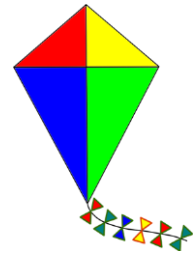


The Messenger



A Newsletter of the
Genesee 1st Congregational, United Church of Christ, Inc.

March – April, 2024

Volume 18, Number 6

From the Pastor



This past summer, I gathered around a table strewn with bibles and laptops and sketchbooks, the walls around me quickly filling with newsprint sheets marked with words and phrases and half-materialized brain blasts. As I worked my way through the lectionary scriptures for this Lent, I

was struck by the ways the whole of Jesus, both his gritty humanity and also his mystifying divinity, comes into view.

Throughout these sacred stories, Jesus aligns his body with humanity—treading into the Jordan to be baptized, raging through a commercialized temple, mounting a servant's ride into the gates of Jerusalem. And yet, at the same time, his soul feels other-worldly—defying the devil in the wilderness, rising in glory on the mount, muttering esoteric prophecies of the temple falling to ruins and those who love their life losing it. Jesus feels both close to home and so beyond us.

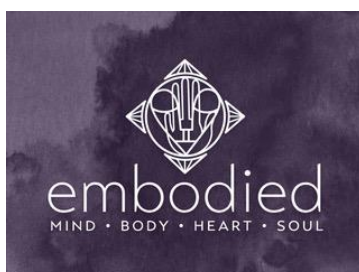
What does it mean for divine love to be embodied in the person of Jesus? What does it look like for that love to now be embodied in us? This is what we hope to explore with you this Lent.

This Lent, we long for a faith that engages all of who we are—mind, body, heart and soul—and invites us to be present in our bodies and in the present moment. We remember the ways Jesus integrated his humanity and divinity to fulfill his radical ministry. Similarly, we too are invited to bring all of who we are to God, to live out the love that chooses to be embodied in us.

Pastor Jim

teamlangreder@gmail.com

262-309-5086



OUR TOP STORY



Easter Service

Sunday, March 31
10:30 AM Worship

Genesee Church

Please highlight the date of Sunday, March 31 on your personal calendar.

And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, brought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them: "Do not be amazed, you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Mark 16 RSV

Welcome to the March - April, 2024 edition of the Messenger. We share Pastor Jim with the Hartland, UCC. As such, we have the early service six months and Hartland gets it the other six months.

Our Sunday service is currently at **10:30 AM**. In January and February we had been meeting, on Sundays, at the Education Center. This helped us save heat and provided a more accessible, handicap space during the winter months. On Sunday, March 10 our services will be moving back to the church sanctuary. On the first Sundays of the month we will continue to meet at the Ed. Center (that brick building next to the church) – and communion will be served.

We have Sunday School for youngsters from Nursery through Junior-High age. They meet at the same time and place as the adults, and after the “Time With Our Young Disciples” follow their teacher(s) to class.

Currently, the Hartland service is at 9 AM and is livestreamed on the Genesee and Hartland Facebook page; and You-tube channel (First Congregational UCC, Hartland, WI.)

Bible Study

This is your opportunity to learn about the Bible. It is held every 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesday, at 1:30 PM. For specific dates in March and April, see the events calendar on page 4. The topic for discussion at each Bible Study is the sermon message for the following Sunday.

Book Club

meets on Thursdays, at the Mercantile Coffee Shop (first driveway to the left – on Hwy 83, north of the Hwys. 59 and 83 roundabout), at 10 PM. As of the printing of this newsletter they are reading “The Boys In the Boat.”

Pilates

meets at the Ed. Center at 8:30 AM each Saturday morning.

Explore God’s Word Daily

Copies of the devotional booklet: “*The Upper Room*” for March – April, 2024 are available. Call the church office at **262-968-3849**, or come to worship service on Sunday morning, to get your copy. On every page is an inspirational reading and accompanying Bible verse for each day.

Church Budget Update:

The most recent income and expense figures are shown below.

January Income	\$4,286.00
January Expenses	<u>\$6,010.35</u>
Net Total	\$1,724.35

We continue to be grateful for all the gifts contributed by our members. We pray for God’s grace and blessings as we continue to navigate through these challenging times. We value your fellowship. Join us at our Sunday service, enjoy the beauty of our church building, listen to the good word and say “hello!”

MARCH – APRIL USHERS

The following teams / individuals are scheduled to usher on Sundays in March and April. Arrive by 10 AM (for the 10:30 AM service). Your job is to greet people, hand out bulletins, light candles and take collection. For the latest update, or if you are unable to fulfill your commitment, please notify Diane Sickels at

262-968-3954.

March 3	Deacons
March 10	OPEN
March 17	OPEN
March 24	OPEN
March 31	OPEN
April 7	Deacons
April 14	OPEN
April 21	OPEN
April 28	OPEN

OFFICE HOURS:

I (Scott Burdette) am usually in the church office from 2 – 4 PM on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The office phone number is **262-968-3849.**

In addition, below are the Rev. Jim Langreder’s hours (during a typical week). In emergency, call Pastor Jim at **262-309-5086.**

Monday:	Genesee 8 AM – 2:30 PM
Tuesday:	Hartland 8 AM – 2:30 PM
Wednesday:	Hartland 8 AM – 12:30 PM Genesee 12:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Thursday:	Genesee 8 AM – 12 PM Hartland 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

**HOPE CENTER
MEAL SERVICE DATES FOR 2024.
NEW LOCATION!**

Our church is one of 46 congregations, throughout Waukesha County, which serve the meals at Hope Center in Waukesha. The service dates are, every week except holidays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Meals are served at 5:30 PM – with volunteers asked to arrive by 5 PM. Our dates for 2024 are...

- Wednesday, April 10
- Friday, June 28
- Friday, November 29

We are asked to have 6 – 8 volunteers present to serve, on average, 60 – 70 people. Trays of desserts: cookies, brownies, cake, etc. are also asked for and are always well appreciated. **NEW!** Hope Center is now located at 101 W Broadway, in Waukesha.

SET CLOCKS ahead ONE Hour!

On Sunday, March 10, the same day we move services back to the church sanctuary, set your clocks, and other timing devices, AHEAD one hour. If not you will be coming to the church service when everybody is leaving!

SPRING AHEAD!

TOUCH BASE TUESDAY

Join Pastor Jim for lunch, drinks and conversation about whatever is on your mind and heart.

EVERY TUESDAY 11 AM – 1 PM

Phoenix Restaurant, 129 Cottonwood Av. in Hartland

KIDS CAMP

Tuesday, March 26 and Thursday, March 28, 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM each day.

(Discounted option to attend 2 days. Discount for Siblings.) Ages 6 – 10

Space is limited to 10 campers each day. 1 Day @ \$25.00 per camper, \$20.00 for Sibling. 2 Days - \$40.00 per camper.

Sign UP: is via sign up genius <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CA5AA2DAA-F93C4-47838086-kids>

Presented by: Maryann Purcell – 414-801-6994
Community Room Genesee Church Ed. Center,
W305 S5075 Church St., Mukwonago, WI 53149

**MOMENT FOR ME
- MIRRORING SPRING’S REBIRTH**

Saturday, April 13, 10 AM – Noon
Community Room at Genesee Church Ed. Center

The cost is \$15. We are coming out of winter’s journey and have enjoyed its invitations of slowness, simplicity and silence. Now its time to allow the stirrings of spring to shape our path forward. Come learn what nature teaches us from this in-between season using the example of plants and take home tools to use in your life! If we choose to mirror spring’s rebirth, we will be transformed! Please bring what you need for Me Time (journal, yoga mat, earbuds, colored pens / pencils, etc.)

For more information contact: Sue at SUE.WISDOMWITHIN@GMAIL.COM or visit WWW.WISDOMWITHIN-BECAUSEYOUKNOW.COM

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Movie Night

Friday, March 15, 6 PM – Ed. Center

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 28, 6 – 8 PM, Hartland UCC

Good Friday

Friday, March 29, 7 PM, Genesee Ed. Center

Events Calendar

MARCH - APRIL events

Listed, on page 4, are the dates of meetings, holidays and events in March and April. All dates are correct at the time of publication. All events are at the Ed. Center, unless otherwise noted.

Service time is Sundays, 10:30 AM – at church, beginning Sunday, March 10. First Sundays of a month, the service will be at the Ed. Center – and we will have communion.

Bible Study continues on the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesdays of the month at 1:30 PM. There is NO Bible Study if the date is a 3rd Wednesday.

Book Club meets every Thursday at 10 AM. The location is the Mercantile Coffee Shop. (first driveway to the left – on Hwy 83 - north of the Hwys. 59 and 83 roundabout)

In addition, the Ed. Center is used for a Pilates class which meets 8:30 AM each Saturday.

MARCH, 2024

- SA 2** 8:30 AM: Pilates
SU 3 10:30 AM service at the Ed. Center
w/ communion
WE 6 1:30 PM: Bible Study
TH 7 10 AM: Book Club
SA 9 8:30 AM: Pilates
SU 10 10:30 AM service at church
Daylight Savings Begins –
spring ahead one hour
One Great Hour of Sharing - offering
MO 11 2 PM: Executive Board
WE 13 1:30 PM: Bible Study
TH 14 10 AM: Book Club
FR 15 6 PM: Movie Night
SA 16 8:30 AM: Pilates
SU 17 **ST. PATRICK'S DAY**
10:30 AM service at church
April special edition copy due
WE 20 **Vernal Equinox: 4:06 PM – Spring begins!**
NO Bible Study
TH 21 10 AM: Book Club
SA 23 8:30 AM: Pilates
SU 24 **PALM SUNDAY**
10:30 AM service at church
TU 26 8:30 – 11:30 AM: KIDS CAMP
WE 27 1:30 PM: Bible Study
TH 28 **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
8:30 – 11:30 AM: KIDS CAMP
10 AM: Book Club
6 – 8 PM: Maundy Thursday service
Hartland, UCC
FR 29 **GOOD FRIDAY**
7 PM: Good Friday service – Ed. Center
SA 30 8:30 AM: Pilates
SU 31 **EASTER**
10:30 AM service at church

APRIL, 2024

- MO 1** **APRIL FOOLS' DAY**
WE 3 1:30 PM: Bible Study
TH 4 10 AM: Book Club
SA 6 8:30 AM: Pilates
SU 7 10:30 AM service at the Ed. Center
w/ communion
MO 8 2 PM: Executive Board
WE 10 1:30 PM: Bible Study
5 PM: Serve at Hope Center
TH 11 10 AM: Book Club
SA 13 8:30 AM: Pilates
SU 14 10:30 AM service at church
MO 15 **NATIONAL TAX DAY**

- WE 17** NO Bible Study
TH 18 10 AM: Book Club
SA 20 8:30 AM: Pilates
SU 21 10:30 AM service at church
May – June edition copy due
MO 22 **EARTH DAY**
WE 24 1:30 PM: Bible Study
TH 25 10 AM: Book Club
FR 26 **ARBOR DAY**
SA 27 8:30 AM: Pilates
SU 28 10:30 AM service at church

MAY, 2024

- MO 1** **MAY DAY**

“So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.”

Psalms 90:12 (RSV)

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS)

Beginning Sunday, March 10, and throughout March you have an opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of people. Your gift to One Great of Sharing (OGHS) makes an investment in communities worldwide, providing education to boys and girls, empowering communities through vocational training, giving families the skills to support themselves and participating in sustainable solutions that offer dignity to all. Please bring in an extra, special monetary gift on Sunday, March 10. Contribution envelopes will be in the pew slots. Thank you, in advance, for your generous support of this great cause.

GRADUATING? LET US KNOW!

Are you graduating from High School, college, etc. in May or June? Do you know of someone who is? Let us know. Call the office at **262-968-3849**. Graduated will be published in the May-June issue.

BUILDING RENTAL AVAILABLE

Do you have a large family gathering, wedding, birthday party, etc., but not enough room to host it? Both our Ed. Center and Church are available to responsible parties. Call the church office at **262-968-3849** for details and a rate schedule.

Notes for Calendar Reform

For many of us, Saturday, February 29 is just another day. It's just another day added to the short month of February, just another stumbling block in the long winter, as we await Spring. Why bother with Leap Day at all?

Our story begins in Ancient Rome. The Romans measured time from the founding of Rome (753 BC). They numbered their years 1 AUC, 2 AUC, ...; "AUC" being Latin ("Anno Urbis Conditae") for years from the founding of Rome. They used a calendar similar to ours.¹ January is from the Roman God *Janus*, protector of gates and doorways. February is named after *Februalia*, a festival of purification and atonement. March is from the Roman god of war, *Mars*. April is from *aperio*, "to open (bud)," because plants begin to grow in this month. May is from the god *Maia*, who oversaw the growth of plants. June is from *Juno*, patron of marriage and the well-being of women. September through December were originally the seventh (sept) through the tenth (dec) months. Two months were added, in summer, to honor Julius Caesar (July) and Caesar Augustus (August). Over the centuries the Roman calendar was not keeping pace with the seasons, spring holidays were sliding into winter and so forth.

Emperor Julius Caesar proposed in 708 AUC (46 BC) a new calendar guaranteed to follow the seasons. It began on January 1, 709 AUC (45 BC) and came to be known as the "Julian Calendar." That calendar, the vestiges of which are still used today, had a "leap day" every four years. To lengthen the shortest month, it was tacked on to February.

So, here is why we have a "leap day." The celestial "gears" don't mesh very accurately. If there were exactly 365 days in a year, a 365-day calendar would work just fine, now and forever. Nature is seldom that accurate. In fact, there are about 365 $\frac{1}{4}$ days in a year. Every time the Earth orbits the sun, such a calendar would fall about six hours short. So, to have an accurate calendar, Julius added up those quarter days; and every fourth year his calendar added a day. We call it "leap

day," because it "leaps" to keep up with the celestial order. Problem solved?

In fact, the length of a year is 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 45.1875 seconds, a whopping difference of almost 11 minutes and 15 seconds. That's not much, but by 1582 AD the difference was over 11 days! The date of Easter would eventually slide into February. Enter Pope Gregory and the "Gregorian Calendar."

This is the calendar we use today. He did two major reforms to the calendar. First, he dropped 11 days from the Julian Calendar. October 4, 1582 was followed by October 15, 1582. Second, and most important, he added new rules to the determination of leap day. Every four years, the calendar added a leap day. This was not new. What was new was that if a year ended in "00" (a century year) it would NOT be a leap year. 1700, 1800 and 1900 were NOT leap years. AND, if a year is divisible by 400, it IS a leap year. 1600 and 2000 were leap years.

But, alas, there is still a small "flaw in the slaw." Using our current calendar, we will gain one day about every 40 centuries. To compensate, I suggest that the year 4000 NOT be a leap year!

Just saying....

Scott W. Burdette, February 29, 2020 AD

¹ <https://www.almanac.com/content/how-did-months-get-their-names>

A FINAL NOTE 🎵

The deadline for the April special edition is Sunday, March 17. The deadline for the May - June, 2024 edition is Sunday, April 21. To submit an article, event information, or to receive your newsletter via e-mail, send e-mail to:

geneseechurch@wi.twcbc.com

Articles submitted in person need to be typed or written legibly.

Scott W. Burdette

Puzzle Changers

Genesee Church Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Definite article
- 4 School gp.
- 7 Creepy
- 12 Pirate's drink
- 13 Deep
- 14 Rocker ____ Cooper
- 15 Stir up
- 17 Golfer ____ Woods
- 18 Tiny
- 19 Winter mo.
- 20 ____ shopping
- 25 Bathroom rug
- 28 Whenever is convenient
- 29 Sleeping
- 31 Compass pt.
- 32 Whole bunch
- 33 Rained ice
- 35 Explosive letters
- 36 Moderation
- 40 Lennon's Yoke ____
- 41 Attraction
- 45 Make disappear
- 48 Gathered
- 49 Kindled again
- 50 ____ Moines, Iowa
- 51 Complete
- 52 Prepares copy
- 53 Sixth sense (abbr.)
- 54 Sauce

DOWN

- 1 Ambush
- 2 Immense
- 3 Radiate
- 4 Socrates' student
- 5 ____ pole
- 6 Solemn fear
- 7 Diner
- 8 Draws out
- 9 Apparatus
- 10 ____ cream
- 11 Always, in verse
- 16 Twitch
- 19 Copenhagen native
- 21 Chinese "bear"
- 22 River sediment
- 23 Prophetic sign
- 24 Salamander
- 25 Marina sight
- 26 Skilled
- 27 Abound
- 30 Bank transaction
- 31 Roman fiddler
- 34 Articles of faith
- 37 Monikers
- 38 Necklace part
- 39 Raised railways
- 42 Employs
- 43 Divorce city
- 44 Whirlpool
- 45 Browning's "before"
- 46 Apple color
- 47 Famous boxer
- 48 Refreshing drink

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14				
15			16					17				
18							19					
			20			21				22	23	24
25	26	27				28						
29			30		31				32			
33				34						35		
36							37	38	39			
			40				41			42	43	44
45	46	47					48					
49							50			51		
52							53			54		

Answers to previous puzzles in January-February Messenger

RABBIT HUNTING

In the grid below, the word "RABBIT" can be found 18 times. "RABBITS" are found vertically, horizontally or diagonally and may be found forward or backwards. As you find a "RABBIT," circle the individual letters. The remaining letters spell out an important message.

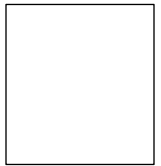
T R R E T R R A R S R R
 I A A T I T A E A R A A
 B B B I B S B B B B B B
 B B B B B T B T B T B B
 A I I B A I I I I I I I
 R T T A R B T B T B T T
 A E R R V B I B C B E I
 B T I B B A R A S A U B
 B N D A Y R M R A R R B
 I C H 3 R A B B I T I A
 T [] 1 0 : 3 0 A M R

S	W	E	E	P		S	H	H		C	O	T		
T	A	M	P	A		M	O	O		A	S	H		
A	R	B	I	T	R	A	T	E		I	C	E		
			A	C	H	E	S			I	R	A	S	
O	E	R			T	H	E	O	D	O	R	E		
N	E	G	A	T	E		A	X	E					
A	R	O	M	A	S		S	E	A	S	O	N		
			O	C	T		I	N	S	A	N	E		
L	A	C	R	O	S	S	E			L	E	G		
L	U	R	E			A	S	C	O	T				
A	T	E			G	U	I	T	A	R	I	S	T	
M	O	E			I	N	N			M	A	N	I	A
A	S	P			G	O	T			S	L	E	P	T

MYSTERY WORD SEARCH
 SHEPHERD

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NEWSLETTER MAR / APR 2024
TIME VALUE MAIL
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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...and more!
Plus:
Puzzle Challenges - Page 6

Sunday services
10:30 AM - at church*
EXCEPT
1st Sunday of the month
at the Ed. Center
with communion
***Begins Sunday, March 10**