



*The Poster* is published monthly by Fort Des Moines United Methodist Church, 6205 SW 9th St, Des Moines IA 50315-5516.

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Information for *The Poster* should be in the church office by the 4th Tuesday of the month.

**Office Hours:**

8:30am-12:00pm

Monday-Friday

**Sunday Worship:**

**9:45am**

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**All services & activities have been suspended until further notice.**

# THE POSTER

Volume 17, Issue 4

April, 2020

**April Meditation**

**Scripture Reading: Luke 24:13-35**

*Neither sugar nor salt tastes particularly good by itself. Each is at its best when used to season other things. Love is the same way. Use it to “season” people. —Vera Nazarian*

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot” (Matthew 5:13, NIV).

If you are like me, perhaps you think that the *primary* use for salt is in food preparation, or as a seasoning for food.

According to salt experts, however, food preparation and seasoning accounts for only 6 percent of salt usage. In fact, salt can be used in more than 14,000 different ways. These applications can be sorted into five major categories: Water conditioning, food grade salt, agriculture, highway deicing and industrial chemicals. Salt is used in the making of products as varied as plastic, paper, glass, polyester, rubber and fertilizers. It is used in household bleach, soaps, detergents and dyes.

I read recently of another use for salt. In Jordan, a country that borders Israel in the Middle East, salt is sometimes used to help the cooking process. In rural Jordan, the Jordanians put salt on fire to increase the temperature of the rocks for baking bread. When the salt they use for this purpose is no longer effective, it’s taken away and thrown onto the path, just as Jesus said in his Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus said that we are the salt of the earth. What I really like is that this metaphor leaves a lot of space *for us to all have different “uses,” functions and purposes.* Some salt is used as seasoning. Salt is sometimes used as a preservative. Salt can also be used to thaw ice. Salt can also be used to make water potable.

As Christians, we do not all look alike, nor do we have the same function. We have our own ministries and things we do well, just like salt!

So, let’s be salty Christians this week! Let’s be the salt of the earth! Let’s be the person Jesus wants us to be, and bring glory to God!

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, keep me from getting in the way of the blessing you have for others. Instead, help me to be the seasoning and love to make their blessing even better! In your name. Amen.*



## March Finance Report

Carried into 2020 (General & Designated Funds)	\$	29,686.62
<b>Year-to-Date</b>		
Balance Feb. 29	\$	1,151.70
From Savings 3/20/20	\$	1,000.00
Total Income	\$	22,843.28
Total Expenses	\$	32,962.85

During this time of not meeting together, your continued support is needed to pay the ongoing bills. Donations can be mailed to the church at 6205 SW 9th St, Des Moines IA 50315 or slipped through the mail slot in the north door (off Leland Ave).

## Lenten Fundraising Calendar

Did you remember to start using the Lenten Fundraising calendar on March 1? We don't want your coins so write a check for the whole amount, indicating "Lenten Fundraiser" on the memo line. Mail your donation to the church (6205 SW 9th St, Des Moines IA 50315) or drop it through the mail slot in the north door (entrance off Leland Ave.)

## A Way Out

Because possums are known for having trouble crossing the road, you might think the animals aren't particularly bright. Yet they're reportedly smart enough to enter a hole only if two sets of tracks lead in and out. If only one set of tracks exists, a possum won't enter.

The grave was a hole with one set of tracks, and even the bravest souls feared to go in. But on Easter, Jesus came out of the grave, stripping it of its terror. We can approach death confidently, knowing that our Savior conquered it—and provides a way out.



## The Origin of Easter

When asked how Easter originated, historians sometimes point to Acts 12:4 (KJV), where the word 'Easter' is used. This is actually a loose translation of the Greek word, 'Pascha,' which is usually translated 'passover'.

In the New Testament, a weekly celebration of the resurrection of Christ, but no indication of an annual celebration, is recorded. The Jewish Christians later linked it with the Passover and observed it on the 14th day of Nisan (April) regardless of the day of the week. However, Gentile Christians later celebrated the annual resurrection of Christ on the Lord's day.

In 325 AD, the Council of Nicea decided Easter would be observed the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox (the time the sun crosses the equator—approximately March 21). This remains our method for determining the date of Easter and it always falls between March 22 and April 25.

But more important than when Easter is celebrated is how it is celebrated. Do we allow Easter to confirm and deepen our faith? Are we living our faith daily? If we say we believe do our lives show it?

## A Crown of Thorns

It's a lovely old legend that tells of the priest who found a branch of a thorn tree twisted around so that it resembled a crown of thorns. Thinking it a symbol of the crucifixion, he placed it on the altar in his chapel on Good Friday.

Early on Easter morning he remembered what he had done. Feeling it was not appropriate for Easter Sunday, he hurried into the church to clear it away before the congregation came. But when he went into the church, he found that the thorn branches were blossoming with beautiful roses.

## God's Assurance

Death is not something to be feared,  
It has no bitter end...  
But rather holds for each a light  
To better see his Friend.

## Prayer Corner

- For our members: Connie Otto, Larry Hart, Cheryl Smith, Larry Seid, Janan & Mark Horak family, for Jean Drew's son, Paul, and his family
- For those that live in residential facilities, their caregivers, and those we especially name in our hearts.
- For those actively serving in our military, their families, the deployed, and our veterans.
- For all medical staff, scientists, and first responders during this crisis that they may stay well.
- For those who continue to work in "essential" positions, that they may be well as they carry on their duties for the good of us all.

## Bible Camp Books Are Here!

At this point in the progress of COVID-19 it's hard to plan ahead to a time when you can spend a week at camp. Pick up a camp book (found in Fellowship Hall) and browse through the activities for Wesley Woods and Lake Okoboji camps and dream about the fun you'll have when you are free to go. Pick your camp, mark your calendar and get registered by going online: [www.iaumc.org/camps](http://www.iaumc.org/camps)  
It's the Adventure of a Lifetime!

## The Empty Tomb

Dead bodies don't turn people on; a missing body does. The empty tomb is God's exclamation that his Spirit does enter, complete and transform human life. The proof is not in what we see, but by what we feel within ourselves that renews and restores life. The empty tomb is God's affirmation that Christ's saving Spirit is at large, capable of penetrating any barriers or earthly limitation in planting his redeeming grace in us.



## Cause for Celebration!

### April Birthdays

6 Karen Eis  
8 Kari Nalevanko  
11 Jacob Norris  
14 Sam Crise  
16 Larry Seid  
18 Sam Sides  
19 Amanda Jones  
24 Sera Alexander  
26 Judy Prothero  
27 Heather Dillard  
28 Lori Evans  
29 Mallory Crane  
30 Lora Houck  
30 Carol Holmes

### April Wedding

#### Anniversaries

1 Craig & Pam Cave  
20 Nick & Kari  
Nalevanko  
24 Doug & Val Brooks  
27 Pat & Jeri Crane

### April Baptismal

#### Anniversaries

3 Tammy Bernard  
3 Brad Carlson  
3 Judith Prothero  
6 William Fisher  
6 Dennis Garland  
14 Brian Kent  
15 Zack Norris  
15 Scott Johnson  
17 Nicole (Little) Clark  
20 Eric Little  
21 Sheryl Jacobsen  
21 Beverly Miller

### May Birthdays

2 Donna Bresee  
6 Sharon Wilcox  
9 Ann Keller  
10 Kalee Jacoby  
10 Steven Parsley  
13 Tristan Yang  
15 Zachary Norris  
17 Debbie Smith  
17 Jack Brooks  
18 Pat Crane  
21 J. J. Simmons  
22 Bette Casper  
26 James Waters  
29 Joan Evans

### May Wedding

#### Anniversaries

15 Bruce & Lori Evans  
16 Doug & Debbie  
Smith  
21 Mel & Bonnie  
Pearson  
29 Fred & Sandy Kokke

### May Baptismal

#### Anniversaries

4 Anna Nelevanko  
6 Connie Otto  
10 Sherri Little  
10 Ricky Ramsey  
11 Joyann Benoit  
12 Diane Drew  
13 Mary Slater  
23 Keith Garland  
23 Debi Hamm  
27 Austin Casper

## Let Us Know!

- Let us know if you have recently moved, changed your mailing address, your email address, phone number or are using cell phones instead of land lines.
- Let us know if you would like to be included in the prayer chain.
- Let us know if you are hospitalized. (Privacy laws do not allow hospitals to contact clergy when a parishioner is hospitalized.)

Contact the church office at 515-285-6545 or [ftdsmumc@gmail.com](mailto:ftdsmumc@gmail.com) or Pastor Sandy at 515-290-9905.

## He Is Risen

He is risen  
That through Him we may recover faith:  
    In ourselves  
    In our world  
    In our God.

He is risen  
That with him we may restore love:  
    To those from whom we have kept it  
    To those who are most near us  
    To those we will never meet.

He is risen.  
—Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church  
Saratoga

## The Easter Outlook

When the blitz was at its worst in London in World War II, Leslie Weatherhead remarked that there had been no loss of life among the Christians in London. Many Christians had been killed, but there was no loss of life.

The fires that Jesus kindled that first resurrection day are still burning. Indeed, every Sunday is resurrection Sunday!

Our Easter Sunday outlook of an ever-living Lord and of God's assurance of our immortality in Christ is what makes Easter the greatest day in the calendar. Ours is eternal life.

—R. M. Vey

## Good Friday

Good Friday is also known as Holy Friday, and at first glance appears inconsistent that the day of crucifixion should in any way be described as 'good.' That seeming inconsistency vanishes when we understand that the ancient meaning of 'good' was 'holy'. The word 'holy' is entirely consistent with the suffering and Cross of our Lord.

—Johnson United Methodist Church  
Barberton, OH

*Because of Easter there is something even more certain than death and taxes: The Gospel of abundant and eternal life in Christ.*

## A Disciple's Denial

The inevitable result of the sequence leading to Peter's denial of You, Lord, strikes home:  
    He followed at a distance.  
    He warmed himself at the campfire of the enemy.

    He denied you.  
    He wept bitterly.  
It's the same with me, Lord;  
    A little less commitment.  
    A mere nibbling at the spiritual food in Your Word.  
    A slightly deaf ear to Your voice.  
    A little compromise here and there, seeking the world's approval.

    And I fall for the first temptation that comes along.

    Then — bitter tears!  
Lord, help me to follow you closely! Guard me from embarking on this dangerous sequence!  
—Maria Rogalski

## Prayer for Maundy Thursday

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment: To love one another as he had loved them. By your Holy Spirit write this commandment in our hearts; through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

—Salem Lutheran Church  
Chicago, IL

## An Easter Carol

Tomb, though shalt not hold Him longer;  
Death is strong, but Life is stronger;  
Stronger than the dark, the light;  
Stronger than the wrong, the right;  
Faith and Hope triumphant say,  
Christ will rise on Easter Day.

—Phillips Brooks

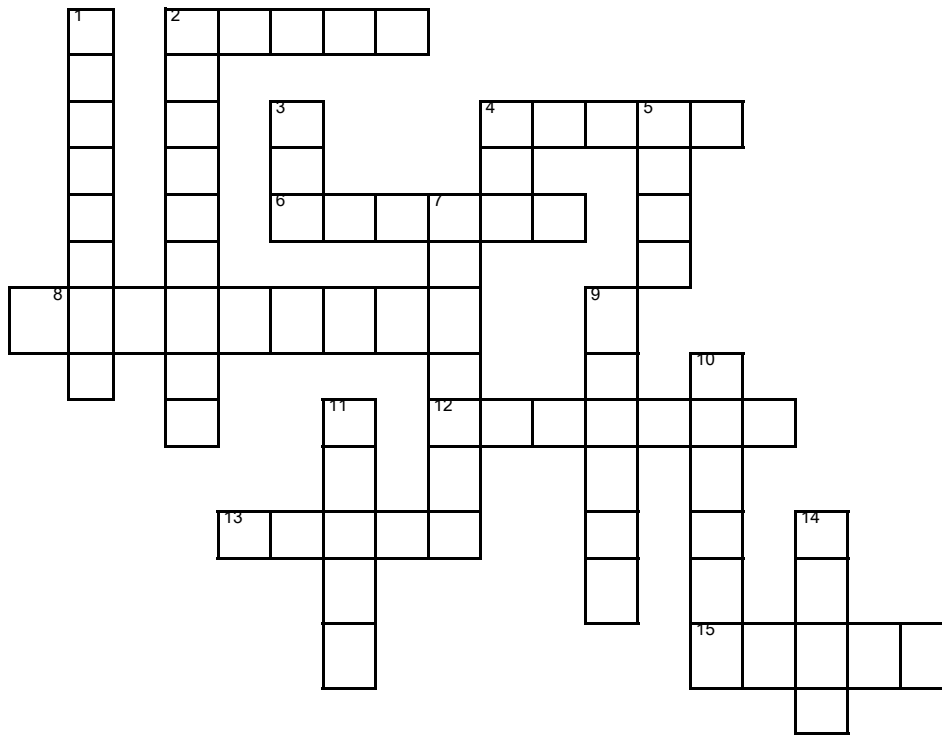
*Christians have cause for great joy. They have forgiveness, vision, power and promises unlimited.*

## Verse to Remember

Those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

—Isaiah 40:31

**CROSSWORD:** All of the clues and answers are taken from the story of Job, the book in the Bible that comes right before Psalms.



### ACROSS

2. Cause of Job's trouble
4. Twinkling, heavenly lights
6. The Shuhite, a friend (2:11)
8. Creature of the deep, (41:1)
12. The Temanite, a friend (2:11)
13. Sores
15. Job had 7,000

### DOWN

1. The One who ever lives (19:25)
2. Affliction
3. Had seven sons
4. Ocean
5. Precipitation
9. The Naamathite, a friend (2:11)
10. Job had 3,000
11. Job's 4th friend (32:2)
14. Job had 500 yoke

Solution: Across 2 Satan, 4 Stars, 6 Bildad, 8 Leviathan, 12 Eliphaz, 13 Boils, 15 Sheep  
Down: 1 Redeemer, 2 Suffering, 3 Job, 4 Sea, 5 Rain, 7 Donkeys, 9 Zophar, 10 Camels, 11 Elihu, 14 Oxen

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We give thanks for you!!!

**Ft. Des Moines United Methodist Church is a community of faith  
in worship and action, open to all in the spirit and love of God.**

**April/May 2020**

**Events:**

Apr. 25: Community Meal @ 4pm

**Special Offerings:**

Food Pantry Sunday will be on April 19.

Donations of cash can be mailed to the church, or dropped through the mail slot on the north door.

Native American Sunday will be April 26. Gifts supports Native American outreach within annual conferences, provides seminary scholarships for Native Americans, and strengthens, develops, and equips Native American rural, urban and reservation congregations, ministries and communities. Donations can be mailed to the church or dropped through the mail slot in the north door.