Thursday, April 24th at 2 pm. This will be ongoing through out the year on the last Thursday of the month. Pastor Dave and Pastor Jeff bring along their guitars and the pianist from Paw Paw play the residents favorite hymns. It is such a joy for all the residence there. Join in!

Miss one of Zion UMC Sunday Messages
Or Newsletters?
Check out our Website....

<https://zionchurchumc.com>

Like Us On Facebook



<https://www.facebook.com/zionchurchumc>



Zion Wants to Pray for You!

Zion family and anyone else with a prayer need are encouraged to request prayer from the newly activated prayer chain ministry. All that you have to do is reach out to those contacts listed below and share your concern. A private email will then be sent to the members of the prayer chain so that they can start to cover your concern with prayer as soon and as often as they are able. Prayer requests will be kept confidential within the prayer chain circle, but we ask that the people for whom you request prayer be ok with your sharing. If you are interested in being a prayer partner or to activate the team in prayer, please let us know:

Pastor Jeff Brace

jbrace8459@gmail.com or 815-985-3626

Beverly Richardson

bricha75@gmail.com or 815-830-7567

Shirlene Lowe

lowe301@comcast.net or 815-440-4982

Contact info:

Pastor Jeff Brace

Email : jbrace8459@gmail.com

Office Phone: 815-538-2186

Cell Phone:: 815-985-3626

Office Hours—Tuesday & Thursday 10a-4p

Other times by appointment