



Echoes from the

March/April 2022

Embracing God's Love. Responding with Love. Growing our faith. Serving others.

Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church

www.shawneeheightsumc.org

Join us for Lent and Our Journey to Easter



A Non-Traditional Lent:

Witness at the Cross

This year, for the six weeks leading to Easter, March 6th–April 10th our worship experience and the sermon in particular will focus on those who were at the cross when Jesus was crucified. The author of the book that is guiding my thoughts is Amy-Jill Levine, a New Testament scholar and author whose work I have relied on previously.

My hope is the milder weather and the decreasing threat of Covid-19 will encourage many of you to reconnect with worship and make being in person to worship God, and grow your faith a priority. We have purchased a DVD which compliments the sermon series and which will offer the possibility of a more in depth small group study. A group could use this on Sunday morning or anytime of your choice during the week. Each video lasts just under 13 minutes. A time of welcome and gathering, an opening prayer, watching the video and a time of discussion could easily be accomplished in a 45-60 minute time period. Please email or phone the office if you are interested being connected with others who wish to participate. Let us know what time you prefer.

Here is a brief summary of each week.

March 6 th	"Bystanders and Scoffers"	Mark 15: 29-32 and John 19: 19-22
March 13 th	"The Other Victims"	Mark 10: 35-47 and Luke 23: 39-43
March 20 th	"The Soldiers"	Matthew 8: 5-13, Mark 15: 39, Luke 23: 47
March 27 th	"The Beloved Disciple"	John 13: 21-26 and John 19: 26-27
April 3 rd	"The Women"	Luke 8: 1-3 and Luke 23: 27-31
April 10 th	"Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus"	Mark 15: 42-46 and John 19: 38-42
April 14 th	Holy Thursday @ 5:30 "An Example and a Mandate"	John 13: 1-6, 12-15, 34-35
April 17 th	Easter Sunday* "Wondering What Happened"	Luke 24: 1-12

Lent is a time to repent and return to God. May we embrace this time to grow.

*At this time, place and details for a sunrise service are pending.

Clarity in the Clutter

Life is inching closer to what might feel like normal. Well, sort of. Or at least it was until war broke out in Ukraine. Russia now seems intent on invading and killing until they gain the control they want. The images and stories coming out of Ukraine are so sad, so frustrating. I wish it could just end...now. I wish no one else would be hurt or killed. I wish somehow the president of Russia (I refuse to speak his name) would suddenly come to his senses and realize the harm he is senselessly causing.

Oh, God, make it stop.

The thing is that is not how God works. And at times, times like this, an autocratic dictator choosing to use power to increase *his* power with no regard to human suffering is both hard to understand and difficult to tolerate. That is when we turn to God and trust those with the training and skill God has gifted them with, to stop the assault. It may not stop quickly. Many will be injured and there will be many lives loss. God will be with us all in the struggle. May we move closer to God, and be comforted by God's tangible presence.

Today, I share with you a favorite theologian and author, Walter Brueggemann, author of *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth*. His collection of prayerful poems, or poetic prayers, if you prefer are always helpful to me.

Larger Than Fear

We do not really know about running and hiding.

We do not have any real sense, ourselves, of being under assault,

for we live privileged, safe lives,

learning in a garden near paradise.

Nonetheless the fear and the prayer

live close beneath the surface...

enemies we cannot see,

old threats lingering unresolved from childhood,

wild stirrings in the night we cannot control.

And then we line out our imperative petitions,

frantic...at least anxious;

fearful...at least bewildered;

Turning to you, only you, you...nowhere else.

In the midst of our anxiety, confidence wells up,

In our present stress, old well-being echoes.

We speak and the world turns confident and grateful,

not because we believe our own words,

but because of your presence,

your powerful, bold, reliable presence

looms large,

larger than fear,

larger than anxiety,

large enough...and in our small vulnerability,

we give thanks.

Amen.

May we understand we have enough.

It is not about us or our leaders.

It is not about them or their leaders.

God will be with us...

That is enough.

Stumbling forward, hoping for grace,

In Christ's love,

Barb.

Good Grief Group

The Good Grief Group will be meeting for lunch following worship March 6th at Hanover Pancake House, 1034 S Kansas Ave.

This group is a support group for anyone who has lost a loved one or is having a difficult time, especially during this long, stressful period. All are welcome, and we would love to see you there.

Bags of Warmth

Missions Team is collecting hats, blankets, gloves, and socks for our "Bags of Warmth". It is a bit late, but we will likely have more cold! Currently we have tarps, some socks, toiletries and bags. A container will be in the Gathering Area this week for people to drop off their donations! Thank you so much!

Carrie Rutherford

Children and Youth Team

We are excited to have children coming back to worship with us.

And we are excited that Church Council approved reopening Children's Nursery/Children's Church this Sunday, March 6th, following children's time with Pastor Barb.

A sign-up sheet will be posted on the window of the office for volunteers for future dates. Please show our littlest members and families how much we love them by giving an hour of your time to care for them.

We are required to have one Safe Gatherings Certified attendant 21 years or older and one non-certified attendant 13 years or older in the nursery each Sunday.

To register and complete the training to become certified, please go to www.safegatherings.com

Thank you for helping with this important ministry --

SHUMC Children's Ministry Team

Dillons Community Rewards Program

Did you know Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church is enrolled in the Dillons Community Rewards Program? It is the perfect partner for you and Shawnee Heights UMC allowing you to easily donate to the church just by doing your normal grocery shopping.

The Community Rewards program allows organization members/supporters link their Dillons Plus cards (shopper cards) with Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church. Based on all qualifying purchases made using your Dillon's Plus card, Dillons makes a donation quarterly back to the church.

The Dillons member number for Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church is #XJ342. If you have previously designated SHUMC as your partner there should be nothing for you to do. It is good to login to your account on the Dillons website and visit the Community Rewards page. Once you have designated Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church as your partner it will remain this way until you change to another partner.

If you don't currently have a Dillons online account - follow all Steps #1 - #7 below. If you already have a Dillons online account - Skip down to Step #4 (Enrolling Your Plus Card in Community Rewards)

HOW TO CREATE AN ACCOUNT:

Step 1: Visit the Dillons website: www.dillons.com/communityrewards - Click on CREATE AN ACCOUNT.

Step 2: Fill out the required information: Email address; Create Password; Zip Code and Preferred Store. When complete, click Create Account at bottom of screen. (Passwords must be 6-12 characters long; must have at least 1 letter & 1 number; Special characters may be used.)

Step 3: Add your Dillons Plus Shoppers Card to your account. Enter the 10-digit number from the back of your Plus Shoppers card or your phone number (Alt-ID) in the field provided. Enter the last name you used when you filled out the application for your card.

RE-ENROLLING YOUR PLUS CARD IN COMMUNITY REWARDS:

Step 4: SIGN IN using your new or existing online account; Click on ENROLL NOW

Step 5: Enter SHAWNEE HEIGHTS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH in the search bar, please make sure it has number #XJ342 in the number column.

Step 6: Select Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church, Tecumseh, KS - #86711; Click ENROLL to save.

Step 7: Confirm your enrollment was completed successfully. (You can modify your enrollment at any time by logging into your online account.)



I Care Garage Sale

Donations of
clean, saleable
items are
appreciated.
***NO ELECTRONICS
please.***

We are having a
garage sale to
support the
mission of
I Care Food Pantry.



Details-

Donation drop off :

March 20 from 2:30- 5:30 PM

March 21-22 from 8:30 AM- 6:00 PM

Garage Sale:

March 24-25 from 8:30 AM- 6:00 PM

March 26 from 8:30- noon

Where: Southern Hills Mennonite Church,
511 SE 37th Street, Topeka

**Subject to cancellation if Covid
numbers are high.**



**I CARE FOOD PANTRY
GARAGE SALE...
SERVING FOOD INSECURE IN
SE SHAWNEE COUNTY**

Thursday & Friday

March 24-25

-8:30-AM- 6:00 PM

Saturday, March 26

-8:30 AM- Noon

**SHOP FOR:
FURNITURE
CLOTHING**

TOYS

BOOKS

**SEASONAL ITEMS
AND MUCH MORE**

**Subject to cancellation if Covid
numbers are high.**

**SOUTHERN HILLS MENNONITE CHURCH
511 SE 37TH STREET
TOPEKA, KANSAS**

**SHUMC Children/Youth Ministry
Presents
Easter Stories and Fun for All**



Who: Everyone is invited
What: Easter Story, Prayer Baskets Craft & Cookie Decorating
When: Saturday, April 2, 2022 4 - 5 PM
Where: SHUMC Outdoor Play Area
(Indoor if too cold or wet)

Noodle-Making on March 18, 19 and 20! Please join us for UMW's first noodle making session of the year!

- Friday, March 18: Dough-making in evening.
- Saturday, March 19: Noodle-making beginning at 8:30AM
- Sunday, March 20: Bagging noodles and cleanup after church

Please watch for a volunteer signup for supplies and helping out each day.

I Care Suggested Donations. There is a new list prepared by Cecelia Resnick, who is on the I Care Board. This list is posted on the bulletin board and extra copies are on the info desk. Thank you, Cecelia!

- February: Deodorant and Kleenex
- March: Body Lotion, Body Wash and Chapstick

UMW Program Books for 2022 are available for pick up. Thanks, Kelly!

We had another attendance record for our February Brunch! 16 attended! The chairs around the big library table were filled! Awesome! Coming in April . . . Brunch on Saturday, April 16!

Please join us for noodle-making and brunches as you can! All women are invited and urged to come! Thank you for your participation and prayers!

Boy Scout Troop 183

Trash Bag Fundraiser

Bags are available outside the pastor's office

Blue	Yellow	White
Supersize, Jumbo Bags	Large Trash Bags	Tall Kitchen Bags
(55 gallon) 16 bags per roll 2.0 mil thick	(39 gallon) 25 bags per roll 2.0 mil thick	(15 gallon) 65 bags per roll 1.3 mil thick

Each roll costs \$11.00. Please make checks payable to Troop 183

Thank You Notes

Dear SHUMC,

Thank you so much for thinking of us and sending treat bags and ornament kits. We have missed our church family immensely since COVID hit, and this was a wonderful way to feel connected. Thank you again.

The Richards Family

We would like to thank the staff and congregation of Shawnee Heights UMC, for their outpouring of cards, calls, notes, food and prayers; during the illness and passing of Laurie Ford. We especially wanted to thank the UMW, for their gifts of time and food, at the Laurie Ford Celebration of Life; held on January 02nd.

The love and support everyone has shown our family, has made this long-term illness and passing, more bearable. It's a blessing to be a part of this church community.

Sincerely,

Scarlett, Stu, Lisa and Freddie Ford and family

To Bill's church family,

Thank you for the cards, calls and visits to Bill. He has enjoyed them very much. He is getting stronger each day and his thinking is clearing up a bit. He is ready to go home and hopes to be home by Saturday February 12th. We appreciate each of you and the prayers you have lifted for all of us.
Dale Clemmons

Saturday March 5th at SHUMC



First Saturday Breakfast 7:30-10:00am in the Aldersgate Room. We encourage mask wearing while not eating and ask you sit only at the tables and chairs set out to remain socially distanced. Carryout is always available.



Harvesters Food Distribution 12-1pm in the parking lot. Volunteers are asked to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the distribution.

**Shawnee Heights
United Methodist Church
6020 SE 44th St.
Tecumseh, KS 66542-9741**