

# Words of Wisdom

A NEWSLETTER BY PLAINFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## My Friends, Easter is Here

*by Dick Wisdom*

It was another “Sunday” morning, yet again after the crucifixion of some 1st Century apocalyptic Jews. It happened all the time when the powers that be were threatened or when criminals had just gone too far.

This Sunday was different because of this guy named Jesus. Yes, he was an apocalyptic Jew but he wasn’t a criminal, didn’t break any laws per se. But something about him set off the deepest fears of those in power. They killed him because he was a threat. They killed him because of what they feared would happen, not because he did anything.

But now it was over. A new week was beginning. Jesus’ friends, family and disciples were in shock/grief, just beginning to try to cope with what life and the future could possibly be like without Jesus. Remember, they don’t know what Resurrection is.

Now, look at us. We “know” what Resurrection is and still we are scared, unprepared, discomfited at this stage just like all those who loved Jesus then. This fact is really brought to bear when someone close to us dies today.



In Luke’s gospel on Sunday morning all Jesus’ friends and family were trying to cope as best they could. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary, the mother of James, decided to do what they would normally do. They would carry out the ritual of anointing the body. Rituals are to remind and comfort us in times like these. I’m sure they felt just a bit calmer and more in control carrying on and conducting the ritual as a coping mechanism.



We are called to share this message of love and inclusion with everyone we encounter, by living it out. We are to BE the love to another.

As if they had not already endured enough shock and surprise the previous days, the women now entered the tomb and found it empty. Questions and concerns had to start flooding them. And as if that was not enough suddenly, they came face to face with Angels of God, 2 of them, in dazzling bright robes. The scripture says they were TERRIFIED! Do you think?!

The Angels asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? HE isn't here! HE is risen from the dead!" Then the women remembered what Jesus had told them. He would be betrayed, crucified and on the third day would rise from the dead. The women rushed back and told the disciples and many others what happened. But nobody believed it.

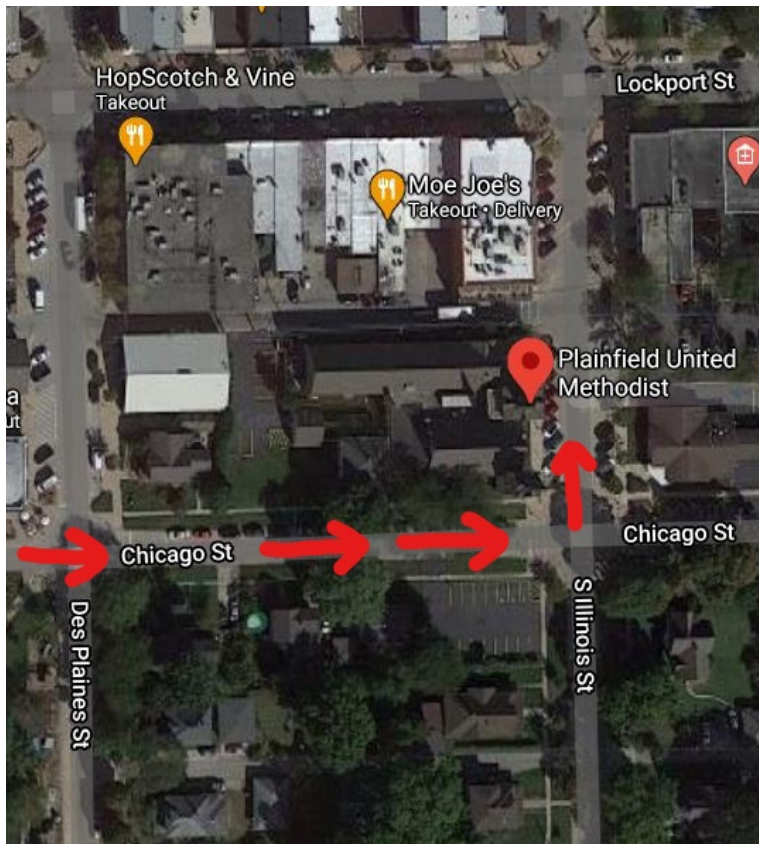
We are exiting from the shock and loss of Covid, albeit very slowly. We've tried rituals and numerous other things as coping mechanisms at this time when we know we have had no control in our lives. We are worn down and worn out. Our nerves are frayed, and we have very little trust that we are being fed accurate information from almost any direction.

My Friends, Easter is here. The Resurrection has happened. Jesus is with us and among us. There is nothing that can ultimately destroy us because God, in Jesus, through the Holy Spirit has destroyed the permanence of human death. There is now eternal life. Still, we experience losses in our lives. Especially when loved ones and friends' human bodies give out. But human death is not the last word! We shall come together again! We shall be reunited in the presence of God, all because of God's self-sacrifice in Jesus. This is the Good News, this is the Gospel, this message is what God wants every human to know. This is the message that should unite and bring every one of us together. Every single one of us is the child of God. There is no reason for the hate, division, the separating each other by what's different about us no matter race, sexual orientation, country of origin, politics, theology. Those are all distractions.

We are called to be united by and because of the love of God. We are called to share Christ's love with each other. This is the unique and compelling mission that we have as Plainfield United Methodist Church, TO SHARE THIS MESSAGE. We are called to share this message of love and inclusion with everyone we encounter, by living it out. We are to BE the love to another. Sometimes that may require words but always it requires us to see one another through the eyes of Jesus!

Living out the reality of Jesus' love in Plainfield, Naperville, Shorewood, Bolingbrook, Romeoville and beyond, is the reason this church exists. When we ask for financial support, the sacred purpose of your contributions, bottom-line, is to share this compelling truth of the love of Jesus Christ. Every person matters to God and therefore, should matter to us as well. Dear Sisters and Brothers, Jesus loves YOU, and so do I! Happy Easter

*Pastor Dick*



# April 4th

11am - 12:30pm

This Sunday, we'll be celebrating "mobile" Holy Communion at the church property. Join us online as we bless the elements in the service. Then, come to the church (corner of Illinois and Chicago Streets) anytime between 11am-12:30pm to receive the elements. Please stay in your car and line up facing Lockport St. (see map).

Much care will be taken to prepare and handle the bread and juice safely and to minimize contact as you are served. As always, the bread is gluten free and ALL people of all ages are welcome to join us. We can't wait to see you face to face!

## NEW ADULT STUDY

Long before there were synagogues, churches or even the Bible, God made God's self known through the creation. The Scriptures are packed full of examples of people coming to understand God through the fig tree, the sparrow, violent storms, and of course Living Waters. Join us for this seven-week study meant to awaken this visceral knowing of the Creator through the creation, reconnect us with the sacred landscapes we call home, encourage us to provide space and time for spiritual reflection in nature, and to live in greater harmony with God's Earth. No preparation is needed for class. Classes will meet on Sunday mornings beginning 4/11 at 10:45am via Zoom or Mondays beginning 4/12 at 11:30am via Zoom. Contact Pastor Sherry to be added to the email list to receive the links and videos.



## WHAM!

All kindergarteners-fifth graders are invited to join us for WHAM! (We Have A Mission!). This is our mid-week program where kids learn about an issue or challenge facing humanity and engage in hands-on projects to serve others and learn how to be change-makers. We will have three upcoming projects this spring that can be done safely at home. We will provide materials. Instructions, support, and fellowship will occur via Zoom on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays: April 7 and 21, and May 5 and 19. The Zoom meeting will start at 6:30pm and will last from 30-60 min. Kids must be registered to receive the Zoom link and the project materials. Register by emailing Pastor Sherry at [sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com](mailto:sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com).



## Want to Help?

PUMC is scheduled to serve at the Ridgewood Pantry in Joliet on Wednesday, April 28th. We need helpers in the afternoon who can lift boxes and load them into client's cars. Strong arms and backs required; social distancing measures must be followed. Can you help? Contact Pastor Sherry at [sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com](mailto:sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com).



## Youth Chats

**April 11** 7:00 Sunday

**April 25** 7:00 Sunday

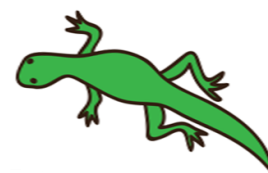
We'll talk about "Finding God in Tough Times."

## Save the Date

VBS 2021

July 11-15, 2021

More information and the theme coming next month!



## Women's Book Group

Love to read and want a way to connect with others, even while we're apart? Try out the Women's Book Group! Pop in any month you can for a great discussion via Zoom. Links are sent via email, so contact Pastor Sherry to be added to the email list ([sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com](mailto:sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com)). Below are our books for the next. Hope you can join us!

**April 15** — The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd

**May 20** — The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead



# Staying Strong During the Pandemic

## A Devotion for Youth

I can do all things through Christ, who gives me strength. Phil 4:13

We've been through a lot in the past year. We have a tradition in our Youth Group that we share our joys or concerns, our highs and our lows. This past year you may have experienced some of your lowest lows. I'm going to be honest. It's been a tough year for me. I've hit some pretty low points. I live with depression anyhow. And the isolation, being away from all of you and everyone else at church, as well as my own family, just made it worse. Then, one of my brothers passed away unexpectedly in August. It was rough.

Now, I take medication for my depression, and I see a counselor. But, even those tools were not enough to keep from feeling blue some days. And yet, even on those days when I was feeling the lowest, I knew there were four things I could count on: My wife, my son, my dog, and God. I want to break those down a little bit here. Now I know most of you, and I hope all of you, come from pretty solid families, so you can count on your parents and your siblings to help you out if you're feeling down. That's what we've been talking about during our Youth Chats – building that circle of trust when we're struggling with difficult feelings like anxiety and depression.

Now, there's nothing wrong with feeling anxious or depressed. I don't mean they're difficult because they're wrong. But, they're difficult because they are strong feelings, they are powerful emotions. And, sometimes, they can overwhelm us.

And having people we can talk to about our feelings, having someone we can turn to when we're struggling, can make a huge difference. It can really help a lot. And the adults who help run the Youth Program at church want you to know you can reach out to any of us at any time. We're here for you. So, how many of you have a dog? Or a cat? Or some other animal you can talk to when things are rough? Or just cuddle with them when you're feeling down? Scientific studies have shown that having a furry creature that you pet and snuggle with helps boost your mood. So, if you're feeling bad, take some time to love on the critters in your house – if you have them.

Now, take a look at the cartoon that's with this article. Of course, God is not really a dog. But, I think it is true that dogs do exhibit some of the same characteristics we see in God. God is joyful, and God is loving above all else. Also, God is eternally forgiving (<https://commonsenseevaluation.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/GoD-And-DoG.jpg>)

In Philippians 4:13, Paul writes, "I can do all things through Christ, who gives me strength." Think about that for a minute. We spend a lot of time at church and Youth Group talking about the fact that God is always with us and always loves us, no matter what. That love was shown most fully through Jesus Christ. Now, with this quote from Paul, we see that in addition to Jesus Christ loving us, he is also walking with us every day, and will give us strength when we face tough times. That's what I want you to remember most from this devotion. That in addition to loving us and caring for us, Jesus Christ also helps us get through the rough stuff.

We've had a rough year with the pandemic, and we've still got a ways to go before it's completely over. But, even in these tough times, Jesus Christ has been with us. And will continue to be with us. To help us. To love us. And to give us strength. So – remember – you and me? We're not alone in this. When we feel tired, when we feel weak, when we feel worn out – whether it's from the pandemic or any other difficult thing we are facing – we can count on Jesus to love us. And to give us strength and help carry us through the tough times.

Saving Jesus,

Thank you for all the ways in which you care for us. Thank you for giving us the strength to face anything and everything – no matter how difficult it may seem. We're going through a lot right now, and we appreciate all that you have done to help us so far. Please continue to give us strength and guide us as we seek to get through to the end of this pandemic. Amen

# March Prayer List

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- Alise Anderson's parents, Jim & Missy Whitlock - COVID related
- Fern Angelos' friend, Barb Hunckler's family upon her passing; her nephew Ken Vallrugo
- George (Fern) Angelos' goddaughters, Jeri Graham - COVID ; Beth White - COVID
- Roger Beitzel's brother, Ken, hospitalized with COVID
- Mary Boedeker, prayers for her health, her family remains healthy, and that her eyesight returns
- Lindsey Carrozza's friend Maggie Cherry and her husband John
- Mary Curnane's mother-in-law passed away at 101 years old. Please keep the family in your prayers.
- Melanie Dale's brother
- Carolyn (Jeff) Dement's niece, Kelsey
- Caryn Feris' friend Eddy Jedlicka's family, upon his passing
- Jennifer Garcia's friend's daughter, Gabby
- Jennifer Garcia's husband, David
- Ali Glodoski's dad, Curt Heise.
- Patty Habersberger's friend, Erica Roberts
- Karyn Holstead's friend, Mary Ellen
- Carole Holloway's husband, Bob; friend, Denise McCall's (former member of PUMC) husband, Ray
- Sharon (Don) Kinley's brother, Jem Duffin passed away 2/17/21. Prayers for the Kinley & Duffin families.
- Ron & Margie Lee - Ron had gall bladder surgery in January; Margie had a stroke on January 29. She will be coming home from Marion Joy on February 20th. If you would like to send a card, their address is: 23204 W. Lake Place, Plainfield, IL 60544
- Holli Long's friend's daughter is currently waiting for a heart transplant
- Maria Lyons (Sue Bennett's daughter) passing
- Laura (Mackley) Marrero
- Carol Markwell's family upon the passing of her daughter-in-law, Mary Markwell
- Misty Martin
- Karen (Ron) Mizwicki's Uncle Tommie Meeks' son, my cousin Eric Meeks and his family upon the passing of Tommie from COVID; Aunt Margie Watson's family upon her passing
- Sandi Reader's mom, Deloris Mesik, passed away today (March 11). Prayers for Sandi and her family
- Diane Roberts' sister's friend, Cindy; her friend, Stacy - who lost her son, father and daughter
- June Salen requesting thoughts and prayers for all of those having difficulties in Texas, OK, and other states.
- Angie Sullivan's Aunt Beth; also her mom's family as they mourn the passing of Angie's Uncle Bobby
- MickeySue Traver's family and friends on 6 Nation Reserve in Canada - on Black alert for COVID
- Marnie Vidad's friend, Gloria Moya's family upon Gloria's passing
- Georgia Whitley
- Nancy Ziech's mother, Violetta passed away 2/8/21; her Aunt Amy passed away 1/28/21; good friends, Bob & Sandy

## **A JOY**

Don & Sharon Kinley are the proud great-grandparents of a new baby girl! Congratulations!!

## **New Address:**

### **Helen Wheeler:**

Tabor Hills Healthcare, 1347 Crystal Avenue,  
Naperville, IL 60563

### **Beverly Daniels:**

21100 Aspen Lane, Plainfield, IL 60544

# APRIL

**4-01-2021**

MAUNDY THURSDAY

**4-02-2021**

GOOD FRIDAY

**12:00pm** Worship with Plainfield Ministerial Association

**4-03-2021**

EASTER SATURDAY CELEBRATION

**10:00pm** Driving Scavenger Hunt

**4-04-2021**

EASTER

**10:00am** Online Worship  
COMMUNION 11-12:30

**4-05-2021**

**6:30pm** Staff Parish

**4-07-2021**

**3:00pm** Chat with the Pastor (*Facebook*)  
**6:30pm** WHAM! (*via ZOOM*)

**4-11-2021**

**9:00am** Confirmation  
**9:15am** Sunday School  
**10:00am** Online Worship  
**10:45am** Adult Sunday School (*via ZOOM*)  
**7:00pm** Youth Chat

**4-12-2021**

**11:30am** Lunch Bunch

**4-13-2021**

**6:30pm** YMAP (*via ZOOM*)  
**7:00pm** M&O (*via ZOOM*)

**4-14-2021**

**3:00pm** Chat with the Pastor (*via ZOOM*)

**4-15-2021**

**7:00pm** Women's Book Group (*via ZOOM*)

**4-18-2021**

**9:00am** Confirmation  
**9:15am** Sunday School  
**10:00am** Online Worship  
**10:45am** Adult Sunday School (*via ZOOM*)

**4-19-2021**

**11:30am** Lunch Bunch

**4-21-2021**

**3:00pm** Chat with the Pastor (*Facebook*)  
**6:30pm** WHAM! (*via ZOOM*)

**4-25-2021**

**9:00am** Confirmation  
**9:15am** Sunday School  
**10:00am** Online Worship  
**10:45am** Adult Sunday School (*via ZOOM*)  
**7:00pm** Youth Chat

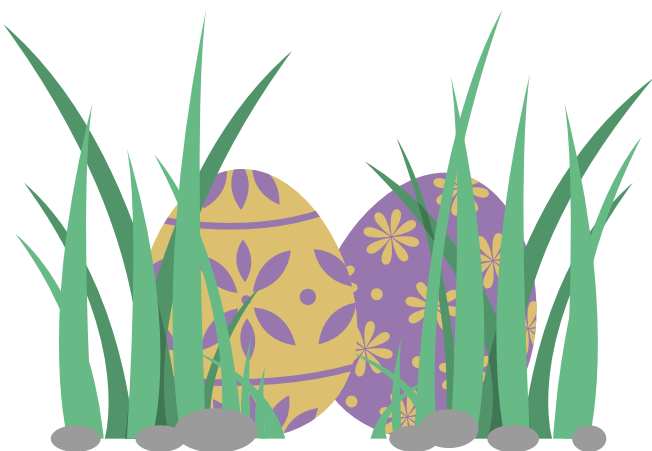
**4-26-2021**

**11:30am** Lunch Bunch  
**6:30pm** Ad Council (*via ZOOM*)

**4-28-2021**

**11:30am** Trinity Food Pantry  
**12:00pm** Widows Group  
**3:00pm** Chat with the Pastor (*Facebook*)

ALL GROUP CLASSES ARE HELD VIA ZOOM



Plainfield United Methodist Church  
15114 S. Illinois Street  
Plainfield, IL 60544

## Plainfield UMC Staff

**Cheryl Henbest**  
**Director of Administrative Ministries**  
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**Karen Koziol, Bookkeeper**  
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**Beth Best, Chancel Choir Director**  
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**Karyn Holstead, Children's Choir**  
[kholstead@hotmail.com](mailto:kholstead@hotmail.com)

**Megan Marconi, Worship Band Director  
and Bellissimo Handbell Choir Director**  
[mamarconi1029@gmail.com](mailto:mamarconi1029@gmail.com)

**Kathy Hermansen, Organist**  
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**Katherine Martinez,**  
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## Pastoral Staff

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[dick.wisdom@plainfieldumc.com](mailto:dick.wisdom@plainfieldumc.com)

**Rev. Sherry Steele, Minister of Faith Formation**  
[sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com](mailto:sherry.steele@plainfieldumc.com)

**Roger Beitzel, Youth Director**  
[roger.beitzel@plainfieldumc.com](mailto:roger.beitzel@plainfieldumc.com)

## Worship Services

**10am** Sunday Online Worship

**3pm** Wednesday Online Chat, Pastor Dick or Pastor Sherry