

# DeBows Crows

The Monthly Newsletter of DeBows UMC

April 2017

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Rev. Ernie Williams, Pastor

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**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**APRIL 16**

## SUNDAY WORSHIP & SCHEDULE

Women's Sunday School	9:00 AM
Worship Service	10:00 AM
Sunday School	10:00 AM
Fellowship Time	11:00 AM
Choir Practice	11:15 AM



## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE



4/9	Palm Sunday Service	10:00am
4/13	Maundy Thursday Service (At Emley's Hill UMC)	7:00pm
4/14	Good Friday Service	7:00pm
4/16	Easter Resurrection Service	10:00am

## ***THE MIRACLES OF EASTER*** ***BY HELEN STEINER RICE***

*The sleeping earth awakens,  
The robins start to sing,  
The flowers open wide their eyes  
To tell us it is spring.*

*The bleakness of the winter  
Is melted by the sun,  
The tree that looked so stark and dead  
Becomes a living one.*

*These MIRACLES of EASTER,  
Wrought with divine perfection,  
Are the blessed reassurance  
Of our Savior's Resurrection.*



## APRIL PRAYER LIST

Anthony Giarratano	Bob Allerton
Chris Bitondo	Chase McKinney
Edith Gutwein	Dean Sparling
Karen Hornak	John Manion
Rudy Iannacone	Helen Kramer
Pam Boucher	Janet Kittstein
Mark Jenson (Baby)	Dylan & Carly Irwin
Kevin Turner	Angela McPherson
Ron Calub	Michelle Chasse
Lynn Giordano	Jim Armstrong
Betty Barrentine	Jim (Guy's friend)
Herb Finkenberg	Joyce & Leon Evans
Jimmy Cappadona	Kara
Jamie Gray	Nancy Armstrong
Laurel Underwood	Barry Odell
Kuchnicki Family	Pam Mumbulo
George Chin	Billie Gattis
Theresa McClary	Burik Family
<b>All those that . . .</b>	
. . . are homeless or hungry	
. . . are "un" or "under" employed	
. . . are dealing with domestic violence	
. . . are struggling with personal illness while caring for family	
. . . are affected by natural disasters	
. . . are affected by war or terrorism	
. . . are in prison & those that work with them	
. . . support the DeBows Food Pantry Ministry	

NOTE: Please inform the Pastor when a name should be added or removed from the Prayer List.

~ Thank You ~

## DeBows UMC ONLINE

[www.debowsumc.org](http://www.debowsumc.org)

[www.facebook.com/debowsumc](https://www.facebook.com/debowsumc)

The church website is the place to access the latest information concerning schedules, events & activities, current blog posts, alert notices & weather related cancellations, and general information about the church. Visit often for the latest information.

### DeBows Website



### DeBows Facebook



## NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, the United Methodist Church celebrates Native American Ministries Sunday. To help observe this event, DeBows will have a "POTLATCH" meal on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, after the worship service. "Potlatch" is a gift-giving feast practiced by Indians of the Pacific Northwest Coast of Canada and the United States. A "Potlatch" meal is similar to what we call a potluck dinner. If you wish to give a gift, please use the envelope for Native Americans in the bulletin during the worship service.

Look for a signup sheet for our meal on the table outside the fellowship hall. All are welcomed to join together in sharing a meal and enjoying each other's fellowship.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

After the delightful weather in February, we have all been experiencing an element of March Madness concerning the weather. With weather changing rather quickly, and some very disappointing weather over the weekends, we can see the impact of weather on our worship patterns. Of course, we know it is not *only* the weather. Many are simply busy, or travelling, or have been experiencing some health issues for themselves or their families. But clearly, bad weather does not help. This is reflected in our attendance record for the first three months of this year. Our average weekly attendance for 2016 was 41. For January it was 39; for February it was 30. So far for March it is 33. This must give us all some pause as we reflect on our church family. And its future.

In recent weeks our focus has been on matters of faith. *"A Study in Blindness."* *"A Journey Toward Faith."* *"A Model Faith."* *"Leaning Our Weight On God."* In different ways all of these have focused on how our relationship with God not only helps us depend on God, but enables us to become partners with God in sharing the Good News. This serves to remind us that the future of DeBows is in God's hands – but God has some helpers. And we are the one's God is relying on.

I find myself often reflecting on the question: *"How do people find their way to church?"* Thankfully there is some research that answers part of that question for us:

- 2% of people come to church for the first time because they have a **specific need or crisis** – death, marriage and baptism. It is amazing how many people gravitate to the church in these pivotal times: to be hatched, matched or dispatched.

- 2% come because of **door-to-door evangelism**, or large campaigns or crusade evangelism, etc.
- 3% come to a church because they **just walked in**.
- 5% come because of **Sunday School** or other youth or educational programs.
- 6% come and stay because of the **sermon**. [A bruising statistic given the time and attention we preachers give to our sermons! We are clearly not the draw card!]
- 79% begin attending a local congregation because **someone invited them**. A person they knew and trusted said *"Come to church with me this Sunday."* And they come. By far the most common reason for people coming to church is because someone invited them.

As we get closer to Easter, it may be helpful to be praying about who God would want us to invite to worship with us – on Easter, but also the Sundays before and after Easter. This is the time when we celebrate resurrection and new life. In this celebration there is also the reminder that what God did for the Son is something God promises for all who follow Jesus. As we have been invited into the arena of grace, let us be among those who invite others. This is a good time to "invite" people we know are not connected with a church to join with us in worship. Easter affords us the opportunity to gently confront people about God's "gracious acceptance" of all who come to be among us. By our acceptance of them we model Christ's acceptance of all of us!

Please join us during the special services planned for this holy season (see front page of this newsletter for schedule), and be prayerful about who God wants you to invite.

Shalom,



# UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>APRIL 2017</b>						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 PALM SUNDAY	10	11	12	13 MAUNDAY THURSDAY	14 GOOD FRIDAY	15
16 EASTER SUNDAY	17	18	19	20	21	22 EARTH DAY
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	<b>HE IS RISEN . . . HE IS RISEN INDEED!</b>					

## Wednesday, March 29

Lenten Bible Study	11:30am
Cantata Choir Practice	5:00pm
Lenten Bible Study	7:00pm

## Sunday, April 2

Women's Sunday School	9:00am
Worship Service & Sunday School	10:00am
Fellowship Time	11:00am
Cantata Choir Practice	11:15am

## Wednesday, April 5

Lenten Bible Study	11:30am
Cantata Choir Practice	5:00pm
Lenten Bible Study	7:00pm

## Sunday, April 9

Women's Sunday School	9:00am
<b>Palm Sunday</b> Worship Service & Sunday School	10:00am
Fellowship Time	11:00am

## Monday, April 10

Food Pantry Open	6:00pm
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## Wednesday, April 12

Lenten Bible Study	11:30am
Singer Support Studio	5:00pm
Green Hymnal Jam	6:00pm
Lenten Bible Study	7:00pm

## Thursday, April 13

### Maundy Thursday

Service at Emley's Hill UMC	7:00pm
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## Friday, April 14

### Good Friday Service

7:00pm

## Sunday, April 16

### Easter Worship Service & Sunday School

10:00am

## Wednesday, April 19

Bible Study	11:30am
Singer Support Studio	5:00pm
Green Hymnal Jam	6:00pm
Bible Study	7:00pm

## Saturday, April 22 --- Earth Day

## Sunday, April 23

Women's Sunday School	9:00am
Worship Service & Sunday School	10:00am
Fellowship Time	11:00am
Choir Practice	11:15am

## Monday, April 24

Food Pantry Open	6:00pm
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## Wednesday, April 26

Bible Study	11:30am
Singer Support Studio	5:00pm
Green Hymnal Jam	6:00pm
Bible Study	7:00pm

## Sunday, April 30

Women's Sunday School	9:00am
Worship Service & Sunday School	10:00am
Fellowship Time	11:00am
Choir Practice	11:15am

## Thursday, May 4

### National Day of Prayer



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

**Sunday, April 23** - On Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Pastor Ernie will be away. Pastor Betty Gibbons will preach on that Sunday. Save this date as we welcome Pastor Betty back to DeBows.

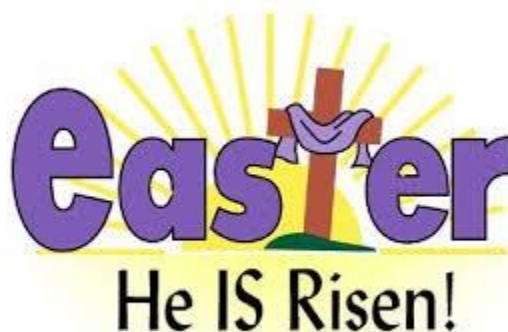
**Saturday, May 6** - Spaghetti Dinner at DeBows. Proceeds will support the ministries of DeBows UMC. Please contact Joy Santillo concerning ways you can volunteer to support this event.

**Thursday, May 18** - AARP will conduct a Driving Safety Program at Meridian Health Village, located at 27 South Cooks Bridge Road in Jackson, on May 18th from 9:00am to 3:30pm. Cost is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Completing this newly improved course is a great way to refresh your driving skills and could even make you eligible for a discount on your auto insurance. It's a simple way to stay safe and save money. To register call 800-350-7025 or go online at [customerservice@aarpdriversafety.org](mailto:customerservice@aarpdriversafety.org).

**May 2017** - We will have a Rada Knives fundraiser in May. Catalogues will be out on the table in early May with a final ordering date of June 4th.

**Saturday, June 3** - Flea Market at DeBows from 8:00am to 2:00pm. Proceeds will support the ministries of DeBows UMC. Volunteers are needed to manage the church flea market table and food concession. Please contact Sue Hayward for more information.

## EASTER WORD SEARCH



Find the 12 words below associated with Easter. Up, down, diagonally, forward or backwards. All words are in a straight line.

<b>Resurrection</b>	<b>Empty</b>	<b>Tomb</b>
<b>Salvation</b>	<b>Jesus</b>	<b>Cross</b>
<b>Calvary</b>	<b>Risen</b>	<b>Lamb</b>
<b>Sacrifice</b>	<b>Savior</b>	<b>Christ</b>

N	K	T	G	H	S	N	R	G
C	R	O	S	S	J	F	E	S
E	B	M	A	L	E	I	S	A
S	E	B	C	O	M	K	U	L
A	L	D	R	H	P	X	R	V
V	A	U	I	T	T	R	R	A
I	P	O	F	S	Y	C	E	T
O	W	R	I	S	E	N	C	I
R	I	R	C	E	R	L	T	O
C	H	J	E	S	U	S	I	N
C	A	L	V	A	R	Y	O	D
B	V	C	Q	R	T	W	N	J

## ONGOING MISSION ACTIVITY



### Red Bird Missionary Conference

Collection of the “**Labels for Education**” that are found on some food items. This has been a tremendous help to the Red Bird Mission. Due to changes in this program, collection of these labels will stop in May 2017.

Collection of the “**Box Tops for Education**”, which is a totally different program. This program provides the Red Bird Mission with real money for the redemption of the box tops. We will continue to collect them going forward.

The *Red Bird Missionary Conference* is located in Southeastern Kentucky and is the most comprehensive mission effort of the United Methodist Church in the United States. They will be able to use these labels/box tops to purchase needed items for the school they run (pre-school to high school). A collection jar and a list of products that carry these labels/box tops are available on the table outside of Fellowship Hall.

### DeBows UMC Food Pantry

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.*

Matthew 25:35

The DeBows UMC Food Pantry is open the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday each month from 6-8pm. It serves between 100 and 120 people per month. Your faithful financial support and donation of food items is greatly appreciated.

The Food pantry is a true beacon of God’s love in our community. If you would like to volunteer time to support this ministry, please see the sign-up sheet outside of Fellowship Hall. You may contact Deb Cregle for more information.



### Recyclable Greeting Cards for St. Jude’s Ranch For Children

This mission supports St. Jude’s entrepreneurial teen-run job training program, which teaches teen’s critical employment skills so they are prepared to be productive, wage-earning citizens in the community when they leave St. Jude. *Only the front of the card is used*, so any donated cards must not have writing on the back of the front picture. Please note: they do not accept Hallmark, Disney or American Greeting Cards. There is a collection box outside of Fellowship Hall.

## COUNSELING CORNER

BY DONNA RIDGE

As most of you know, I have been helping my son to raise my grandson for almost eight years. His mother left when he was not quite three. Contact has been off and on over the years. Recently she seems to have settled down and is calling more often. In conversation, when I have told her how well he is doing her answer is, "That's my boy!" I have to confess that it was annoying. My flesh rose up thinking, "Really? Where have you been all these years?"

The Lord convicted me that yes he is her boy. She is his mother. Half his DNA is from her.

Having said that I want to address grandparents raising their grandchildren, single parents and step parents. We have been given the awesome privilege and responsibility of being part of forming and teaching these children. We have to remember that the noncustodial parent in fact may also have influence and indeed is biologically part of the child.

Therefore, I caution you to be careful about how you speak about the absent parent. You may not care for them, but the child, whether or not they see the other parent or parents, may have a different perspective and feeling about that person.

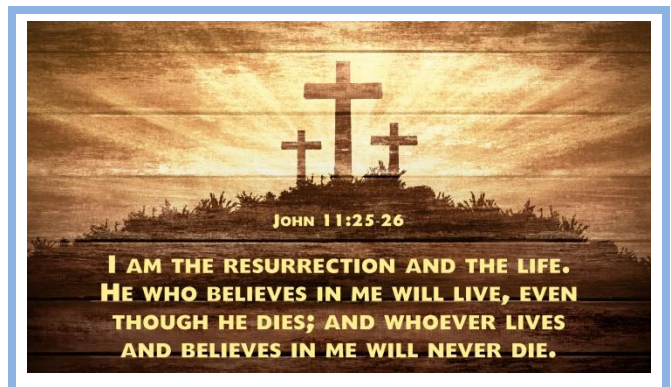
For a long time my grandson blamed me. All he knew was that he went to bed with Mommy there and woke up to Grandmom being there. In his little mind, I chased her away. It took years and his maturing for him to accept the truth. He is able to understand that it was her

choice. I always tell him people make choices we don't understand, but she loves him.

I am suggesting all of this, because we can have times of exasperation and want to lash out and negatively compare the children to the other parent or absent parents. Recently, in a Bible study, we were talking about sticks and stones breaking our bones, but words will never hurt me. Oh YES they can! Many times I have spoken to adults who were told negative things and it wounded them emotionally.

If you have been guilty of speaking harshly, or negatively, repent and apologize. I hold myself to this rule with my grandson and though it doesn't happen too often there is no excuse. We are the adults and they are watching us to be an example. If this is an area that you struggle with, be accountable as we continue and struggle to become more like Him. Bring it to Him in prayer or ask a friend to help you. There is no condemnation, we all have our struggles. God bless you all.

## BIBLE VERSE FOR REFLECTION





Our Music Director, Grayce Armstrong, is preparing the Easter Cantata. Please let Grayce know if you are interested in participating in this very special musical presentation. Cantata practice sessions can be seen in the calendar. The Easter Cantata will be performed during the worship service on Palm Sunday, April 9th. Easter is on Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. The choir normally practices at 11:15am each Sunday and solo pieces are practiced on Wednesday nights.

## INFREQUENT CHURCH ATTENDANCE



## DID YOU KNOW?

- ☑ You can contact the church office at 732-928-4475 in the event of a pastoral care situation that might need Pastor Ernie's attention. Voicemail is available.
- ☑ Large print hymnals are available for those that need them. Just ask an usher.
- ☑ WiFi is available in the church. To connect, just follow the instructions found on the bulletin boards inside and outside Fellowship Hall.
- ☑ Past issues of the DeBows UMC monthly newsletter can be downloaded and viewed from the church website under News & Media/Newsletter Archive.
- ☑ Bulletins for the Sunday worship service are available on a stand in the hallway leading to the side door of the sanctuary. Bulletins for children can also be found there along with busy bags for kids.
- ☑ You can access the Upper Room and other daily devotionals online by visiting [debowsumc.org](http://debowsumc.org) and selecting "Daily Devotionals" under the Grow menu item.
- ☑ Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Earth Day. The first Earth Day was celebrated in America on this date in 1970 and is credited with raising awareness of environmental issues globally. Today, over 1 billion people in 196 countries observe Earth Day each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world. Let us take time and look for ways to care for God's creation.