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THE SHEPHERD’S STAFF

Nashville United Church of Christ

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April 2017

**Upcoming Special Worship Services**

Easter is almost here, and with it comes many opportunities for participating in special worship services. You’ll want to put these on your calendar.

* Sunday, April 2 – Service of Healing, 10:30 a.m.
* Sunday, April 9 – Palm Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
* Thursday, April 13 – Maundy Thursday worship, 7:00 p.m.
* Friday, April 14 – Milton Union Council of Churches worship, details TBA
* Friday, April 14 – Good Friday service of meditation and prayer, 7:00 p.m.
* Easter Sunday, April 16 – Easter breakfast begins at 9:15 in our fellowship room, followed by Easter worship at 10:30 a.m.

This year’s Maundy Thursday worship will be held in our sanctuary beginning at 7:00 p.m. Our friends from Polk Grove will be joining us in worship, and Pastor George will be preaching the sermon. We will share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion and end with a service of Tenebrae. The service should last about an hour.

On Good Friday evening, Pastor Lynn will lead a service of meditation and prayer in our chapel. It will feature scripture readings and traditional Good Friday music. It will begin at 7:00 p.m. and last about an hour.

**Bible Study:**

**Women of the Bible**

The Tuesday evening Bible study is looking at little-known women of the Bible. All are welcome to join them in the council room from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. most Tuesday evenings. Please note: Bible study will NOT meet on the Tuesday of Holy Week (April 11).

**An Opportunity to Learn**

On Saturday, April 1, we have an opportunity to learn about our Muslim friends through a guided tour of the Cincinnati Islamic Center. We will meet in the church parking lot at 8:15 that morning and drive together to the mosque in West Chester. Our tour will begin at 10 a.m. and will last about 90 minutes. This is a perfect opportunity to ask the questions that you’ve always wanted to ask! If you have not already registered for this trip, please call either the church office or Pastor Lynn by ***Tuesday, March 28*** so that we know how many are going. Anyone who goes on the tour must wear loose-fitting pants (no leggings or exercise pants) or a long skirt that extends to mid-calf. Long sleeves are also required. In addition, women must wear a headscarf to enter the worship area. It will be most convenient to wear slip-on shoes since we will be required to remove them in the worship area. There is no cost.

**What Happened to the Easter Basket Project?**

Some of you may be wondering what happened to the Easter baskets that we have prepared for Project Believe during the past several years. The answer is that Project Believe has become too big for them! Project Believe now serves hundreds of children in area hospitals, and the Easter basket project was begun when they were small. Many thanks for your support for this project over the years! I imagine that Project Believe will darken our door again when they have a new project for us.

**Park Clean-up Day Scheduled**

Our park clean-up day will be Saturday, April 22, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Tasks to be completed are:

* pick-up and burn sticks
* clean shelter house
* clean rec building (floors, restrooms, kitchenette)
* additional tasks as necessary

Of course, no cleaning day is possible without food.  Therefore, we will have: coffee, donuts, and fruit.

We hope to see you there. It is our "main cleaning" and we want our park looking great for the many activities planned this spring and summer.

*Cleaning supplies will be provided.*

**Moment for Missions**

April 9, 2017

On Palm Sunday, April 9th, Mary Blauser will share with us information on One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). OGHS is one of the 5 for 5 missions of the United Church of Christ. Through this program, with our support, empowerment is given to:

* aid men and women to provide for their families
* disaster relief programs to aid in the pickup following natural disasters
* water programs to help establish life altering wells
* many programs to help feed the hungry

All donations can be made out to Nashville UCC with OGHS marked on your check memo line or on your offering envelope.

CROSSROAD PROM

Just a reminder that we will be collecting items and financial donations for Crossroad Prom until April 30th. We are not collecting Prom dresses, suits or jewelry this year.  We are concentrating on other personal items needed for the youth:  body washes, lotions and sprays, nail polish, deodorants, and small evening bags are needed by the girls.  Boys need deodorants, soaps and colognes (AXE products are the favorites), new underwear especially sizes boys small and large, t-shirts with sleeves, and sport socks.  All need toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Money is essential to put on the prom for these youth.  Expenses include food, decorations, haircuts, pictures and the trolley ride. This will make a happy memory for youth going through rough times many of them victims of parental drug use and who have thus been neglected.

There will be special boxes in the East entrance for your donated items.

All monies donated should be made out to Nashville UCC with Crossroad Prom in the memo line on check, or marked on your envelope.

YOUR DONATIONS WILL BRING JOY AND LOVE TO MANY YOUTH.

Thank You,

Judy Butts, Mission Team Leader

**St. Patrick's Soup Kitchen in April**

Mark your calendars for April 20 as Nashville's turn to work the soup kitchen. Worker's are needed to help prepare, serve and clean up.  Any time you can help between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. (or until clean up is completed) will be helpful.

Over fifty guests were served on March 16.  Thank you to all who helped in fulfilling this mission outreach.  Any questions, see Tammy Feathers or Mary Blauser.