



# **The Methodist**

## *Memo*

SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST  
AND SHARING OUR FAITH WITH OUR NEIGHBORS

*May 2022*



*From*  
*the* Pastor's Heart

### *Eternal Hope*

"Hope springs eternal." You are, no doubt, familiar with the expression.

When all seems lost...when we've hit a brick wall, dead end, nowhere to turn, case closed—still, against all odds, against reason, against fate itself—the human spirit persists in insisting hope is not lost.



And for me? I refuse to give up hope for the here-and-now—no matter how discouraging, fruitless, and desperate things appear.

Although I do have to confess that my resiliency in such matters is tested. How could it not be? Just when it appears we (i.e. collective humanity) might be making progress, something blows up—quite often literally—and all seems lost. Given the ebb-and-flow of a lifetime of start/stop, on-again/off-again, détente/hostility, functional/dysfunctional, cooperation/gridlock, and one step forward/two steps back, you reach a point when you're just tired.

And still, there are a few things that renew and regenerate ...

- \* When I sit with Tinley community members in restaurants and coffee shops, I become hopeful again.
- \* Spending time outside walking and digging in the dirt refreshes.
- \* Singing hymns of faith repairs the bruised spirit.
- \* Reading books for fun at night.

**Eternity**



*From the Pastor's Heart (continued)*

Sitting together with a few of our church folks for one reason (or even no real reason at all) and then experiencing the divine surprise of our conversations turning into something real, true, deep, vulnerable, laughing or crying, celebrating, or questioning.

And then, but of course, there is Jesus. If it weren't for Jesus and his church, I would have lost all hope long ago—right out of the gate. It's not just his empty tomb that is reassuring, it's who he was and how he lived. He preached hope-filled messages and then lived out both the premise and the promise of his teaching before us. With Jesus, what you see is what you get—and what you get is always good ...

Sisters and brothers—do not lose hope. Remember the Resurrection. And raise your life, too! And let's help each other, love each other, along the way ...

*May the peace and hope of Christ be with you always,*

*Pastor Mark*

**Guest Preacher Sundays May 22 and 29**

Rev. Christina Vosteen will be our guest preacher for the last two Sunday worship services in May. Rev. Vosteen is a retired pastor in The UMC Northern Illinois Conference, and currently serving as Registrar for the Lake South District Committee on Ordained Ministry, and as a certified Spiritual Director.

Come to worship and show Christina our TPUMC cheerful welcome and hospitality!

Pastor Mark will be in Michigan for the Celebration of Life service for his sister, Karen, and spending time with family and friends.

***May Sermon Series***

<i>Date</i>	<i>Sermon Title</i>	<i>Scripture</i>
<b>May 1</b> Third Sunday of Easter Holy Communion	"Soul Food"	John 21:1-19
<b>May 8</b> Fourth Sunday of Easter	"In His Hands"	John 10:22-30
<b>May 15</b> Fifth Sunday of Easter	"Ministry—Glorified Service"	John 13:31-35
<b>May 22</b> Rev. Christina Vosteen Sixth Sunday of Easter	"Saying Good-bye"	John 14:23-29
<b>May 29</b> Rev. Christina Vosteen Ascension of The Lord Sunday	"What Goes Up..."	Acts 1:1-11



# Announcements

**Mother's Day is Sunday, May 8—don't forget mom!**

- \* Pastor Mark will be on vacation May 21-29, to attend his sister's celebration of life service and spend some time with family in Traverse City. Rev Christina Vosteen will be our guest preacher for the last two Sunday worship services in May. Please see page two for additional details.

**183rd Northern Illinois Annual Conference Fill the Truck Mission Challenge Collection Drive  
June 8-10, 2022**

- \* **The NIC Board of Global Ministries** is coordinating with Midwest Mission Distribution Center to organize its Annual Conference Collection Drive for MMDC's Most Needed Items. The following items are needed: Liquid Laundry Detergent (32-64 oz.), Liquid Household Cleaner (16-40 oz.), Liquid Dish Soap (14-32 oz.), Blankets Can Be Gently Used, Toothpaste (2.5 oz or larger), Rulers (12" long with metric), Colored Pencils (12 pack), Scissors (student size), Bleacher Lumber (to make school desks).

Financial contributions or bulk purchases are also welcome. Send a check written to the **Northern Illinois Conference with the Advance #50000150 in the memo section to the conference treasurer's office.** Send a check written to **Midwest Mission Distribution Center, 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558.** To make an online donation, go to **MMDC [midwestmission.org/donate/donate](http://midwestmission.org/donate/donate).** For competitive prices on MMDC's bulk supply wish-list items, check the website at: [umcnic.org/2022MissionChallenge](http://umcnic.org/2022MissionChallenge).

## *Chapel of the Ascension*



**I**n Jerusalem, several churches commemorate the Ascension of Jesus into heaven. One of the most popular is the Chapel of the Ascension, located on top of the Mount of Olives. A Byzantine church in honor of the Ascension was constructed on this site about 390 A.D. by a Christian woman named Poimenia. The open-air church was said to contain a stone with the imprint of the foot of Jesus.

The Persians destroyed the church about 614 A.D., but it was later restored by St. Modestus of Jerusalem. Crusaders rebuilt the church about 1150, but by the end of the 12th century, the Muslim general, Saladin, had captured the church and converted it into a mosque.

The chapel remains a holy site for Christians and for Muslims who also acknowledge the Ascension of Jesus and will continue to occupy the site. The walls in the courtyard of the Chapel of the Ascension are lined with hooks. Pilgrims used the hooks to stretch tents when they came to celebrate the Feast of the Ascension.

*Source: The Little White Book: Six-minute Reflections on the Parables of Jesus. (2021).*



*"Youth fades; love droops; the leaves of friendship fall.  
A mother's secret love outlives them all."  
Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.*

**S**unday, May 8 is Mother's Day, a day when we pay tribute to all mothers, but let's not forget those women who have been and who currently are role models for us. Let's keep in mind that on this day, we bestow special respect to all women—those with whom we live—those with whom we associate, and all women of the world, for their contributions to us and our communities require sacrifice and commitment. Let's also take a moment to look up to Heaven and say a prayer to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and thank her for showing us what it means to love, to suffer loss, and to triumph over adversity. *Happy Mother's Day.*





May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship 9:30 am Holy Communion	2	3	4	5 Line Dancing 7:00 pm	6	7
8 Happy Mother's Day Worship at 9:30 am	9	10	11	12 Line Dancing 7:00 pm	13	14
15 Worship 9:30 am	16	17	18	19 Line Dancing 7:00 pm	20	21
22 Worship 9:30 am Pastor Mark in Michigan this week	23	24	25	26 Line Dancing 7:00 pm	27	28
29 Worship 9:30 am Pastor Mark in Michigan this week	30	31	<i>"Spread love everywhere you go." ~ Mother Teresa</i>			

### May Birthdays

Madeline Bonow—3  
 Jerry McCarty—8  
 Graeson Sumner— 9 (Debbi Sumner's grandson)  
 Jay Crandall—16  
 Kathy Row—6  
 Gabriel Sumner— 8 (Debbi Sumner's son)  
 Joanna Medrow—12  
 Mallory Ebeling—19 (granddaughter of Phyllis & Paul)  
 Danielle Pedraza—22  
 David Crandall—26  
 Renae Borgerding—29 (Daughter of Phyllis & Paul Ebling)



God could not be everywhere, and therefore  
 he made mothers.  
 ~ Rudyard Kipling

Food Pantry Hours: Wednesday 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.





## *An Inspirational Story for Mother's Day*

A man stopped at a flower shop to order some flowers to be wired to his mother who lived two hundred miles away. As he got out of his car, he noticed a young girl sitting on the curb sobbing.

He asked her what was wrong, and she replied, "I wanted to buy a red rose for my mother. But I only have seventy-five cents, and a rose costs two dollars."

The man smiled and said, "Come on in with me. I'll buy you a rose." He bought the little girl her rose and ordered his own mother's flowers. As they were leaving, he offered the girl a ride home.

She said, "Yes, please! You can take me to my mother." She directed him to a cemetery, where she placed the rose on a freshly dug grave.

The man returned to the flower shop, canceled the wire order, picked up a bouquet and drove the two hundred miles to his mother's house.



Source: [www.theholidayspot.com](http://www.theholidayspot.com)

*"Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 'Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.'"*

*~ Proverbs 31:28-29*

The first Mother's Day proclamation was issued by the governor of West Virginia in 1910, and it was celebrated in Oklahoma that same year. By 1911 there was not a state in the Union that did not have its own observances for Mother's Day. Soon the idea crossed national boundaries, as people in Mexico, Canada, South America, China, Japan, and Africa all joined the spree to celebrate a day for mother love.

Source used for this page: [theholidayspot.com](http://theholidayspot.com)

## Financial Status at March 31, 2022

**Our adjusted bank balance at March 31, 2022 is the following:**

**The budget for 2022 shows expected revenues of \$124,975 and**

Actual bank balance at March 31, 2022.....\$13,417

Anticipated recovery of charges related to loan forgiveness  
under the Federal Payroll Protection Program of 2020.....\$ 5,284

Adjusted bank balance at March 31, 2022.....\$18,701

**anticipated expenses of \$141,277.** This means we expect to spend \$16,302 more than we receive. This is the last year we can do this. We have been using prior years' accumulated funds to meet current year's needs, and those funds will be fully exhausted at this year end.

Contributions for the first three months for the year look good when compared to the budget. If we are able to adhere closely to our budget, then the year end result would be as follows:

Bank balance at December 31, 2021.....\$ 24,137

Budget Revenues.....\$124,975

Budget Expenses..... <\$141,277>

Bank balance at December 31, 2022..... \$ 7,835

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As I have cautioned in the past, in order for our church to financially survive, we need growth in membership and/or increased giving.

Chuck Okresik/ncc  
Finance Chairman

## *"Of Birds and Stars"*

*by Henry Bosch*

*\*Observe nature, and you'll find God.*

*Source: 90 Devotions on Nature from Our Daily Bread:  
Creation Sings His Praise*

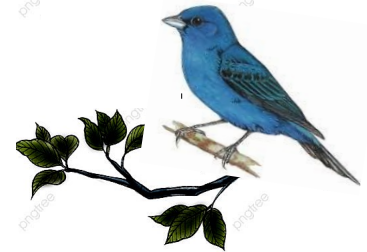
Nature teaches us much about God. For one thing, it shows His kindness in providing animals and birds with inborn impulses and patterns that aid them in adjusting to what is often a hostile environment. Their lives are thus guided and preserved despite their limited intelligence. For instance, some birds would die if they had to stay all year in areas of extremely cold weather. Therefore, the Lord has graciously given them migrating instincts.

Take, for instance, the small indigo bunting (a member of the finch family). This little guy apparently steers his way 2,000 miles south every year just by looking over his shoulder at the northern sky! This night-flying bird does not seem to rely on any one star or constellation for his direction, says Stephen T. Emlen of Cornell University. Rather, this bird recognizes the whole geometrical pattern of the skies within 35 degrees of the North Star, and it can be confused only when that part of the sky is entirely blocked off by clouds. The bunting then wisely discontinues flight until it can once again get a clear view of the configuration made by the northern star groups.

The prophet Jeremiah tells us that the Lord gave these "ordinances of the moon and

the stars for a light by night" (Jeremiah 31:35). Apparently, the nighttime lights not only aid people in navigation but they also assist our feathered friends, the birds.

Observing nature, so crammed with beauty, wonder, and design, we can see through the lives of the beasts and the fowls of the air that there is a gracious heavenly Father who provides for His creatures in wisdom. This in turn should call forth our adoration and praise!



*"But ask the animals, and they will teach you,  
or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you;  
...In his hand is the life of every creature and  
the breath of all mankind.*

*~ Job 12:7, 10*

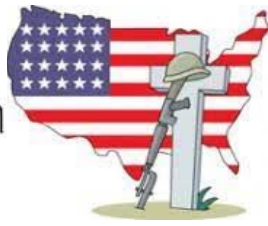


*Fact of Nature  
The indigo bunting, a  
brilliant blue bird,  
winters in the Caribbean  
islands and in  
Central America.*





Remember -  
our fallen heroes.  
They are the reason  
that we are free.



## History of Memorial Day

On May 5, 1858, three years after the Civil War ended, the leader of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), an organization of Union veterans, established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate with flowers the graves of those who died in the war. Major General John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day be observed on May 30. It is believed that the end of May was chosen because spring flowers would be available, and the first large observance of this day was held in 1858 at Arlington National Cemetery. Ceremonies took place around the veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of General Robert E. Lee. Washington officials, including General and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies.

It was not until after World War I, however, that Memorial Day was expanded to honor those who had died in all American wars. In December 2000, President Clinton signed The National

Moment of Remembrance Law, which was passed by congress to encourage all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3:00 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation.

Special services to honor those who had died in war date back to antiquity. Pericles, the Athenian statesman offered a tribute to the fallen heroes of the Peloponnesian War over 24 centuries ago that could be applied to the 1.1 million Americans who have died in our nation's wars when he said, Not only are they commemorated by columns and inscriptions, but there dwells also an unwritten memorial of them, graven not on stone but in the hearts of men."

Source: [history.com](http://history.com)

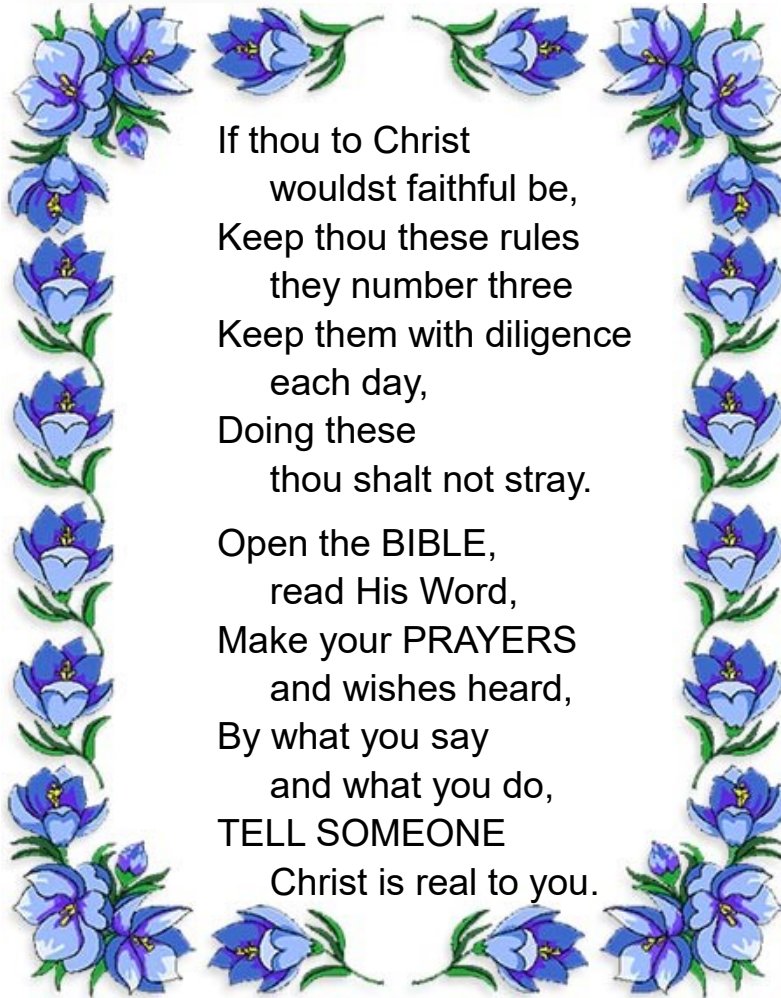
*"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.  
We did not pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought  
for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will  
spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what  
it was once like in the United States where men were free."*

*- Ronald Reagan*





*Advice in Rhyme*  
*by Uldine Utley*  
*(1912-1995)*



If thou to Christ  
wouldst faithful be,  
Keep thou these rules  
they number three  
Keep them with diligence  
each day,  
Doing these  
thou shalt not stray.  
  
Open the BIBLE,  
read His Word,  
Make your PRAYERS  
and wishes heard,  
By what you say  
and what you do,  
TELL SOMEONE  
Christ is real to you.

Uldine Utley is defined the girl evangelist of the 1920s and 1930s. She began her preaching career at age eleven, published a monthly magazine by age twelve, and by age fourteen was regularly packing the largest venues in major American cities, including Carnegie Hall and Madison Square Garden. She stood toe to toe with Billy Sunday and Aimee Semple McPherson, the most famous revivalist preachers of the day. She became a darling of the secular press and was mimicked and modeled in fiction and plays. With a career as a girl evangelist of over a dozen years, she spend the latter half in the Chicago area. Anyone interested in learning more about this prodigy should check out her biography, *Preacher Girl: Uldine Utley and the Industry of Revival* by Thomas A. Robinson.