

April 2024



# he Messenger

Newsletter

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Avon United Methodist Church ■ 130 Genesee Street ■ Avon, NY 14414 ■ 585-226-8600 ■ [www.avonnyumc.org](http://www.avonnyumc.org)

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When we look around our world, we see turmoil and crisis. We read about the ongoing war in Ukraine, the ongoing fighting in Gaza and other parts of the middle east, and we read about growing tensions over the South China Sea. But it's not only what's going on around the world; for many of us our personal world is also in turmoil and crisis. You have friends, family, and perhaps yourself who are facing personal situations that are placing you under strain and stress.

As I write this, we are only a few days away from Easter, the day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection, and it is a day of hope for your life and our world.

Throughout the New Testament we read about the hope, and the victory, which Jesus' death and resurrection offers us, and I think some of the most powerful words are these:

*“What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”*

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?*

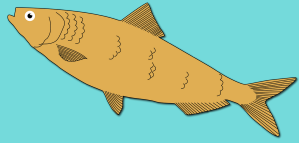
*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

[Romans 8:31, 35, 37-39]

In Jesus' death on the cross, we see the greatest statement that God loves us and that we are offered salvation and wholeness. In Jesus' resurrection, we see the greatest sign of hope and victory over the worse possible human condition: death and the grave. When we place our faith in God and accept what God has done for us in Jesus' life, death and resurrection then we can fully understand Paul's words that we are more than conquerors through God who loves us.

As you read this, in the days right after Easter, and if you feel that stress come against you, I would ask you to look at the cross and the empty tomb as you assurance that no matter what happens to us in this life we can never be separated from God's love. There is hope and purpose to be found in our life when it is built on the foundation of Christ.

*Pastor Leah*



## Fish Dinners

The 2024 fish dinners were well received and enjoyed by those who attended one or both of them. On Mar. 15, 347 meals were served. On Mar. 22, 319 meals were served. Mar. 22 was a snowy day, but the snow let up for a few hours during the dinner.

Many, many thanks to all who supported the dinners by helping work on any of the numerous jobs, providing delicious baked goods, and/or purchasing the dinners and the leftovers.

It is always a great feeling to work side by side, coming together to provide these dinners each Lenten season.

We appreciate everyone's efforts and support. Thank you again!!!

Jackie, Cindy, Nancy and Sue

In conjunction with Avon Attic Days, our women's group will hold a garage sale the first weekend in June. Proceeds from the sale will be set aside to be used to purchase new refrigerators for the kitchen. Our current refrigerators are over 20 years old and have served us well. Knowing they could stop working at any time and how vital they are when preparing for one of our dinners, it is best to be prepared for when that time comes.



So, as you are spring cleaning or downsizing please consider donating to the sale. Items can be dropped off at the church beginning May 1st. Household items, furniture, toys, tools, garden items, books, and costume jewelry are good sellers. All items should be clean and in working condition. No clothing, please. Clothing items could be donated to local churches offering community distributions. Avon's Central Presbyterian Church sponsors two rummage sales each year and Pleasant Valley Baptists Church in Geneseo collects clothing to give away to anyone in need.

If you have questions or require help picking up items please get in touch with Ginny House at 330-3732.

## **Linda Phillips, Master Gardener, to give talk at Women's Group Meeting**

All are welcome to join our women's group meeting on April 15th at 7:00 PM. Master gardener, Linda Phillips, will give a talk on waking your garden up this spring. Things to do to ensure healthy and beautiful plants all summer long. Linda has a wealth of information to share with us and can answer your gardening questions. Mark your calendars to save the date.

Our Avon United Women in Faith group (formally Avon United Methodist Women) meet once a month in the church hall at 7:00PM. A short business meeting is followed by a variety of interesting programs - educational speakers, making a project for the nursing home, a project for missions, learning more about the needs of women and children around the world are some examples.

The women's group is involved in many activities throughout the year. Some examples are preparing the food for AUMC's turn at serving the Lenten Luncheon, making 400 cups of macaroni and cheese to hand out during the Holiday Spectacular, holding a bake sale during the Avon Corn Festival, proceeds from which are used for missions both locally and internationally, hosting a garage sale during Avon Attic Days, proceeds from which can be used to purchase items needed for the church kitchen or dinners and in past years have funded speakers for weekend retreats. Twice a year we visit the Avon Nursing home to help celebrate those having birthdays that month and along with the other churches in town purchase gifts for the residents sharing the community's love at Christmas time.

We welcome all women to join us. Contact Sue Moses or Rachel Giso, co-presidents, for additional information.





# APRIL

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### April Anniversaries

Apr 5 Barrett, John & Janice

Apr 7 McKeown, Mark & Brenda

Apr 26 Perrin, Gary & Laurie Wright-Perrin

### April Birthdays

Apr 2 Julie Brokaw

Apr 4 Cole Kenyon

Apr 4 Tim Steves

Apr 6 Lucia Kerr

Apr 7 Ashlyn deRis

Apr 9 Julie Gage

Apr 9 Mike Giso

Apr 10 Quinn Kenyon

Apr 11 Matthew Macierowski

Apr 11 Don Loy

Apr 11 Andy Stephenson

Apr 12 Rachel O'Grady

Apr 13 Mark Blakely

Apr 15 Kiska Stevens

Apr 15 Lorraine Tutty

Apr 16 Larry Bailey

Apr 16 Ginger Brokaw

Apr 17 Hannah Cousins

Apr 19 Steven Lottes

Apr 20 Jackie Potter

Apr 21 Zachary Quinlan


Apr 25 Karen Henderson

Apr 25 Kathy King-Griswold

Apr 28 Sean Bowerman

Apr 29 Barbara Bruce

Apr 30 Jean Moose



**AVON WALK  
AGAINST HUNGER**

**SATURDAY,  
MAY 11, 2024**

8:30 Am Registration  
9 Am Start  
Avon Village Hall

Come join in the fun and support our local community!

Come join your neighbors in this fun 3 mile walk around the Village of Avon raising money to support our community. We are looking for both walkers and sponsors. All money raised goes towards multiple charities serving the Avon community.

Contact any of your local Avon churches to get a sponsor sign up form or call 585-226-2626 for more information. All donations must be cash or check.

Sponsored by the Avon Interfaith Council

**Central Presbyterian Church  
of Geneseo**

*joyfully presents*

**The 2024 A. David Hurd  
Organ Recital Series**

featuring organists:

<b>Sunday, 4/7 at 3PM</b>	Andrew Van Varick
<b>Sunday, 4/14 at 3PM</b>	Andrew Johnson and Yuhe Su
<b>Sunday, 4/21 at 3PM</b>	Benjamin Kjell
<b>Sunday, 4/28 at 3PM</b>	John Sheridan

Central Presbyterian Church  
31 Center St, Geneseo NY  
585-243-0669 - [cpcgeneseo.org](http://cpcgeneseo.org)

The facility is fully accessible.  
Donations to the recital fund are gratefully accepted!





# Native American Ministries Sunday

The official date set to celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday is **April 14, 2024**. We encourage churches to celebrate on a date that is most convenient for your congregation. Resources to celebrate and promote this this Special Sunday can be found [here](#).

**Official date: April 14, 2024**

You can support this Special Sunday by giving online at [UMC.org/SSGive](https://umc.org/ssgive), through your local United Methodist Church or mail a check to:  
GCFA, P.O. Box 340029, Nashville, TN 37203  
Please include Native American Ministries Sunday in the note section of your check.

## What is Native American Ministries Sunday?

This Special Sunday is a denomination wide celebration designed to raise awareness and remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. A gap in knowledge exists in The United Methodist Church, in congregations and other United Methodist entities, relative to comprehending concepts of Native American life, cultures, languages, spirit, values, contemporary issues, and such. We affirm the sacredness of indigenous people, their languages, cultures, and gifts to the church and the world. Churches are encouraged to donate through their local churches or [give online](#).

An offering is taken on this Special Sunday to support vital ministries and churches in the Native American communities. The offering allows The United Methodist Church to partner with existing native ministries to develop new programs on behalf of Native Americans. Last year, your generosity delivered **over \$243 thousand** towards these ministries:

▶ **Fifty percent** of the funds collected on Native American Ministries Sunday remain in the Annual Conference to develop and strengthen Native American ministries in the conferences. To assist in developing these programs, each conference has a Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM). These committees seek to advocate for ministry with and by Native Americans to share the diverse culture, history and traditions of Native peoples. The committees determine the distribution of the Native American Ministries Sunday offering, coordinate the promotion of that Special Sunday, and monitor Native American ministries within the Annual Conference. Learn more about CONAM [here](#).

▶ **Twenty-five percent** of donations received fund scholarships designated scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology. A significant shortage exists of Native American pastors and trained professionals and these scholarships provide development, implementation, and assessment of a higher education recruitment/retention for Native Americans. Learn more about the Native American Ministries scholarship [here](#).

▶ **Twenty-five percent** of the donations collected are used to create beneficial programs. These funds allow the UMC to partners with existing native ministries to develop new programs on behalf of Native Americans. Some of those efforts include mentoring programs, peer support systems, funding for economic development projects, and restoring traditional and historic ways that bring forth new leaders for Native American communities Learn more about the grant application [here](#).

One of the wonderful aspects of The United Methodist Church is that we can do so much more together than we ever could do on our own. Your generosity provides funding for strengthening and development of ministries with Native Americans.

# Earth Day and the United Methodist Church: Caring for God's Creation

By Copilot

Earth Day, celebrated annually on April 22, serves as a global reminder of our shared responsibility to protect and preserve the planet we call home. As we reflect on the significance of Earth Day, it's essential to recognize the vital role that faith communities play in environmental stewardship. Among these communities, the United Methodist Church stands out for its commitment to caring for God's creation.

## The Importance of Earth Day

- ❖ **A Call to Stewardship:** Earth Day encourages us to recognize our role as stewards of the Earth. As people of faith, we believe that God entrusted us with the care of His creation. Our responsibility extends beyond mere consumption; it encompasses safeguarding the delicate balance of ecosystems, promoting sustainability, and advocating for justice.
- ❖ **Worship and Education:** Earth Day provides an opportunity for United Methodist congregations to engage in worship services and educational activities centered around creation care. By incorporating environmental themes into sermons, prayers, and liturgy, we deepen our understanding of God's love for all living things.
- ❖ **Action and Advocacy:** Earth Day isn't just about awareness—it's about action. United Methodists actively participate in environmental advocacy, pushing for policies that protect natural resources, combat climate change, and promote social justice. We raise our voices to ensure a healthier, more sustainable world for future generations.

## Festival of God's Creation Sunday

Following Earth Day, the United Methodist Church designates the next Sunday (April 28) as the Festival of God's Creation Sunday. On this day, congregations come together to celebrate the goodness of God's creation. Here's how we can make the most of this special occasion:

- ❖ **Social Media Engagement:** Leverage social media platforms to share creation care messages, success stories, and practical tips. Encourage congregants to follow, like, and share content related to environmental stewardship. Use hashtags to foster conversations and connect with like-minded individuals.
- ❖ **Monthly Themes:** Plan regular topics and messages throughout the year. Whether it's Earth Day or any other day, consistent communication keeps creation care at the forefront. Share resources, images, and personal stories that inspire action.
- ❖ **Earth Advocacy Teams:** Appoint an Earth Advocacy team leader within your congregation. This individual will guide members in ongoing creation care efforts, advocacy, and appreciation. Explore toolkits and resources to launch your own creation care ministry.
- ❖ **Worship Services:** Dedicate a portion of your worship service to celebrating God's creation. Incorporate prayers, hymns, and reflections that emphasize our interconnectedness with the natural world.

As United Methodists, we embrace the call to be good stewards of God's creation. Earth Day and the Festival of God's Creation Sunday remind us that our faith extends beyond church walls—it extends to the soil, the air, and the creatures that inhabit this beautiful planet. Let us continue to care for God's creation, knowing that our actions today shape the world of tomorrow.

*"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." — Psalm 24:1*



# April

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May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<b>3:00 PM</b> Food Addicts-SSR <b>7:00 PM</b> Lenten Study	<b>9:00 AM</b> Bulletin Deadline <b>1:30 PM</b> TOPS –FH <b>6:30 PM</b> Cub Scouts-FH	<b>7:00 PM</b> Choir - Sanctuary			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>9:00 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service	<b>3:00 PM</b> Food Addicts-SSR	<b>9:00 AM</b> Bulletin Deadline <b>1:30 PM</b> TOPS –FH <b>7:00 PM</b> Church Council	<b>6:30 PM</b> cub scout committee meeting – SSR <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir - Sanctuary	<b>4:30 PM</b> Girl Scouts – FH		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>8:08 AM</b> Men's Breakfast <b>9:00 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service	<b>9:00 AM</b> newsletter Deadline <b>11:00 AM</b> Heart of Ruth –RP <b>3:00 PM</b> Food Addicts-SSR <b>6:00 PM</b> Girl Scouts – SSR <b>7:00 PM</b> AUWF (formerly UMW)- SSR  Tax Day	<b>9:00 AM</b> Bulletin Deadline <b>1:30 PM</b> TOPS –FH	<b>7:00 PM</b> Choir - Sanctuary	<b>7:00 PM</b> interfaith meeting		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<b>9:00 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service	<b>3:00 PM</b> Food Addicts-SSR   Earth Day	<b>9:00 AM</b> Bulletin Deadline <b>1:30 PM</b> TOPS –FH	<b>7:00 PM</b> Choir - Sanctuary	<b>4:30 PM</b> Girl Scouts – FH		
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
<b>9:00 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service	<b>3:00 PM</b> Food Addicts-SSR	<b>9:00 AM</b> Bulletin Deadline <b>1:30 PM</b> TOPS –FH	<b>7:00 PM</b> Choir - Sanctuary			Location key: FH=Fellowship Hall SSR=Sunday School Room L=Library RP=Royal Perrin Room

Join us for worship  
Sundays at 10 AM!



**The Messenger**

**Avon United Methodist Church**

**130 Genesee St.**

**Avon, NY 14414**

**(585) 226-8600**

**[www.avonnyumc.org](http://www.avonnyumc.org)**

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