

# connect.

Tuscola  
United  
Methodist  
Church

April  
2021



## From Pastor Terri Haas

### Happy Easter!

Dear Church Family:

A few days ago, I found this poem by Jan L. Richardson posted on The Painted Prayer-book blog (<http://paintedprayerbook.com>), and I found myself going back to read it several times throughout the day:

If you are looking  
for a blessing,  
do not linger  
here.

Here  
is only  
emptiness,  
a hollow,  
a husk  
where a blessing  
used to be.

This blessing  
was not content  
in its confinement.

It could not abide  
its isolation,  
the unrelenting silence,  
the pressing stench  
of death.

So if it is  
a blessing  
that you seek,  
open your own  
mouth.

Fill your lungs  
with the air  
that this new  
morning brings  
and then  
release it  
with a cry.

Hear how the blessing  
breaks forth  
in your own voice  
how your own lips  
form every word  
you never dreamed  
to say.

See how the blessing  
circles back again  
wanting you to  
repeat it  
but louder  
how it draws you  
pulls you  
sends you

to proclaim  
its only word:

*risen  
risen  
risen.*

My sermon this Easter Sunday is based on one of my favorite hymns In the Garden. This hymn speaks of coming to the garden to spend time alone with Christ and receive his blessing. "And he walks with me and he talks with me and he tells me I am his own." But at the end of the song, we see that Jesus doesn't want us to stay in the garden and receive his blessing when he says, "But he bids me go with a voice of woe."

Jesus doesn't want us to sit in the garden outside of his tomb waiting for the blessing. The blessing is that he **isn't** here anymore! Instead of sitting at his feet waiting to be blessed, Jesus is calling us to go out and be the blessing to the world! It's easy. It starts with telling the world the refrain: He is risen.

Love in Christ and Happy Easter!

Pastor Terri



## February Finance at a Glance:

Balance as of  
1/31/21: \$16,851.68

February Income:  
\$15,075.61

February Expense:  
\$20,159.79

Balance as of  
2/28/21: \$11,767.50

## Sermon Series: Simon Peter: Flawed But Faithful!

### Easter Sermons

**April 4<sup>th</sup>** – Easter Sunrise – Mark 16:1-8 –

He's Not Here

**April 4<sup>th</sup>** – Easter – John 20:1-18 – Time to Leave the Garden

### Sermon Series – Simon Peter: Flawed But Faithful

Join us for a powerful sermon series on one of the most intriguing disciples to follow Jesus: Simon Peter. He left everything to follow his teacher and had a passion to change the world. That's one way to describe him. Here's another: poor, uneducated, quick-tempered, and full of doubts and fears. It doesn't even sound like the same person! And that's the point of Simon

Peter. We will spend six weeks examining him through the lens of Adam Hamilton's book by the same name, and you'll learn how, if God can use an ordinary man like Peter for greatness, God can use you too!

**April 11<sup>th</sup>** – Luke 5:1-11 – The Call of the Fisherman

**April 18<sup>th</sup>** – Matthew 14:22-34 – Walking with Jesus in the Storms

**April 25<sup>th</sup>** – Matthew 16:13-19, 21-23 – Bedrock or Stumbling Block?

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Matthew 26:31-35 – "I Will Not Deny You"

**May 9<sup>th</sup>** – John 21:12, 15-27 – From Cowardice to Courage

**May 16<sup>th</sup>** – Acts 2:1-4, 14, 38-41 – The Rest of the Story

## Book Club

Join us for Book Club on Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the library. This month, we will be reading *The Island* by Victoria Hislop which tells the story of Alexis Fielding, who travels to Crete to learn more about her family heritage. To her surprise, she

discovers a former leper colony just off the coast of her family's home which she will learn is intricately connected to her own history. Join us for this captivating tale of family relationships, romance, war, and disease.

## New in the Library



Books donated by the TNT Sunday School class in memory of Dale Phillips.

## EASTER SUNDAY

### Easter Sunrise Service

Join us at 6:00 AM on Easter morning at the fire pit (the service will be held indoors if the weather doesn't cooperate). We will gather, sing songs, and hear the word of the Lord! Do not miss this amazing opportunity to greet Easter Morning with the words: He is risen!

### Easter Service

Join us at 9:00 AM for a special Easter Service of Worship including singing all your favorite Easter hymns.

### Easter Egg Hunt

Immediately following the service, we will hold an Easter egg hunt! Bring your kids and grandkids as we celebrate the story of the tomb told through Easter Eggs.

Church Office Hours are by appointment only. Please leave a message on the answering machine, 217-253-4232.

## Church Events in Family Adventure Ministry

### Good Friday

- **Tombsday Night**
  - 4/2/2021 After Service -10pm
  - Both Youth Groups
- **What's in the Tomb**
  - 4/2/2021 right after service for a walk through
  - Children's church

### Easter

- **Outdoor Bakesale**
  - Fundraiser for the Teen Mission Trip
- **Easter Egg Hunt with Games**
  - 10:15-11:15 open to the public
- **Empty Tomb**
  - Directly after Church walkthrough of the tomb

### 4/11/2021 Sponsor a Teen Day

- Fundraiser for the Teen Mission Trip to Tennessee

### Additional information in each Family Adventure Ministry

### Children's Church

- Easter is in service with checking out the empty tomb afterwards
- 4/11/2021 – Veggie Tale Eater \*This is a recap on the entire Lent season
- 4/18/2021 – Jesus Goes to Heaven Lesson
- 4/25/2021 – Holy Spirit Flame

### K.Y.C.R.E.W Youth Group

- Good Friday Tombsday Night
- Volunteer help for the Eater Egg Hunt with Games
- 4/18/2021 (10-11) Plugged In Lesson with Community Service Project

### Teen Youth Group

- Good Friday Tombsday Night
- Easter Bakesale
- 4/11/2021 -Sponsor a Teen Booth



- 4/11/2021 – Mission Trip Deposit Due
- 4/11/2021 – Teen Youth Confirmation Lesson (10-11)
- 4/25/2021 -Teen Youth Confirmation Lesson (10-11)
- 4/25/2021 -11am Quick Mission Trip Meeting
  - Current 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade eligible

### Kingdom Parents

- 4/1/2021 @6pm Zoom Meeting
  - <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78561329844?pwd=OUdSQXE3S2lmcTh1WFZZN2Nlb2xEdz09>
  - Meeting ID: 785 6132 9844 Passcode: r33K6t

- 4/11/2021 -Mission Trip Deposit Due
- 4/25/2021 (11am) Quick Mission Trip Meeting
- Thank You for continuously bringing the kids and teens to church. Tuscola United Methodist Church has amazing children and youth; that is thanks to you and your efforts. -Taylor

### Congregational Help

4/4/2021 Please join for our...

- Bake Sale Fundraiser
- Easter Egg Hunt Event

4/11/2021

- Sponsor a Teen Day
  - The Teens going on the mission trip will have a booth up before and after service.
    - We will have more information about the trip at the booth
  - Each teen's total Mission Trip Cost is \$450
  - Sponsor what you feel called to contribute to steward these teens for their trip to Tennessee to help the Appalachian Community
  - The sponsoring contributions will be split evenly with the participants who attend the Sponsor a Teen Day

I would also like to note that one of the requirements to attend the mission trip is to participate in fundraising, trip meetings, teen youth group, and community service within teen youth group. We find it important for the teens to contribute to the community even if they get fully sponsored.

# connect.

Tuscola United Methodist Church  
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## Our Staff

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## Apr. 2021

### What's

- 1**  
Rahab Circle—6:30 pm
- 2**  
Good Friday—6:00 pm
- 4**  
Easter Sunrise—6:00 am  
Easter Worship—9:00 am
- 6**  
UMW Board—10:00 am

### Happening

- 12**  
Finance—6:00 pm  
Trustees—7:00 pm
- 13**  
Staff Meeting—4:30 pm  
Bible Study—6:00 pm  
SPRC—7:00 pm
- 15**  
Book Club—6:30 pm

### Here

- 20**  
Bible Study—6:00 pm
- 22**  
NAMI—7:00 pm
- 25**  
Newsletter Deadline
- 27**  
Bible Study—6:00 pm