

# APRIL/MAY NEWSLETTER 2024



## EASTERTIDE SERIES

Easter is more than just a single day, it's an entire season. A season of new life. New life won for us by The One who came to save us. And why? Because God loves us. And that includes...YOU! Join us this Easter Season as we breathe into the hope that was, is and always will be...LOVE.

During this series we will slow down, simplify, and tune our hearts to the rhythm of the One that spoke the Universe into being. These rhythms can be found in the non-secular, of course, but also in the secular. Part of this series will include an infusion of the secular through music, to experience how the Divine is present

in spaces where words fail and music is invited and allowed to speak.



## WELCOME HOME NEW MEMBERS

We rejoice and celebrate with the new members who have chosen to call our faith family their home.

Travis, Melody, Grace, Tanner, and Trevor Middendorf, Courtney Sinn, Laurie Bingel, Jessica Sinn, and Jasen Vaupel.

Be sure to take a moment to extend a warm welcome of Christian love, fellowship, and friendship as you formally welcome them as new members of our church family. ***(We would like to add the new members to our Birthday and Anniversary list, so please give this info to Pastor Tarrah or Kim Weekley)***



*Craig W. Steinheimer*

Born: October 21, 1969

Died: February 29, 2024

**“Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted.”**

**Matthew 5:4**

## CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION



Join us on Pentecost Sunday (May 19<sup>th</sup>) as we witness and celebrate the confirmation of Michael Triefenbach and Dalton Norgaard. These two youth will be sharing their personal Statement of Faith before the congregation and will be Confirmed as members of Holy Ghost and Trinity United Churches of Christ. A Confirmation Celebration reception will be hosted by Pastor Tarrah and her family in honor of the confirmands immediately following worship in the hall. If you would like to assist with the reception in any way, please let Pastor Tarrah know.

## CONFIRMATION 2024-2026

A new confirmation class will begin in September 2024. Traditionally, confirmation is extended to youth in 8<sup>th</sup> grade for a 1 year program. While this is the “way we’ve always done it”, Pastor Tarrah recognizes that it is time for a “new way” to allow and encourage youth to engage their faith and denomination towards confirmation. This new confirmation program welcomes all youth beginning 5<sup>th</sup> grade for a 2 year program that will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month immediately following worship. The first year of the program will dive into our treasured bible stories and build their biblical literacy. The second year of the program will expand to include confirmation curriculum to explore their beliefs, our denomination, and our local church. If you have any questions, or are interested in assisting Pastor Tarrah with this new program, please let her know as soon as possible. If you an interest in having your child participate in confirmation in the fall, please let Pastor Tarrah know no later than August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.



During a recent fellowship meeting, there was much conversation about “What it means to be a dual member of Holy Ghost and Trinity United Churches of Christ.” This conversation touched on the “why” surrounding the concept of dual membership as well. There were also many different viewpoints, perspectives, and understandings shared which included hopes for the future and reflections on the past. Pastor Tarrah would like to invite YOU into the conversation as well. On Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, we will have coffee and refreshments immediately following worship to spend some time in conversation about this new concept and your thoughts, feelings, and questions are welcome and encouraged. Your voice is important, needed, and wanted. Please prayerfully consider attending!

## **Men's Fellowship**



Pastor Tarrah has been working with Pastor Bob Koch (St. John's, New Athens) and Pastor Brett Palmer (Friedens, Marissa) to develop some new fellowship opportunities for the men of our congregations. If you have any ideas that you would like us to consider, please let Pastor Tarrah know as soon as possible. Stay tuned for more information as things come together.

## **Special Music Offerings**

Are you interested in providing special music for one of our upcoming services? Do you know someone or a group that you think would be a terrific addition to one of our upcoming services? Please reach out to Pastor Tarrah so we can get you/them on the worship schedule. Thank you!!

## **Scripture Readers**

Scripture readers are always encouraged and welcomed to take part in our worship services. Please sign-up to be a reader of our sacred scriptures on any given Sunday. There is a sign-up sheet on the information table. Thank you!!

## **“W.O.W.” Retreat: September 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

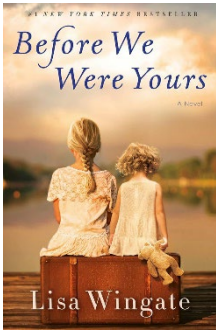


Calling all Women Of Wisdom (W.O.W.) to come together for a Women's Retreat! The retreat will be held in Branson, MO, and there is sure to be something for everyone to enjoy. One of the activities during the retreat will be a night out to the Sight and Sound Theatre to see the live stage production of "Queen Esther". Throughout the retreat, there will be time for spiritual growth, rest, fellowship, creativity, and fun. And, of course, no trip to Branson would be complete without some "shopping therapy!"

***If you are interested in being a part of this retreat planning team, please reach out to Pastor Tarrah.***

The cost for the retreat is yet to be determined as we need to get a "fairly solid" headcount. As a reflection of our ministry, outreach, and stewardship, we want to ensure that any women interested in attending not be discouraged from attending due to the undetermined, finalized retreat cost. If this is the case for any potential participants, please know that you can speak with Pastor Tarrah with complete confidentiality about financial assistance. A sign-up sheet is available on the information table. Even though the retreat isn't until September, let's all give our best effort to RSVP no later than Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> so we can get the best pricing available with advanced planning.

## Book Club



Our Book Club's new selection will be "Before We Were Yours" by Lisa Wingate. We will get together at Machete's in New Athens on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm for our discussion.

"Memphis, 1939. Twelve-year-old Rill Foss and her four younger siblings live a magical life aboard their family's Mississippi River shantyboat. But when their father must rush their mother to the hospital one stormy night, Rill is left in charge—until strangers arrive in force. Wrenched from all that is familiar and thrown into a Tennessee Children's Home Society orphanage, the Foss children are assured that they will soon be returned to their parents—but they quickly realize the dark truth. At the mercy of the facility's cruel director, Rill fights to keep her sisters and brother together in a world of danger and uncertainty.

Aiken, South Carolina, present day. Born into wealth and privilege, Avery Stafford seems to have it all: a successful career as a federal prosecutor, a handsome fiancé, and a lavish wedding on the horizon. But when Avery returns home to help her father weather a health crisis, a chance encounter leaves her with uncomfortable questions and compels her to take a journey through her family's long-hidden history, on a path that will ultimately lead either to devastation or to redemption.

Based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals—in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country—Lisa Wingate's riveting, wrenching, and ultimately uplifting tale reminds us how, even though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong."

## NEW HYMNALS

During our Annual Meeting this February, there was a desire mentioned, by some, for a return to hymnal singing. Pastor Tarrah has been researching the possibility of obtaining the same, new hymnals for both of our worship locations. Pew hymnals cost, on average, \$20-\$50 each. As you can imagine, a hefty price tag will accompany a purchase of this type. It's also reasonable to mention that our pews are in need of bibles as well. There are a couple of different ways for us to consider that we can go about meeting these goals for our worship locations.

**Hymnals-** The New Century Hymnal is the hymnal of the UCC. While there are many traditional songs in this hymnal edition, there are also many treasured hymns that aren't in this hymnal. And to be quite honest, there isn't a single hymnal that contains ALL of the hymns in one compilation. We can, however, create our own hymnal to reflect the worship style of our faith community. In order to complete a project as large as this, we will need volunteers to assist with the project. We will also need to compile a list of YOUR favorite hymns to ensure that we don't inadvertently leave any out. If you are interested in assisting creating our own hymnal, please let Pastor Tarrah know.

**Bibles-** The New Revised Standard Version translation of the Bible is the most accurate translation available. Pew bibles are available to be purchased in bulk to fit alongside our hymnals so people have an opportunity to engage in biblical literacy during our worship services. The cost of pew bibles in this translation ranges from \$10.99-\$12.99 each.

One of the ways that churches typically fund projects such as these (hymnals and bibles) is to have families or individuals purchase one or more in honor, memory, or celebration of a loved one or event. The dedication will then be printed and affixed inside the hymnal or bible in commemoration. If you are interested in being a part of a committee to explore and facilitate these projects, please let Pastor Tarrah know.

### **VISIONING COMMITTEE**

It is from the rootedness of our history and traditions, that we glean the wisdom to move into the future with the Spirit's guidance. If you are interested in adding your voice to the conversation about the direction of our congregation and ministry, please prayerfully consider being a part of our Visioning Committee. This new committee will work alongside Pastor Tarrah and the Joint Church Council in an effort to keep their finger on the pulse of the congregation, as well as face the realities of the changing world our church is thriving and forging into. Please let Pastor Tarrah know if this is something you are interested in being a part of and stay tuned for more information upcoming about ways to get involved.

### **FUN DAYS FOR APRIL AND MAY**

#### **April**

<b>April 14</b>	National Dolphin Day	National Pecan Day	
<b>April 15</b>	Income Taxes Due	Titanic Remembrance Day	World Art Day
<b>April 16</b>	Eggs Benedict Day	Mushroom Day	Save the Elephant Day
<b>April 17</b>	National Cheeseball Day		
<b>April 19</b>	National Garlic Day		
<b>April 20</b>	Husband Appreciation Day	Volunteer Recognition Day	
<b>April 22</b>	Earth Day (U.S.)	National Jelly Bean Day	
<b>April 23</b>	English Muffin Day	National Picnic Day	
	National Zucchini Bread Day – they hold this at a time when you are not sick of all that zucchini.		
<b>April 24</b>	Pig in a Blanket Day		
<b>April 25</b>	World Penguin Day		
<b>April 26</b>	Arbor Day – last Friday of the month	National Pretzel Day	
	Richter Scale Day		
<b>April 27</b>	Morse Code Day	National Prime Rib Day	Tell a Story Day
<b>April 28</b>	International Astronomy Day		
<b>April 29</b>	International Dance Day	National Shrimp Scampi Day	
<b>April 30</b>	Honesty Day	International Jazz Day	National Mahjong Day

## May

<b>May 1</b>	May Day	Mother Goose Day	Save the Rhino Day
<b>May 2</b>	Brothers and Sisters Day		National Day of Prayer
<b>May 3</b>	Garden Meditation Day		
<b>May 4</b>	Kentucky Derby Day	National Fitness Day	Star Wars Day
<b>May 5</b>	Cartoonist Day	Cinco de Mayo	
<b>May 6</b>	Beverage Day	National Nurses Day	No Diet Day
<b>May 7</b>	National Teacher's Day		
<b>May 8</b>	Iris Day	No Socks Day	V-E Day
	World Red Cross Day / World Red Crescent Day		
<b>May 10</b>	Child Care Provider Day or Daycare Provider Day		Clean up Your Room Day
	Military Spouses Day		
<b>May 11</b>	Eat What You Want Day	National Train Day	
<b>May 12</b>	Mother's Day	International Nurses Day	Limerick Day
<b>May 13</b>	International Hummus Day	National Apple Pie Day	
<b>May 15</b>	National Chocolate Chip Day	National Slider Day	
	Police Officer's Memorial Day		
<b>May 16</b>	Love a Tree Day	National Mimosa Day	Wear Purple for Peace Day
<b>May 18</b>	International Museum Day	Visit Your Relatives Day	
	Armed Forces Day		
<b>May 19</b>	World Plant a Vegetable Garden Day		
<b>May 20</b>	Pick Strawberries Day		
<b>May 21</b>	National Memo Day	National Waiters and Waitresses Day	
<b>May 23</b>	Lucky Penny Day	World Turtle Day	
<b>May 25</b>	Brown Bag It Day	Missing Children's Day	National Wine Day
<b>May 26</b>	National Paper Airplane Day		
<b>May 27</b>	Memorial Day	Sun Screen Day	
<b>May 28</b>	National Hamburger Day		
<b>May 30</b>	International Jazz Day	Mint Julep Day	Water a Flower Day
<b>May 31</b>	Flip Flop Day	International Space Day	
	National Macaroon Day		



### CONGRATULATIONS NEWLYWEDS!!

Courtney Bingel and Trevor Sinn tied the knot on  
April 6, 2024 at Holy Ghost.

Thank you to the happy couple for leaving some of the wedding  
decorations in the sanctuary at Holy Ghost, giving the sanctuary a  
beautiful new look.

## **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

### **April**

2 Daryl Bollmeier

27 Janet & Ron Dietrich

4 Cassandra Vaupel

7 Martha Wagner

9 Ryne Rhodes

16 Erin Weekley

22 Ryder Rhodes

### **May**

3 Brandon Leonhardt

14 Jacey Lynn Trentmann

3 Sasha Steinheimer

14 Raegan Lynn Trentmann

6 Brian Jacob (BJ) Weekley

19 Debbie Prest

8 Gracelynn Norgaard

21 Quinton Vaupel

10 Madison Diecker

29 Christina Juenger

10 Daniel Mesch, Jr.

31 Jeff Edmonds

## **WE ARE UPDATING OUR DIRECTORY**

It's been many years since our membership directory has been formally updated, and with the inclusion of so many new members, now is a great time to do this! Please fill out the form below and drop it in the offering plate no later than Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, so we can get a new directory compiled and distributed to our church family. If you would like to submit your information via email, please submit to: [holyghost@wisperhome.com](mailto:holyghost@wisperhome.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be a part of our email distribution list? Yes No

Would you like to be a part of our text message distribution list? Yes No

Would you like to be a part of our prayer chain? Yes No



**PRAYER LIST (long term)**

Richard Juenger, Dorothy Herzog,  
Bradley Funk, Skip Horton,  
and Lucas (5-year-old with leukemia in  
Darmstadt).

**PRAYER LIST (short term)**

People of Ukraine, People of Maui, People of Israel and Palestine,  
Jane Kish (Friend of Cathy Harms), Matt Reidy, Les Erb, Frank Lee, Phyllis  
Harms, Herschel Edmonds, Kenneth Erb, Jim Asinger, Kaye Smith,  
Charlie D. (Son-in-law of Charlotte & Rob Shaw), Taylor, and Sue Triefenbach.

*Please contact Pastor Tarrah, Kim Weekley, or Frieda Feig if you wish to add  
someone to our prayer list. If you have a private prayer request, please contact  
Pastor Tarrah directly.*

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES**

Pastor Tarrah is exploring the possibility of offering a program to encourage spiritual growth and study ONE SUNDAY each month beginning in the fall. This program will be available to any adults, young adults, and teens. To develop a program that touches on YOUR interests, please circle as many of the subjects below that you would be interested in learning more about. You may also fill in your own preferences as well.

- |                               |                           |                          |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| “Who is Jesus to YOU?”        | “History of the Bible”    | “Traditions and Rituals” |
| “The Book of Revelation”      | “Mean Girls of the Bible” | “Bad Boys of the Bible”  |
| “Biblical Customs and Times”  | “Divine Self-Care”        | “Spiritual Practices”    |
| “History of our Denomination” | “History of Christianity” | “Names of God”           |

Your own interests: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



