



Sharing Christ • Uniting as family • Maturing in faith • Calling others

Sharon

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM WHERE I SIT by Rev. Wally Carlson



I have never been artistically gifted. I mean visual arts - I do okay with music and theatre - but pictures? Nope. Every picture I have ever drawn has been, well, awful. But I like color. The colors I like do not necessarily coordinate or blend together well but I still like them. Big, massive color blocks catch my eye and make me feel things that I hadn't felt before. Emotions that were hidden or purposefully buried.

That's the way that Holy Week works on me. I would suspect I'm not alone. I always see Palm Sunday as yellow. There's some green tossed in there, too but I see it predominantly yellow, maybe orange too. Then the week starts: Monday is still cheery, maybe pink. Tuesday and Wednesday get a little more fierce, maybe red. A smack-you-in-the-face kind of red. Thursday, though, gets a little darker. A little more somber, maybe a dark purple.

And then - Friday. What else could we say besides black? Black moods, black clouds, black attitudes. Black is supposed to be the absence of color and if color adds to life then no other color would work.

Saturday. What does that Saturday feel like? How do we relate to a day that follows the day when everything was taken away? It's not a bright color. It's not the absence of color. It's gray. In spite of everything we were told, There's an emptiness, a sorrow that is completely inexpressible and the only thing Any of us see is gray. The world sounds gray, it smells gray.

So, another sleepless night, rising before the sun. Still dark in that gray kind of darkness that is just before dawn - when something happens. A brilliance that is not like anything that we have ever seen before. We get to the tomb and the stone is rolled away. Coming from the inside of the tomb is the most brilliant light that anyone has ever seen. White is the combination of all colors but this goes way beyond that. It is truly as if not only color has changed but everything - EVERYTHING - has changed.

And it has. Everything has changed. Thank God.

Peace.
Rev. Wally



Visit us on the web at sharondecatur.org

April 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| 26 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages 3:00pm Troop 91/911 Joint COH (Committee Meeting to follow) | 27 6:00pm - 7:00pm Pack 91 Meeting | 28 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters 6:00pm - 7:00pm Adult Choir Practice | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 |
| 2 Holy Communion Palm Sunday 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages 3:30pm - 5:00pm Troop 91/911 Meetings | 3 6:00pm - 7:00pm Adult Choir Practice 6:00pm - 7:00pm Pack 91 Meeting | 4 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters | 5 | 6 Maundy Thursday 6:00pm Maundy Thursday Service | 7 Good Friday 12:00pm - 3:00pm Prayer Vigil (church will be open) | 8 |
| 9 Easter Sunday 7:45am Breakfast Potluck 8:15am Kids' Egg Hunt 9:00am - 10:00am Worship with Adult Cantata | 10 6:00pm - 7:00pm Pack 91 Meeting | 11 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages 3:30pm - 5:00pm Troop 91/911 Meetings | 17 6:00pm - 7:00pm Pack 91 Meeting | 18 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters | 19 3:30pm Worship Meeting | 20 6:00pm Pack 91 Committee Meeting | 21 | 22 Earth Day 2:00pm Farm to Wick Soy Candlemaking Event |
| 23 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages | 24 6:00pm - 7:00pm Pack 91 Meeting | 25 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters | 26 Administrative Professionals Day 6:00pm - 8:00pm Rummage Drop-off | 27 6:00pm - 8:00pm Rummage Drop-off | 28 | 29 8:00am - 2:00pm Spring Rummage Sale |
| 30 9:00am - 10:00am Worship 10:15am - 11:00am Sunday School for all ages 3:30pm - 5:00pm Troop 91/911 Meetings | 1 6:00pm - 7:00pm Pack 91 Meeting | 2 10:00am - 2:00pm Sharon Quilters | 3 | 4 National Day of Prayer | 5 | 6 |

5
14
18

Don Umphryes
Cindy Landacre
Rev. Wally Carlson

15 Mike & Jennifer Williams
24 Don & Linda Umphryes



SHARING CHRIST ...



★A friendly reminder:

Please make any donation checks out to **Sharon United Methodist Church** and name the receiving ministry in the memo.

Missions Offerings

Reach out to those in need in our community and world by participating in the following offering opportunities:

April 2

- ♥ Monetary donations for **SV Primary Snack Pack Project**

April 16

- ♥ Third Sunday Offering for **Dove Financial Assistance**
- ♥ Children's Noisy Offering for **Liberia Pastors**

April 23

- ♥ **Native American Ministries** Offering

All month

- ♥ **Northeast Community Fund Items** (canned goods, non-perishable food items)



"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

Matthew 25:40

Worship Meeting

Wednesday, April 19
3:30 p.m.

UNITING AS FAMILY ...



Palm Sunday Worship

April 2 - 9:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

April 6 - 6:00 p.m.

Holy Communion will be served.

Good Friday Prayer Vigil

April 7 - The sanctuary will be open from 12-3 p.m.

Easter Day - April 9

7:45 a.m. - Breakfast Potluck

8:15 a.m. - Kids' Egg Hunt

9:00 a.m. - Worship featuring Adult Choir Cantata

★No Sunday School

He is Risen



DIY Candlemaking Event

Saturday, April 22

2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$25

Sign-up at the Narthex table.
Invite your friends!

Visit their website
for more details:

farmtowick.com

MATURING IN FAITH ...



Nursery

Lisa Landacre

Elementary

Lori Leeper

Jr. High-College

Mike Landacre

Wesley

Mandi Podeschi

Good News

Martha Leeper



CALLING OTHERS ...



Scouting News

- **Troop 91/911 Meetings**
April 2, 16, 30
3:30-5:00 p.m.
- **Pack 91 Meetings**
April 3, 10, 17, 24
6:00-7:00 p.m.



Saturday, April 29

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Donation Drop off:
Wednesday, April 26
Thursday, April 27
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Proceeds from the sale will
benefit **Fishes & Loaves**.

Our Small Group Ministry has left the building!

Sharon UMC is currently facilitating a Women's Bible Study with a group of ladies from Northgate Pet Clinic. Thanks to Tori Leeper for the inspiration and organization!

Please keep us all in your prayers that this study will make a difference for those attending and that our obedience to "go and make disciples" is a blessing to all involved.



Serve the LORD with gladness!

| | April 2 | April 9 | April 16 | April 23 | April 30 |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Ushers | ★Tom Leeper | ★Tom Leeper | ★Tom Leeper | ★Tom Leeper | ★Tom Leeper |
| | Jarred Leeper | Jarred Leeper | Jarred Leeper | Jarred Leeper | Jarred Leeper |
| | Ben Holmes | Ben Holmes | Ben Holmes | Ben Holmes | Ben Holmes |
| Liturgist | Lori Leeper | Jarred Leeper | Debbie Johnson | Ben Holmes | Martha Leeper |
| Nursery | Jenna Doty | Cindy Landacre | Cindy Landacre | Jenna Doty | Cindy Landacre |
| Acolyte | Joshua Leeper | Joshua Leeper | Joshua Leeper | Joshua Leeper | Joshua Leeper |

| Our Tithes and Offerings to God | | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2/26/2023 | 3/5/23 | 3/12/23 | 3/19/23 |
| Tithe | \$1,655.50 | \$3,630.00 | \$1,485.00 | \$950.00 |
| Loose Plate | \$60.00 | \$80.00 | \$80.00 | \$80.00 |
| S. School | \$15.00 | \$0.00 | \$15.00 | \$6.00 |
| TOTAL | \$1,730.50 | \$3,710.00 | \$1,580.00 | \$1,036.00 |
| Weekly Budget Need - \$1,965.00 | | | | |



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4363 W. Center St.
Decatur, IL 62522



SHARING CHRIST, UNITING AS FAMILY, MATURING IN FAITH, CALLING OTHERS