

MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
105 EAST E STREET
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308-345-2445

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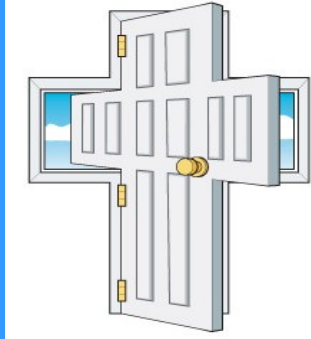
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*****ATTENTION SENIORS*****
APPLY NOW FOR CHURCH SCHOLARSHIPS!

The Memorial United Methodist Church Endowment Committee, Significant Light and the Youth Advisory Board will be awarding scholarships to qualified scholarship applicants. To be eligible, the graduating senior must submit applications to the church by **April 10th**. Applications are available at the church office. The following scholarships may be awarded:

- Hanthorn Scholarship** – upper 1/3 of class, active in church, demonstrate superior leadership, and high moral character.
- Val Pullen Scholarship** – regular church attendee, community & volunteer activities.
- Significant Light Scholarship** – must be a graduating band member.
- Endowment Scholarship** – two scholarships will be awarded at the committee’s discretion, for academics, leadership, and Christian activities.
- UMYF Scholarships** - two scholarships will be awarded by the Youth Advisory Board.



The Open Door

a newsletter of

MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
office@mccookumc.org 105 East E Street McCook, NE 69001 308-345-2445
APRIL 2015

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, March 29
Worship at 8:15 and 10:30



Service of Healing
Tuesday, March 31—7:00 pm



Maundy Thursday
Service of Holy Communion
April 2 - 7:00 p.m.



Good Friday Service
April 3 - 7:00 p.m.



Easter Sunday, April 5
Worship at 8:15 and 10:30





This story has been circulating around the internet for some time, but it has a potent message for us today.

Jeremy was born with a twisted body, a slow mind and a chronic, terminal illness that had been slowly killing him all his young life. Still, his parents had tried to give him as normal a life as possible and had sent him to St. Theresa's elementary school. At the age of 12, Jeremy was only in second grade, seemingly unable to learn. His teacher, Doris Miller, often became exasperated with him. He would squirm in his seat, drool and make grunting noises. At other times, he spoke clearly and distinctly, as if a spot of light had penetrated the darkness of his brain. Most of the time, however, Jeremy irritated his teacher.

One day, she called his parents and asked them to come to St. Teresa's for a consultation. As the Foresters sat quietly in the empty classroom, Doris said to them, "Jeremy really belongs in a special school. It isn't fair to him to be with younger children who don't have learning problems. Why, there is a five-year gap between his age and that of the other students!" Mrs. Forrester cried softly into a tissue while her husband spoke. "Miss Miller," he said, "there is no school of that kind nearby. It would be a terrible shock for Jeremy if we had to take him out of this school. We know he really likes it here." Doris sat for a long time after they left, staring at the snow outside the window. Its coldness seemed to seep into her soul. She wanted to sympathize with the Foresters. After all, their only child had a terminal illness. But it wasn't fair to keep him in her class. She had 18 other youngsters to teach and Jeremy was a distraction. Furthermore, he would never learn to read or write. Why spend any more time trying? As she pondered the situation, guilt washed over her. "Oh God," she said aloud, "here I am complaining when my problems are nothing compared with that poor family! Please help me to be more patient with Jeremy." From that day on, she tried hard to ignore Jeremy's noises and his blank stares.

Then one day he limped to her desk, dragging his bad leg behind him. "I love you, Miss Miller," he exclaimed, loudly enough for the whole class to hear. The other children snickered, and Doris's face turned red. She stammered, "wh-why, that's very nice, Jeremy. Now please take your seat."

Spring came, and the children talked excitedly about the coming of Easter. Doris told them the story of Jesus, and then to emphasize the idea of new life springing forth, she gave each of the children a large plastic egg. "Now," she said to them "I want you to take this home and bring it back tomorrow with something inside that shows new life. Do you understand?" "Yes, Miss Miller!" The children responded enthusiastically - all except for Jeremy. He just listened intently; his eyes never left her face. He did not even make his usual noises. Had he understood what she had said about Jesus' death and resurrection? Did he understand the assignment? Perhaps she should call his parents and explain the project to them. That evening, Doris' kitchen sink stopped up. She called the landlord and waited an hour for him to come by and unclog it. After that, she still had to shop for groceries, iron a blouse and prepare a vocabulary test for the next day. She completely forgot about phoning Jeremy's parents.

The next morning, 19 children came to school, laughing and talking as they placed their eggs in the large wicker basket on Miss Miller's desk. After they completed their math lesson, it was time to open the eggs. In the first egg, Doris found a flower. "Oh yes, a flower is certainly a sign of new life," she said. "When plants peek through the ground we know that spring is here." A small girl in the first row waved her arms. "That's my egg, Miss Miller," she called out. The next egg contained a plastic butterfly, which looked very real. Doris held it up. "We all know that a caterpillar changes and turns into a beautiful butterfly. Yes, that is new life, too" little Judy smiled proudly and said, "Miss Miller, that one is mine."

Next Doris found a rock with moss on it. She explained that the moss, too, showed life. Billy spoke up from the back of the classroom. "My daddy helped me!" He beamed. Then Doris opened the fourth egg. She gasped. The egg was empty! Surely it must be Jeremy's, she thought, and, of course, he did not understand her instructions. If only she had not forgotten to phone his parents. Because she did not want to embarrass him, she quietly set the egg aside and reached for another. Suddenly Jeremy spoke up. "Miss Miller, aren't you going to talk about my egg?"

Continued on Page 3 →

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

8:15 / 10:30 am Worship
 9:15 am Coffee
 9:15 am Sunday School, YC
 6:00 pm Significant Light, S
 6:00 pm Jr. High UMYF
 7:00 pm Sr. High UMYF

MONDAY

9:00 Bible Study

TUESDAY

8:15 Bible Study
 9:30 am Prayer Class, Adult SS Rm

WEDNESDAY

6:15 pm CHIPS, Adult SS Room
 6:15 pm Faith Weavers, FH
 6:15 pm Confirmation, YC
 6:15 pm Mission Possible FR
 6:15 pm WORD (9-10th), YC
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir, S
 7:30 pm WORD (11-12th)
 8:00 pm Master Ringers, S

THURSDAY

5:30 pm Community Supper, FH

April 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		March 31 Prayer and Healing Service 7 pm—Chapel	1	2 Maundy Thursday Worship at 7 pm-Sanctuary	3 GOOD FRIDAY Worship at 7 pm-Sanctuary	4
5 Happy Easter!	6	7	8 10am Willow Ridge 2:30pm Hillcrest	9 12:30 pm UMW Exec. FR 1:30pm UMW General, FH Ad. Council / Charge Conference 7:00 L	10 Scholarship Applications Due 1pm Wings of Hope, FR	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 UMW Bingo at Hillcrest 2:30 pm	22 Sarah Circle 1:30 Confirmation Class Presentations 6 pm - Sanctuary	23 Esther Circle 1:30 FH	24	25
26 Confirmation 10:30 service	27	28	29	30		

newsletter/calendar info online at mccookumc.org



We had fun celebrating day!



This month we are learning about God's gift to us, his son, and our savior Jesus Christ. We will be having an open house May 5th 5:30-7:00pm for anyone wanting to enroll for the next school year. Our afternoon class is full but we do have openings for children 2 years away from kindergarten in the morning classes. We will have field days in our playground area on May 4th and 5th. Our graduation is May 12th at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. You are invited to all of our events, we hope to see you! Happy Easter! Traci

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

April Birthdays:

Eric Ramsay	Elvira Potthoff	Greg Wolford
Oren Carter	Sharon Lytle	Gloria Kohl
Marshall Grant	Janet Rich	Kim Boardman
Pat Singletary	John Stetzel	Travis Polzin
Dick Thieben	Warren Jones	Andrea Malleck
Jan Korell	Kathy Doyle	Kayla Fahrenbruch
Janet Hepp	Phyllis Wilcox	Kasha Messersmith
Don Wagner	Randy Peters	Conner Stamm
Cyndi Johnson	Steve Morell	Cashous Bortner
Steve Sines	Tom Tirrill	Madison Boardman
Vic Beebe	Dave Dame	Ruby Stone
Wayne Messinger	Laurie Bryan	Grady Lentz
Donna Butler	Elaine Peters	Erin Premer
Charlie Duffield	Denise Buddenberg	Kalan Stamm
Bev Rhea	Shawn Malleck	Kaylee Samway
Carmen Goodwin	Brad Walter	Madison Smith
Don Lafferty	Tara Jernigan	Ben Fries
Steve Lyne	Caitlyn Thomas	Ashton Harpham
Karla Morford	Anne Confer	Brock Scott
Kristi Clapp	Connie Discoe	Kyli Scott
Shirley Blank	Colleen Olson	Adyn Meyer
Trudy Nelson	Deb Walter	Parker Nokes

April Anniversaries:

Wayne & Donna Messinger	Steve & Deb Sines
Jack & Sharon Lytle	Ryan & Kimberly Peters
Gary & Nancy Janousek	Andy & Kerri Long
Trevor & Dee Premer	Charlie & Mary Duffield
Randy & Elaine Peters	Jim & Karen Steinke
Lance & Bree Frazier	Randy & Kim Korgan
Dusty & Bobbi Tirill	Ken & Jessi Keslin
Richard & Eloise Farber	Michael & Tami Pochop
Robert & Mary Lou Ross	Chad & Jessica Meyer
Jeff & Beth Crick	

Memorial UMC is currently accepting applications for the part-time positions of church custodian and office manager, and the full-time position of children's and youth pastor. If you are interested in applying, or know of someone who may be, please contact the church office at 308-345-2445.

YEAR-TO-DATE
PENNY MARCH
TOTAL as of 3-15-15
\$1,108.70

Confirmation
Service
10:30 a.m.
April 26, 2015



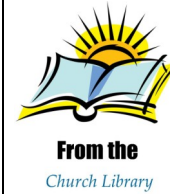
Pantry collection
for April
Dry Pasta

The April meeting of the Ad. Council will be on Thursday, April 9 at 7:00. A portion of the meeting will function as a Charge Conference. The only item on the agenda for that portion of the meeting is to deal with the movement of previously budgeted money to a new a location within the church budget.

FEED HIS FLOCK - COMMUNITY SUPPER



What a community project!!! Feeding anyone who comes through the doors on Thursday evenings from 5:30-to 6:30. There should not be any hunger in McCook or surrounding area, as the meal is right here!!!! Pass the word come join us. If any group- Sunday School class, youth group, or whoever—would like to set a date to fix and serve a meal - that would be a great experience. Is GOD winking at you to help Community Supper in someway?! If GOD winks ----call 308-350-0438!!!!!!



As we experience the weeks of Lent and get ready for the Easter holiday, we as Christians have the responsibility to reflect on the meaning of the season. While the children are enjoying hunting for Easter eggs, bunny rabbits, the beginning of spring and of course deviled eggs, there is a vital connection between Easter and our Christian beliefs. We have the great agony of Christ dying on the cross, and then the wonderful rejoicing of the Resurrection! All of this because, as in John 3:16, "God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that whomever believed in him would have everlasting life!"

Christ, the only one without sin...the lamb without blemish...has been crucified and resurrected to save us from our sinful nature. Gene Edwards has written a book titled "The Day I was Crucified, As Told by Christ Himself". This book is not for the faint of heart, but a real eye opening account of those last days and hours of the life of Christ. How he wept in the garden before the guards came to seize him, the beatings he went through, the conversation with Simon when he was instructed to help Jesus carry his cross, the way he surrendered to the guards when they nailed him to the cross. Every thought and action helping us to create our own picture of what that must have been like. Reading these accounts, even the guards seemed to know that this was not how the crucifixions usually felt, this one was different.

I encourage you to check out this book from the Library and take time to meditate on the true meaning of Easter and all the many blessings we enjoy because "God so loved us."

Doug's Doodles, Cont'd from page 2....Flustered, Doris replied, "but Jeremy - your egg is empty!" He looked into her eyes and said softly, "yes, but Jesus' tomb was empty too!" Time stopped. When she could speak again. Doris asked him, "Do you know why the tomb was empty?" "Oh yes!" Jeremy exclaimed. "Jesus was killed and put in there. Then his Father raised him up!" The recess bell rang. While the children excitedly ran out to the school yard, Doris cried. The cold inside her melted completely away. Three months later Jeremy died. Those who paid their respects at the mortuary were surprised to see 19 eggs on top of his casket,all of them empty.

- <http://mostmerciful.com/easter-egg.htm>

See you at church. *Doug*

NURTURE Out REACH WITNESS

The NOW committee would like to thank the Youth Group for letting us use their left over soup from Super Bowl Sunday, along with our soup and cakes for the Ash Wednesday meal. We were able to feed 168 people, and raise \$375.75 for two important organizations. CASA, and the Walk To Emmaus & Chrysalis.

CASA is Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children, and is a network of 951 community-based programs that recruit, train and support citizen-volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in courtrooms and communities. Volunteer advocates---empowered directly

by the courts---offer judges the critical information they need to ensure that each child's rights and needs are being attended to while in foster care.

Nebraska Walk to Emmaus & Chrysalis is a transformational three-day program open to members of any denomination, designed to strengthen the faith of Christian people and, through their discipleship, to strengthen their families, their congregations, and the world in which they live.

With the support of the congregation joining us for supper and the wonderful donations CASA will receive \$187.88 and the Walk To Emmaus and Chrysalis scholarship fund will receive \$187.87.

One of our rewards as a committee is being able to raise funds to help others; thank you for making it such a success! I feel we are very productive as a committee and as a church, when there are needs, we find a way to meet them, and having a meal is a good way to spend time in fellowship, and work as God's Disciples.

I want to thank the members of our NOW committee for their hard work throughout the year, sometimes it feels like we are doing a lot, but there are many who benefit from your labor, and it feels great to know we can make a difference! God Bless,

Pastor Alisa Parde