

First Presbyterian Church

1803 - 83rd Street

Kenosha, Wisconsin 53143



TOWER TOPICS

Church Phone: 262-652-6838

Church e-mail: k1stpres@yahoo.com

Church Website: www.kenoshafpc.org

LANCE LOVEALL, Pastor

DATED MATERIAL

March 29, 2018

MOVIE NIGHT



What: Wonder

When: Friday, April 27th at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall

Please sign up in the Narthex or in Fellowship Hall if you plan to attend.

Wonder, based on the bestselling book, tells the story of Auggie Pullman, a boy with facial differences. He becomes an unlikely hero when he enters school as a 5th grader. Auggie's journey unites his family, classmates and community as they struggle to discover their compassion and acceptance.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I was listening to an NPR broadcast this morning and a story came on about a project that was recently released based on the diaries of comic Gary Shandling who died in 2016. The man who completed the project spoke of Shandling's torment over the death of his brother and how that played a role in his comedy, which turned into a brief discussion about how many comics use their life's pain and the darker places of their lives to enhance their comedy. Many, not all, comics seem to tap into the harder parts of their lives to enhance their understanding of all of life. The interviewee said these words (or something like them), "By writing from a place of struggle you get a deeper view of life in all of its layers. You become more observant of the complexities of life and can find joy and humor even in the struggle." I thought that was pretty deep, at least for a radio spot about comedy. Rather than trying to cover up, forget about, or pretend away the struggle of life and the pain we experience, we actually have the opportunity to tap into it to allow us a better view of the human experience in all of its messy complexity.

Perhaps our Christian faith is the same way. We often think that being Christian equals being happy, being optimistic about everything, seeing the good in all things, putting on a smile and ignoring the pain of life. We forget that standing at the tomb of Lazarus, Jesus cried for the loss of his friend and the pain of the day. We forget that in acknowledging Jesus as fully human we acknowledge that he truly knew what it is to suffer, feel depressed, become anxious, feel doubt, or wonder if things will ever change. But we also acknowledge that by experiencing the pain of humanity, he also could experience the joy and wonder of being human all the more. Love becomes more complex when mixed with the realization of loss. Happiness becomes more vivid when placed against the backdrop of pain. Feeling the grace of God is all the more poignant when we have felt the harsh judgment of our own self-criticism or the judgment of others. Faith is not just grown and developed in the soil of the good and happy times of life. Faith is cultivated in both the joy and pain of life to create a complex view of God, Christ's redemption, the community of faith, and sanctification in the Holy Spirit.

French writer, philosopher, and activist Simone Weil, who suffered from chronic pain, self-induced malnutrition in solidarity with her compatriots under German occupation, and tuberculosis once wrote, "The way to make use of physical pain. When suffering no matter what degree of pain, when almost the entire soul is inwardly crying 'Make it stop, I can bear no more,' a part of the soul, even though it be an infinitesimally small part, should say: 'I consent that this should continue throughout the whole of time, if the divine wisdom so ordains.' The soul is then split in two." We look at suffering as the enemy of life, but perhaps it is also that which gives life meaning, beauty, joy, and especially for Christians, compassion for others in their suffering. Our faith is more

powerful when we are not just the happy throng of do-gooders, but rather the people who have suffered and therefore seek to alleviate the suffering of others.

I do not wish suffering on anyone for any reason. However, I do wish we may all learn that suffering is not the opposite of God's love, pain is not the opposite of faith. We can experience the love of God and the joy of life even in the midst of pain and we can find that compassion that leads to ministry as we seek to love others in their pain as a well.

Lance

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**Treasurer's Report:**

General Operating Fund

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance 1/1/2017 | \$59,152.89        |
| Receipts                   | \$17,990.29        |
| Disbursements              | <u>\$34,247.45</u> |
| Ending Balance 1/31/2017   | <u>\$42,895.73</u> |

Building Reserve Fund

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance 1/1/2017 | \$54,066.01        |
| Receipts                   | \$ 1,499.60        |
| Disbursements              | \$ 0.00            |
| Interest                   | <u>\$ 4.19</u>     |
| Ending Balance 1/31/2017   | <u>\$55,569.80</u> |

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MISSION STATEMENT

Called into being by God's grace, we are Christians in progress;
Called to grow together in God's ways through worship, study, fellowship, evangelism, and service;
Called to be servants of God's love to one another, to our community, and to the world.
We welcome all to our community of faith.

DEACON'S MINISTRY

Chain of Prayer: Call Judy Wynstra at 262-605-1127 if you have a prayer request. If she is not home leave a message. She will make sure your request is taken care of. If you would like to be part of the prayer chain please contact Judy.

Card Ministry: The Deacons send cards to members who cannot join us Sundays in church, as well as those who may be sick, hospitalized for some reason, or are going through some rough times and need support. Please contact Tana Baldwin if you know of someone who needs a card. Donations of cards are appreciated. You may put any donations in Tana's mailbox. If you would like someone to call you, serve you communion, or visit, please let us know.

Local Missions: Deacons will discuss some local missions that could use our help.

DEACON'S SOUP KITCHEN MINISTRY

First Presbyterian Church volunteers at the Shalom Center, 4314 39th Avenue, on the first Tuesday of each month, except for the months of April and November. Volunteers make the soup, sandwiches, cupcakes, and serve the meal. In addition to this, the Soup Kitchen coordinators purchase the meat, cheese, peanut butter, jelly, coffee and sandwich bags for that month. All are welcome to participate as they choose. The sign up sheet, complete with serving times, is on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

There is also a sign up on the bulletin board if you would like to show off your culinary skills by making the soup for a month. The soup can be made at church, at home or at the Shalom Center and there are recipes and help is available to make the soup and deliver it! If you are interested in making soup, sign your name on the sheet and give Carole Serpe a call at 262-344-3906.

On March 6th, we served 56 adults and 15 children at the Soup Kitchen. We had 16 volunteers. The chicken noodle soup was made by the Souper Stars, headed by the soup guru, Carole Serpe.

The next Soup Kitchen for our volunteers will be May 1st. (Another group volunteers in April and November) If you would like to make the soup, sign up on the bulletin board and give Carol a call. Remember, help is available.

Another way to help the Shalom Center is the grocery collection at church on the first Sunday of each month. If you would like to donate, just look for the grocery bags in the Narthex and add your non-perishable foods to those bags. David Thompson

delivers these bags to the Shalom Food Pantry at 8043 Sheridan Road. Thank you for your support in this important mission.

Our next meeting will be Monday, May 14th at 6:00 p.m.

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## **SOUPER STARS NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

The Souper Stars Team makes soup for the Shalom Center Soup Kitchen on a monthly basis. We will need volunteers to make the soup for **June 5<sup>th</sup>**. Soup can be made at your home, at the church kitchen, or at the Shalom Center kitchen. There are recipes and instructions in the old kitchen at church in the drawer next to the refrigerator. If soup making is not your area of expertise, The Souper Stars will also accept monetary donations. If you chose to make a donation, please write “for Souper Stars” on your envelope and place it in the offering plate. Donations will be given to the Deacon’s Treasurer and used to purchase soup making ingredients. Thank you for your support of this very important mission. Questions can be directed to Carole Serpe 262-344-3906 or [cserpe49@gmail.com](mailto:cserpe49@gmail.com)

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CHECK IT OUT

We have two new issues of Guidepost magazine on the book cart. Help yourself!

I'd like to organize a book discussion if enough people are interested. The title of the book is Giddy Up, Eunice (Because Women Need Each Other) by Sophie Hudson, a quirky Southern writer who looks at how the Scriptures relate to the lives of women and how important the different generations are to each other. Particulars such as time, date, and funding will be discussed at a later date. Email me at sherylabecker@yahoo.com or talk to me at church if you're interested. Everyone is welcome!

DAILY LECTIONARY PASSAGES

APRIL 2018

- Apr 1** – Psalm 93, 150, 136, 117; Exod. 12:1-14; John 1:1-18; Luke 24:13-35
- Apr 2** – Psalm 97, 145, 124, 115; Exod. 12:14-27; 1 Cor. 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8
- Apr 3** – Psalm 98, 146, 66, 116; Exod. 12:28-39; 1 Cor. 15:12-28; Mark 16:9-20
- Apr 4** – Psalm 99, 147:1-11, 9, 118; Exod. 12:40-51; 1 Cor. 15:30-41; Matt. 28:1-16
- Apr 5** – Psalm 47, 147:12-20, 68, 113; Exod. 13:3-10; 1 Cor. 15:41-50; Matt. 28:16-20
- Apr 6** – Psalm 96, 148, 49, 138; Exod. 13:1-2, 11-16; 1 Cor. 15:51-58; Luke 24:1-12
- Apr 7** – Psalm 92, 149, 23, 114; Exod. 13:17-14:4; 2 Cor. 4:16-5:10; Mark 12:18-27
- Apr 8** – Psalm 93, 150, 136, 117; Exod. 14:5-22; 1 John 1:1-7; John 14:1-7
- Apr 9** – Psalm 97, 145, 124, 115; Exod. 14:21-31; 1 Peter 1:1-12; John 14:8-17
- Apr 10** – Psalm 98, 146, 66, 116; Exod. 15:1-21; 1 Peter 1:13-25; John 14:18-31
- Apr 11** – Psalm 99, 147:1-11, 9, 118; Exod. 15:22-16:10; 1 Peter 2:1-10; John 15:1-11
- Apr 12** – Psalm 47, 147:12-20, 68, 113; Exod. 16:10-22; 1 Peter 2:11-3:12; John 15:12-27
- Apr 13** – Psalm 96, 148, 49, 138; Exod. 16:23-36; 1 Peter 3:13-4:6; John 16:1-15
- Apr 14** – Psalm 92, 149, 23, 114; Exod. 17:1-16; 1 Peter 4:7-19; John 16:16-33
- Apr 15** – Psalm 93, 150, 136, 117; Exod. 18:1-12; 1 John 2:7-17; Mark 16:9-20
- Apr 16** – Psalm 97, 145, 124, 115; Exod. 18:13-27; 1 Peter 5:1-14; Matt. 3:1-6
- Apr 17** – Psalm 98, 146, 66, 116; Exod. 19:1-16; Col. 1:1-14; Matt. 3:7-12
- Apr 18** – Psalm 99, 147:1-11, 9, 118; Exod. 19:16-25; Col. 1:15-23; Matt. 3:13-17
- Apr 19** – Psalm 47, 147:12-20, 68, 113; Exod. 20:1-21; Col. 1:24-2:7; Matt. 4:1-11
- Apr 20** – Psalm 96, 148, 49, 138; Exod. 24:1-18; Col. 2:8-23; Matt. 4:12-17
- Apr 21** – Psalm 92, 149, 23, 114; Exod. 25:1-22; Col. 3:1-17; Matt. 4:18-25
- Apr 22** – Psalm 93, 150, 136, 117; Exod. 28:1-4, 30-38; 1 John 2:18-29; Mark 6:30-44
- Apr 23** – Psalm 97, 145, 124, 115; Exod. 32:1-20; Col. 3:18-4:6; Matt. 5:1-10
- Apr 24** – Psalm 98, 146, 66, 116; Exod. 32:21-34; 1 Thess. 1:1-10; Matt. 5:11-16
- Apr 25** – Psalm 99, 147:1-11, 9, 118; Exod. 33:1-23; 1 Thess. 2:1-12; Matt. 5:17-20
- Apr 26** – Psalm 47, 147:12-20, 68, 113; Exod. 34:1-17; 1 Thess. 2:13-20; Matt. 5:21-26
- Apr 27** – Psalm 96, 148, 49, 138; Exod. 34:18-35; 1 Thess. 3:1-13; Matt. 5:27-37
- Apr 28** – Psalm 92, 149, 23, 114; Exod. 40:18-38; 1 Thess. 4:1-12; Matt. 5:38-48
- Apr 29** – Psalm 93, 150, 136, 117; Lev. 8:1-13, 30-36; Heb. 12:1-14; Luke 4:16-30
- Apr 30** – Psalm 97, 145, 124, 115; Lev. 16:1-19; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Matt. 6:1-6, 16-18

FIRESIDE FRIENDS

Fireside Friends will meet on Tuesday, April 10th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room to celebrate “The Year of the Bible”. Please plan to share your favorite Bible verse or passage. Also, if you would like, bring a beloved bible of your own, an old family Bible, one from your childhood, etc. If you have questions, contact Mary Wirch or Julie Iorio.

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## **GRADUATE INFORMATION**

If you or your child is graduating from high school, college, or graduate school and you would like this accomplishment to be recognized in our June newsletter, please send your information to our email, [k1stpres@yahoo.com](mailto:k1stpres@yahoo.com), by May 24th.

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STRONGHOLD CAMP

Information about Stronghold Camp can be found on the table in the Narthex or at www.strongholdcenter.org. There are several different types of camp, for all ages, including family camps and grandparent/grandchild camp.

PRAYER SHAWL

Prayer Shawl will meet at church on Wednesday, April 18th at 10:00 a.m. All knitters and crocheters welcome!

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## **HELPING HANDS**

Do you need a little extra help? The Helping Hands program offers various types of assistance to our members. Contact Donna Bauman to see if we can help.

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SOUP KITCHEN

There will be **NO SOUP KITCHEN IN APRIL**. The next date for soup kitchen is Tuesday, May 1st at 4:15 p.m. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you would like to volunteer.

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## **SENIOR LUNCHEONS**

Our senior luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All seniors and guests are welcome. Please join us for delicious food and wonderful fellowship!

## **JAM MINISTRY (JAM-) ROLLING ALONG**

Thanks to the generosity of the Chili Cook-Off donors and a good launch day on March 4, we are probably going to surpass last year's "take" for the end of March, even if we have only a modest day on Palm Sunday.

April is usually a quiet time for the Jam Ministry, but given that Easter is early this year, we may be able to find time to involve more First Pres people in the jam business. Look for an announcement about when we can have a short meeting for those interested in helping. There is much more to do than simply put jam in jars. For example, this is what has to be done before even starting to prepare jams, jellies, and butters:

- Checking empty and returned jars that have been left in the Link;
- Removing labels and glue from returned jars;
- Checking returned bands and lids for dents and rust;
- Buying new jars and replacement bands and lids;
- Washing returned and new bands and lids by hand, drying them and setting them out to air dry;
- Washing returned and new jars (in church or home dishwasher) and letting them air dry;
- Storing all of the above carefully, ready for sterilizing and use.

Maybe someone would like to take responsibility for these tasks?

At the projected meeting of those interested, perhaps we can give a full outline of the process which is time-consuming but rewarding – particularly when 100% of the filled jars seals and the jam inside gels – so that you can see where you might fit in.

In the meantime, all contributions are happily accepted, both monetary and jam-making supplies (particularly those empty 8-oz and 4-oz jars, of course). You can donate by cash, check made out to the church (marked Jam Ministry), and – thanks to John Infante – by credit card! There will be opportunities to join the fruit-picking and jam-making teams, and ideas about getting the word (as well as the jams) out to friends and neighbors about what we are doing, because other people are interested in helping – really! Several hundred dollars of last year's record collection were given by people outside of our congregation.

Remember, it's not the jam that counts. It's helping others, particularly children, in other countries. This year our project is **3-M: Moving Madagascar's Mountain** – a mountain of ignorance and superstition – through the help of Jan Feckler, an education expert, who

is headed to Madagascar to train teachers and school administrators. The Christians of Madagascar can't raise the level of church-funded schooling by themselves. Remember the average annual income of Madagascar? About what some of earn (or used to earn) in a day. And think about how much schools receive per student in US schools from various taxes. It just doesn't happen in places like Madagascar. That's why the church has to be involved in all levels of education in missions.

So, do take and enjoy some of our jams, but remember that you are helping to build the kingdom of God in Madagascar. Give generously. You'll enjoy what some non-church friends call "Jesus Jam" even more.



## **FELLOWSHIP EVENTS**

Save the date for two fun fellowship events in April. Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> is BINGO Night. Join us at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All ages are welcome. Snacks will be served, and prizes will be awarded to the winners.

Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> is art night - Brushes N' Blooms. We will be painting a floral masterpiece. We have space for 25 aspiring artists. Sign up early to reserve your spot. Snacks will be served. Please consider donating \$5-\$10 to cover supplies.



## **THANK YOU**

Thank you for all the support and love you have given to me, David, and our caregivers over the last several weeks. It means a lot to us! Also, Renee and Kyle would like to thank everyone for their love and support, and for all the gifts for our baby boy.

-Rachel Bradbury

## **GARDEN UPDATE**

Plans for this year's garden are underway. The key to our success is all church involvement. This year's monetary goal is \$1300 for a Farm Bundle through Presbyterian Giving that provides chickens, goats, and other livestock as well as seeds, tools and training to support successful farming. So your generous monetary donations can contribute to that. Our other need is your support with a time commitment – this, I think, is actually the most fun and rewarding part. We will have three teams for this year.

Team I will be responsible for watering & weeding. Pick a day of the week (e.g. Tuesdays) to cover for June through September (16 weeks). This can be one person or family, or pair up so you can alternate weeks and cover when the other is not available. This is probably easiest for those who live near church and does not require a lot of time.

Team II will pick veggies (either Saturday or early Sunday AM) and sell at a table during coffee hour. Again this will be weekly June through September (16 weeks to cover) and requires a bit more time, so I encourage you to try to commit to this 3 to 4 times during the summer – can be individual or buddy system.

Team III will pick more veggies on Monday (or Tuesday at latest), and take along with Sunday's leftovers to Shalom Center, God's Kitchen (Arnetta & her uptown food ministry) or Salvation Army. This also usually takes a couple hours, but actually, I found it the most rewarding part of the project last year & enjoyed doing it with my grandkids. Again 16 weeks to cover, so try to commit to 3-4 times through the season, individually, as a family, or with a buddy.

Most important are your prayers for this mission. We were very blessed last year with a good start. We need your help to keep things going even stronger this year in our mission to support the hungry of our town and our world. Give generously of your time and monetary donations. Also save the dates (tentatively): Saturday 4/7, garden makeover, and Sunday (Earth day) 4/22 for early plant day. Late planting will be late May.

### **OFFICE HOURS**

During the week of April 1<sup>st</sup>, Jenny will only be in the office on Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> and Lance will be out of the office all week.

## **PARISH NURSE NOTES**

As we begin a new month, I hope all the winter blahs, blues, and coughs are behind us. It seems that everyone has had to cope with some sort of ill health in the past few months. We are ready for better health and some sunshine! It's good to be thinking about spending more time outside and enjoying the spring season. Even if you can't easily get out, place a chair by a sunny window and enjoy seeing the yard green up and the tulips and daffodils and dandelions appear.

Did you know that...

....the worst food for you probably comes out of a box or bag?

Yup, processed foods are almost always the worst choice. Some of the additives can trigger obesity and metabolic syndrome. That old advice to shop the outer areas in the grocery store is still valid. Eat a variety of fresh fruits and veggies, lean meats, low-fat dairy products. Healthy eating does not include chips, hamburger "helper", or those salty soups from a can. You might also consider not eating an entire sleeve of cookies in one sitting!

....you don't have to join a gym to get in the recommended 150 minutes of exercise each week?

Some of us hate the word "exercise." No problem—just move. Your body doesn't care if you're at the gym or in your own house. Any physical activity that gets you breathing harder than usual delivers benefits. Try doing 5 minutes 6 times a day, 5 days a week. Try marching around the living room, wall push-ups, climbing stairs, vacuuming, dancing to a favorite tune, or just go out for a walk. Muscle loss can be a serious problem—and never forget that moving helps that most important muscle...your heart!

....chronic stress can cause health problems?

One result can be elevated blood pressure. Chronic stress is also associated with obesity and a myriad of other problems. There are many techniques that can be used to reduce stress—exercise, meditation, yoga, creative hobbies, star-gazing, etc. One thing to understanding stress is realizing how you react to it that makes a big difference. A large part of coping effectively is just to ask yourself, "Why am I so stressed about this?" Often, there may be no good reason to be so upset.

Good health to all!

Karen Sorenson, Parish Nurse

# ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

## April Birthdays

4<sup>th</sup> .....Leslie Pottorff  
7<sup>th</sup> ..... Gary Anderson  
13<sup>th</sup> .....George Serpe  
14<sup>th</sup> .....Kurt Koesser  
18<sup>th</sup> .....Lucelia Pollock  
19<sup>th</sup> .....Pat Koesser  
.....Emily Loveall  
21<sup>st</sup> .....Dave Robinson  
23<sup>rd</sup> .....Becky Rasmussen  
.....Karen Rasmussen  
.....Michael Shaner  
26<sup>th</sup> .....Krist Pottorff  
.....Julia Robinson  
29<sup>th</sup> .....Erin Quist

### DEACONS

Tana Baldwin, Lori Barnes, Sherry Craig, Jane Frost, Lisa Hawley, Penny Ingraham\*, Brenda Langerman, Nancy McGovern, Carole Serpe

### WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| March 4        | 142 |
| March 11       | 130 |
| March 18       | 147 |
| March 25       | 161 |
| Sunday Average | 145 |

### SESSION

Gary Anderson (Fellowship, Memorial)  
Kelly Andrichik (Worship & Music, Personnel\*, Nominating\*)  
Scott Barnes (Building & Grounds)  
Sandra Billingsley (Christian Education\*, Mission\*)  
Mark Bourque (Building & Grounds\*)  
Walter Deignan (Building & Grounds, Nominating)  
Cris Doil (Stewardship & Finance\*)  
Marcy Hufendick (Christian Ed, Personnel, Memorial)  
Shari Infante (Fellowship\*, Mission, Memorial)  
Ron Meinhardt (Worship and Music\*)  
Bill Misamore (Stewardship & Finance)  
Leslie Pottorff (Mission, Fellowship, Personnel, Memorial)

( ) indicates committee assignments; \*indicates Team Leaders

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

A very happy belated anniversary to Lois and Tom Van Dahm. Lois and Tom celebrated 67 years together on March 17<sup>th</sup>! Congratulations Lois and Tom – we wish you many more!

### IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT

Tower Topics  
Kenosha, WI 53143  
Issue #245



# **APRIL WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**



**Head Usher:** Jourene Frederick

## **April 1<sup>st</sup>**

N. Door Greeter: Carole Serpe  
Greeters: The Azumas  
Reader: Dave Robinson  
Sound System: Walter Deignan  
Counters: Darlene Doil  
David Thompson  
Nursery Helper: Volunteer Needed  
Fellowship Host: Fellowship Team  
Comm. Prep.: Kelly Andrichik

## **April 8<sup>th</sup>**

N. Door Greeter: Brenda Langerman  
Greeters: Tana Baldwin  
Reader: Erika Behling  
Sound System: Jerry Jones  
Counters: Darlene Doil  
Julie Iorio  
Nursery Helper: Mandy Bergeson  
Fellowship Host: Fellowship Team

## **April 15<sup>th</sup>**

N. Door Greeter: Nancy McGovern  
Greeters: The Barneses  
Reader: Marcy Hufendick  
Sound System: Todd Kotten

## **April 15<sup>th</sup> (cont'd)**

Counters: Volunteer Needed  
Volunteer Needed  
Nursery Helper: Jamie Davis  
Fellowship Host: Fellowship Team

## **April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

N. Door Greeter: Penny Ingraham  
Greeters: The Baumans  
Reader: Elaine Azuma  
Sound System: Don Mandry  
Counters: Nancy McGovern  
Lynn Faulk  
Nursery Helper: Molly Bergnach  
Fellowship Host: Fellowship Team

## **April 29<sup>th</sup>**

N. Door Greeter: Jane Frost  
Greeters: Sheryl Becker  
Reader: Benjamin Hufendick  
Sound System: Tom Berry  
Counters: Nancy McGovern  
Lynn Faulk  
Nursery Helper: Kortnie Ruth  
Fellowship Host: Mariners

## **THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS**