

# The Connection



## April Scripture Readings

- 1—John 1:1-5
- 2—John 1:14
- 3—John 3:16-17
- 4—John 14:6
- 5—John 11:25-27
- 6—Matthew 17:22-23
- 7—John 16:32-33
- 8—John 17:1-5
- 9—John 18:36
- 10—John 19:28-30
- 11—Matthew 28:1-7
- 12—Luke 24:5-7
- 13—1 Corinthians 6:14
- 14—Romans 6:4-5
- 15—1 Peter 1:3-4
- 16—Isaiah 53:4-6
- 17—1 Thessalonians 4:14
- 18—Romans 8:11
- 19—Ephesians 1:18-21
- 20—Philippians 3:10
- 21—1 Corinthians 15:4
- 22—Romans 6:8-11
- 23—Romans 1:4
- 24—Romans 8:34
- 25—1 Corinthians 15:21-22
- 26—Romans 6:9
- 27—Colossians 2:12
- 28—Acts 4:33
- 29—Acts 3:13-15
- 30—Romans 10:9

## April National Day

1. National One Cent Day
2. National Reconciliation Day
3. National Find a Rainbow Day
4. National School Librarian Day
5. National Read a Road Map Day
6. National Caramet Popcorn Day
7. National No Housework Day
8. National Zoo Lovers Day
9. National Unicorn Day
10. National Encourage a Young Writer Day
11. National Living Donor Day
12. National Only Child Day
13. National Scrabble Day
14. National Reach as High as You Can Day
15. National Take a Wild Guess Day
16. National Wear Your Pajamas to Work Day
17. National Ellis Island Family History Day
18. National Lineman Appreciation Day
19. National Hanging Out Day
20. National Cheddar Fries Day
21. National Kindergarten Day
22. National Jelly Bean Day
23. National Take a Chance Day
24. National Administrative Professionals Day
25. National Teach Children to Save Day
26. National Pretzel Day
27. National Tell a Story Day
28. National Great Poetry Reading Day
29. National Shrimp Scampi Day
30. National Honesty Day

April 2024

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**Millington United Methodist Church**

**Our Mission: To Know Christ, and to**



- 2—Char Balfour
- 3—Pastor John Britt
- 6—Carlee Allard
- 6—Kevin Blackmer
- 6—Wayne Burns
- 6—Tammie Reinert
- 9—Braelynn Parker
- 10—Bonnie Moore
- 12—Kamryn Blackmer
- 14—Quinnell Tanner
- 14—Amy Britt
- 15—Alice Hajek
- 17—Erica Burns
- 17—Pat Burns
- 17—Jackie Rose
- 17—Keyton Trato
- 20—Landen Gleason
- 24—Robbie Bolton
- 27—Randy Hall
- 28—Matalyn Burks
- 29—Martha Weeks
- 30—Diana Allard
- 30—Cassidi Gross

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## Pastor Carol's Corner

As most of you know I love puzzles! I have an exceptionally large collection of 1000 piece puzzles that I have in my 'to do' pile.... I got back into puzzling a couple of years ago when I needed a good stress relief. Since starting back into puzzling, I have dived into the hobby – full force. I learned that I like certain puzzle brands more than others, I like specific puzzle designers or artists more than others, I am on puzzle Facebook groups, and I now even have puzzle themed clothing (thanks to my family – I might talk about puzzles some at home). Yet, I must admit that my current mild obsession with puzzles is nothing compared to the obsession some of those that I have met online... I think they might need intervention.

All that to say that the current puzzle I am working on *Candylicious*, by my favorite artist, Aimee Stewart, is proving to be my undoing. I typically love her puzzles because they are full of color, and lots of things to draw your attention. But this one has been sitting on my puzzle table for over 3 weeks, just like this.... I must admit I have decided to put it on my back up puzzle board and set it aside for a while to work on another puzzle.

What it will look like when completed



My current progress



Yet, from experience in other parts of my life, this is what I expect to happen with my *Candylicious* puzzle. When I start a second puzzle, my brain will start to wander back to this puzzle, and I will pull it out, I will begin to see the colors and patterns in ways that I had not seen before. Why? Because I am not focusing on it completely, trying to get it done and off my puzzle table. Instead, I have made peace with the difficulty and am just living with the complexity.

Ok, I know I just put a lot of meaning into putting together a puzzle, but it really is a metaphor for our lives. Sometimes we can focus on our struggles so much that we cannot see the way things work together. We cannot see the solution for all the pieces. Yet, when we take a step back focusing on different issues, we let God work in our lives. God opens our eyes; helping us see patterns, colors, and new ways to solve problems and rebuild relationships.

No, our world is not a jigsaw puzzle we put together, and our problems cannot be solved that easily. But sometimes we need to take a step back and get a new perspective. God can see how the entire world fits together, yet we can only see our own little corner. Unfortunately, we think our own little corner is the universe. We must remember we are called to see how our little area connects to everyone else's and that in the connection we create a beautiful picture.

As we enter this Easter Season, help us remember that the Gift of Resurrection gives us the opportunity to open ourselves up to the whole world, seeing how, through the Resurrection of Jesus we all fit together.

*Pastor Carol*

SOMETHING  
OLD,

Something New

Use scrap paper to fuel  
new growth and make a gift  
that keeps on giving.

#### What you need:

- Scrap paper
- Water
- Herb or flower seeds
- Blender
- Strainer
- Cookie sheet
- Towel
- Adult help



#### What you do:

1. Tear the scrap paper into strips and place in a bowl. Cover the paper with water and let it soak overnight.
2. Pour the mixture into a blender and blend about 10 seconds.
3. Strain and squeeze the paper pulp to remove excess water. Place in a bowl.
4. Sprinkle seeds over the pulp and mix to incorporate them into the pulp.
5. Shape the pulp into a flat layer on the cookie sheet. Use a towel to soak up excess water. Allow the paper to dry completely.
6. Tear paper into shapes or fold into a card. You can plant the paper directly into soil. Water it and then watch your plants grow!



## When it rains

The skeleton flower, a perennial native to Japan, has delicate petals that change from opaque white to almost transparent when wet. After it rains, only the flower's intricate, skeleton-like veins are visible.

When the rains come (and they will!) in our lives, the same can be said. Amid difficulty and struggle, our true selves often become more transparent. During a parenting challenge, criticism might emerge. Or while we tackle a tough work project, impatience might rear its ugly head.

Hosea 6:3 (NLT) proclaims: "Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring." The rains will come. Whether you're experiencing light rain or a downpour, ponder what the water reveals. Then ask God how you can be more open to his work in that area.

—Janna Firestone

## Trustworthy stewards

After making people in his own image, God entrusted them with the rest of his creation. He wants us to manage well our bodies, our minds and our earthly home. Consider these stewardship quotes from Christian thinkers:

"We ourselves are not masters of our own ability and knowledge. They, like our talents and health, are a loan presented for our use. We must live as people who know that such temporary possessions are not true belongings and that we must give account for our management of them."

—Albert Schweitzer

"Our God is not a God who discards what he has made, who is defeated by sin and evil. Our God is a redeeming God, a God who is determined to reclaim his fallen world, setting it free from its enslavement to corruption and bringing it to a final state of glory."

—Douglas J. Moo, *Creation Care*

### Mission Notes for April

We have chosen to show our appreciation to the first responders, our 25 fire fighters and the Village and Township police. Each one of these folks does a great job in protecting us from day to day. We prepared an Easter bag of goodies for each of them. If you have an occasion to see one of these responders, please share with them your personal appreciation. Many of you people have participated in this ministry by giving money or goodies. Thank you so much!

The church Trustees in conjunction with the Missions are participating in the M-15 yard sale on May 4<sup>th</sup>. We have 3 food trucks that will be set up in our parking lot. There are several items that are in the church that are not needed anymore, and they will be placed for sale that day. Any proceeds from this sale will be used in our local mission outreach. If you have any questions about this opportunity, contact Barb at the church office at 989-871-3489, Rich Hebner at 810-969-5059 or Bill Bushaw at 989-871-2015.

We also set out budget for this year and it is:

Bishop Craig Orphanage	\$500.00
Grace Children's Hospital	\$250.00
HAPI	\$250.00
New Heart Mission Church	\$250.00
Red Bird Mission	\$250.00
Peter and Kate Walugembe	\$1300.00
Greek IVCF Steve Lambert	\$400.00
Wesley Foundation CMU	\$350.00
Bluewater Thumb Youth for Christ	\$200.00
Abused Women's Shelter, Caro, MI	\$150.00
MICAP	\$200.00
Tuscola Homeless Coalition	\$250.00
TOTAL	\$4300.00
Local Outreach	\$2200.00
Total Mission Budget	\$6500.00

As you can see, our dollars are spread all around the world, here in Tuscola County and beyond to help people in their physical lives and in their spiritual lives as well.

Maury Chapin  
Missions and Outreach




**Finance**
**Moment**

**Giving comes from gratitude.  
We give in response to God's grace,  
not to earn God's grace.**

One person tells the story that when he was a boy, he did most of the cooking for his family since both parents worked late hours. Sometimes he would not have the ingredients needed for cooking and would go to their neighbor to borrow the item. Without exception he was always sure to replace it within the next day or two. Our human tendency is to think that somehow our relationship with God works the same way. We believe that we must either earn God's approval and acceptance or we must somehow pay God back the way we might return a cup of sugar to a neighbor. We must keep the record straight, so to speak.

Such an attitude leaves us wanting because we could never pay God back for the grace we have received. We could never give enough. That is why Paul emphasizes that the primary characteristic of giving is gratitude, certainly not guilt or duty. *Our giving is not a way to pay God back, but rather a way to say 'thank you'.*

With Glad And Generous Hearts, A statement on Christian financial stewardship.  
from First Presbyterian Church, Brandon, MB.0718

### Following the 'Perfect Fool'

Theologian Frederick Buechner, who died at age 96 in 2022, explored how the "foolishness of God" (see 1 Corinthians 1:25) compares to human wisdom. He pondered the safety stickers that warn, "The life you save may be your own."

"That is the wisdom of [humans] in a nutshell," wrote Buechner. "What God says, on the other hand, is 'The life you save is the life you lose.' In other words, the life you clutch, hoard, guard and play safe with is in the end a life worth little to anybody, including yourself, and only a life given away for love's sake is a life worth living."

Buechner continued, "To bring his point home, God shows us a man who gave his life away to the extent of dying a national disgrace without a penny in the bank or a friend to his name. In terms of [human] wisdom, he was a Perfect Fool, and anybody who thinks [they] can follow him without [being] something like the same kind of a fool ... is laboring under not a cross but a delusion."

**M-15 “Miles of Smiles” Garage Sales  
will be on Saturday, May 4th, 2024**

Millington United Methodist Church

Will be having 10' x 20' lawn spaces to rent for  
\$20 a space. This is for **Saturday ONLY**

**But that's not all!**

There will also be:

Food Trucks

Porta pottys

Vendors may set up on Friday, But there will no security provided, so they are responsible for their own items. Or they may set up on Saturday starting at 7am. They **MUST** be completely cleaned up by 7pm!



**Millington Arbela District Library**

**Craft Night**—every 2nd and 4th Wednesday (April 10th we will be making a Paper Bunny Craft and April 24th we will be making Fairy Lanterns) from 4:30—6pm. Tweens through adult ages can participate in a different craft each week. Watch the Facebook page or go to [millingtonlibrary.info](http://millingtonlibrary.info) for more details.

## ***New Study and Worship Series Begin April 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> with Facebook discussion group***

Come join Pastor Carol on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am for a 6 week study on ***How Happiness Happens***. This study will also be the basis of our preaching series beginning the following Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be a private Facebook group where anyone who wishes to participate in the study can join in. This will be set up before the first class.

Sessions include:

*Accepting One Another*

*Bear with One Another*

*Serve One Another*

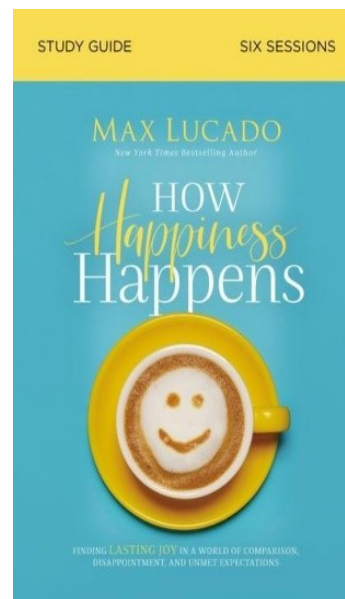
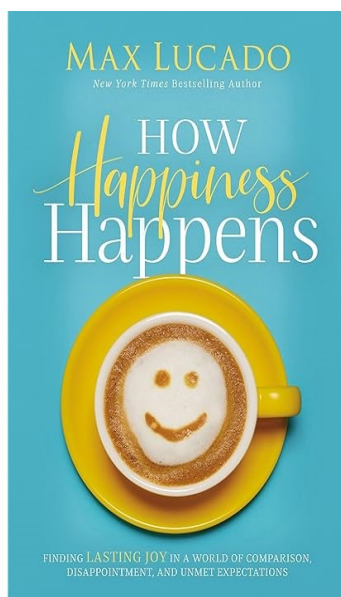
*Forgive One Another*

*Carry One Another's Burdens*

*Love One Another*

This study is written by Max Lucado, who many have heard of for his inspirational books such as *3:16 The Numbers of Hope*, *God Never Gives Up On You*, *Fearless*, *He Chose the Nails*, and many, many more.

There are 10 copies of the study guide and book that have been purchased. Cost is \$19 a set. You can also find them as eBooks if you would like to get them yourself. There is also a guided journal available if you would like to order it on your own. There is no preparation for the first session, please come and join Pastor Carol. The study book is already here, we are waiting for the book to arrive, we hope that it will be here by Sunday 4/7, if not by the start of class.



April 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 April Fool's Day	2 8:30 am Women's 4th day	3	4	5	6
7 9am Sunday School 10am Worship  2nd Sunday after Easter	8 6pm SPRC mtg.  Solar Eclipse	9 8:30 am Women's 4th day	10  Crafts @ Library 4:30—6	11	12	13 9am Adopt—a— Highway roadside pickup  In case of inclement weather it will be on the 20th
14 9am Sunday School 10am Worship  3rd Sunday after Easter	15	16 8:30 am Women's 4th day	17	18	19	20
21 9am Sunday School 10am Worship  4th Sunday after Easter	22  Earth Day	23 8:30 am Women's 4th day	24  Crafts at Library 4:30 –6 Administrative Prof. Day	25  World	26	27
28 9am Sunday School 10am Worship  5th Sunday after Easter	29 5pm Finance Mtg. 5:30 Church Council Mtg/	30 8:30 am Women's 4th day	<b>Coming Soon.....</b> <b>American Red Cross Blood Drive</b> <b>May 16th noon to 5:45pm</b> <b>Call 1-800-Red Cross to Pre-Register</b>			

## A Note from Barb...

*My grandson was at my house this weekend, and to occupy himself, he loves to go outside and play and “build” things. This particular day, he decided to build a road-block on the sidewalk that surrounds our house. He put up boards and sticks, and an orange cone with a hammer stuck in the top of it to keep anyone from passing through. Although this was cute and all, it was annoying because it’s the path that we take several times a day. When I asked, “William, how are we going to get where we want to go when you’ve put up a road-block?” He said, “Don’t worry, when you want to go through, just ask me, and I will open the gate and let you in.”*

*That reminded me that we face road-blocks every day in our lives, and that the many times that we can’t get through, all we have to do is ask God and He will open the gate and ‘let us in.’*

*Let us not forget that although we think we know where we want to go, sometimes He knows a better path for us to take. So when we ask, He will ultimately decide if it is the right path for us to take.*

*“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”      **Psalms 119:105***



# Things you need to know.....

**2024 Adopt-a-Highway pickup will be on April 13th meeting at MUMC at 9am.**

**In case of inclement weather, we will meet the following Saturday (April 20th) at 9am.**



The first Adopt-a-Highway program in the country started in Texas in 1985. Michigan was the 24th state to follow suit, with 694 groups hitting the roadsides the first year. The program surged in popularity early on. MDOT's sign shop made 10 sets of AAH panels in 1990, but there was an overwhelming response and by the end of the year almost 700 groups had adopted a section of state highway. By the end of 1991, the program had tripled in size to 2,168 groups.

Here are just a few of the program's milestones:

- More than 2 million bags of trash picked up, plus many items too large to put in trash bags!
- Since the program's inception, it has provided about a \$125 million benefit to Michigan.
- In 1990, AAH crews collected an average of 23 bags per mile. In 2019, the average was down to 10 bags per mile. Cleaner roadsides may make people less apt to litter!

Interest in the program remains strong. Today, there are more than 2,800 groups in the program and 142 of those original AAH crews are still active. In some counties, every section of highway is adopted and there are waiting lists.

Thanks to all the dedicated AAH volunteers over the years for a job well done!

## \* Safety messages for 2024 Pickups:

- \* Please watch the safety video found at [www.Michigan.gov/AdoptAHighway](http://www.Michigan.gov/AdoptAHighway) prior to collection.
- \* Please fill out Pickup/Safety meeting attendance form on website above.
- \* Do not work in Construction zones.
- \* Face oncoming traffic when picking up litter.

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**Our Mission: To know Christ and to make Him known**

Check out our Sunday sermon online on our Facebook page at :

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