

Rosebush United Methodist Church

MARCH / APRIL 2021

Experiencing . . . Growing . . . Sharing Christ with others



SUNDAYS:

Life Group @ 9:00am
(On hold until further notice)

Worship @ 10:00am
(In the Parking Lot, please tune to 90.1 FM Band)

Facebook Live @ 11:30am
(search for Rosebush United Methodist Church)

YouTube (anytime) (search for RosebushUnitedMethodistChurch) [Rosebush UMC - YouTube](#)

Podcast at Spotify @ Tough Questions Joseph Beavan

[www.toughquestions.buzzsprout.com](#) Apple Podcast @ tough questions joseph beavan

TOUGH QUESTIONS:

1st & 3rd Wednesdays @ 6:00pm
Via Zoom only until further notice (contact Pastor Joe or Lori if you wish to join)

BIBLES & BEER:

On HOLD until further notice

EMMAUS MEETINGS:

On HOLD until further notice

PASTOR JOE BEAVAN

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Phone: 616-868-6486
Email: icmkck@yahoo.com

VISIT OUR OTHER WEBSITE:

www.toughquestionsforgod.org

Greeting Everyone! We hope you continue to be well!

We have scheduled a tentative re-opening of the church on Sunday, March 7. We are hopeful that we will be together again soon. This re-opening will depend largely on the infection rates of Isabella County, as well as the direction from Bishop David Bard and the Conference.

We currently do not know what our Holy Week services will look like at this time; whether they will be virtual, in-person or a hybrid. We will keep you posted by way of announcements during our parking lot services, Facebook, weekly emails or using our one-call system. Also, please visit our website at www.rosebushumc.com. We have been posting announcements from the Bishop/ Conference / District, as they have become available, as well as any other opportunities that may arise.

Parking Lot, Facebook Live and zoom worship services have become commonplace. In addition, the leadership of the United Methodist Church has also issued strict guidelines regarding "in-person" services. And they don't make everyone happy! In fact, many people are finding reasons to stay away from any church that is not doing things in a "normal" fashion. This has taken a hold on our church here in Rosebush.

We have been operating under certain protocols issued by our conference and Bishop. As long as "infection rates" are escalated (at 5% or above) we will continue to offer Parking Lot and Facebook Live services only. The good news is this is a safe way to still worship God and share the message of Christ with our community. The difficult part is not knowing exactly what the future holds. But there is another part that we need to address, and that is how "church" will look as both "in-person and online" become the norm.

Our call to bring others into the faith has never been more important, especially during times like this when many are searching for God's peace and presence. I encourage you to share, promote and like what we are doing online. This will help us in reaching our community for Christ. I also want to ask you to continue to be patient as we weather this pandemic together. We will get through this, and no, you and your family have not been forgotten, but you are prayed for each and every day.

Lent Resources Available: Lent begins February 17. As a resource for Lent, we have uploaded to our website, a 40-day Lent Devotional Guide, which can be found under the "Home" tab. Unfortunately the guide is too large to be sent by mail as a newsletter. If you are unable to download the guide and you want a copy, please contact Lori at the church. A copy will be made for you to pick up.

There is also an opportunity sponsored by Mt Pleasant First UMC. They are making Lent Family Experience Kits. If you are interested in getting one or more of the kits, please let us know as soon as possible. We need to know how many to order. RUMC will cover the cost of the kits. We will have them here at the church to pick up starting February 17. Each kit supplies a family of four.



MOWERS: As soon as spring gets here, and we start mowing our lawns again, the Trustees are asking for help with mowing the lawn at the church. If you would like to help, please contact Ken Bentley. 989-424-8814 or leave a message at the church. We will have a sign-up sheet available in the front entryway.

BELL RINGERS ARE NEEDED

When we get back to meeting again, Jan Mogg is asking for more bell ringers. Practice will be on Wednesdays, 4:45pm to 5:45pm. If you are interested in joining the bell ringers, please contact Jan Mogg at 989-433-5430.

TECH STATION HELP ALSO NEEDED

We will also be needing help at the Tech Station during worship services. If you are interested in helping, please contact Lori at the church office, 989-433-2957.



1st & 3rd Wednesday each month @ 6pm via Zoom

Please call, text, or email the church or Pastor Joe or Lori if you wish to join. Links will be emailed approximately one hour before we begin the Zoom session

"Tough Questions for God" is all about identifying the most challenging, difficult issues of the Christian journey. How do I answer them? How do I apply them to my life? Do I have to believe everything the Bible teaches? Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?

PLEASE LET US KNOW!

If you would like to receive the newsletter by way of email, please contact Lori at rosebushumc@gmail.com. Otherwise, if we don't hear from you, we will send it to you by way of mail.

VIDEO SERMONS and SERMON NOTES ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE

You can view our sermons on YouTube or via Podcast. Direct links have been made available and are located on the home page of our website.

Sermon notes are now also available. All notes are saved in PDF form so that you can print them off for your use. You can find the sermon notes under the "Media" tab on our website.

Visit our website at www.rosebushumc.com and on our new website at www.toughquestionsforgod.org.

Online Offerings Opportunity

We are always grateful for your support! We have a new electronic giving program offering you convenience in a safe and secure way. You are invited to make automatic contributions for regular church offerings and other contributions without the need to write a check, carry cash or prepare envelopes. You will be allowed to log in at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, or just make a one-time donation, as well as view your giving history.

CHECK OUT THESE GREAT RESOURCES FOR YOUR YOUTH!

Visit our website @ www.rosebushumc.com

KONNECT for kids 1st – 3rd grade
LOOP for kids 4th – 6th grade
SWITCH for kids 6th – 12th grade

DEVOTIONS WITH GOD

View on website at www.rosebushumc.com

Or

www.toughquestions.buzzsprout.com

ROSEBUSH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 6p Trustees Mtg	2 8:30a TOPS 7p UMW	3 4:45p Bells 6p Tough Questions	4	5	6 9a Men's Breakfast @ IHop
7 9a Life Group 10a Worship 11:30a FB Live	8	9 8:30a TOPS 5:30 Finance 6p Ad Board	10 4:45p Bells	11	12	13 9a Men's Breakfast @ Bob Evans
14 9a Life Group 10a Worship 11:30a FB Live	15	16 8:30a TOPS	17 4:45p Bells 6p Tough Questions	18	19	20 9a Men's Breakfast @ Big Boy (Clare)
21 9a Life Group 10a Worship 11:30a FB Live	22	23 8:30a TOPS	24 4:45p Bells	25	26	27 9a Men's Breakfast @ The Nest (Farwell)
28 9a Life Group 10a Worship 11:30a FB Live	29	30 8:30a TOPS	31 4:45p Bells			

NOTES: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS – Sunday, March 14, 2021

ST. PATRICK'S DAY – Wednesday, March 17, 2021

MARCH EQUINOX – Saturday, March 20, 2021

PALM SUNDAY - Sunday, March 28, 2021

MAUNDY THURSDAY—Thursday, April 1, 2021

GOOD FRIDAY—Friday, April 2, 2021

ROSEBUSH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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NOTES: MAUNDY THURSDAY – Thursday, April 1, 2021

GOOD FRIDAY – Friday, April 2, 2021

EASTER – Sunday, April 4, 2021

TAX DAY – Thursday, April 15, 2021

ARBOR DAY – Friday, April 30, 2021

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES -**BIRTHDAYS:**

Macy Ervin	Mar 1
Marilyn Drenth	Mar 1
Bev House	Mar 3
Jenny McClure	Mar 9
Jan Mogg	Mar 11
Dexter Lynch	Mar 12
Lee Bean	Mar 17
Maureen Taylor	Mar 17
Andrew Collett	Mar 20
Eva Lynch	Mar 33
Ron Gale	Mar 24
Jaden Beltinck	Mar 25
Margaret Dodd	Mar 27

ANNIVERSARIES:

No Anniversaries in March!

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES -****BIRTHDAYS:**

Floyd Graham	Apr 1
Nina House	Apr 2
James Ervin	Apr 3
Mike Wisney	Apr 5
Jean LaLone	Apr 11
Brody Hrdlovich	Apr 16
Jackie House	Apr 18
Steve Stark	Apr 18
Holly Kaszuba	Apr 19
Dan Howard	Apr 23
Victoria Collett	Apr 26

ANNIVERSARIES:

Pat & Terri Pappas	Apr 5
Alex & Courtney Pappas	Apr 22
Larry & Linda First	Apr 29



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Pooky's Triumph

Like a struggling butterfly, my grief will emerge into something beautiful and new

by Bethel Bretscher Crockett

My mother, Marguerite Bretscher, died suddenly on July 4, 1998, at an airport as she and my father were returning home from vacation. Just 16 hours earlier she'd called to tell me of my niece's birth—her 22nd grandchild. When our conversation ended, I didn't know that I had told my mother good-bye for the last time.

The months following her death were filled with disbelief, emptiness and utter despair. Despite my upbringing in a Lutheran parsonage, I found that I desperately needed repeated reassurances of God's love and promises. As the Easter following my mother's death approached, I yearned for a visible metaphor of resurrection.

During Lent, our Sunday school youth raise mail-order caterpillars that are timed to enter into the chrysalis stage and emerge as butterflies for an Easter morning release. Maybe I should join them? Our family had released butterflies at my mother's burial service. So I brought home three caterpillars and named two of them Dot and Mildred in memory of my great-aunts. The third one I called by my mother's nickname, "Pooky."

On Holy Saturday morning, my children discovered Mildred, now a butterfly, hanging beside her chrysalis. Later that day we watched in awe as a newly created Dot appeared. By Easter morning we could see Pooky's orange and black wings within a transparent membrane breaking through her chrysalis. We hoped she would emerge soon so we could release her with Dot and Mildred in the Sunday school butterfly ceremony.

But on the long ride to church, traumatized perhaps by the moving car, Pooky violently trembled and struggled to break free. During Sunday school she became very still, and the chrysalis that entombed her blackened. She remained motionless as we drove home after church, quite in contrast to the way she had writhed on the trip earlier that morning. It weighed on me that the reassurance I so desperately sought was not forthcoming.

That afternoon, as we drove our two children back to college, I couldn't stop thinking about the dark, motionless chrysalis. "It's only a caterpillar. It doesn't matter that its name is Pooky," I told myself. "There will always be other caterpillars that you can name Pooky. Just pretend Dot or Mildred was Pooky. What difference does it make? It doesn't change anything."

Still, despair overwhelmed me on the ride home. "I killed this butterfly," I thought. "Why did I take it to church and upset it with the car ride? Whatever made me think it was a good idea to name it Pooky anyway?"

And then, "Why did God have to do this to me this Easter? Doesn't God understand what I'm going through right now? Couldn't God take care of one stupid little butterfly?"

I decided that in the morning I would take the chrysalis into the woods and leave it. Perhaps the butterfly was still alive and would emerge? I would never know, but I could always cling to that hope.

That evening I was reluctant to look in the butterfly cage, but some movement caught my eye. There sat a butterfly, triumphantly fanning her wings.

Instantly I was struck by more than just the butterfly. Pooky was perched over her empty chrysalis, which was split open and withering. Under the chrysalis were red bloodlike stains of waste material from the hatching. Yet above these signs of death and struggle—a living butterfly!

That image remains a powerful metaphor, reassuring and resurrecting in its own right: the suffering, the pain, the hopelessness, the empty tomb, the exhilarating joy, the new and glorious life. I began to see my grief as the traumatized struggling butterfly in the hands of a loving, merciful Father. I learned to trust that through God's grace something beautiful and new would emerge even in the face of my weakness, tears, pain and hopelessness. I, too, would live again, now and forever.

The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! (And so has Pooky.)



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ROSEBUSH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**Ad Council Minutes – January 12, 2021**

PRESENT: Pastor Joe Beavan, Lori Thompson, Ken Bentley, JoEtta Ervin, and Karen Gale. BY ZOOM: Donna Anderson, Kathy Fransted, and Molly/Cornell LaLone

Pastor Joe opened the meeting with a prayer. He stated that our Council Chairperson, Kelly Bean and his wife, Denise, have resigned their membership from the church. Pastor Joe will schedule a meeting with the Nominations Committee to appoint a new chairperson.

Finance: The special offering from Christmas Eve service was designated to West Branch UMC to help with utilities. There is money left over from the Washington DC trip. Donna Anderson made a motion to add the left over Washington DC trip money to the special offering. This will also close out the Washington DC trip account. Karen Gale second the motion and the motion was approved.

Trustees: Currently the Trustees Committee has only three people. Ken is asking for more help to cut the grass at the church.

The Committee discussed reopening the church. Pastor Joe mentioned that we will continue to follow the Bishop's guidelines and directions at this time. Conference is suggesting that if the positivity rates for our county is 5% or over, we should continue as we have been. A temporary date of March 2021 was set to re-open. It will give us something to look forward to, but that re-opening will largely depend on the positivity rates in the county and the Bishop's guidelines.

Also discussed was how we could re-engage with the congregation and the community. Letters will be sent out and emailed. We will also have several folks making calls to the congregation. For those making calls, Pastor Joe will draft a guideline to follow to suggest topics for discussion.

We also discussed upcoming Lent season and what we can do to connect with the congregation and families. Kathy will contact her friend at Mt Pleasant First UMC to see if they will be doing Lent packages again this year. We also discussed possibly doing Zoom session(s) for Tough Questions on Wednesday nights, and/or also for services during Holy Week.

Pastor Joe will be starting a new series entitled "Meaningless" which will cover the Book of Ecclesiastes. During this sermon series, he will also be doing a discussion time by way of ZOOM on Wednesday nights to cover the chapter more fully.

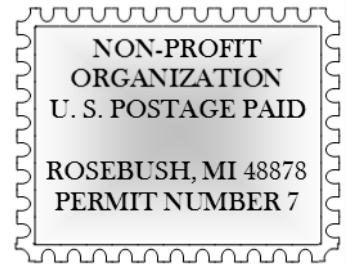
The UMW Soup Supper was also discussed. JoEtta said that it was originally scheduled for January 30. We discussed other dates and variations on how we could still have the dinner, including doing a drive-thru dinner like we did last year.

No other business having come before this Council the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Pastor Joe.

Respectfully Submitted, Lori Thompson, Secretary



At the intersection of Faith & Life



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Rosebush United Methodist Church
3805 School Road, P.O. Box 187
Rosebush, MI 48878

Phone: 989-433-2957
Email: rosebushumc@gmail.com
Web: www.rosebushumc.com



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021—Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021