



The Gazette

April, 2023

April Gathering

Monday, April 3

9:00 a. m. Games on the Concourse
9:30 a.m. Senior Adult Council
11:00 a.m. Program: Marty Ruiz
12 Noon Lunch
Spaghetti, salad, bread and dessert
(Lunch helpers: Carole Nance, Mareta Glover,
Phyllis Holton, Francine Hannigan and Carolyn Jones)
1:00 p.m. Games continue on the concourse

Registration for The Gathering

Registration deadline is Friday, March 31 at NOON

Click here to register:

<https://www.fumcr.com/senioradults>

You may pay (\$5) as you register online, or bring your payment to The Gathering

Senior Adult Council

Don & Valerie Tarrant
Co-Presidents

Betty Bartula
Betty Nickell
Betty Self
Carolyn Jones
Carole Nance
Margie Robertson
Mike & Joanne Patrick
Frances Long
Francine Hannigan
Mary Ann Whitmire
Phyllis Holton
Verlene Balentine
Dan Flanagan

FUMCR

Hymn Sing
with Kim O'Neil
and Ian Gill

April 18
May 16

(FUMCR Chapel,
1:30 p.m.)

Holy Week Schedule

April 1, 10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt
April 2, Palm Sunday Services
April 2-April 8, Easter Story Walk (Playground Plaza)
April 6, 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service
April 7, 7 p.m., Good Friday Service
April 9, Easter Sunday Services
7:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service
9:30, 9:45 & 11:00 Traditional Services
9:45 & 11:00 Modern Services

The **FUMCR Book Club** meets Thursday, April 27th at 2:00 p.m. in Ogden Fellowship Hall.
The program will feature Sharon Luckey presenting *Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks.

Join us for senior adult games the last Monday of each month at 12:30.

Upcoming Movies

April 11 *Ticket to Paradise*



Worship & Arts
1:30 p.m.
Free Popcorn
& Water

April 25 *The Fabelmans*



Network of Community Ministries

Needs for this month: boxed meals, canned fruit, soup, cereal, spaghetti, and bread loaves. They always need personal items like toilet paper, diapers, shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. Consider bringing something to the April Gathering.



Our drawing winners:

Vance Bridges
Mary Ann Whitmire
Mary Ellen Szuwalski



Bingo Winners:

Marion Vinson
Diana Ramsower
Phyllis Holton
Maxine Bentley
June Mohn
June Delleney

I am convinced the most important verse in scripture is Matthew 28: 20b, the ending of the gospel of Matthew. "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." It mitigates the deepest fear of human beings, specifically of Christians, the fear of abandonment.

The fear of abandonment is evident from birth as babies move from the nurture of the womb to a dependence on the warmth and care of their parents in a hostile environment. The skill of independence is the most difficult for children and youth to develop, and yet one of the most important. A mature adult is formed by community and able to live into a fully formed and independent identity.

These lessons of social context are apparent in the stories of the early Christian movement. Jesus began calling people to community, teaching them the moral and theological foundation of this community which his disciples were able to witness in his ministry. And then, Jesus sent them forth from the womb to make disciples. "Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves." (Luke 10: 3) The Christian movement required them to become mature, independent disciples, formed from the call of Christ.

While we celebrate Easter as a resurrection and for its promise of new life, the Holy Week experience can reflect the theme of abandonment. We share the warmth of the Christian womb with those called by Christ. The church has nurtured us in His name. And then Holy Week comes, reminding us of Jesus' departure. He dies on a cross, and then ascends. He leaves us. The foundation of our faith is forever physically absent, in a way similar to our maturation into adulthood. At some point, those who taught us the foundations of the Christian faith no longer have a physical presence. Jesus calls us, and our teachers call us, to an independent life as a Christian disciple, grounded in our faith community.

As we mature in faith we realize that physical presence is only the beginning. After Easter comes Pentecost. After resurrection and ascension comes the promise from Christ that he will be with us "always, to the end of the age." We have never been abandon by Christ and never will be. In that realization is the definition of Christian maturity.

Dan Flanagan