

JAMESTOWN TODAY



*Building Bridges To The
Families Of Our Community!*

APRIL 2021

Volume 2 Issue 4

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CHURCH STAFF

- **Steve Loft**
Pastor
- **Steve Allen**
Choir Director
Music Director
- **Pam Allen**
Organist
- **Sharon Shinn**
Administrative
Assistant
- **Geri Angel**
Custodian
- **Josh Goodman**
Youth Ministry
Director
- **Andrea Loft**
Children's Ministry



Lasts and Firsts

Unless something unexpected happens, this will be the last Easter message I will share from a pulpit. Even when I was an associate pastor at Griffith First, the senior pastor was the one to preach on Easter Sunday, and fittingly so. Easter is the greatest worship celebration of the year! Christmas is a wonderful time of the year, but the birth of Jesus was only the beginning. His birth, life and death lead to the great celebration of His Resurrection.

But then, the Resurrection is a new beginning as well. The disciples thought his death was the end. Most of them did their best to stay out of the public. It is hard to know what they were thinking. They had all fled when he was arrested. Peter had followed at a distance. John the beloved was close enough to Jesus on the cross that he received instruction to care for Mary in Jesus' "absence." I wonder if they planned to stay quiet "until it all blew over." Even when people began to report seeing Jesus alive, many of them refused to believe. But when they personally encountered the resurrected Christ, everything changed. All things became new.

When I first came to Christ, I had a lot of growing to do. But I knew that everything had changed as well. It was a new beginning – I had started a new life. There was no turning back. I would never be the same again.

That is what I hope for all people. My hope is that everyone will have a personal encounter with Jesus, and that as a result of that encounter they will never be the same. I hope it will become a new beginning for them as it was for me. I hope they will be able to agree with the Apostle Paul that all else is worthless compared to "the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." (Philippians 3:8)

Can you make that your hope and prayer as well?

In Christ,

Pastor Steve Loft



Everything else is
WORTHLESS when
compared with the
INFINITE VALUE
of knowing
Christ Jesus
my Lord.

Philippians 3:8 NLT

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES



1	Jeff	Cabanaw	2	Denny & Linda	Miller	1977
2	Joshua	Greenlee	20	Curt & Renee	Wenger	1991
	Zacharie	LaPlace	26	Brad & Jackie	Ullery	1975
3	Irene	Cook				
4	Becky	Buss				
	Katy	Patterson				
5	Marcia	Cook				
	Kelly	Gaugler				
	Marty	Richard				
8	Julie	Koets				
9	Ray	Hochstetler				
	Jason	Wrathell				
12	Melanie	Clark				
13	Stacie	Remaly				
14	Carl	Lechlitner				
17	Pastor Steve	Loft				
	Kim	Stoops				
20	Brad	Greenlee				
22	Joy	Moore				
23	Hannah	Skibbe				
	Renee	Wenger				
24	Rodman	Bender				
27	Eddie	Beck				
	Dylan	Milholland				
	Shana	Kretchman				
	Jameson	Ullery				
28	Shannon	Sciba				
29	Adam	Peat				
	Tyler	Wenger				
30	Curt	Wenger				

RETA Pregnancy Clinic & Family Resources, a faith-based, pro-life nonprofit, has served Elkhart County for more than 35 years, providing free pregnancy testing, first trimester ultrasound, STD testing and treatment, pregnancy loss support, parent coaching, and Healthy Sexual Boundaries Education solely through the funding of individuals, businesses and churches. By the end of 2019, our staff of ten served clients through more than 3,000 appointments. We have seen God bless our mission to provide life-affirming services and build Christ-centered families in great ways.

We've reached the limits of our current building, using every square inch of the facility. As we've grown, it's become increasingly clear our building is not conducive to our current needs or viable for future expansion. In the same small lobby sits a pregnant woman contemplating abortion waiting to be called back for her pregnancy test directly across from a mother with two rambunctious children awaiting her coaching appointment. A pregnant couple coming for coaching has to climb four flights of stairs to shop in our Family Store. We have configured and re-configured our office and have run out of options.

We are \$580,000 away from meeting our funding goal and a generous donor is willing to match anything raised up to \$290,000 that comes in between now and July 30, 2021. Please consider contributing to the campaign before July 30 to help us reach our matching gift and complete our campaign.

The Community Foundation of Elkhart County has awarded RETA a \$1 million three-year challenge grant for this project. For years one and two, if we raise \$350,000 by May 31 of 2021 and 2022, they will match \$350,000 both years. Year three is an outright gift of \$300,000.

After purchasing the former Martin's Pet & Garden building, with your financial support and prayers, we plan to begin construction on a new RETA facility. This new facility will allow our existing services to achieve their full potential, reaching new clients and providing for future expansion goals. With one quarter of women not receiving women's health care or prenatal care due to finances or insurance, which is more than 11,000 women in this community, our new facility will provide the space to begin GYN services and eventually OB services, seeing these women on our medical side throughout their pregnancy.

Your financial partnership is going to save lives and transform families in Jesus' name for years to come.



Yard Sale

Benefiting Soup of Success
April 16th & 17th
Church Community Services
907 Oakland Ave.

Did you borrow tables from the church? Please return them. We are having requests from members to be able to use the tables.

*"The very first Easter taught us this:
that life never ends and
love never dies."
---Kate McGahan*

Jamestown Church,
Thanks so much for the wonderful snacks this semester.
Blane Bender

Thank you Pastor Steve for the prayers before surgery. All the get well cards and phone calls from the Church Family. I'm doing great – slow but steady.

God Bless you one and all,
Marcia Clark

JUMC,
This year – perhaps more than any other – we are grateful for your tithes and offerings. Thank you. Because of your faithfulness, our Connection is stronger, and lives are being changed.

May God bless you abundantly for your generosity.
Wishing you a blessed Easter as we celebrate that Jesus is risen!
Be encouraged, Bishop Julius C. Trimble



STATEMENTS

Match what was said with the person about whom it was said

1.	Enoch	Genesis 5: 24	a. There is none like him in the earth
2.	Noah	Genesis 6: 8	b. In love with this world
3.	King Solomon	1 Kings 11: 1	c. Walked with God
4.	John the Baptist	Luke 1: 17; John 1: 23	d. Cephas, a stone
5.	Abraham	James 2: 23	e. Found grace with God
6.	Demas	2 Timothy 4: 10	f. Voice of one crying in the wilderness
7.	Peter	John 1: 42	g. He went away sorrowful
8.	Mary	Luke 1: 30	h. Chose the good part
9.	Job	Job 2: 3	i. Friend of God
10.	A rich, young man	Luke 18: 23	j. Loved many strange women
11.	Mary	Luke 10: 42	k. Found favor with God
12.	Judas Iscariot	Matthew 26: 24	l. Would have been good if he had not been born

NAME _____

Return Quiz April 25th

Answers for "PLACES": 1. F; 2. K; 3. A; 4. J; 5. B; 6. D; 7. I; 8. G; 9. C; 10. H; 11. E. Those that were up for the challenge: Jim Angel, Lana Berg, Marcia Clark, Marta Clark, Doug Cook, Arletah Hochstetler and Jane Lechlitner.

TRUSTEES March Report

Church:

Will be checking into the accuracy of our Insurance policy for the Church & Parsonage
Time for the Elevator safety inspection
Discussed the Comcast/Xfinity billings

Parsonage:

Getting estimates for the Roof repair at the Parsonage
Looking into replacing the Oven/Cooktop
One more window left to replace
Need to install fencing at the Parsonage to accommodate Pastor Ed's dogs.

Teen Center:

Will need to dispose of the furniture and couch in the center. They are musty smelling and have mold/mildew.

Next Trustee meeting April 15th at 6:00 pm

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR

CHILDREN and Parents

Our Easter Egg Hunt will be Sunday, April 4th after our Worship Service. See you then!!



MISSIONS

Loose Coin Offerings: April Loose Coin will go to the Susanna's Kitchen. Since 1982 Susanna's Kitchen has been providing a nutritious noon meal for any person coming to the table every Monday through Friday at First Congregational Church in downtown Elkhart. Our members have been serving that meal once a month for many years. If you would like to help serve, sign up on the Mission's Board. Last month's Loose Coin collection of \$66.56 went to Habitat for Humanity. **Thank You for your generosity.**

Firefighter's Dinner: Don't forget to sign up to provide dinner for our firefighters following their training sessions. April's date is the 12th. This is the second Monday (just for April). We still need someone for the Veggie/Salad and Dessert for May. Sign up at the Missions bulletin board in the Narthex or let Becky Buss know if you can help, 574-536-7355.

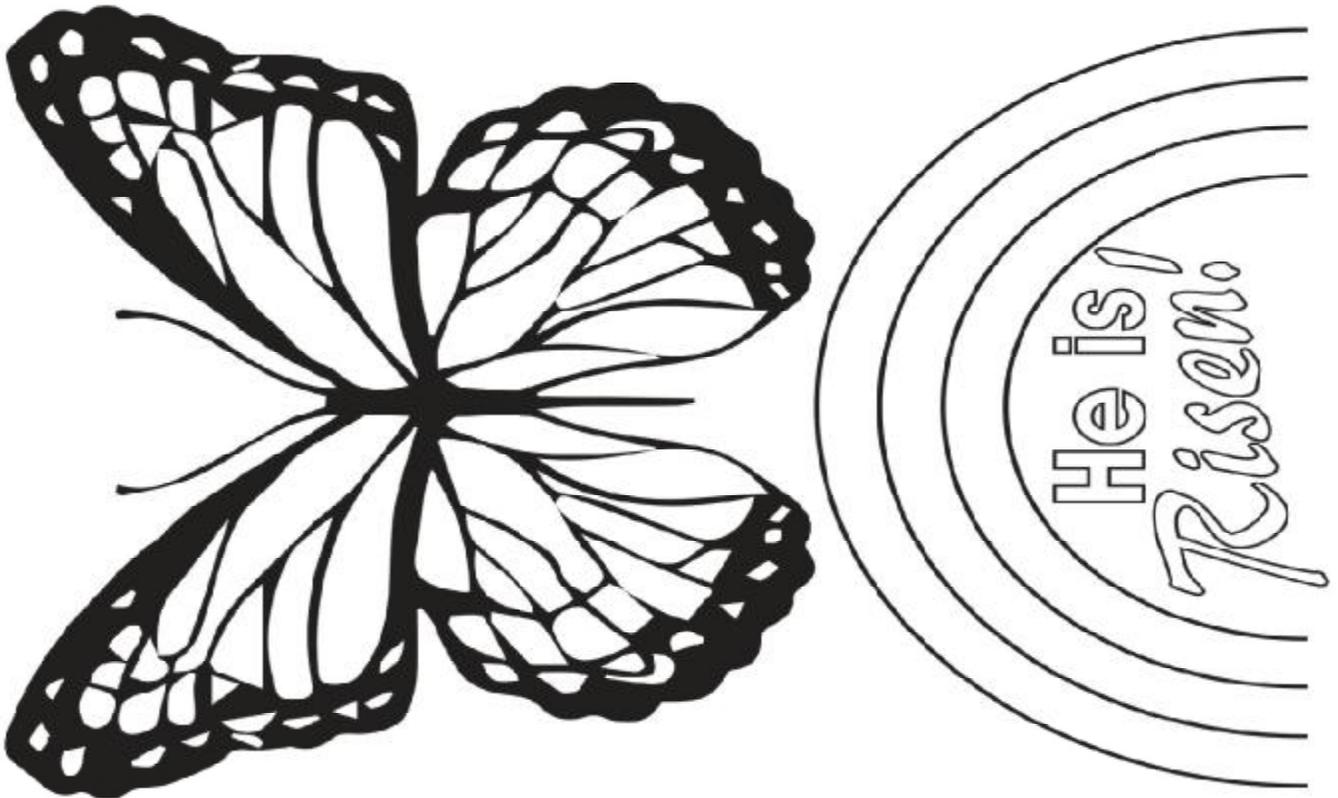
UNITED METHODIST MEN'S

April 4th is Easter Sunday; we will not be meeting!
So, we will see you May 2nd.

**JAMESTOWN
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
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Phone: (574) 293-3905
www.Jamestownumc.org
"Building Bridges To The
Families Of Our Community!"



Return Address Correction Requested



Christ is risen!
Alleluia!



Rejoice!
He Lives!