

*Don't Miss
These Dates...*

Diaper Depot Giveaway

February 17th, 10:00am-Noon

Laurel UMC Rummage Sale

March 8th, 4pm - 7pm

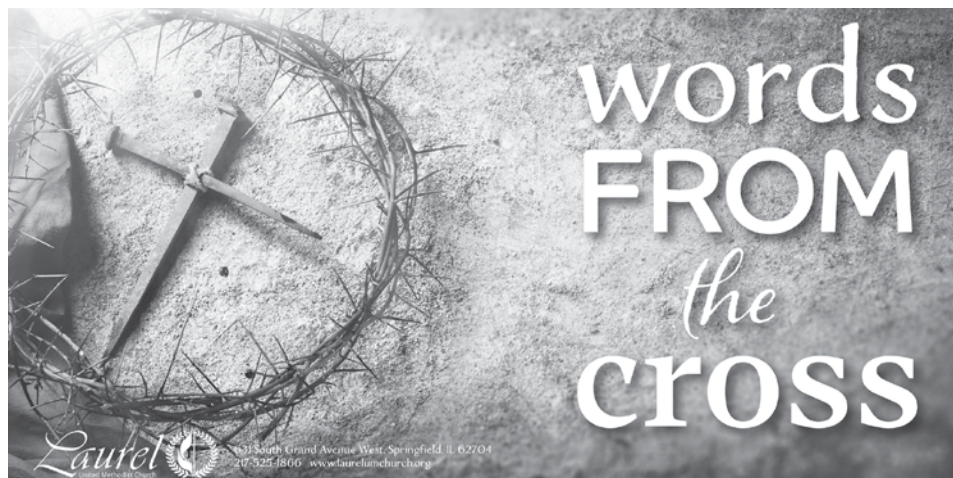
March 9th, 8am-1:30pm

Palm/Passion Sunday

March 24, 8:30am, 9:30am &
10:45am

Holy Thursday Communion & Hand Washing

March 28, 7:00pm



Sermon Series LENT 2024

Ash Wednesday, February 14 — Luke 23:32-38 #1 “Father, Forgive Them!”

February 18 — Luke 23:39-43#2 “Today you will be with me in paradise.”

February 25 — John 19:25-27#3 “Woman, behold thy son!”

March 3 — Matthew 27:45-49#4 “My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me!”

March 10 — John 19:28-29#5 “I thirst”

March 17 — John 19:30#6 “It is finished”

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24 — Mark 11:7-10; Phil. 2:5-11
(Jesus Emptied Himself)

Holy Thursday, Communion & Hand Washing March 28 — John 13:3,
12-17, Luke 23:46-49#7 “Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.”

Embracing the Questions Covenant Group

Beginning February 27th, we will be studying the book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent* by Isabel Wilkerson. This study will take us through May. New members are welcome. Participants are responsible for getting their own book. If you have any questions contact Bill Sherman at 217-622-6222. The group meets Tuesdays 9:30am-11:00am.

Come join this new group!

Starting Sunday morning, March 3 at 9:30 am, Rev.s Craig and Kathy Sweet will lead a new class lead by will plan to travel through the New Testament starting with the book of Mark. Mark is the earliest gospel recorded and to a great extent, the other gospels pull on and add to the information found in Mark. The group will meet in the Brides room, which is the room directly behind the Parlor. All are invited.



It's Bunny time!!!

Give the Easter Bunny a helping hand—donate individually wrapped Easter candy or a fun item that will fit in a plastic Easter egg. We do not need plastic eggs we save them from year to year and have plenty. Please bring donations by March 17. That gives Bunny helpers time to fill eggs and get ready for the Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 24.

Want to help fill those Easter eggs??

We will work on Tuesday afternoon March 19 and Thursday after noon Mar. 21. Room 302 will be set up for bunny helpers to stuff Easter eggs. Come spend a little time filling eggs!!

Questions??? Contact JoAnn Call: 525-1866
E-mail: joverholt@laurelumchurch.org

Palm Sunday Celebration on March 24

Starting at 9:30am in room 302

This year our Palm Sunday celebration will include crafts, activities, games and of course an Easter Egg Hunt! Due to the extra activities, the Faith Formation – Sunday School time will be extended and end with the waving of palms at the 10:45 service. We will walk through the sanctuary and wave palms as the congregation sings the first hymn. After the waving of palms at the 10:45 service, we will go back to the class room to collect treats and projects before leaving.

Come be a part of the Celebration of Palm Sunday!!!

Our Palm Sunday Celebration March 24 is sponsored by Laurel Youth.

Laurel All Church Rummage Sale

Laurels Lights and StitchNGo are happy to report that once again the Laurel congregation has responded to our call to help address Laurel's financial needs. We are rapidly gearing up for the all church rummage sale to be held on Friday March 8 and Saturday March 9. Over 70 individuals have volunteered to work before, during and after the sale. Church groups and individuals have graciously committed to supplying food and treats for the workers. Many of you are planning to donate items to the sale. Others are providing their support through prayer and expressions of gratitude for the volunteers. Our goal is to raise \$8,000.

The sale hours are 4:00 to 7:00 pm on Friday with a \$2 donation admission. Saturday hours are from 8:00 to 11:30 am with no admission fee; closed 11:30 to 12 to refresh the space; and then the half-price sale from 12:00 to 1:30 pm.

Anyone who has volunteered or still wishes to do so, should sign up for the days and times you are available, if you have not already done so. The sign up schedules are posted in the church Parlor. Specific tasks are assigned on the day(s) you come in. The tasks are varied and everyone's time and talents are appreciated.

Donated sale items can be dropped off in Fellowship Hall beginning Sunday morning March 3. Hours for donation drop off are Sunday March 3, 8:30 am to 1:00 pm; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:30 am to 7:00 pm. Please bring items as early as possible in the week so we are ready by Friday. We accept all kinds of items including household (dishes/bowls/ cups, utensils, appliances), art work, books, décor, games & puzzles, crafts, lamps, sporting goods, pet supplies, linens, fabric, patterns, accessories, holiday decorations, children's clothes and toys, gardening, office supplies, electronics, entertainment media (records, tapes, CDs, DVDs), computer equipment, tools, hardware, camping equipment, bicycles, nick knacks, collectables, etc. However, we are not able to take large furniture, adult clothing, large appliances or TVs. If you need to have your items picked up or have questions about donating specific items, please talk to Marty Dahlquist (217-725-1338) or Jack Shook (217-546-6216).

Due to its success last year, unsold items will again be offered to Laurel members after services on Sunday March 10. The items will remain in Fellowship Hall after the sale ends Saturday and you may select any item(s) for a good will donation on Sunday. Items left after 12:00 noon on Sunday will be donated to several local nonprofits. **Thank you, thank you for your support and commitment.**

God's Housekeeping & Thank you!

Caring Prayer List

February 18th - February 24th

Vi Lanum, Carol & Bob Posegate, Sue & Ron Riggle, Janet Shupe, Mike & Becky Emery, Lisa, MacKenzie, and Sean Rowden

February 25th - March 2nd

Margaret Ackerman, Carey & Virginia Bayless, Jack Bedford, Bob & Cheryl Pinkston, Amanda Shook, Jack & Mavis Shook, Jacob & Kelli Shook

March 3rd - March 9th

Frank & Connie Fagen, Meghan & Anthony, Carter, Mason Oh, JoAnn Overholt, Cheryl & Peter Wise, Randy & Karen Witter

March 10th - March 16th

Den & Bev Koller, John & Kirsten, Rosalee Koller, Aaron & Jamie Koller and Family, Sara & Jim Estes and Family, Ariel Smith, Esther Smith, Steve & Linda Smith, Patricia Yeates

March 17th - March 23rd

Karla Bartels, Nancy Easum, William & Karen Heintzelman, Jim, Fiona, Ebenezer, & Bright Reed, Linda Roberts, Carol Robinson, Sheila Campbell, Katie Cantrell

Happy Birthday

Barbara Moss will celebrate her 89th birthday on February 21st.

Jeanne Sims will turn 96 on February 21st.

Special Offering Sundays

February 25th Helping Hands Mission
March 10th UMCOR

Special Offerings from January

Wooden It Be Lovely \$1,145.00

**Laurel Lights donated \$430 from
wreath sales to SIU Foundation for
Alzheimer Center**

"Thank You to all who provided Valentine cards, gift bags, and treats. Thank you also to everyone who assembled and delivered Valentine bags. The gift bags were completely full of cards. That shows how much you care about our people. We have heard from people who received the bags that they really like the youth and children's handmade cards. We appreciate all your help in making Valentine's Day so special. Thanks again for your generosity and caring spirit."

"To the Caring Folks at Laurel,
Just a note of thanks for providing some joy in my mother's life, upon receiving the packet of Valentines last week. She has talked about your caring gesture daily, as I sit and visit with her. As her world goes smaller, unable to get out, please know how much your acts of kindness mean to her. Thank you so much, Bob Marcy"

"Thank You. In all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season you stopped and thought about The Baby Fold's children and families. You gave a gift because you trust us to care for those we serve. Your compassion and generosity make a difference one child and one family at a time. With holiday Joy, Sam & Liam"

"Dear Fellowship, Thank you so much for the Valentine's and sweets. I thought at age 93 I was over the Valentine age. Thanks so much for your thoughtfulness, Betty Marcy"



Stitch 'N Go!

2023 was a wonderful year for Stitch 'n Go!

Our group has grown, with several new ladies joining in our efforts. (Men are always welcome too!) New projects were undertaken, including port access shirts and sleeping mats made with plastic grocery bags woven on a

loom, while we continued to work on many other projects in support of Midwest Mission, schools, nursing homes, hospitals, and other organizations. Our 2023 end of the year totals are amazing:

♥ Total number of items donated: **10,291**

That is an increase of 65% over last year!

♥ Organizations served: **52**

♥ Types of projects worked on: **40**

♥ Average attendance at regularly scheduled work days: **41**

♥ Total number of items donated since we began in 2017: **25,567**

But our accomplishments go beyond what we made and donated. As we work together to serve others, each of us are richly blessed. Thank you to the Laurel congregation for helping us to serve thousands of people, both near and far.

If you would like more details about the projects we make, who we serve, materials we need, or joining us, contact Barb Needham, Marty Dahlquist, or any SnGo member.

Laurel United Methodist Church
631 South Grand Avenue West
Springfield, IL 62704

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We are going to be updating the Weekly Caring Prayer List, Birthday List, Anniversary List, Newsletter Mailing List, and Constant Contact Email Lists for 2024.

If you have new information, or would like to be included on any of these lists, please contact the church office. We will need the name, address, email address and birthday or anniversary date if you are adding or changing the information we currently have in our database.

Thank you!

Laurel United Methodist Church

631 South Grand Avenue West,
Springfield, IL 62704

217-525-1866

www.laurelumchurch.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays at 8:30am

Worship with God's House Band

Sundays at 9:30am

Blended Worship with Choirs and Asbury Bells

Sundays at 9:30am

Faith Formation

(Sunday school for adults and children)

Sundays at 10:45am

Traditional Worship with Chancel Choir and Asbury Bells

At Laurel you'll find a welcoming community that cares about