

APRIL 2015

Pastor's Pondering

Dear Berlin Center and Le-Valley UMC family,

I am writing this article in the midst of Easter Week. I am anticipating a new experience at our Good Friday Community service held at First United Methodist Church in downtown Ionia from 4-8 PM. We will be on a self-guided walk and time of reflection at 10 stations of the Cross. I know that I am used to a traditional church service on this day and this does take me out of my normal safe comfort zone, but let's see if we can look at the death of Christ in a new way this week.

When we get to Sunday this year there will be no surprise for us like there was for the followers of Jesus as the Bible tells us.

Even though they were told by Jesus that he would be killed and on the third day rise from the dead they were not expecting that to happen.

John 2:13-22

Jesus Clears the Temple

It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration, so Jesus went to Jerusalem. In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money.

Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers' coins over the floor, and turned over their tables. Then, going

Continued on the next page

Church Service Times

Berlin Center Church

9:00 AM

LeValley Church

11:00 AM

Check out our websites:

Levalleychurch.org

Berlincenterchurch.org/

Our Purpose:

To **TRANSFORM**
the world by
REACHING OUT
to lost people in
JESUS NAME and
DEVELOPING
them into
MATURE
FOLLOWERS of
JESUS CHRIST.

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Berlin Center

& LeValley

United Methodist Churches

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LeValley Christian

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Pastor's Pondering Continued



*Keep in mind that
God is always greater
within us than the
devil or spirit of the
anti-Christ at work in
the world.*

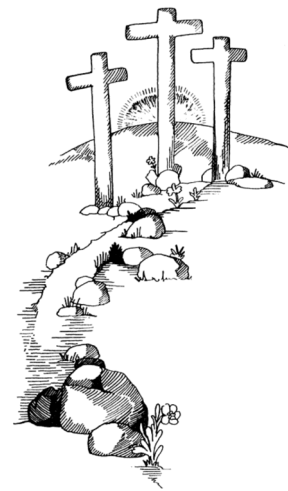
over to the people who sold doves, he told them, "Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!" Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: "Passion for God's house will consume me." But the Jewish leaders demanded, "What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it." "All right," Jesus replied.

"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." "What!" they exclaimed. "It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?" **But when Jesus said "this temple," he meant his own body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples**

remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said.

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**I pray that you have a wonderful Holy Week and remember Because Jesus Lives We Can Face Tomorrow.
Yours in Christ,
Pastor Ray and Jen**



Helpers this month

LeValley Nursery

April 5 Linda Caudell
April 12 Judy Lange
April 19 Jean Kuhlman
April 26 Ashlee Redmond

Acolytes

April 5 Cooper Wittenbach
April 12 Anissah Redmond
April 19 Keith Heyboer
April 26 Robby Brigham

Greeters

April 5 Bill & Elinor Weisgerber
April 12 Doug & Virginia Ferris
April 19 Rex & Karen Wambaugh
April 26 Ned & Jean Kuhlman

Sanctuary Cleanup

April 5 Ned & Jean Kuhlman
April 12 Kris Brigham & Elaine Nash
April 19 Elinor Weisgerber
April 26 Rex & Karen Wambaugh

Coffee Hour

April 5 Kris Brigham & Connie Nash
April 12 Carol Gregory
April 19 Judy & Han Huynh
April 26 Ardie Ferris & Elaine Nash

LeValley Fellowship

The annual auction will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2015 at the church. A Potluck Supper starts at 6:00 pm followed by the auction at 6:30 pm. There will be good used items, a few antiques and collectibles as well as delicious baked goods. Come and have a fun evening and raise some money for local projects.



Berlin Center

Ushers

April 5 Bob & Melanie Bennett
April 12 Dorothy Leavitt & Diane Denny
April 19 Karen & Carl Simmons
April 26 Denny & Linda Denny

Greeters

April 5 Don & Deanna Leslie
April 12 Burt Taylor & Julie Kilchermann
April 19 Jim & Marilyn Clover
April 26 Haley & Morgan Lake

Flowers

April 5 & 12 Patti Cooreman
April 19 & 26 Marilyn Palmer

Please contact the Church Office(527-1480) if you have a graduate in your family this year.



General Church Office
hours

Monday-Thursday

9:00-4:00 pm



If you would like to see
Pastor Ray, please call
for an appointment.

**Pastor's regular day
off is Saturday,** unless
you make prior
arrangements with
Pastor Ray or Jen, they
will not be attending
Saturday events.

“Suppose a nation in
some distant region
should take the Bible for
their only law book, and
every member should
regulate his conduct by
the precepts there
exhibited! Every member
would be obliged in
conscience, to
temperance, frugality,
and industry, to justice,
kindness, and charity
towards his fellow men;
and to piety, love, and
reverence toward
Almighty God....What a
Utopia, what a Paradise
would this region be.”

LeValley and Berlin Center April Celebrations

LeValley Birthdays

02 Angela Stout

02 Bridget Stout

04 Adrienne Barclay

04 Chad Curtiss

06 Dave LaCross

07 Ann Vaarberg

13 Renae Tubergen

14 Kevin Heyboer

15 Samuel Plett

17 Jason Stout

18 JoEllen Reeder

18 Janice Ferris

20 Brad Lange

21 Virginia Ferris

22 Mark Braun

23 Kattianah Redmond

23 Kurt Tubergen

23 Kami Ferris

27 Ashley Curtiss

27 Josh Ferris

27 Ronda Piros

Anniversaries

07 Jeff & Linda Caudell

08 Michael & Gail

Gesselman

Berlin Center Birthdays

03 Craig Denny

04 Laurie McDiarmid

04 Dawn Brand

16 Garrett McDiarmid

22 Connie Orłowski

26 Alice Hile

29 Penny Rust

30 Jan Vargo

Anniversaries

20 Fred & Patti

Cooreman

21 Earl & Carolyn

Benedict

HOLY LAND TRIP 2015

The trip to Israel and Jordan with Pastor Ray is still a go in 2015.

EO is still running
tours to the Holy

Our trip sponsor EO
will give a full refund
less \$100.00 for an
airline fee if the trip is
cancelled for
danger/war.

Make sure you do
purchase the trip
insurance in case of a
normal emergency
and you can't travel
for health reasons or
family issues.

Berlin Center Ladies Bible Study

Linda Dingerson is
leading our Beth
Moore Bible Study.

We meet on
Thursday evenings
at church at
6:30 pm.

Ladies' Meetings

LeValley Ladies' Fellowship meet Monday, April 6 11:30 @ Lumbermill Inn

Church Women United
At our new store

Berlin Center UMW
April 21 @ 7 pm at
Melanie's home

LV UMW
7 pm April 16 @ church

Ladies' Bible Study
every Tuesday @
parsonage
9:30 am **Resuming**
April 28 (taking April
7,14,21 off)

Berlin Center Ladies
Bible Study Thursdays
@ 6:30 pm @ BC
We are finishing April 23

Emmaus Ladies 4th Day
Group April 6,20,27@
6pm @ Barbara Peterman's

Ladie's Monday Bible
Study@ Barbara
Petermans April 6,20,27@
7 pm. All women are
welcome whether or not
you have been to an
Emmaus Walk.

*This world won't be
changed by more selfies like
it will be by more self-
sacrificing.*

*Hope rises up when there
are people who are willing
to descend and serve
because God descended and
gave.*

Ann Voskamp

Ionia Area Mission Fields

Ionia Food Pantry
Wednesdays 2-4:30pm at Zion
UMC

Soup Kitchen
Thursday April 9
Berlin Center
serves this month

Feeding America
Truck
Tuesday, April 14
9-4:00 pm
at the Ionia
Fairgrounds

Ionia Christian
Service Center
Wednesday, April 8
BC 9-12:00
LV 1-4:00

Saturday, April 11

LeValley 9-12 pm

A Gentle Reminder...

On Sundays if you have a
last minute announcement
or prayer concern,
please keep it brief.

We want to honor our
worship, and not run over on
time.

Please give your prayer
written request to an usher,
early in the service, so that
we can remember them at
prayer time.

It is best to call or email the
church office (by Wednesday)
with announcements so that
they can be put into the
bulletin.

Ladie's Tuesday Morning Bible Study 9:30 am

The next time we
meet is April 28.

ladies welcome.

We are working on a
10 week study "God's
Shelter" by Sheila
Walsh. (It is a video
driven study.) All

Questions please call
Jen @ 527-9656



Thank You Note

LeValley & Berlin Center Churches,

Your continued support is a great blessing to us.

Deb Hall

Zion Community Food Pantry

Pictures of God

**Mark your calendars for
Vacation Bible School.**

June 15-19

9am. to 11:30 am

Our theme this year is

Pictures of God.

**We will be using the following
word pictures**

To learn more about our God.

Hand of God

The Potter

The Stairway to Heaven

Our Rock

Our Lighthouse

**We will be looking for
volunteers to bake, help with
Crafts, Skits, Snacks, Missions
and Group
Leaders.**

Please contact Karen or Sue

Sunday School News

Sunday School students in Kris Brigham's 4-5-6 grade class have been studying people in the Bible. They would like to share what they have learned.

Queen Esther by Ezabella Redmond

Esther was a pretty Jewish girl from Susa. Her parents had died so she was raised by her loving cousin Mordecai. King Xerxes was looking for a new queen because he was upset with Queen Vashti. Mordecai told Esther to apply for queen, but not to tell that she is Jewish.

King Xerxes found favor in Esther and she became the new queen. Her cousin Mordecai sat outside the palace gates daily hoping to hear word of Esther. One day he overheard a plot to kill the king by two of his palace guards. Mordecai revealed the plot and the king's life was saved.

One of the king's top officials was Haman. Haman did not like Mordecai or the Jewish people. He convinced the king to kill Mordecai and the people of the Jewish

nation. Mordecai asked Esther to appeal to the king to save her people.

The night before Esther approached the king, he was reading through the records and discovered that it was Mordecai who saved his life from the plot of the palace guards. Esther was very brave because she went before the king without being summoned. She could have been killed for doing this. The king allowed Queen Esther to come before him and state her request. She asked the king to spare the lives of Mordecai and the Jewish people. The king granted her request and had Haman put to death. Queen Esther helped save her people.

Next month Keith Heyboer will share what he has learned about Rahab.

***"For I will pour water on the thirsty
land, and streams on the dry ground; I
will pour out my Spirit on your
offspring, and my blessing on your
descendants."***

Isaiah 44:3

APRIL LIBRARY NEWS

Happy Easter, Everyone, and we rejoice that Christ has Risen indeed! The items at the top of the Library Cart are for Holy Week and Easter, and we hope they add blessings to your celebration.

The two by Max Lucado are *And the Angels were Silent* and *Six Hours One Friday*. Follow Jesus as He leaves Jericho and makes His way to Jerusalem where He makes His way to the Cross.

Bill Crowder's *Windows on Easter* gives us the perspective of the witnesses who saw Christ's crucifixion, and a tiny book called *The Cross* gives thought-provoking pictures and comments on the Cross and its place in the time line of history.

We have Margaret Graham's *The Power of Resurrection* which gives Bible stories from both the Old and New Testament that vividly narrates the power of God.

And last, we have a new-to-us book titled *What Wondrous Love is This* which holds heart-stirring hymns that focus on Christ's sacrifice,

yet fills us with joy as we remember His resurrection and the life that he brings us. There are historical, biblical wisdom and inspirational messages included. Hallelujah!!

The following videos, CD's and DVD's there. Charleston Heston narrates the story of Jesus' "Passion" on video. Also in video *The Betrayal of Jesus* and *Jesus is Risen*. For young children, we have the video, *Jesus is Risen*. On CD, we have the Easter story in three versions. You can hear it dramatized in NIV, or dramatized in King James, or just narrated using the NIV Bible.

For pre-school and early readers, we have the beautiful book, *All Things Bright and Beautiful*, Aileen Fisher's book titled, *Easter*, and *Penny and the 4 Questions* which holds a great introduction to the Passover and the

Suffering is never a meaningless waste of your life, *but a meaningful way through your life.*

Suffering asks us to ultimately bear under that which is ultimately not under our control —which proves we are ultimately not the ones in control.

Ann Voskamp


Seder celebrated by the Jewish faith.

May God bless each of us during this special season.

Barbara Peterman
Librarian



April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
				No BC Bible Study	4-8:00 pm Stations of the Cross at 1st UMC in Ionia	10-11:30 Easter Party and Egg Hunt
5 EASTER 8 BC Breakfast 8:30 LV Breakfast 9 BC Worship 9:15 Sunrise Service @ LV 10 LV SS 11 LV Worship LV @ Green Acres	6 11:30 LV Ladies @ Lumbermill Inn 6 LV Ladies 4th day 7 LV Ladies Bible Study@ Barbara's 6:15 BC Prayer 7 BC 4th day 7 Boy Scouts	7 No Ladies Bible Study 5:45 LV Prayer Gr 6:30 Choir 7 Cubs	8 9-12 BC Service Center 1-4 LV Service Center	9 BC Soup Kitchen 6:30 BC Ladies Bible Study	10 6 Emmaus Potluck & Gathering @ Pilgrim UMC	11 9-12 LV Service Center 4-7 PANCAKE SUPPER 7 LV Fellowship in Upper Room
12 Communion Stewardship Sunday 9 BC Worship 10 LV SS 11 LV Worship LV Noisy Offering 3-5 Youth 4 Scout Committee meeting	13 6:15 BC Prayer 7 BC 4th day 7 LV Ad Bd 7 Boy Scouts	14 No Ladies Bible Study Pastor Ray @ Youth Conference 4 Feeding America truck @ fairgrounds 5:45 LV Prayer Gr 6:30 Choir 7 Cubs 7 BC Ad BD	15	16 6:30 BC Ladies Bible Study 7 LV UMW @ LV	17 6 BC Comedy Night & Potluck Everyone welcome	18
19 9 BC Worship 10 LV SS 11 LV Worship BC @Heartlands	20 6 LV Ladies 4th day 7 LV Ladies Bible Study@ Barbara's 6:15 BC Prayer 7 BC 4th day 7 Boy Scouts	21 No Ladies Bible Study 5:45 LV Prayer Gr 6:30 Choir 7 Cubs 7 BC UMW @ Melanie Bennetts	22 7 BC Calling, Caring & Concern Committee	23 6:30 BC Ladies Bible Study	24	25
26 9 BC Worship BC Noisy Offering 10 LV SS 11 LV Worship One Great Hour of Sharing 3-5 Youth Group	27 6 LV Ladies 4th day 7 LV Ladies Bible Study@ Barbara's 6:15 BC Prayer 7 BC 4th day 7 Boy Scouts	28 9:30 Ladies Bible Study Pastor Ray on WTLJ 5:45 LV Prayer Gr 6:30 Choir 7 Cubs	29	30		

**2015 SPRING SIMPLY GIVE COM-
PAIGN MEIJER –IONIA
DOUBLE MATCH DAYS
FRIDAY APRIL 17 & SATURDAY
APRIL 18**

Meijer will double every customer's \$10 Simply Give donation card, Meijer will give \$20 to the program resulting in a total \$30 donation.

Every dollar makes a difference to the Zion Community Food Pantry.

Passing on the Gift Dinner

(All money raised will be donated to Heifer International, Nyaka Schools, and IM Kids 3rd Meal)

*April 14, 2015 5:30-7:00 pm at
Ionia ISD
2191 Harwood Road*

Homemade Soup~~Homemade Rolls

Cost is just a donation!

Sponsored by: World Wide Kids 4H



PANCAKE SUPPER

The annual Pancake Supper will be held on Saturday, April 11 from 4-7:00 pm at LeValley Church. We hope that all of you will support this important fund raiser for the Mission Committee. If you are unable to attend, a monetary donation is always welcome!



Comedy Night at Berlin Center UM Church

(Corner of Peck Lake & Jordan Lake Roads)

With Comedian Andy Beningo

Friday, April 17th

Potluck 6:00 pm

(Bring a Dish to Pass and your table service)

Program 7:00 pm



Bring your funny bone for some needed spring laughter at 7:00 pm as we enjoy the humor of Michigan Comedian Andy Beningo!

Love Offering will be received.

Your Mission Committee at work:

Thank you for the items which you gave for the Veterans Home in Grand Rapids. They have been combined with items purchased with money made at the Soup & Salad Event and will soon be delivered to the Home. We love being able to do this, with your help, for our Veterans.

The Haiti Hot Lunch project continues to do well from the Noisy Offering taken during church on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

On Sunday, April 26, an offering will be taken for One Great Hour of Sharing. This offering supports the UMCOR program so that whatever money we give to specific programs. Like the malaria nets, will all go to that project.

Thank you for your generous support of Zach and Amanda Ferris. It is always special to help neighbors in need. Blessings to each of you.

Please remember the ongoing collection of pop tabs and Campbell product labels help us support the Methodist Community House in Grand Rapids and Henderson Settlement in Kentucky. These were started by and continue to be supported by the United Methodist Church to reach needy People in those areas.

Christian Service Center

Plans are for the Christian Service Center to move to a new location which we hope will be a more healthy place to work and display the clothing we distribute. It was 1958 when Church Women United began to serve the people of Ionia and we have been in the present location for 18 years. We are always in need of money to pay for the rent and the utilities of the building. The work is done by volunteers from the community. Any way you can help is appreciated. Please talk to Carol Braun or Elinor Weisgerber.

A.D. The Bible Continues.

Easter Night on NBC

It picks up where *The Bible* miniseries left off and takes a deeper look into the Christian story, beginning with the crucifixion and the resurrection of Christ. Dramatic portrayals illustrate the brutality of the Roman empire which ruled with an iron fist to squash unrest in Judea. Much like the world we live in today, governments ruled according to political expediency instead of truth. Watching it all unfold on your TV screen, you'll feel the fear of the early church. But you'll also witness their commitment to Jesus Christ and be inspired to strengthen yours. The premiere episode will air April 5, Easter Sunday, on NBC with new episodes following each week for 12 weeks, exploring the first ten chapters of the Book of Acts.