

MENDOTA ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
COME, SHARE, GROW

May 2025

NEWS FROM ZION



Volume 4 Issue 9

Dandelions...

"And why do you worry about clothes? Notice how the lilies in the field grow. They don't wear themselves out with work, and they don't spin cloth". Matthew 6:28 CEB

You may be familiar with that saying, "April showers bring May flowers", right? Well, this year, May once again did not disappoint us! This April was rather on the dry side. Only about 2.38 in. depending on what source you use. Average for April in Mendota is a little over 4 in.

That saying about the showers that come in April bringing the May flowers is believed to come to us from an old poem from the United Kingdom. A poem that was written in 1610 that goes. "March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers".

My Dad was one that truly cared about the lawn at our house when I was growing up. Even though me and my brothers and sister wanted to help, my dad wouldn't want to



chance it from winning the monthly "lawn of the month" contest in the subdivision we lived in. He was rather finicky about straight lines when it was mowed. You know like those crisscross designs in a well-manicured baseball field. I remember the day he first let me mow and how he followed me around as I was driving the lawn tractor mowing. He carried little snippers to trim the places that I missed as it would mess up the

intended design. His flower beds were a whole different story. The perennials and annuals that he planted were his pride and joy. You could say the house that I grew up in was Howard's showplace. People often stopped to admire or compliment whoever was in the front lawn at the time, so we all felt a sense of pride. "You want to come over and do mine?", was an often response of the passer byes. (Continued on next page)

CONT. FROM FRONT PAGE...

The bible uses flowers and grass many times to tell us the faithfulness of God. Just as God is faithful each year with the beautiful flowers, the crops that grow after planting and yes, even the grass that seems to never stop growing.

Dandelions are interesting weeds as they seem to multiply by the day in the yard. The flower with its interesting shade of yellow that contrasts with the lush green lawn. I see people out with bottles squirting a liquid of unknown origin on those pesky weeds. And they wither and die. I rather like them!

Someone posted on Facebook the other day about if anyone does May basket's any longer. I remember in the neighborhood in Rockford where we lived, there was a little girl. Each year she would go and pick all the dandelions she could, put them in paper cups and go around the neighborhood ringing doorbells as she ran to the next house after she deposited the cups on the front porch. I thought it was cute and also appreciated the

fact that someone else liked dandelions as well.

I have a friend, Terry who has Native American heritage and one summer he took me over the outskirts of Rockford to show me something. Several Native American medicine wheels on cleared areas that were secluded in wooded areas. We visited over ten that most everyone in a large metropolitan city was unaware of. He explained to me the structure of a wheel, divided into four quadrants by stones. The seasons were my thought of what they represented. Terry explained that one quadrant was for the Four directions. North, South, East and West. Another was for Father sky. "The creator God?", I thought. Still another quadrant was for Mother Earth. And the last was for Spirit Tree. Each symbolizes dimensions of health and cycles of life. So, yes, in a sense the seasons of life.

I couldn't help but notice that many of the quadrants of each wheel were in dire need of weeding. Wild salva, cornflow-

ers, and hundreds of pesky weeds, dandelions. That's where the name of the medicine wheel comes from. Each of those God creations provides unique medicinal properties. Salva can heal ulcers and treat wounds from infection. Cornflowers are can treat tired, strained and puffy eyes. It can also be brewed into tea to promote digestion and detoxify the liver. The flower bud can be used for infection of the urinary tract.

And the dandelion... the weed that most are annoyed at. Dandelions are potent in antioxidants, promote digestion, heal skin injuries and burns, and reduce blood sugar.

Terry also told me it makes pretty good wine as well!

So, when you drive past and see those pesky weeds... think of them as God's creation as well. Medicine for the body as well as joy for the soul.

I wonder if there are any wheels around the Illinois Valley that we all can learn from. Or at least look at our own lawns.

Pastor Jeff

May

Pursuing Humility

Day 1: Colossians 3:12

Day 2: Micah 6:8

Day 3: 1 Peter 5:5

Day 4: Proverbs 16:19

Day 5: Romans 12:3

Day 6: Philippians 16:19

Day 7: James 4:10

Day 8: 1 Corinthians 1:28-29

Day 9: Luke 14:11

Day 10: Proverbs 22:4

Day 11: Matthew 23:10-12

Day 12: Psalms 25:8-9

Day 13: Isaiah 57:15

Day 14: James 4:14-16

Day 15: Proverbs 12:15

Day 16: Romans 12:16

Day 17: John 3:30

Day 18: Psalms 115:1

Day 19: Proverbs 15:33

Day 20: Matthew 6:2

Day 21: Psalms 149:4

Day 22: James 4:6

Day 23: Mark 9:35

Day 24: Psalms 8:4

Day 25: Proverbs 3:34

Day 26: Philippians 2:3-4

Day 27: Ephesians 4:2

Day 28: Proverbs 27:2

Day 29: Mark 10:45

Day 30: James 3:13

Day 31: Proverbs 11:2



The Scribe's Portion

PRESERVING THE WORD OF GOD

Zion United Methodist Church Calendar

May

2025






MAY Birthday's

- 5/2 Joe Masini
- 5/9 Todd Doyle
- 5/13 Kelsey Chaon
- 5/16 John Cross
- 5/18 Janet Henry
- 5/23 Kip Cheek
- 5/27 Alta Stroyan
- 5/28 Eric Gleim



May Anniversary's

- 5/12 Chad & Kellie Hochstatter
- 5/13 Bob & Sue May
- 5/25 Mark & Teri Wenzel

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>4</p> <p>Worship & Sunday School 9am</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>CINCO DE MAYO</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Prayer Group 7pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>MAMA clergy lunch Noon</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Administrative Council 6:30pm</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p>  <p>Dan Holmes for Worship 9am</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Clergy Session Naperville 9am - 2 pm</p> <p>Prayer Group 7pm</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Worship & Sunday 9am</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Prayer Group 7pm</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Worship Service at Allure 10 am Hymn Sing at Stonecroft 2pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Articles for May Newsletter Due</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Worship & Sunday School 9am</p>	<p>26</p>  <p>MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBER AND HONOR</p>	<p>27</p> <p>VBS planning Mtg First UMC 6pm</p> <p>Prayer Group 7pm</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

ZION'S MAY MISSION...



BISHOP'S APPEAL 2025

Giving Abundantly, Generosity Overflowing

Innovative Outreach

For the month of May, Zion will donate to the Bishop's appeal, an annual mission donation chosen by the bishop and presented by our pastor at Annual Conference. This year, the chosen mission will go into a fund for In their book *A Way Out of No Way: An Approach to Christian Innovation*, Stephen Lewis and Kimberly Daniel explore how Christians can innovate using practices rooted in our faith. They write, "A playful 'what if?' approach to imagining and refining ideas is necessary to develop, support, and amplify solutions that matter to everyday people given that the stakes are high."

We are in a time where "what if?" kinds of questions are more important than ever and our congregations and communities must begin to imagine, innovate, and foster creative ways of nurture, outreach and witness. To encourage this kind of innovation and experimentation, this year's Bishop's Appeal Offering will be used to as the foundation for grants to be awarded to churches and leaders that take risks and try new ways to share the Gospel and care for their

Mission Challenge

The NIC Board of Global Ministries is collecting items for homecare kits and personal dignity kits for Midwest Mission. Obtain items from their list of most needed items and bring them to the mission truck, which will be parked in the east lot of the convention center on Mon., June 9, and Tues.

At Zion, we will be collecting the following:

Home Care Kits

Liquid Household Cleaner, 54 - 80 oz. (no spray bottles)

Liquid Dish Soap, 42 - 64 oz.

Liquid Laundry Detergent, 100-150 oz.

Scrub Brushes

5 Gallon Round Buckets With Resealable Lid

Please bring donated items to the basket in the back of the sanctuary by Sunday worship on June 8th.

Thank you!!

**Fill the
Truck**
Mission Challenge
Collection Drive

APRIL IMAGE'S OF ZION



DAN HOLMES WILL BE WITH US MOTHER'S DAY

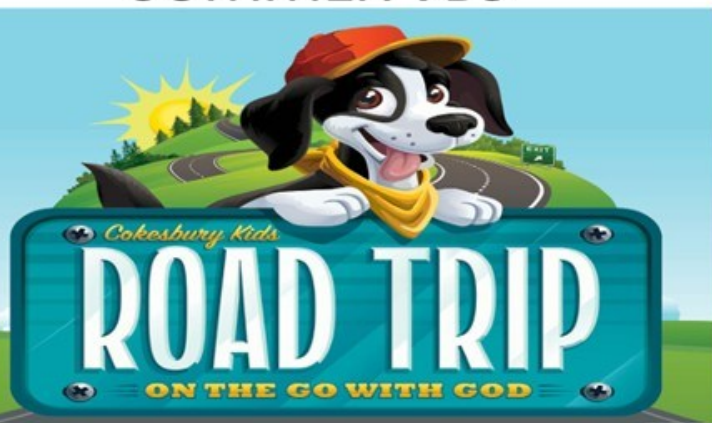


My mission is simple.

I believe I am called by God to celebrate through music His extraordinary presence in an ordinary world. Through the sharing of music, we can celebrate what God is doing in us, for us and through us! I am an old school singer/songwriter bringing a gentle Christian message of hope! I pray that our paths will cross and we can celebrate together!

Blessings and Peace,
Dan

SUMMER VBS



Sunday July 20th - Thursday 24th



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