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> **Greetings from** Pastor Jody

Inserts **UMOM Mission** Sun City Posse Metho/Summer Camp April Birthdays/ **Anniversaries**

Worship in **April and May**

Join us in Worship this spring! We continue the celebration that Christ is risen! And as the first disciples discovered, we are to live as Easter people!

RISEN JESUS. as spring blossoms around me, MAY YOUR LOVE BLOSSOM IN ME. that I might share its kragrance and brilliance WITH OTHERS.

April 7 "Wandering Heart: Here's My Heart" John 21:1-19 Easter 2 Sacrament of Holy Communion

April 14 "A Whole New Ballgame" 1 John 4:7-21 Luke 24:36-48

Easter 3

April 21 "Jesus: the Tour Leader" Psalm 23 John 10:11-18

Easter 4 Good Shepherd Sunday

April 28 "How To Be a Branch" John 15:1-8

Easter 5

May 5 "Whose Time Is It Anyway?" Psalm 31:1-5, 15-18 Easter 6 Sacrament of Holy Communion

"Who In the World?" May 12 John 17:6-19 Easter 7 Mother's Day Ascension Sunday

May 19 "The Spirit Will Tell You" John 15:26-27 & 16:4-15 Acts 2:1-21

Pentecost Sunday! Wear RED

"Birthing Spirit" May 26 John 3:1-17

Trinity Sunday Peace With Justice Sunday Memorial Day Weekend

DESERT WINDS STEEL

Experience the vibrant and enchanting melodies of a live steel drum concert, where the rhythmic beats and harmonious sounds transport you to a tropical paradise.

Join us for an unforgettable afternoon of lively music, celebration, and the infectious joy that only a steel drum concert can provide!

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

3:00 PM

A FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN





Pastor Kathleen's Corner



"We all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

— 2 Corinthians 3:18

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be one of the "beautiful people"?

Fans swarming the stage. People asking for your autograph. The satisfaction of awards, accolades, and trophies. The rush of knowing that others imitate the way you walk, dress and speak — you are an influencer! What a life that would be!

But perhaps that lifestyle isn't quite as glamorous as we might think. Consider what it would be like to have photographers hound your every step, hoping to catch you in less-than-beautiful activities. Think about the hassle of having to wear a disguise at the ballpark or your favorite restaurant. Being one of the "beautiful people" comes at a price. Many celebrities hire bodyguards to keep the adoring public at arm's length. Most live behind secure gates in homes protected by surveillance cameras. Being beautiful means being very careful about associating with others.



In contrast, our beautiful Savior welcomes us into his presence – ALWAYS! Jesus doesn't hole up inside a secure compound or wall himself off behind impenetrable security. No! He enfolds us in his grace, inviting us to come close and to stay close, forever! As Jesus lived here on earth, he made himself accessible to all who came to hear the message of God's unending love for them. He healed the sick. He touched the lepers. He sat down at meals with those considered on the fringes of "polite" society. His inexhaustible mercy made him beautiful beyond words in their eyes.

Still today, Jesus is present with us, accessible at any and every moment. We can call out to him with any need, any concern – no matter what the time of day; no matter what our situation. He gladly invites us to spend time with him; to share our hopes and dreams with him. Jesus longs for us to stay near, to nestle close to his heart, to be secure in his love.

What's more, the more time we spend with Jesus, thinking about his love for us, pouring over the promises in his Word, reflecting on his compassion — the more like Jesus we become!

The Message translation puts it as this —

"And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

We are transformed -- changed -- into Jesus' very image, with ever-increasing glory.

That is what being one of the "beautiful people" really means!

Prayer – Lord Jesus, as I contemplate your beauty, fill my heart with wonder.

Transform me more and more so that my life reflects your character with
ever-increasing beauty. Wrap us all in your grace. Amen.

Blessings on you this April!

Paster Kathleen

Our April Communion Offering goes to support:

Justa Center

Justa Center provides life-sustaining resources, services and support to assist homeless seniors on their path back to housing, and supportive services to help prevent a return to homelessness.

Sunday - April 7, 2024



We celebrate **Kimberly Hill**, our Church's Office Manager! And thank her for all she brings to the mission and ministry of First UMC of Sun City!

Administrative Professionals Day is Wednesday, April 24, 2024





Earth Day is Monday, April 22
Celebrate by caring for our planet!
"Plastics vs. Plastics"
is this year's theme.
Some ideas for this Earth Day —

- Organize a Neighborhood Clean-Up: get a few friends together & grab a trash bag or two. Clean up your street or a nearby area.
- Plant seeds / plants / a tree / a pollinator garden.
- Reduce your plastic consumption: use reusable shopping & produce bags; reusable coffee cups, water bottles, straws.



Starting in April, our study will be Messy People.

Every life gets messy at times. This study will dig into the lives of Biblical people who were messy people just like us but who were used by God in powerful ways.

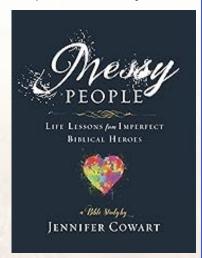
As we explore the messy stories of Rahab, the prodigal son, Josiah, Mary, David, and Daniel, we'll see how God can use broken people, restore damaged hearts and relationships, and help us deal with the hard moments of life.

In the hands of God, our messes can become masterpieces!

This study will begin on Tuesday, April 9 at 10:30 am in the Lillian Carver Room (Note: NO Tuesday study on Tuesday, April 2.)

Cost of the book is \$15.00.

The book will be available at the first study and from the Church Office.



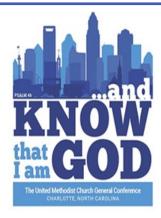
If you would like a name tag, please let the church office know by calling (623-974-3631), or by emailing the church office at: office@fumcsuncity.com



You don't need to be a member to get a name tag!



Please sign up in Fellowship Hall to bring cookies, make coffee & clean up.



General Conference of the United Methodist Church

April 23 — May 3, 2024 Charlotte, North Carolina

Please keep all the delegates participating in the upcoming General Conference in your prayers — as they prepare to meet for ten days in April and May. This is an important time for the future of United Methodism.

In early 2020, The United Methodist Church was preparing for its next General Conference. The gathering promised to be one for the history books, with key legislation proposed that would chart the course for the denomination's future.

But as we all know, COVID-19 gripped the world and shut it down in March, leading to the postponement of the 2020 General Conference, not once, but three times. The global pandemic, as well as extended waits for visas, eventually pushed the gathering to April 23 – May 3, 2024. The delay caused a relocation of the host city to a new venue in Charlotte, North Carolina. Proposals submitted in 2020 still stand, but there was an opportunity to submit new proposals as well.

One might think that a new meeting year and a new location and new proposals would lead to a new name for General Conference, but this is not so. The name remains "2020 General Conference." In the United Methodist Book of Discipline, ¶ 14, it's stated that General Conference is to meet every four years, so a 2020 assembly must occur...even if it is greatly postponed.

If you're doing the math, you will notice that with a 2020 General Conference, there should be a 2024 General Conference to follow, but technically, this will not be the case. Instead, in the calendaring conundrum we find ourselves, the Council of Bishops are contemplating a special session of General Conference in 2026. Then, the 2028 General Conference will convene as usual in 2028.

What is General Conference?

General Conference is comprised of United
Methodist clergy and lay
leaders who are elected from annual,
missionary and provisional
conferences around the world.
This representative body is the only one that
can set official policy and speak for the
denomination.
General Conference gathers for a 10-day
meeting every four years.



Leadership Team Meeting Highlights March 19, 2024

The church continues to receive less in offerings each week than is needed to maintain our budget. Please keep this in your prayers.

NEW: To save money, we will all be encouraged to bring our own table service (plates, silverware, napkins) to the potlucks. Table service will still be available for those who need them.

A new ice machine has been installed in the kitchen.

We accepted a bid from JBS Roofing to repair the roof over the John Wesley and Lillian Carver Rooms.

Pastor Kathleen will be gone April 15-18 to attend a Clergy Retirement workshop.

Colleen Becker and Gerrie Wall will be attending Annual Conference in Tucson June 13-16. Pastor Kathleen will retire from her own conference in California which meets that same week.

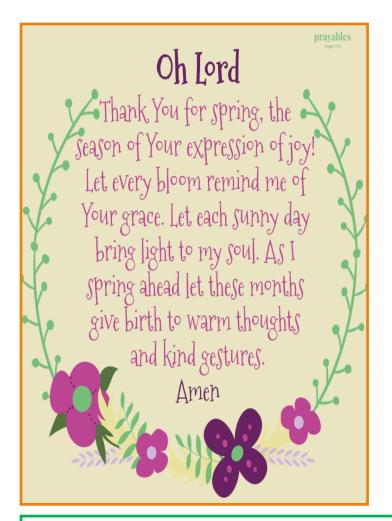
Pray for the General Conference of the UMC worldwide which meets April 22 to May 3 in Charlotte, NC.

Look for details elsewhere in this newsletter about our many upcoming events.

We are pleased to have had guests attend our meetings. The Leadership Team meets monthly (except during the summer) on the third Thursday at 9 am in the Lillian Carver Room. These meetings are open to all of you who wish to attend. You may speak to an issue but would not be able to vote. Personnel matters will be discussed in Executive Session. *NOTE THIS CHANGE:* Because Pastor will be gone the 16th, the next meeting is **April 23 at 9 am in Lillian Carver.**

Respectfully submitted,
Gerrie Wall, Leadership Council Member







Thank you to everyone who brought delicious food to share for our St. Patrick's Day Potluck - there was so much food!

Thank to Lou Farrar our Grounds/Maintenance Technician, for setting up and decorating Fellowship Hall for this festive event.



Sunday, April 28 after Worship in Fellowship Hall

Join us after Worship on Sunday, April 28, for our SPRING FLING POTLUCK! Guest Speaker – Pastor Patricia Magyar from UMOM

Pastor Patricia Magyar is the Chaplain at UMOM. She shares this ... "My work here is about Hope and prayers for those residents in the UMOM New Day Center and Halle for women. Each person here is on a new journey and hope in the Lord Jesus Christ will sustain them in this time. I provide new Bibles and Journals to record thoughts and read Scripture. Many have a story and are willing to share with me. I provide comfort and care. That is what we are all about "the passion to help others."



Bring a main dish, casserole, salad, or dessert to share. You are invited to bring your own table service.

(disposable plates & plastic knives, forks & spoons will be available too.)

ECUMENICAL

We pray for the following congregations:

APRIL

Sun City Congregations

Bellevue Heights
St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church
St. Joachim & St. Anne Catholic Church
St. Clement of Rome Catholic Church
Congregational Church of Sun City

United Methodist Congregations in our District

First UMC, Glendale First UMC, Phoenix First UMC, Sun City

Lent & Easter Thank you's

Lyn Korte - Providing palm branches and decorating the Sanctuary for Palm Sunday.

Bella - for helping with the Palm Sunday processional.

The Bell Choir & Seasonal Choir for wonderful music and to Matt Marino and Cathy Murray for all their hard work.



If you would like to be placed on the church Prayer List to receive an email when someone requests prayer, contact the church office with your name and email address and we will add you to the prayer list.

CONDOLENCES & CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

To the family and friends of

Karen Klus

Karen passed away on Sunday, March 10, 2024 Her funeral took place on Thursday, March 14, 2024.

Enola Heitman

Enola passed away on Thursday, March 21, 2024. Enola requested not to have a service.

First UMC of Sun City 623 Prayer

Commit to praying this prayer for our church at 6:23 am or pm (or both!) daily.



Gracious God, thank you for the
First United Methodist Church of Sun City.
Our future is in your hands.
We pray for your Spirit to break through.
Break through our fears.
Break through the obstacles.
Break through those things that keep us from being the church that you intend us to be.
May we step forward in faith and in hope,
to be a beacon of light
and life in our community.
In Jesus' name. Amen.



Sundays

Sunday Worship 9:30 am

Fellowship Hour Cookies & Coffee following Service

Tuesdays

Bible Study 10:30 am Lillian Carver

Game Night 6:00 pm Lillian Carver Room

Wednesdays

Handbell Choir Practice 2:00 pm Music Room

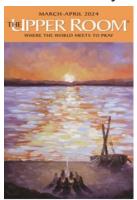
Daily Devotionals

We encourage everyone to spend time in the Word of God each day.

One way to do this is using a devotional.

These devotionals can be found in the Narthex and Church office hallway.

Both regular and large print are available.



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP & is a real blessing! Interested in becoming a member of **FUMC Sun City?** Interested in baptism? Contact Pastor Kathleen or the church office for more information. 623-974-3631

Leaving for the Summer?

Please give us your summer address, date leaving and date returning and let us know if you want to receive communication from us at your summer address.



FUMC SUN CITY

2024 SUMMER ADDRESS (Please fill out and mail/bring to the Church Office)
Name:
Summer Address:
<u> </u>
I I
Zip Code: Phone:
Emergency Info:
I
I IMPORTANT
Date Leaving:
Date Returning:
Do you want to receive "First News" this summer at the Summer Address above? Yes No



Join the fun and fellowship!
Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m.
Lillian Carver Room
All are welcome, bring a friend!



Justa Center is in great need of food donations at this time. Because of the sky-rocketing prices of rents, each week they receive requests for assistance from more seniors who are becoming homeless.

Just a few cans of food donated would make a difference, enabling Justa Center to help more seniors. The items can be placed on the table in the Narthex and will be delivered every other week.

They especially need cans of vegetables, fruit, protein (such as tuna, chicken, beef), and cereal. They also need canes.





There is a complete list of needed items on the Justa Center table in the Narthex



Communication with FUMC Sun City

Did you know there are many ways you are able to know what's going on at FUMC and to Communicate with us?

- Email office@fumcsuncity.com
- Our Website www.fumcsuncity.com
- Our Facebook Page (First United Methodist Church Sun City)
- Streaming of the Sermons on Facebook and YouTube
- An online version of *First Word* can be found on our web page. If you want one mailed, please let us know.
- Phone leave message on our voice mail after normal office hours.
- Online giving (link on our web page)

Please use the Church email: **office@fumcsuncity.com** for questions or to give us information like an address change or if someone is in the hospital.



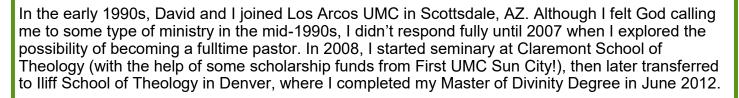


Greetings members and friends at First UMC Sun City!

It is with joy and anticipation that I introduce myself as your new pastor beginning July 1, 2024. My husband David and I are looking forward to meeting all of you in the weeks and months following July 1 and being actively involved in this "new to us" church family. In the meantime, here's a little something about me.

I was raised in Southern California where I attended and eventually became a member of the United Methodist Church in Tujunga, California. I earned a bachelor's degree in 1981 from Cal State University, Fullerton (emphasis in Music Performance), and a master's degree in human resource administration from Ottawa University 10 years later. For 25 years, I was employed as an

HR Professional by various public sector employers and retired from that career in October 2010.



While at Iliff, I served as a Pastoral Intern at Gold Canyon UMC. After graduation, I continued serving as GCUMC's Director of Congregational Care until May 2014. I was Commissioned as a Provisional Elder in 2014 and ordained as an Elder in Full Connection in 2016. My first pastoral appointment was at Faith United Methodist in West Phoenix from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2018 (4 years). After that, I served as the pastor at Song of Life UMC in Queen Creek, AZ from July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2023 (5 years). At the end of June 2023, I moved (by myself) to Pahrump, NV to begin a new appointment at Pahrump Valley UMC on July 1, 2023, but being away from my husband (who couldn't make the move) and the rest of my family proved to be more difficult than we expected. So, I'm looking forward to returning to the Valley of the Sun and being reunited with David, my two adult children and their spouses, and our grandchildren, one of which is "on the way" and due to make his/her appearance at the beginning of May!

As a pastor, I am passionate about social justice, equal rights for ALL people, church revitalization, ministering to those who are less fortunate, and reaching out to the community to spread the good news of Christ's love for everyone. In addition, as a relatively new "senior citizen" (my 66th birthday is on April 3!), I look forward to sharing the challenge of aging and working with other "seniors" as we navigate that journey together.

On a more personal note, David and I will celebrate our 45th Wedding Anniversary on December 29, 2024! We have two adult children: Ryan (who is married to Audrey) and Erika (who is married to Wesley). We also have two adorable grandchildren – Anderson (age 7) and Paige (age 4) who call Ryan and Audrey "mama" and "dada," and a third who is due to on May 2. (None of us know if grandchild #3 is a boy or a girl...so we'll all be surprised in a few weeks!)

There's so much more to tell, but that will have to wait until after July 1! In the meantime, please keep us in your prayers as I move from Pahrump back to my home in Tempe and prepare for our time together starting this summer. God bless you all!

Grace & Peace, Rev. Jody Topping

P.S. We might be looking for a small house to rent in the Sun City area, so if you know of anyone who is looking for a tenant, or if you have a guest house we might be able to rent, please let Pastor Kathleen or the church office know. Thanks!

First United Methodist Church 9849 N. 105th Avenue Sun City, AZ 85351



APRIL 25 is the deadline to submit articles/events/news for the MAY Newsletter.
Thank you!

God Loves:

First United Methodist Church

9849 N. 105th Avenue, Sun City, AZ 85351 623-974-3631

Email: office@fumcsuncity.com Website: www.fumcsuncity.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fumcsuncity

YouTube: www.youtube.com

The ministers of this church are its members.

Those who assist and support them are:

Pastor Kathleen Puntar

Gerrie Wall

Matthew Marino

Cathy Murray

Pastor

Lay Leader

Music Director

Organist, Handbell Director

Kimberly Hill Organist, Handbell Director

Office Manager

Arne Kesler Bookkeeper

Mark Cwik Audio/Video Technician

Lou Farrar Groundskeeper/Maintenance

Pastor Kathleen's Cell #: 714-420-6094 pastork@fumcsuncity.com

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9am - 2pm

TELEWORSHIP

Teleworship allows a person to dial a phone number remotely and listen to the worship service as it occurs.

Here's how it works:

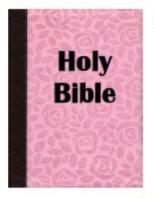
- Call 623-777-3306 during the 9:30 am service.
- When prompted, enter extension 930 and wait for the prompt.
- Dial 536-545-940#

Join us for Worship Sundays - 9:30 am In Person and Online on Facebook and YouTube





Spring Mission Project for UMOM! Bibles for Moms & Children's Books for Kids



This April and May, we are collecting donations of \$20 to provide new large print Bibles for mothers at UMOM!

We also are collecting new (and gently used) Children's Books for the children at UMOM!

The deadline for this mission project is Mother's Day, May 12.

Donations of \$20 can be made to First UMC of Sun City.
(Please put *UMOM Bibles* in the memo line.)
Children's books can be put on the table in the Narthex on Sundays or brought into the church office.

Look for more details on the bulletin inserts in April —
You can give a Bible in honor or in memory of a mom you love.
(and receive a recipient card to let your loved one know about the gift Bible you sent in their honor.)



UMOM's programs are built around a simple formula: jobs + housing = ending homelessness. We work hand-in-hand with every person we serve to solve that formula alongside them. From emergency shelter to affordable housing, UMOM offers a full slate of vital services, rooted in a foundation of trust and proactive support. UMOM's Mission is to end family homelessness by restoring hope and rebuilding lives.

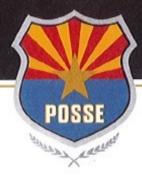
What is UMOM? It stands for United Methodist Outreach Ministries. UMOM New Day Centers mission is to prevent and end homelessness with innovative strategies and housing solutions that meet the unique needs of each family and individual.

About 50% of the family shelter residents are children and youth.

Founded in 1964, UMOM is in Phoenix, Arizona, and is the largest shelter for homeless families in the state. They keep families together -- providing a continuum of care from emergency shelter to transitional housing and finally, permanent, affordable housing. Families at UMOM can gain the skills, medical care, quality childcare, and education they need to rebuild their lives and succeed when they leave. Every night UMOM provides safe shelter and supportive services for nearly 700 individuals (over 155 homeless families and 130 single women) through its continuum of services. They also offer over 550 units of affordable housing across the Valley, each community with Program Centers for residents.

Some of their programs and services are: Shelter programs for families, Permanent Housing, Veterans Programs, Watkins Basic Needs Shelter, and Supportive Services (workforce development, child development center, wellness center, teen activity program.)

For more information, you can go directly to their website at: www.UMOM.org



SUN CITY POSSE

10861 W. Sunland Drive Sun City, AZ 85351

SATELLITE OFFICE

10415 W. Grand Avenue Sun City, AZ 85351

> P (623) 972-2555 F (623) 974-1876

SunCityPosse.org

Hello, my name is Don Erlitz, I am the Chaplain of the Sun City Posse. I would like to ask for a moment of your time to share information on two services of the Posse that would benefit your people at **no cost** to them.

The Maricopa Sheriff's Department offers a service called **R.U.O.K**. It is for senior residents of Sun City and is managed by the Sun City Posse. We have, in Sun City, seniors who are alone with little or no family members available to them. This service is open to all seniors in Maricopa County; however, we administer this for Sun City residents.

This service calls, by computer, the phone of the resident every day at a specific time. By answering, they automatically acknowledge they are OK. If they do not answer, it will try three times and then a human will call. If there is still no answer a Sheriff's Department member will go to the residence to check on them.

There are two requirements of the program. An *Application* must be filled out along with a *Waiver of Liability*. These forms can be mailed to them from the Posse Chaplain, or they can use a link on our website to download, print out, and mail to the Posse Chaplain. They may also call the Chaplain at (623) 972-2555 ext 132 and we will send them the application.

The Second requirement is that they must reside in Sun City for us to facilitate their application. Anyone in Maricopa can apply, but we only service Sun City.

The next service we provide is called **Funeral Watch**. When someone passes, often it is printed in the paper along with when and where the funeral will be held. This information helps those who may wish to take advantage of the grieving family. **Funeral Watch** is available to help by positioning a uniformed officer and marked car from the Posse to protect the residence while the family is away for the service. They are available for up to 3 hours and will periodically walk around the residence to make sure it is secure.

This service is also at no cost. To receive this service, they may call the Posse Chaplain or use the form available online by filling it out and submit it electronically to the Chaplain. He will respond ASAP to confirm the details and expectations of the service needed.

Thank you for your time. We appreciate your ministry to the people of Sun City and would like to partner with you by offering these opportunities. Included with this letter are brochures that also explain the programs. If you feel these will benefit your people, and would like more information or more brochures, please let us know and we will get them to you.

Sincerely,

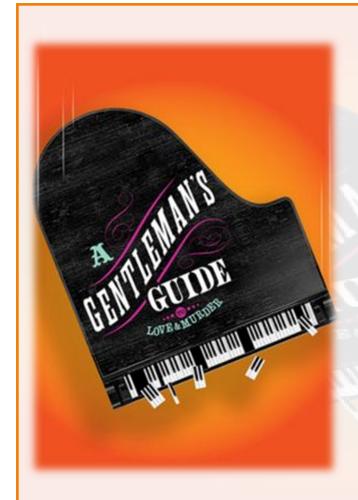
Don Erlitz - Chaplain Sun City Posse (623) 972-2555 x132



FUMC Women's Group at their MARCH meeting decorating hats for Easter & the upcoming High Tea Event on Friday, May 10 at 10:30 am Over 25 members participated in this fun, creative time of Fellowship.



Thank you to Deb King and Mary Goitia for leading this morning of spring flowers and friendship.



Metho Travelers Presents

ARIZONA BROADWAY THEATER A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder

Thursday, May 16, 2024 \$85.00

Leave Lakeview at 11:15 am
Lunch 12:00 - Show 2pm
Meal includes soup or salad,
entre, tea or coffee.
Dessert or adult beverages
extra if desired.

Meal, Show and Tips included.
For More Information or Reservations see your Metho Travelers Table or call
Beth at 307-262-6715 or
Sharon at 602-391-7164

Got Grandkids (or Great Grandkids)? Help them go to CAMP this summer! Desert Southwest Camp information is below!

Talk to Pastor Kathleen for more details





4/1 Shirley Catto

4/1 Barb Hauptli

4/2 Theda Vickers

4/5 William Van Meter

4/6 Donna Johanson

4/7 Dick Murray

4/8 DeeDee Strombeck

4/19 Nan Weihmuller

4/22 Roseann McGuire

4/23 Ruthie Prior

4/23 Lynda Van House

4/4 Jim & Jil Carlson

4/6 Dick & Bogie Budke

4/27 Ross & Lenora Rector





If you do not find your birthday or anniversary listed, please let the church office know. We would like to recognize you during your special month.