

The Grapevine

April 2024

April Events



YAHA Spring Fling
Saturday, April 4



Game Afternoon
Saturday, April 6



Tacos and Trivia
Saturday, April 13



Square Dance
Saturday, April 20



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Romeo United Methodist Church

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The GRAPEVINE is published monthly. The intention is to communicate and promote the entire program of the **Romeo United Methodist Church** to members and friends. Your articles, comments and suggestions are welcome. The editor reserves the right to edit content and space as required.

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Pastor's Paragraphs

¹¹ While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹² After the priests had assembled with the elders, they devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers, ¹³ telling them, "You must say, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' ¹⁴ If this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵ So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story is still told among the Judeans to this day.

Matthew 28:11-15

These verses from Matthew don't often get a whole lot of attention paid to them in the midst of our Easter celebration. We prefer to focus on the empty tomb, the glorious resurrection and appearance of Jesus, and of course the reaction of the Disciples and those that loved him. But as I spent some time reading through the Gospels, reading each of those tellings something about the verses above stuck with me.

In the midst of the celebration and rejoicing of those Disciples and followers there were still plenty of people who were not happy to hear of that empty tomb. What did this mean for them? What was going to happen to them? To the power they had worked so hard to secure? In some ways it is sad to me that still despite all that had happened, all that Jesus had done, those individuals were more concerned with their own Earthly power and possessions. They couldn't stop for a moment to consider or accept that Jesus was the Messiah, all that he had done was God's will, and that he had come for them, those that had hung him on that tree. Instead, they continued to plot and scheme. As we move past this year's Easter celebration, I want us to be careful that we don't allow our hearts to become jaded, our minds to become fatigued, or our beliefs to become so stringent that we cannot see the risen Lord amongst us.

I say all of this to acknowledge that a little later this month the General Conference of the United Methodist Church will be held in North Carolina (April 23 - May 3). The General Conference meets every four years and this gathering was supposed to happen in 2020 but because of the pandemic it has been delayed until this year. The General Conference is the only assembly that has the authority to make changes to the Book of Discipline and to the denominational beliefs and stances of the United Methodist Church.

I do not know, and won't pretend to be able to predict what will be the outcome of those 10 days in Charlotte. As 862 delegates come from around the world to gather, I pray that the Holy Spirit will move among them. That it will guide their thoughts, their actions, and their words. I pray that with all the contention that exists in our world, our nation, and our denomination they will be able to work together to find the best path forward for our denomination as a whole, and each and every local church and the members who are a part of it.

I have no doubt in the coming weeks there will be reports, articles, stories, interviews and proclamations made. Some will be made by official UMC sources, some by outside groups, and some by "mainstream" media. Those articles will contain information, and sadly if past experience repeats, some false or stretched truths and misinformation. As you see that information and if you have questions, please know that my door is always open. There are many groups with agendas and plans of their own, but none of them have the authority to speak for the denomination or make claims about what is, or is not going to be, the future of the United Methodist Church. [cont.]

Pastor's Paragraphs (cont.)

I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that not everyone sitting in the pews on any given Sunday believes the exact same thing about many of the hot topic issues of our day. That is not new to us in 2024 as it has been a struggle in churches for generations. With that in mind, I would encourage you to consider sitting down and having a conversation with someone who may not see eye-to-eye with you. Have an open and honest conversation, not to convince or change one another, but to gain understanding, and to acknowledge that we have all had different life experiences that have made us the people we are. So often these days we are quick to dismiss the others around us. Those who don't think, or act, or believe just as we do.

I will say that with all the unknowns that are out there the one thing I do know, the one thing I have seen and been reminded of time and again by the people called Methodist who have found a home at Romeo UMC is that each and every one of you love Jesus. I have seen how you rally around and support those who are hurting. I have seen your willingness to volunteer, whether it be time or money, when the need is there. I have seen the love of Jesus shared and it is my honor to be able to serve amongst you even in these difficult times.

Whatever plans or schemes are being worked on in this world they are destined to the same fate as those of the first resurrection deniers, they will fail. They will fail because they have chosen the things of this world over following the will of the Lord.

I do not know what tomorrow holds. But my friends, I do know the one who holds tomorrow in His hands. My hope and my prayer for us is that we will continue to follow the Spirit's lead. Let us continue to Look Up, Reach Out, and Care Within as we share the grace and hope that we celebrate through the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. As the women declared on that first Easter morning, "He is risen!" May we know that truth, and may we share it that others may come to know the peace that passes all understanding for themselves.

God Bless,
Pastor Devin

If you would like more information the official General Conference site can be found at:

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020>

The United Methodist News also has a dedicated page for updates and information from General Conference:

<https://www.umnews.org/en/landing-pages/general-conference-news-and-commentary>

Our delegates from the Michigan Conference also have an information page and contact info:

<https://gc.michiganumc.org/home/gc-2020-delegates/>

APRIL VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE



7 th	Helen and Ken Koss
14 th	Mischelle Makhoulf and Larry & Sherlyn Back
21 st	Don & Cheryl Bittner and Deanna & Kate Sparks
28 th	Anna Bonanni, Diane Hodgkin, and Becky Laseke

USHERS SCHEDULE



7 th	Craig and Judy Engwall
14 th	Doug and Vicky Posey
21 st	Linda Eastman and Becky Laseke
28 th	Phil and Louchrisa Schwan

GREETERS



7 th	Gayle Beitel
14 th	Guy and Julie Jones-Lau
21 st	Anna Bonnani
28 th	Kathy Smith

Thank you for volunteering to greet.
If you are unable to greet on your scheduled date, please arrange for a substitute.

SOUND BOARD



7 th	Mischele Makhoulf
14 th	Claudia Royal
21 st	The Lamb Family
28 th	Laurie Bennett

VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Seasonal Flowers	Mary Jo Hosler	586-337-2692
College Ministry	Beth Theisen	586-242-0598
Fellowship Hour	Becky Laseke	586-337-1361
Greeters	Gayle Beitel	586-232-3388
Nursery	TBD	
Sound Board	Dave Beskin	586-872-3797
Ushers	Craig Engwall	586-504-6655
Communion	Janet Bauer	586-752-6166

Weekly Meetings

Communion Sunday	First Sunday of each month	
Worship On-Line or In-Person	Sunday	10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
Fellowship Time	Sunday	11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall
Youth Group Meeting	Sunday	2:00 p.m. Youth Room
Hooks and Needles	Tuesday	1:00 p.m.
His Table Community Meal	Tuesday	5:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall
Santa's Workshop	Wednesday	10:00 a.m.
UMW Book Club	Wednesday	12:30 p.m.



*Many hands
make light work.*

RUMC April 2024 Calendar

Tue	2 nd	Hooks and Needles Group	1:00 p.m.
Wed	3 rd	Santa's Workshop	10:00 a.m.
Thur	4 th	YAHA Spring Fling	12:00 p.m.
Sat	6 th	Game Afternoon	3:00 p.m.
Sun	7 th	Communion Sunday Youth Group – ESCAPE Room outing	2:00 p.m.
Tue	9 th	Hooks and Needles Group	1:00 p.m.
Wed	10 th	Santa's Workshop Women of Faith Reading Group	10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.
Thur	11 th	Finance Committee Meeting Church Council Meeting	5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
Sat	13 th	Tacos and Trivia	5:30 p.m.
Sun	14 th	Youth Group	2:00 p.m.
Tue	16 th	Hooks and Needles Group	1:00 p.m.
Wed	17 th	Santa's Workshop Women of Faith Reading Group	10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.
Thur	18 th	United Methodist Men	7:00 p.m.
Sat	20 th	Square Dance	6:00 p.m.
Sun	21 st	Youth Group	2:00 p.m.
Tue	23 rd	Hooks and Needles Group	1:00 p.m.
Wed	24 th	Santa's Workshop Women of Faith Reading Group	10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.
Sun	28 th	Youth Group	2:00 p.m.
Tue	30 th	Hooks and Needles Group	1:00 p.m.



Have you caught someone stepping up and doing something unexpected to help others? Nominate them here so we can thank them and let them know we appreciate them.

Brian Rosso: CAUGHT shoveling snow from walkways, ramp, steps to make it safe for folks to come & enjoy the final fish fry!



FISH FRY THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone for all your help and contributions to this year's Lenten fish fries! So much by so many! We raised funds for our amazing, hard-working youth. We had a chance to reconnect with each other. We honored our 200-year-old church by sharing the love of God, with all those who entered our walls!

My most sincere thanks, love and blessings,
Judy Engwall

Square Dance

Live Lively -



Square Dance

Saturday, April 20, 2024

6:00-8:00

Come enjoy an evening of Square Dancing.
Get your exercise. No experience needed.

All ages welcome.

Please sign up.

2024 Game Afternoons

Saturday from 3:00-5:00



April 6

May 25

June 22

July 20

August 10

September 21

October 19

November 16

December 14

Join us for a time of games or card playing.
We'll have some games to play (bring a
favorite of yours), or just sit around and
enjoy each other's company.

YAHA Spring Fling

Thursday, April 4, 2024

12:00-2:00

Fellowship Hall

Join us for a fun-filled Christian Spring Fling with games, food,
and fellowship to celebrate the season!

Potluck followed by some Spring activities

Sloppy Joes, Beverages, and Table Ware will be furnished

Sign up for a dish to pass



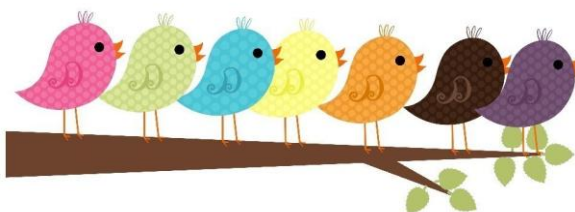
Financial Snapshot of the Operating Fund as of 2/29/24

	<u>Actual</u>
Income	\$50,495
Expenses	<u>\$58,537</u>
Surplus	(\$8042)

]2024 Apportionments as of 2/29/24: **\$2,206.80**

Romeo UMC needs your Financial Support!

The RUMC tagline has long been “Looking up, Reaching Out, Caring Within”. Those three simple phrases embody the Spirit that lives in our church so well. We look up to God and offer our worship and praise. We reach out to our community and beyond through service and mission. We care within through our prayers and support of one another. However, caring within also has to consider the needs we have within our church and its budget. That is what the Operating fund of the Church is used for. The tithes and offerings given weekly go to the operating fund and cover the day-to-day operations and bills of the church. The Finance Committee meets monthly and keeps an eye on the income and expenses. If you have any questions, you can contact Pastor Devin or Tom Callow, Finance Chair. Thank you for your continued support of RUMC.



TENATIVE FAMILY MINISTRY EVENTS FOR 2024



April 20, Saturday 6:00-8:00	Square Dance
May 19, Sunday 1:00-3:00	Family bowling/Pizza
June 9, Sunday 2:00	Mini Golf
July 19-28	Simpson Park Camp Meetings Wednesday 24th Pizza and camp meeting together
August 24, Saturday 6:00-8:00	Square Dance
September	Apple Picking
October 5	Hayride and bonfire
November 10, Sunday 3:00-5:00 followed by meal	Square Dance
December	Secret Santas Living Nativity
Wednesday, December 25	Community Christmas Dinner
Tuesday, December 31 7:00-9:00	New Year's Eve Game Night
Watch for more details to come	

1st Scott Hodgins
James Lindsay
2nd Craig Engwall
5th Zachary Raccosta
7th Leif Clark
Andrew Rosso
8th Sharon Burnette
Serena Salsido
10th Austin Faris
Gary Kimery
11th Bobbie Lentz
12th Brittany Smith



April Birthdays

12th Eliza Smith
14th Alexandra Royal
15th Cyrus Adams
Ellen Dennis
16th Stella Wheeler
18th Sharon Ward
19th Aubrey Zimmerman
24th Linda Klusendorf
Kit Sittenauer
25th Christina Muir-Murphy
26th Julia Roccosta
29th Jim Couture



April Needs:

Pancake Mix	Tuna Helper
Vegetable Soup	Saltine Crackers
Mixed Fruit	Shaving Cream for Men
Kleenex	Shampoo
Laundry Detergent	

Just a friendly reminder that we can only accept foods that haven't expired and they must have the expiration date printed on them (otherwise they have to be discarded).

Please no glass bottles or jars.

Standard size products are preferred.

Please bring your donations to Samaritan House, 62324 Van Dyke (between 28 & 29 Mile Roads) in Washington Twp. on Tuesday and Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can contact Samaritan House at (586) 336-9956. You can also bring your selections to church and place them on the shelves outside of the office.

Tacos and Trivia

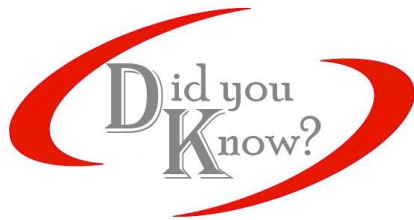
Saturday, April 13th 5:30 p.m.



We will begin with a meal of nachos and cheese, tasty tacos, and refreshments. We will then divide into teams (or play as individuals) and learn about our church's history through trivia questions. They'll be multiple choice and fun!

Come join us on Saturday the 13th!

There will be a sign-up sheet soon.



There are opportunities to volunteer for pop can returns (sign up on kiosk) and that altar flowers are available in honor or memory of a special event/someone (sign up at kiosk.)



Romeo UMC Family of Prayer

April 2024

For Our Church Family:

Vi Abercrombie
Don Adkin
Bob Bachholzky
Larry Back
Elaine Roberson
Jean Corah
Don Bittner

Steve Domke
Nancy Domke
Jim and Judy Larimer
Becky Laseke
Jim Lindsay
Sue Coker

Sue Rhoads-Sidote
Ted Simpson
Beth Theisen
Ed and Carol Verhaeghe
Tina Weeks

For Our Extended Family and Friends

Brian and Shelley Rosso's nephew, Vincent Di Piazza, treatment for cancer
Steve Domke's friend, Rick Kirsch
Kay Nicholson's nephew, Brett, is responding well to treatment for depression and alcoholism, prayers he will stay on this path

Elaine Parr's sister-in-law's brother, Henry Shoot
Jaclyn, sister of Diandra Khoury, entered rehab and working on sobriety
Helen Koss's niece, Kristy Skaggs

For answered prayer updates (remove), or to add a new prayer request, please send an email to office@romeoumc.com.