



# Heart Beat Newsletter

Zion United Methodist Church  
*In the heart of Whitehouse*



**April, 2019**

## **Pastor Carol's Comments**

At the beginning of March, the Sunbeam preschoolers learned that “March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.” Each morning they have decided if the weather is more lamb- or lion-like. As I write this, the jury is still out about how March will end up. But the lamb-lion connection makes me think of the promise in Isaiah: that “the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.” In others words, the world will experience the peace God intended, including peace between people and God. That’s what the cross secured for us—reconciliation with our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. What a wonderful gift to reflect on as we continue our Lenten journey, and then to rejoice in at Easter!

## Holy Week and Easter Observances

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and ends with the day before Easter. We will begin our Holy Week observance with our Palm Sunday service, complete with palm branches. We will continue with our Holy (Maundy) Thursday Communion Service (4/18 at 7:00 p.m.), remembering the night on which Jesus was betrayed. As always, **all** are welcome at the Communion Table. On Good Friday (4/19 at 7:00 p.m.), we will gather for a quiet, reflective service of Tenebrae (a “service of shadows”), as we tell the story of Jesus’ death on the cross through Scripture, music, and symbol. Be among the first to celebrate the resurrection with our Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m. with a carry-in breakfast following. Then, continue to rejoice in the good news of Easter in worship at 10:25!

## **News Around Zion**

### Festival of God’s Creation

The Festival of God’s Creation is a “Special Sunday” in the UMC calendar. It is a day when we celebrate God’s gracious work in creating the earth and all living things. The Festival is normally observed on the Sunday nearest Earth Day. This year it coincides with Easter, so we will continue in a spirit of joyful celebration on the following Sunday, 4/28.

You are invited to contribute to the celebration by emailing some of your favorite photos of nature to Pastor Carol to be used in a “nature slideshow” in worship. Any “nature” subject is welcome, from bugs to mountain vistas! Please send to [pastorcarol@bex.net](mailto:pastorcarol@bex.net) as a .jpg attachment, the “larger,” higher-quality file the better (so it will look sharp when it’s enlarged for the screen). If you don’t have a way to email your photos, you can give them to Pastor Carol on a flash drive. (Don’t forget to put your name on it.) Please get your photos to Pastor Carol no later than Easter (4/21).



### Cherry Fest is Coming!

Mark your calendars now for Cherry Fest, June 7-8. We will again be offering our Diaper Changing Station for families attending the festival. Help will be needed for set-up, tear-down, and staffing the booth on both days. We will also be participating in the parade. More details will be coming, but set aside some time now to be part of our Cherry Fest outreach!



**News Around Zion (continued)**

“The Flowers Appear on the Earth”

...and in our sanctuary! Help make the church bloom on Easter Sunday by ordering tulips, hyacinths, or lilies. You can offer your flowers in honor of or in memory of someone special. We order them through the District United Methodist Men, who use the proceeds for scholarships for seminary students. Plants are only \$9.00 each, and you can take them home after Easter worship. Place your order no later than April 7.

Beginning in May, we will be placing one vase of flowers rather than two on the altar each week. Vases cost \$15.00 each and, as always, can be donated in honor of or in memory of someone special. When a Sunday isn't completely “adopted,” the church pays for the flowers. At the March Administrative Council meeting, it was agreed that the altar can be made just as meaningful and beautiful with one vase, and we will realize a significant cost savings which we can put towards other needs in the church. The sign-up sheet for providing flowers will be posted in the narthex as usual, and your offering of altar flowers will be greatly appreciated by all!

“Green” Lightbulbs

As our old light fixtures wear out, Howard and Ron have begun replacing them with LED fixtures or retrofitting existing fixtures to use LED bulbs. LED bulbs use less than half the energy and last much longer than fluorescent bulbs, so they cost less to operate. But, this is more than an economic issue; it's also a theological one. Our UMC Social Principles state that as United Methodists, “we are committed to approaching creation, energy production, and especially creation's resources in a responsible, careful and economic way. We call on all to take measures to conserve energy.” Thanks to Ron and Howard for helping Zion live out these principles.

Summer Church Camp

For information about the UMC summer camps, visit this website (includes Widewater information which is the camp near us.) <http://www.westohiocamps.org>

**Upcoming Events**

- April 7 - Easter Flower orders due
- April 2 & 16 - Food Pantry, coffee and conversation at 9:30; food pick-up 10-12 a.m.
- April 4 & 11 - Lenten Bible Study at 7 p.m.
- April 14 - Palm Sunday Worship at 10:25 a.m.
- April 18 - Holy (Maundy) Thursday Communion Service at 7 p.m.
- April 19 - Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 7 p.m.
- April 21 - Easter Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. w/ breakfast following; Sunday School at 9 a.m. and Easter Celebration Service at 10:25 a.m.
- April 24 - TAP Picnic for TAP families and tutors at 5 p.m.
- April 28 - Festival of God's Creation 10:25 a.m.

**Church Information**

**Pastor Carol Williams-Young**  
**10926 Maumee St. P.O. Box 2457**  
**Whitehouse OH 43571**  
**(419) 877-5820**

[Zionwhitehouseumc@gmail.com](mailto:Zionwhitehouseumc@gmail.com)

or

[pastorcarol@bex.net](mailto:pastorcarol@bex.net)

on Facebook as: [whitehousezionumc](https://www.facebook.com/whitehousezionumc)

Website:

<http://www.zionumcwhitehouse.org>