



Reflecting on Community

Grace and peace to you, in the name of the risen Christ!

As I write this, our community of faith is preparing to celebrate Easter; at church we have wonderful people taking care of the paraments, purchasing flowers and dedicating time to making the altar look beautiful for Easter morning, and preparing communion for Easter worship. Amid this preparation, I find myself reflecting on community and celebration.

Scripture tells us that Jesus and his disciples had gathered on Thursday evening to celebrate the Passover, a holy celebration that recalls the story of God's deliverance and the promise of God's presence with God's people that our Jewish siblings celebrate every year. It was during this celebration that Jesus instituted the Lord's supper and the commandment to love others as God has loved us. To me, loving others in the way that God loves us looks like building community; creating space for people to be themselves and be supported and loved, and where we can share our love and support with others.

Good Shepherd recently participated in community building when we hosted an Iftar, a shared meal with our Muslim siblings during Ramadan, which is a holy month in Islam marked by fasting, prayer and community. That evening we had over 60 people including members of Good Shepherd to members of the Intercultural Association of Michigan (IAM) people from the greater Holland area and local Muslim families. We heard people from IAM talk about the importance of Ramadan in their faith and how prayer, fasting, service to others and community bring them into a deeper relationship with God. We ate wonderful food, we shared stories, laughed at jokes, found common ground, and prayed together.

Afterward I heard many stories from participants about how meaningful the experience was. The prevailing sentiment being "we are not that different." For me, it felt a little like this gathering of people, all of us beloved of God, was a glimpse of the Kingdom. God's beloved community is diverse and there is space for all of us. We do not compromise our faith in Jesus as the Son of God, or our commitment to following Jesus by sharing a meal with those who pray to the same God but follow a different teacher.

This limitless love of God, who will stop at nothing to reach his beloved, fills me with a sense of holy wonder this holiest of weeks, and makes the resurrection even more beautiful. This Easter, may we rejoice in the resurrection and in the beloved community, may we seek understanding and wisdom and may we be a place of community for others. Amen.

In Christ,

Pastor Jess

OUR IFTAR EXPERIENCE



Filiz Dogru - one of the two outside coordinators for our Iftar.



OUR IFTAR EXPERIENCE CONT.



WALK FOR WARMTH



Our GSLC Walkers who braved the elements: back row l-r, Tiffany Letourneau, Vicki & Michael Russell, Pastor Jess, and Julie Wolff, front row l-r, Cooper, Tim, Rebecca and Makenzie Adams.

OUR "BROKEN HALLELUJAH" CROSS



Thank you...

to everyone who
helped complete our
mosaic cross.



The beautiful bowl from Turkey that was gifted to us by Filiz Dogru for hosting the Iftar.

SPRING FLING ALL CHURCH PICNIC



The MET invites you to an all church picnic on Sunday, May 19, 2024. Join us immediately after church for lunch and outdoor fun at Hemlock Crossing Park.

8115 West Olive Road
West Olive, MI 49460

Hemlock Crossing has grills and two small picnic shelters. Feel free to bring additional chairs to enjoy the outdoor space. Participants can enjoy over six miles of trails, scenic outlooks, and a spacious nature center.

GSLC is providing a grilled meal. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up to bring salads and deserts to share your delicious cooking. Watch for a sign up sheet for all attendees with additional details in coming weeks.

The MET (Membership and Events Team)

ACCESSING YOUR OWN BREEZE GIVING HISTORY



Breeze Giving History Access

A new feature has been added to Breeze: You can now access your own history of contributions to Good Shepherd. If you need information for your taxes you can access it this way:

Breeze login

-Choose MY PROFILE. (If using a phone you may have lines next to the "b" which are your menu that you will need to click on to see

MY PROFILE)

-Choose GIVING. (You may need to click on DETAILS to see it.)

-This calendar year, 2024, will show automatically. If you want last year, enter the start and end dates. 01/01/2023 and 12/31/2023

-In order to print it click on the DOWNLOAD pulldown arrow to access the print option.

Contact Elliott Eisaman with questions.

BOOK GROUP NEWS

April Selection:

The Light We Carry by Michelle Obama



Book Group

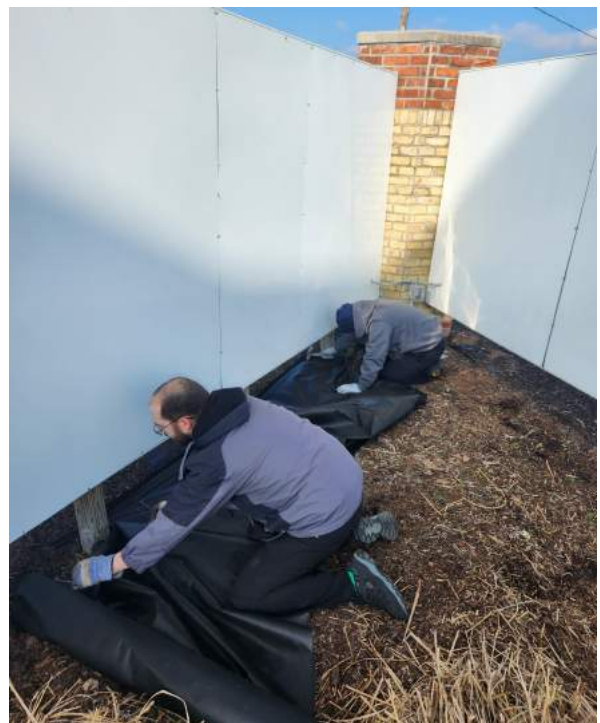
Michelle Obama offers readers a series of fresh stories and insightful reflections on change, challenge, and power, including her belief that when we light up for others, we can illuminate the richness and potential of the world around us, discovering deeper truths and new pathways for progress. Drawing from her experiences as a mother, daughter, spouse, friend, and First Lady, she shares the habits and principles she has developed to successfully adapt to change and overcome various obstacles--the earned wisdom that helps her continue to "become." She details her most valuable practices, like "starting kind," "going high," and assembling a "kitchen table" of trusted friends and mentors. With trademark humor, candor, and compassion, she also explores issues connected to race, gender, and visibility, encouraging readers to work through fear, find strength in community, and live with boldness.

A rewarding blend of powerful stories and profound advice that will ignite conversation, *The Light We Carry* inspires readers to examine their own lives, identify their sources of gladness, and connect meaningfully in a turbulent world.

from Goodreads



“The Men’s Breakfast group weeded around the Good Shepherd sign and trimmed the previous year’s dune grass. To help maintain the bed, weed block was added to prevent weeds from returning. The group then refreshed the mulch around and behind the sign for a fresh spring look.”



NOISY OFFERING

March/April Noisy Offering: Resilience



For the months of March and April our Noisy Offering will be for Resilience. Formerly the Center for Women in Transition, Resilience supports all survivors of domestic and sexual abuse through housing programs, counseling, support and education. Resilience also offers education for the community on ways we can provide safe spaces for those who are experiencing abuse.



During the months of March and April we will also be accepting donations of items for the May Basket program. These items are necessary for hygiene and housekeeping in daily life and yet are often not covered by any assistance programs and are cost prohibitive for people who are trying to leave abusive situations. You can find a list of the items we are collecting below. Thank you for your generosity and support of this important community ministry!

Resilience May Baskets

Cleaning Products

Dish Soap, Dish Racks, Dish Cloths/Sponges,
Dishwasher Detergent, Laundry Baskets, Laundry Soap

Baby/Kid Products

Baby Wipes, Baby Shampoo/Body Wash, Baby/Kids Sunscreen,
Bug Spray, Baby Lotion, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste

Personal Care

Sunscreen, Lotion, Lip Care, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste

Feminine Care

Menstrual Pads—Light, Medium, Heavy, Overnight
Tampons—Light, Medium, Heavy

We appreciate your support!

Mission and Outreach Committee

Carolyn W., Julie W., Branden B., and Pastor Jessica

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING



The Measure of Our Love

Computers connected via internet = Families

Total Sunday Attendance: 240

Families: 13

Average Sunday Attendance: 48

Maundy Thursday Attendance: 16

Good Friday Attendance: 14

SUNDAY SERVANTS — APRIL

Sunday Servants Needed for April

Please help us fill the spaces. Volunteer to be a Sunday Servant

Use the form in the Commons or contact Deb in the office.

616.772.4075 or gslc.office@icloud.com

Date	Worship Leader/ Communion Assistant	Reader(s)	Usher	Communion Set- Up/Clean-Up	Counters
April 7 2nd Sunday of Easter	WL- CA-			Lynda Parrott	1. 2.
April 14 3rd Sunday of Easter	WL - CA-			Deb Ludwig	1. 2.
April 21 4th Sunday of Easter	WL - CA-	Tom Ludwig		Deb Ludwig	1. 2.
April 28 5th Sunday of Easter	WL - CA -			Deb Ludwig	1. 2.

FELLOWSHIP — APRIL

Fellowship Sign-up.



Treats and Set Up & Clean Up	
April 7, 2024	
April 14, 2024	
April 21, 2024	
April 28, 2024	

CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

Cleaning Schedule: March 31 – July 6, 2024

Sign-up: 2-week period preferred, however, 1-week period is acceptable. Cleaning includes cleaning all areas of the church building: sanctuary, sacristy, entrance, hallway, bathrooms, kitchen, conference room, nursery and Commons.

To sign-up:

Use the Cleaning Schedule form in the Commons
or Contact Deb in the office:

gslc.office@icloud.com or 616.772.4075



Dates	Name(s)
Weeks of March 31 - April 6 April 7 - 13	Dennis Willaman & Gary Bowman Dennis Willaman & Gary Bowman
Weeks of April 14 - 20 April 21 - 27	Deb & Tom Ludwig Deb & Tom Ludwig
Weeks of April 28 - May 4 May 5 - 11	
Weeks of May 12 - 18 May 19 - 25	
Weeks of May 26 - June 1 June 2 - 8	
Weeks of June 9 - 15 June 16 - 22	
Weeks of June 23 - 29 June 30 - July 6	

April

Birthdays

Nevaeh McCaughan 2
Tom Ludwig 5
Ellie Buggeln 9
Tessa Letourneau 9
Sharon Wendt 11
Bill House 16
Eve Andrus 17
Duane Schuldt 18
Shaina Underhill 30
Joan Lamb 30



Anniversaries

Brian & Jessica Underhill 28

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday Services are also on-line.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87525508195?pwd=MmtjVENGaUg3ODFuaXhhUHR1TVR3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 875 2550 8195

Passcode: 022399

Sunday Services, 10:00 -11:00 am, also available via Zoom

Choir Rehearsals, Mondays at 6:30 pm, September - May, begins Sept. 13, 2023

Quilter's Meet, Tuesdays, 10:30 am on site. No Quilting in December.

Women's Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:30 am, September - May

Book Group, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 4:30 pm. September - May

PASTOR JESS' SCHEDULE



Pastor Jessica is available Monday - Friday
via phone, text, email and Facebook messenger.

Phone: (616) 403-4660

Email: pj.gslc@gmail.com

To view Pastor's weekly in-office hours, look on the Breeze
calendar on our website at goodshepherdhollandmi.com

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Church Council Members:

Branden Bacon	(920) 889-8707, branden.bacon@gmail.com
Dylana Eisaman	(616) 953-0603, dylana.pinter@gmail.com
Steve Johnson	(616) 212-6833, sgjcfp@gamil.com
Brian Underhill (Pres)	(616) 292-7194, underhillbrian@yahoo.com
Julie Wolff (VP)	(616) 566-6251, wolffwife@gmail.com
Pastor Jess (Sec)	(616) 403-4660, pj.gslc@gmail.com

IN OUR MARCH PRAYERS

In Our March Prayers...

- **Congratulations:** to Sarah & Vince Hitchcock (Naomi Wahl's daughter) on the birth of Hart Hitchcock-Hepner, 8 lbs, 2 oz, February 26, 2024. Big brother August is excited. Mom and baby doing well.
- **In Thanksgiving:** Tessa Hurt will have a stem cell transplant early March to treat her Myelofibrosis. Please continue to pray for Tessa and her family and for a positive outcome.
- **Healing/Peace:** Angelyn & Chad (Dylana's sister & husband) safe travels to Vietnam to finalize adoption, Lucas Barton, diagnosed with Dushanes Muscular Dystrophy (son of friends of Julie Wolff), Zach Bergland (Beckers' nephew), Greg Bolton, (friend of Julie Wolff), Gary Bowman, Patricia Bradfield, Tom & Elizabeth Brookover, (friends of the Wentz') Tom has a rare form of ocular cancer, Dylan Brophy, age 26, (nephew of Kris Norvell's friend), stage 4 melanoma, Kory Casey, (mother of Kris Norvell's friend), stage 4 breast cancer, Bret D'Agostino, Mark DeGraaf, stage 4 cancer, Diane (close friend of Kris Norvell) at Mayo clinic for treatment for inoperable cancer, Steven Dwyer (Lynda Parrott's cousin), John & Amber Fanthorpe (friends of Russells) John is recovering from brain surgery, Jessie George (Deb P-G's daughter), Carol Grossman, (Steve's mom), cancer has returned on top of Parkinsons, Rick House, Tessa Hurt (out-of-town member) diagnosed with Myelofibrosis, Tiffany Letourneau, being treated for breast cancer, Kory Mace (friend of Kris Norvell), Iris Mears, (PJ's godmother), Molly (friend of Deb P-G) diagnosed with uterine cancer, Diane Oberlin (former attendee) has cancer, Lori Ponstein diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer, Roland Rivera, Casey Rostos (friend of Norvells), Richard Russell's cancer has returned, Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), Stella, 6 yrs old, (Sally Ponstein's friends grdaughter) needs a kidney transplant, the Students & Staff of Tom Green Elem. School, Buda, TX, following a school bus accident (the Russells daughter teaches there), Suzanne (Ellie's daughter) prayers for resolution of gastrointestinal problems, Russ & Rita Taylor (Julie Wolff's parents), Sara Thompson (Corinne's friend) cancer diagnosis, Justin Walker (Pastor's husband).
- **Healthy Pregnancy:** Kelsey Hanson, (Jan Mahalak's daughter), Madison Visser (Norvells grdaughter-in-law).
- **Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Homebound:** Christopher St. John (Son of Bonita Zielke), Bonita Zielke,
- **Serving Our Country:** John Bounthapanya (Som's nephew), Ryan Felgenhauer, William Felgenhauer, and Evan Felgenhauer (great-nephews of Kerry Johnson), Cortney and Konstantin Ivanov (Gigi Howard's daughter and son-in-law), Zachery Wiesner (Gigi Howard's son-in-law).
- **Prayer Partners:** All Saints Lutheran Church, Rev. Gerald Ferguson, Mason; Christ Lutheran Church, Rev. Robert Martin, Michigan Center; Trinity Lutheran Church, Revs. Jeffrey Gramza & Danielle Shealy, Midland; Trinity Lutheran Church, Rev. Mary Hughes, Millersburg; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rev. Dana Hendershot, Mt. Pleasant.