

DISPATCH APRIL 2021

A Message from Pastor Melissa...

Dear church family and friends,

When everything is open and you personally feel safe to do anything you want with no precautions at all, what do you want to do first? Hop on a plane? Hug a stranger? Personally, I am looking forward to two things: 1) camping out for a couple hours at Starbucks with a chai tea latte with almond milk and that week's sermon draft and 2) singing in church at the top of my lungs. As the numbers in Indiana go down and the vaccines are becoming more and more available, the time for both these things is approaching. Our governor has announced that vaccines will be open to everyone over the age of 16 at the end of this month. This is a huge milestone towards all precautions being safely lifted.

In the meantime, we will keep all precautions in place within our church for a little while longer. Even as the masks move from mandate to advisory, we need to continue wearing our masks at church. We will continue to refrain from singing together as a congregation for just a little while longer. We won't gather together for coffee or a pot luck for just a few more months. We will do all these things, because we need to keep the church open to anyone who wants to come. When we choose to prematurely abandon all precautions, we make this church too dangerous for too many people. Unfortunately, the numbers in Elkhart County are climbing again, and we need to do all we can to keep those numbers down. The last thing we want is to have to do is move back online. Once all are vaccinated who want to be vaccinated, we will implement plans to remove the ribbon blocking off pews, to pull down masks, and to sing so loud they can hear us in Michigan. In April, we will be releasing a poll to assess where our congregation is on vaccines. This will help us plan a timeline for these exciting next steps.

One of the hard things for us to figure out this year has been how to worship without being able to sing together. As we enter the season of Easter, the upcoming sermon series will be called "Easter People, Raise Your Voices." We will be looking together at a series of stories of the earliest Christians to see how they raised their voices in praise and service of God, even without singing. As they navigated the formation of a new Church, something that had never existed before, each of these men and women were able to serve God in important ways. Be sure to join us on this journey through the story of the earliest times of the Church.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Melissa

CELEBRATING IN APRIL

Birthdays

3rd	Brenda Wogoman
4th	Mary Hesse
5th	Alex Nelson
8th	Dustin Kado Karen Newland
11th	Jerry Adkins
17th	Jerry Workman
19th	Mike Garber
20th	Barbara Bushman
26th	Gene Coney
27th	John Sternberg

COMING UP IN APRIL

6th	Worship	6:30 PM
20th	Preschool Finance	6:00 PM 7:00 PM
26th	Youth Education	7:00 PM

APRIL LITURGISTS

4th	Jane Hunsberger
11th	
18th	Carolyn Vollmar
25th	Karen Newland

APRIL ALTAR FLOWERS

4th	Easter Flowers	
11th	Terri Ganger	In honor of Great -Niece Maya
18th	Kaye Scheetz	In memory of my Mother
25th	Terri Ganger	



Dunlap United Methodist Church

*Growing in Christ-like Love
through intentional
Outreach and Worship*

This **Holy Week and Easter Sunday** will look a little different than years past.

Please look at this description and determine which offerings are right for you.

- Mauddy Thursday:** **6:30 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Communion will be served, but there will not be a full meal. This service is not going to be online.
- Good Friday:** **7 PM** in the sanctuary. This will be a very traditional and simple service. It will be streamed on YouTube.
- Easter Sunrise:** **7 AM** outside. This will be a short service, and we WILL have congregational singing outside with masks. You can stay in your car or bring a chair. We will be set up facing the main doors (like we did on Christmas Eve). We will move inside if the weather is too bad, but we will not sing inside. This service will not be online.
- Easter Egg Hunt:** **9 AM.** Invite any kid in your life!
- Easter Worship:** **10 AM** in the sanctuary. This will be streamed on YouTube. The hand bells will be playing, and we will celebrate Communion.

Need a bulletin? Wonder what time your meeting is?
Want to pay your tithe? It's all available on our web site!



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www.elkhartdunlapumc.org