

SIMPSON SPEAKER



MARCH - APRIL 2024

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Rev. Kevin G. Davis, Pastor

11 AM Sunday mornings

on facebook and you tube

March-April 2024

“Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” Mark 8:34NIV

Greetings Friends,

As I write this I am surrounded by melting snow, and find myself longing for the changeover to Spring, the warmer weather, buds on the trees, birds returning, and Easter! But. . . I also know that we must go through the barrenness of winter to get to the beauty of Spring. And, as I had shared, even as much I dislike the snow, I was able to stop and see the beauty in the fallen snow and the quietness that comes with it.

As we continue our journey to the cross and the empty tomb, spend some time letting the above verse play in your head and heart. What does it mean to ‘take up our cross’ and follow him? Well, it means giving everything over to God, and laying our all at his feet to use us in whatever way is needed. It is a total commitment to serving God and Gods people. Not just when it is convenient or easy, but also when it means being in the wilderness, or inconvenient, or when we are unsure, we are in a season of repentance, forgiveness, and reflection that leads to a season of joy and new life! So, let us take up our cross, continue this journey through Lent. Let us follow Jesus.

As we approach the beauty of Easter, let us take every opportunity to be together in worship, fellowship, study, prayer, giving, and service. Stay tuned for more details about our Holy Week worship, but below is our schedule for now.

Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday 9:00am at Belford and 11:00am at Simpson

Maundy Thursday 7:30pm at Belford with Holy Communion

Good Friday 12noon till service time- Stations of The Cross Interactive Prayer Stations

7:30pm worship at Simpson

Easter Sunday Services

Sunrise Service 6:30am- Joint service with Belford at Keyport Waterfront

Resurrection Worship 9:00am at Belford 11:00am at Simpson

Let us continue to build and grow together in God’s amazing grace!

In service to the kingdom with you,
Pastor Kevin

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School every Sunday at 10am

The Sunday school has been very busy learning stories from the Bible. In this new year, we're planning to continue learning more about some of the stories in the Bible and learning about new heroes and heroines. Our stories will continue and lead up to the story of Easter.

We have a great group of teachers and children in Sunday school now. There's always room for more if you have a child of Sunday school age, please bring them on Sunday mornings at 10 o'clock. We'd love to have them.

Thank you for your continued support of our children and teachers.

Pamela White, Sunday School Superintendent

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The SUMC youth group is beginning to really ramp up for the rest of 2024. We recently went Super BOWling on Super Bowl Sunday and have had devotions every Sunday morning before church.

We look forward to another couple of great months as we head into March and April.

As of the writing of this article, I am still working on our schedule, but we will be participating in lots of events/activities like movie nights, escape rooms, going to concerts, and so much more over the course of this year!

Some upcoming dates to keep in mind so far are:

Sun March 24- Youth Group will deliver food baskets to local families after church.

Sun April 7- Youth group leads worship (this date is still to be approved by Pastor Kevin; our actual Sunday to lead worship would be Easter Sunday so we are obviously rescheduling it for another Sunday)

There will be a lot more scheduled soon!

Youth group will also meet from 10am-11am every Sunday morning before church.

Throughout the year the youth group participates in events focusing on missions, fun, fellowship, and fundraising, all the while growing in your faith. The youth group is open to anyone in grades 6-12, and you don't have to be a member of Simpson UMC to be a member of the youth group. Friends are welcome as well!

If you have any questions or comments about the youth group, please feel free to contact Scott by email at RU1989@aol.com or by phone or text at 908-705-3315.

Scott Hunter, Youth Group Leader

OUTREACH

COMMUNION : March communion will go towards UMCOR. UMCOR assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters – famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and serve as a source of help and hope for the vulnerable.

April communion will go towards Interfaith network Of Care. This mission supports people with chronic conditions, disabilities, isolation.

FOOD PANTRY: Our food pantry is running low. Please don't forget to bring your nonperishable items to the Lords table the 1st Sunday of every month.

VISITATION: We were not able to visit any of our shut-ins.

CHANGE FOR L.I.F.E: Our change for life is still going on. This will be going towards Heifer International. Heifer International's mission is to work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth.

EASTER BASKETS: Drop off for Easter donations will be Saturday March 23rd

9am-11am in Simpson Hall. We will deliver the baskets right after church Sunday March 24th. A table in Simpson Hall will be set up for donations.

I would like to thank all who donated items. Special thank you to Scott Hunter and Pastor Davis for driving!!!

God Bless,

Nancy Carrasquillo, Mission Chairperson

FSSR Workshop
Sunday's February 18th – March 10th Simpson Hall
12:30 PM to 3:00 PM
Please sign up in hallway
Suggested donation \$49.
All proceeds go to Simpson Mission & Ministry

Any Questions please see Larry Springer

CHOIR ANNOUNCEMENT

If you are interested in singing, please join us. We have rehearsals from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm on Thursdays. You don't have to be able to read music. We will help guide you through. Please contact Seiran Chapman or any choir member if you think you would like to be a part of our choir.

BELL CHOIR ANNOUNCEMENT

Bell choir rehearsal for Easter season. We will play on Palm Sunday, March 24th. Rehearsal schedule will be as follows:

2/28, 3/6, 3/13, and 3/20: All are at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays.

SHAREGOOD THRIFT SHOPPE

Easter is around the corner. Come see all the great things we have for Easter in the shop. Our customers love new choices to pick from each week. We continue to enjoy new customers that have discovered our little shop. ShareGood is not only a place to buy stuff, but a place to go to talk with friends new and old. Many customers come to the shop to visit our cute mascot, Giovanni, Pam's dog. They love him and he loves all the attention. Donations have picked up so there are always new things to look at. We have high days and low ones but we are ready whenever they arrive. We get so much great stuff so that there are always new things to look at when our customers come to the shop each week. We are always assisting others and their missions to help family and friends here in our neighborhood and around the world. We are always ready to help where help is needed. This past month we donated 8 leaf bags full of coats, hats and scarves along with blankets to St. Vincent de Paul. On Palm Sunday St Vincent de Paul will be having their annual Friendship Meal at Our Lady of Victory. We have donated Easter baskets and stuffed animals. They will make up baskets for the kids that come to the dinner. We are involved in our own missions and the many missions of our customers. We learn about the situations in their families, countries and neighborhoods. It fills our hearts with compassion to hear their stories and have the opportunity to help. The Thrift Shop is a wonderful outreach opportunity for Simpson and I encourage everyone to come out and see for yourself.

We always welcome new volunteers. Many hands make light work.

ShareGood is open on Saturdays from 9-1.

The volunteers are available to accept donations on Sunday after service.

Those of us at ShareGood are blessed by all the volunteers, customers and those that donate.

Respectfully yours,
Lynn Palladino
ShareGood Thrift Shoppe Chairperson

SUPERMARKET GIFT CARD NEWS

Dear Simpson Family,

After coordinating the supermarket gift card program for 45 years, it is with sadness that I have relinquished this pleasure. With my senior status, currently with health concerns and household duties, as well as caring for Bob, I have limited time to do this position justice. I feel extremely comfortable turning this duty over to Betty Muldowney who I know will do a wonderful job and give it the love that I did all these years. Thanks to all those dedicated members who have been so faithful in purchasing these supermarket gift cards and always pray that more members will join in.

Blessings to all.

In God's Love, Anita Fuzesi

GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

Greetings.

Using the gift card fundraiser is a great way to raise money for our church. When you purchase gift cards you receive the full amount of the card and Simpson receives a rebate for each card. The rebate amounts differ for each retailer. Cards are available for many places you dine and shop such as Walmart, CVS, Home Depot, Chili's, Dunkn' Donuts and many many more. There are over 750 retailers!

To shop for gift cards, simply download the Raiseright app or go online to raiseright.com to get started. You will need the code to link your account to Simpson. To obtain the code please call or email the office at Simpson and do not post this anywhere public. Follow the prompts to sign up and begin shopping. There are many helpful videos on the app and website should you need help.

You can choose ecards or physical cards. Some physical cards are reloadable so make sure if that's your choice it says Ship to Home Eligible. Otherwise, you will pay a large shipping fee. Please note, when checking out ONLY click on send to coordinator if you are ordering physical cards when I am doing a COLLECTION like I did before Christmas. When you order Ship to Home cards you pay a 50 cent shipping fee plus 50 cents for each card. The maximum number of cards you can order this way is 16, however if you need more you can always place more than one order.

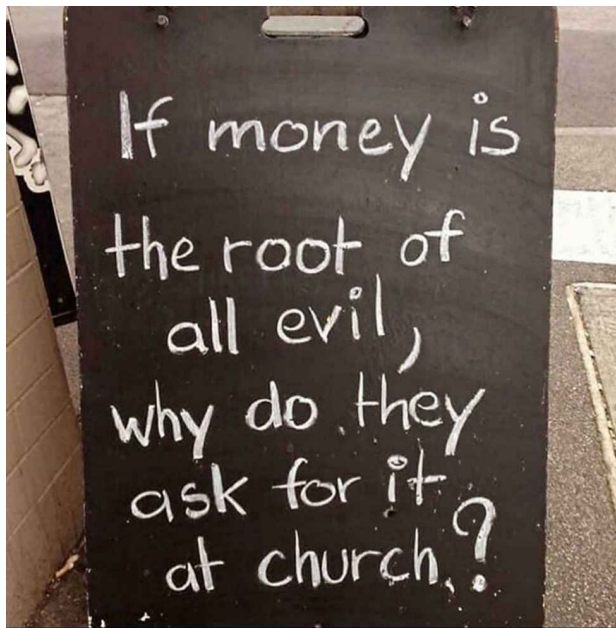
The nice thing about ecards is that with many of them you can choose the amount you want within certain increments. For example, a Walmart ecard is available in increments of \$10 (\$10 minimum, \$500 max). If you were to order a physical card you are only able to purchase cards that are \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250 or \$500. With ecards you also have the option to send it as a gift to someone's email or you can print it and give that as a gift. Again, it's nice to have the availability of increments when gifting.

Please be advised there is a 29-cent convenience fee if using your checking account, 1% fee if using your debit card and 2.6% fee if using your credit card. So, for example, if you are purchasing a \$500 Amazon card you are better off using your checking account for that purchase.

Ecards will appear in your Raiseright wallet after a minute or so after purchasing. I keep cards in my wallet for places I frequent and when the balance gets low I just re-order. It's so simple and Simpson

gains every time I do it. Think how much our beloved church could earn if we all shopped this way. Please consider trying it. Once you start it's hard to stop!!!

Warm Regards,
Sue DeFilippo
Gift Card Fundraiser Coordinator



Because we need it! Thank You!

From Larry Springer

March - April Birthday & Anniversary Wishes

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Tony Oriento, Jr	3
Lauren Magnus	5
Joan Leiba	6
Eulette Graham	7
Tom Grimes	9
Erin Salica	10
Brooke Borre	11
Neil Muldowney	14
Toni Zinna	15
Sarah Meeker	15
Victoria Veltre	17
Justine Wilmot	20
Susan Mitchell	21

Rob DeFilippo	25
Ashley Spitzer	27
Betty Muldowney	27
May Jerzak	28
Noah Spitzer	30
Dana Nole	30
Melanie Wilmot	31

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Charles & Joan Leiba	31
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APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Joyce Korley	1
Valerie LoCascio	3
John Pako	3
Anand Gamadia	4
Pamela White	11
Lucas Gaunt	13
Patricia Iko	13
Amanda Bottinick	13
Nana Ankrah	15
Janice Ploskon	16
Jenna Spitzer	16
Brianna Salica	19
Lyana Mitchell	20
Mason Mitchell	20
Jean Wilmot	20
Robert Bennett, Jr	21
Owen Pomerantz	28

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

George & Joelle Conover	12
Karen & Thomas Cerabone	23