

## Upcoming Events

### **Sunday, April 23, 2017**

- 8:10 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Coffee - Fellowship Hall
- 10:50 a.m. Worship Service
- 4:00 p.m. Movie Night

### **Monday, April 24, 2017**

- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Pack/Troop 47

### **Wednesday, April 26, 2017**

- 9:30 a.m. Coffee with Pastor Nicole - Utopia
- 6:30 p.m. Choir

### **Friday, April 28, 2017**

- 6:00 p.m. Daisy Girl Scout Meeting

### **Sunday, April 30, 2017**

- 8:10 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School & Coffee - Fellowship Hall
- 10:50 a.m. Worship Service

### **Monday, May 1, 2017**

- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

### **Wednesday, May 3, 2017**

- 9:30 a.m. Coffee with Pastor Nicole - Utopia
- 1:30 p.m. UMW Unit Meeting
- 5:15 p.m. Trustees Meeting

### **Thursday, May 4, 2017**

- 12:00 p.m. Ministerial Alliance
- 5:15 p.m. Vision Team Meeting

### **Friday, May 5, 2017**

- 6:00 p.m. Daisy Girl Scout Meeting

### **May 7, 2017**

#### **Communion / Food Pantry Sunday**

- 9:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 10:45 a.m. Fellowship Potluck & Sunday School

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# Life in the Church

Notes from the pastor.

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## **Doubt**

I love that we read the story of Thomas' encounter with Jesus after Easter! Thomas' humanity shines through in full color. He struggles and wrestles with the rest of the disciples story. They told him they saw Jesus. They SAW Jesus! Because he wasn't with them, because he has a hard time believing the rest of his friends, because he needed a little extra proof- Thomas got the moniker Doubting Thomas.

For many reasons, I am not sure this is fair. Sure, he doubts, just as most of us might have and maybe even do from time to time. But that is not the sum total of his discipleship. He doesn't remain in his doubt, but through his wrestling and having his questions answered he is able to believe. His faith is increased.

Sometimes, as we read John's account of Thomas' conversation with Jesus, it is read as a rebuke when Jesus says, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe." We assume that Jesus is angry at Thomas for needing proof. However, if you look at the verses before and after, Jesus does not only appear to Thomas, but he allows him to put his hand in his wounds, to touch him- he gives him tangible proof. Jesus also does many miraculous signs with his disciples present. He gives Thomas proof, but he also gives the others abundant proof as well.

Maybe Jesus wasn't angry after all. Maybe he was simply meeting the disciples where they were- time and time again. Maybe he was simply preparing them once again for the time when he wouldn't be there. Maybe he was preparing us- the modern-day disciples of Jesus Christ- to have faith when we do not have him standing in the room with us and allowing us to put our hands in his side. Instead, we wrestle with our questions, we see glimpses of his miraculous signs and his power in our lives and in our world, and yet we believe.

What are your questions? How has your faith grown as you have wrestled with them?

## **NOTES:**

### **Children's Sunday School**

Julie Thompson is organizing teachers for the children's Sunday School class. Please contact her if you are available to teach a Sunday.

Apr. 23 - Cathy Thompson      Apr. 30 - Julie Thompson  
May 07 -                              May 14 -

### **Church Council Meeting**

At our April 19<sup>th</sup> Church Council meeting, items discussed included:

- possible repair of the carillon,
- the stained glass window repair project,
- scheduling a playground work day for June 24<sup>th</sup> from 8-12 a.m.
- the kitchen stove project
- not having brunches after our single 1st Sunday worship services during the summer (June, July, August, September) and having Sunday School instead
- finding an Annual Conference lay representative (Grand Island, NE from June 7-10),
- hosting the Parsons District Care and Share on October 19, 2017
- allowing healthy families to have ESL classes for their children's families in our classroom space
- scheduled a special meeting to complete our annual Pastoral Review on Sunday, May 7 after worship (around 10:45) as we did not have full quorum present and it is important to for the review.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:15. Reports due to Pastor Nicole by May 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Liturgists**

The upcoming liturgists are:

Apr. 23 - Carmen Winston      Apr. 30 - Dobbins  
May 07 - Laudine Luhn      May 14 - Helen Brown

If you have a conflict with a date as they are added, please let Pastor Nicole know so a change can be made. Thank you for adding more voices to the ministry and worship at FUMC!

### **All Church Movie Night**

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, FUMC will have all church movie night in Fellowship Hall at 4:00. In honor of the opening of baseball season, the movie will be Angels in the Outfield. We will also enjoy pizza and popcorn. All are welcome!

### **Christian Men's Gathering**

Christian men from across the conference will gather in Wichita at Calvary UMC on Saturday, April 29, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Join them to hear Dan Schaffer, a founder of Promise Keepers and author of "Spiritual Fathers, Restoring the Reproductive Church" share a challenging message. See more information and register online at [www.makethedifference.care](http://www.makethedifference.care), or find it at April 29 on the conference calendar [www.greatplainsumc.org/events](http://www.greatplainsumc.org/events), or ask Pastor Nicole for a copy of the event flier. Jeremiah will drive a group to the event.