



Christ United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 710
Levelland, TX 79336

THE BELL RINGER

April 2023



COMING IN APRIL

Tuesdays, April 4 & 18 – 1:30 p.m. – Grief Support Group

Sunday, April 2 – Palm Sunday/ Imagine No Malaria

Monday, April 3 -- 6:15 p.m. – Lenten Study Group

Thursday, April 6 – Holy Thursday – Office Closed – Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 7 – Good Friday – Office Closed – Worship Service 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 9 – Easter Sunday

Monday, April 10 – Easter Monday Office Closed

Sunday, April 16 – Second Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 23 – Third Sunday of Easter/Shared Ministries Sunday/Native American Ministries Sunday

Sunday, April 30 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

April Birthdays – Barbara Foley – April 4, Willa Dale Johnson – April 6, Mona Lawson – April 9,
Bettye Taylor – April 16, Nicole Keeling– April 27

A Word from the Pastor

Dear Always Remember Saints,

From Monday evening April 17th through Tuesday evening April 18th, Jews around the world will celebrate Yom HaShoah. In conjunction with this date, Days of Remembrance will be held from Sunday April 16th through Sunday April 23rd in the United States. Yom HaShoah was established in 1951 in Israel to commemorate the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in which residents rose up in rebellion against Nazi SS troops who were attempting to round them up and ship them to extermination camps. According Wikipedia “the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#) states that the uprising was one of the most significant occurrences in the history of the Jewish people.” The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising took place between April 19th and May 16th of 1943. SS troops were trying to round up remaining residents to send to Treblinka after exterminating 1.4 million from Warsaw the previous year. Most of the residents in the uprising knew they would die, but they said they did not want someone else determining their death.

Throughout the world, past events are studied, memorialized, debated, and offered as ways to help people remember their past. Some suggest that this will enable us to avoid those things which have been regarded as mistakes by society. Unfortunately, history is but a collection of stories meant to weave a tapestry of a people’s past to hopefully serve as inspiration or a guide to the future. What this means, is that some within certain groups choose to ignore certain past events so that they won’t feel bad, after all, many folks don’t want to feel shame. We see in the world today, yes, even here in the U.S. a concerted effort to erase the study of past events so that certain groups of people won’t “feel bad.” We even find among certain groups an effort to deny that the Holocaust ever occurred. We also see the same thing happening among those who want to totally erase any reference to slavery from the history of our nation. The mantra of “don’t blame me, I wasn’t alive then” is often heard as a defense for not wanting to discuss past cruelties. Knowing where we have been as people is not of interest to those who want to forget and ensure that the next generation never knows.

In 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 we read the following:” 6Your boasting is not a good thing. Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? 7Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch, as you really are unleavened. For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. 8Therefore, let us celebrate the festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.” I believe that there is some guidance here for today’s people.

Paul’s words advise the church at Corinth to be

vigilant in their review of their daily lives. It is possible to become so full of ourselves that we blot out all memories of those things which were detrimental to our development. Paul suggests that the church at Corinth (and us) clean out the old yeast (what ever is detrimental to future growth) and form a new batch of unleavened bread for the Pascal feast. Our corporate lives are not simply this moment, this time, but rather an amalgam of all we have been. We cannot go forward ignoring the yeast present in our lives. We are called to address the “yeast”, change our ways, and become something new in God’s eyes. May we always remember what we have done to one another in order to grow from the memory to become a people reconciled to God and to each other.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dennis

Shared Ministries Sunday, April 23

Shared Ministries Lunch will follow
Worship Service at noon.

Blessing Boxes

In the narthex is a box for contributions going to the blessing boxes that are now in Levelland.
There are lists of items needed also in the narthex.

**The office will be closed
April 6, 7 & 10.**

**Holy Thursday Worship Service
April 6 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Good Friday Worship Service
April 7 at 6:00 p.m.**

UMCOR Hygiene Kits

Please bring your assembled hygiene kits or materials to the fellowship hall by noon Thursday, April 27.