

The Friendly Communicator

April 2023

From the Pastor's Desk. . .

Were you there?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

It was early in the 1800s that African American slaves developed this beloved hymn. The words are simplistic, yet there is a deep emotional appeal that touches our hearts and causes us to tremble...tremble...tremble.

We can almost feel the tremble inside of us over this gruesome, painful suffering of our Savior, Jesus Christ. It's almost as if all of humanity trembles, because this scene is about all of us. We have life because we were created by God to live on this earth with all its complexities and uncertainties coupled with human emotions such as mysteries, fears, doubts, and trembling. This trembling can be a very useful emotion if we place ourselves there—at the foot of the cross, among the crowd of onlookers who just stood there in silence without any sense of outrage over the crucifixion of their 'beloved teacher'.

Are you there now? When violence, cruelty, and injustice unfold before you, do you remain silent with no sense of outrage or trembling to act?

Thank God for the resurrection! Jesus suffering on the cross and the painful death that He endured was to save the world and all of humanity from self-destruction. May the trembling you feel inside of you give you pause to rise and turn away from silence. May it compel you to take up your cross and follow Jesus toward a path that leads to justice and righteousness for everyone.

Were you there when He rose up from the dead?

Were you there when He rose up from the dead?

Oh! Sometimes I feel like shouting glory, glory, glory!

Were you there when He rose up from the dead?

Pastor Gwen

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April 2023

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Drew Hettich
- 7 Mike Brantman
- 8 Carol Burns
- 15 N'Ette Hibler
- 16 Martha Valentyn-Jones
- 18 Marilyn Hazard
- 20 Robert Barrett
- 22 Cal Stanke
- 26 Jacob Schuttenhelm
- 27 Jeff Stoecker
- 28 Trini Maldonado
- 29 Sue Moreno

If we have inadvertently missed your special day, please accept our apologies, and let the office know so we can change our records.

Easter Sunrise Service

Plan to join us for our annual Easter Sunrise Service at the lakefront: **6:20 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 9, in Veterans Park.** Please park in the lot on E Lagoon Dr that is near the kite store.

Easter Breakfast

Everyone is invited to Easter Breakfast served by the ABMen, **9:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 9, in Fellowship Hall.**

THE 3Gs TO RESUME MEETING ON APRIL 13!

After taking off much of the last two years (thank you so very much COVID!), we're going to get together to open our 2023 Season with a mini-concert being performed by Mary Schecher. She will entertain us with songs from the rich history of Broadway musicals, many tunes of which will be familiar to all.

So join us on **Thursday April 13 at 11:30 AM in the church sanctuary** for this musical event. After the half-hour concert we will (here's a surprise!) go to lunch at Pegasus Restaurant, corner of 78th and Greenfield. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Education Wing foyer so that we can get an accurate count for lunch. *Please sign up no later than Sunday, April 9. Remember: if you are 50 years or older (we'll take your word for it), you are automatically a 3G. We look forward to seeing everyone!*

Book Club

The Book Club will meet **April 30th** in Fellowship Hall after morning worship during the ABWomen's Ministries **Souper Sunday Lunch.** We will discuss *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold.

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April 2023

February 2023 Financial Income Report	
General Receipts	
Envelopes	11,709.63
Loose Offering	148.50
Church School	185.25
Birthday	79.00
Total	\$12,122.38
Miscellaneous Receipts	
ABW	300.00
MMCC donation	200.00
Initial offering	6.00
Total	\$506.00
Communion Offering	
St Bens	395.00
Grand Avenue Club	125.00
Milwaukee Christian Center	125.00
Project Focal Point	200.00
New Life Center	300.00
Total	\$1,145.00
Memorial Fund	
For Mary Beldwin	300.00
Total	\$300.00
Mission Offering	
RMMO	25.00
AFC	10.00
OGHS	50.00
Total	\$175.00
Deposited Total	\$14,248.38

Pew Envelopes

If anyone has old offering envelopes, please return them to the church office to be recycled into pew envelopes. –Terry Arnold

Seasons of Transition: Faith and Yoga

Unwind and open your mind to a webinar dedicated to yoga. Our guest leader, Jasmine Turner, will guide us in conversation about times of transition and how yoga has served to strengthen her faith. We will learn yoga techniques that we can take home and make part of our own daily practice.

Thursday, April 20, 2023 | 7 PM

Visit the link to register and find out more:

<https://abwomensministries.org//resourceDetails.aspx?resourceDetailId=1580>

Bible Study

Join us for Bible Study **Tuesdays at 11 AM (in person and via Zoom)** and on **Thursdays at 7 pm virtually via Zoom.**

The Zoom link is:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79185392195?pwd=UTfzEja4vvKfEiUwoUoP3HBmAm09ll.1>

April Meeting Changes

Due to Easter being on April 9th, the Council voted to push meetings one week later than usual...

April 16th - Boards/Pastoral Relations
April 23rd – Potluck/Quarterly Meeting

Thank you in advance.

--Barb Winski, Moderator

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April 2023

Musical Notes

FROM THE DIREKTR

A recent study by the Sing Up Foundation resulted in some interesting and powerful conclusions. Their research showed benefits in four areas: emotional, social, physiological, and behavioral. Some of their findings showed that singing:

Relieves stress and boosts confidence.

Improves social bonding and an improved sense of community.

Increases self-confidence and provides a path to expressing emotions.

Strengthens the immune system and improves breathing.

Those are some powerful benefits from an activity that is both important and enjoyable.

We all want to be healthy and confident members of our community. We all want to make a difference and have a positive impact on our world. It is as simple as joining in the song of the church.

The choir can always use new members. You don't have to be a professional or have special training. You don't have to know how to read music. Singing in the choir provides the opportunity to make a contribution while having a good time and learning something new. All it takes is one hour a week of your time and an adventuresome spirit.

"I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me." Psalm 13:6

Mary Schecher

The Friendly Communicator April 2023

Historical Reflections: Reverend Karen Sue Sundland

[From an ABCWI e-mail]



Dear ABCWI Family,

Rev. Karen Sundland, vice president of the Board of Managers of ABCWI and current pastor at First Baptist Church of Laramie, WY, passed away on February 9th after a brief illness. Rev. Eric Lundquist, her fiance', was by her side.

A service will take place at the First Baptist Church of Laramie, WY on Saturday, March 4th. A memorial service will be scheduled in April here in Wisconsin, details forthcoming.

Karen was well known in the greater ABCUSA family and was ordained here in Wisconsin, having served at several churches and in various roles both in regional and denominational life.

We ask that you hold Karen's family and friends in your prayers, especially Eric. Cards may be sent to Rev. Eric Lundquist, 217 Fountain Ave., Waukesha, WI 53186.

The Friendly Communicator April 2023

[From 2/24/2023 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel]



Early on the morning of February 9, 2023, Reverend Karen Sue Sundland, Pastor of Laramie First Baptist Church, passed from this life into the Kingdom after a brief illness. Her fiancé, Reverend Eric John Lundquist of Waukesha, WI was at her bedside.

A Casper, WY native, Karen was predeceased by her father Milton Sundland and Mother Emily Annastazie (Hauzer) Sundland. In addition to Eric, she is survived by cousins across the nation, including Marlys Powell of Oregon, Charli Gill of South Dakota and Justin Keller of Pennsylvania.

A memorial service will be performed at First Baptist Church 1517 Canby Street in Laramie on Saturday, March 4 at 11:00 a.m. A potluck lunch and reception will follow the service. To attend virtually follow the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/3077454106>

Another memorial service will be performed at First Baptist Church in West Allis 1576 S 78th St, West Allis, WI on April 22 at 11 A.M. A reception and light lunch will follow the service. Information on attending virtually will be available on the church's website, <https://www.Firstbaptistwestallis.org/>

Visit www.montgomerystryker.com to send condolences.



This picture of Reverend Sundland was taken during the 2013 Women's Sunday when she gave us the "lesson of the day." She preached for us on numerous occasions. She always contributed an interesting perspective whenever engaged in theological discussions. She had a "down-home" practicality to her theology -- profound yet simple. She considered First Baptist of West Allis as her home church.

This is the 85th of periodic historical articles.

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April 2023

Historical Reflections:



Christmas season 2022



We celebrated the 2021 Christmas season in a partial return to normalcy. In 2022 we celebrated a return to even more normalcy. We started with the “hanging of the greens”, a “get the Christmas decorations up” session.



A men's Fellowship dinner by John House gave us enough energy to play a nine inning session of dartball (baseball played on a dartboard with darts).



This is the 81st of periodic historical articles.

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We celebrated the four Sundays of Advent culminating with our traditional Christmas Eve service.

The pictures tell their own story. We are getting closer to our new "Normal."



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Historical Reflections:



*This is the 82nd of periodic
historical articles.*

11/20/2022: "I am wired!"
(with wireless microphone)

Current news



12/11/2022: Welcomed as a new member