



# CROSS TALK

APRIL 2019 VOL. 3 ISSUE 8

## A Spot of T

(Get it? 'Cause my last name starts with a 'T'?)



I've had some deep, personal conversations with Christ Church folks over the last couple of weeks.

These conversations have recounted the last few decades of congregational life, church leadership, pastoral malfeasance, and communal heartbreak. Certain ministries of the church have been shut down. Certain people have come and gone. Certain people have stepped back from church leadership. Certain people carry anger or hatred around for certain other people.

There are old divisions that translate into coldness between sisters and brothers in Christ. There are events long since past that continue to shade the witness of our church years after the dust has settled on these battles. The specifics are unimportant, because enough of you know exactly what I mean. There are grievances we've held for so long that we may have outlasted the statute of limitations on being able to effectively grieve them.

The word "grieve" is important here, given all the aforementioned context. Situations which change our circumstances – no matter the degree of their relative significance – change what life looks like for us. When our circumstances change, something new is born and something old is lost. Whether it's retiring from a profession which did much to define you for decades (a positive thing, but a significant change), or a pastor does something to damage the reputation or ministry of a church (a decidedly negative thing), something has changed. A failure to address that change means there is a degree of hurt or harm that sticks around in our minds and hearts. At which point, it is only a matter of time before it bounces around and effects all sorts of other parts of our lives.

All of this to say that unresolved grief leads hurt people to hurt people. You may never have heard that before now, but I have a feeling it rings true for many of us.

In these circumstances, trust is difficult to build. Without the ability to build trust, you cannot gather together as a community and build relationships. With our these important relationships, we cannot even begin to think about doing bold ministry in the world around. And without the ability to do bold ministry – especially in the 21<sup>st</sup> century Western church – a church is just waiting to die. I know it, and even if you don't want to admit it right now, you know it, as well.

How do we avoid that reality?

It starts with radical forgiveness. We have to be willing to *totally* set aside our pride in order to forgive each other. Once we forgive each other, we can begin to consider trusting each other. Once we trust each other, we can begin to love each other. Once we love each other, we can begin to love others. And once we love others, we can begin to grasp a vision for how God is calling us to boldly live the gospel in our world.

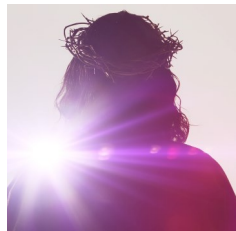
I pray you will be willing to join me in this task.

Peace,



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
**The people of The United Methodist Church®**  
CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### Holy Week & Easter Sunday Services



Join us for **Maundy Thursday Service (April 18) at 7 pm.**

A Good Friday Community Service will be held at a Wabash area church. *More details coming soon.*

### EASTER SUNDAY

**APRIL 21**

**8am Sunrise Service**

**9am Breakfast**

**10am Worship Service**



*The Easter Lily—a symbol of purity, hope, innocence & peace.*

### Easter Lilies

**N**ow is your chance until April 14th to order artificial lilies in honor of, or in memory of a loved one this Easter season.

The lilies will be displayed on the altar through the Easter celebration.

*If you are interested, you may make a 'love offering' of your choice to the church.*

All love offerings will be donated to a local charity that will be determined at a later date.

**Order forms can be found at the Welcome Center starting March 31.**

Thank you for your support!



### An Easter Prayer

**W**hen everything was dark and it seemed that the sun would never shine again, your love broke through. Your love was too strong, too wide, too deep for death to hold. The sparks cast by your love dance and spread and burst fort

with resurrection light. Gracious God, We praise you for the light of new life made possible through Jesus. We praise you for the light of new life that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection. We praise you for the light of new life that

continues to shine in our hearts today. We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy, will live in us each day; and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others. Amen.



## Financial Update

In case you missed it ... to the right is the latest financial report from the March 31st bulletin.

If you have questions, please contact Finance Committee Chair, Larry Gilley.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

#### 2018 Year-End

Income \$162,119.91  
Expenses \$163,277.78

#### 2019

	January	YTD
Income	\$11,109.38	\$11,109.38
Expenses	\$14,026.91	\$14,026.91

	February	YTD
Income	\$10,287.13	\$21,396.13
Expenses	\$13,342.04	\$27,368.95

*Each Day*  
only comes  
*Once in a*  
*Lifetime*

FISH   
SUNDAY  
APRIL 7

### TRIVIA NIGHT CONTINUES

If you haven't joined us for Trivia Night yet, consider coming this month, on **Saturday, April 27** in the fellowship hall, starting a **7pm**. You can either make a team of up to eight people...or jump on a team looking for players. Or, if you'd like to come down and watch, you can do that, too. Either way, consider a fun-filled evening with your church family.

#### Serving for April 2019

**8am Greeter** — Laura Thomas

**10am Liturgist** — 4/7: Barry Eppley;  
4/14, 4/21, 4/28: Dan Sparling

#### 10am Greeters

4/7 Betty Buchanan, Joe & Donna Schneider  
4/14 Betty Buchanan, Joe & Donna Schneider  
4/18 Sheila Gilley, Lois Broyles  
4/21 Betty Buchanan, Larry & Sheila Gilley  
4/28 Betty Buchanan, Joe & Donna Schneider

**10am Ushers** — Joe Adams, Jon Richards

#### Scripture Reading for April

4/7 Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126;  
Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8  
4/14 Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;  
Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56  
4/18 Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19;  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35  
4/21 Acts 10:31-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;  
1 Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-18  
4/28 Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150;  
Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

## CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Worship Services**  
**Sunday 8 am & 10 am**  
**Sunday School for all ages 9 am**

Phone: 260.563.3308  
Email: [wabashchristumc@hotmail.com](mailto:wabashchristumc@hotmail.com)

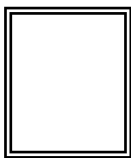


Items for the next newsletter should be submitted to the church office by **April 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

**We're on the Web!**  
**[wabashchristumc.org](http://wabashchristumc.org)**



[Check us out on Facebook!](#)



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