

# THE CRUSADER – MAY 2022

## Christ United Methodist Church

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*Open Hearts. Open Minds.*

*Open Doors*

## Inside this Issue:

Prayer List	2
What's Cooking	2
Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Brining Back a Memory	3
Church Funny	3
Herbs of the Bible	4



## UMW News

The United Methodist Women has postponed the spring church rummage sale until a later date.

They are still collecting items to include in the sale. No TVs and no exercise equipment, please. Call Lea (home: 217-428-2868; cell: 217-454-0903) for more information, to pick up items, or to arrange a time to drop off donations at church.

## Mothers

All mothers are special; they sacrifice so much for their children and those whom they love. My beautiful wife is now a mother of two and in her, I have a front row seat to the love of God. She speaks with compassion, lives with patience, and leads with strength. In her actions, our boys encounter love. I am reminded of Jesus' lament over the city of Jerusalem, "**Oh Jerusalem...how many times I wanted to gather your children together the way a hen gathers her own brood under her wings...**" (Luke 13:34). Jesus, as he journeys to the Cross, looks over Jerusalem and her people and cries longing to act like a compassionate mother. These words of Jesus give us insight into the hearts of mothers. They are those who will stop at nothing to comfort, to protect and guide their children. God's heart is the heart of a mother; this is one of many aspects of God's image that has been placed in the heart of those whom we call mothers. These characteristics are true of my wife and my own mother who loves her children with undying passion.

So, I ask you to reflect on your mother. If she is this living on the earth, what is she like? What are the characteristics that you find Christ-like in her? If she is no longer with us, what was she like? And who are the other mother figures in your life that continually

guide you on your journey of life and faith? Remember your mothers and or motherly figures and know that God blessed you with them.

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit who gives us our mothers and those we love. AMEN. Happy Mother's Day.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Braden



### What's Cooking?

by Jenny Garver

Growing up I loved it when grandpa and grandma took my siblings and I to visit great grandma in Canton, IL. I absolutely adored my great grandma and wanted to be just like her when I grew up. I looked forward to those visits. She would pull sugar cookies out of her freezer for us to decorate and munch on. She would also make cabbage rolls and homemade chocolate pudding. In junior high, she taught me how to make the pudding. I thought in honor of great grandma and grandma Audrey that it would be a great recipe to share.

### Great Grandma's Chocolate Pudding

- 1 cup sugar
- 3 large tablespoons flour
- 2 large tablespoons cocoa powder
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon lemon extract

Mix dry ingredients together in a large pot. Add eggs, then enough milk to mix the mixture smooth. Add remainder of milk. Turn on the heat and cook until thick. Add vanilla and lemon extract once thickened. Serve warm. Chill any leftovers.



### Birthdays

May 10	Karey Keller
May 15	Lea Carls
May 15	Jean Preston
May 16	Don Wall
May 21	Morgan Keller

### Anniversaries

May 16	Mike & Lisa Carr
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### Prayer List

Kathy Cox  
Malvia Sherwood  
Erma & Donovan Lewis  
Barbara Boyd  
Don Wall  
Matthews & Sisson Family  
Rev Braden, Michelle, Luke, & William Parks



## Bringing Back a Memory by Karen Rivera

A few years ago, Pastor Karna and Bonnie Matthews attended a session during Annual Conference and brought back an idea for Prayer Beads. Many of us ordered these, and Bonnie, as well as some of the children, completed these during Children's Church. People chose color combinations for their beads, and we also received a printout of what the beads symbolized and how to use them.

How many of us still use the beads during prayer time or when we need a tangible symbol to keep our focus on our prayer? How many of us have stored the beads away and have forgotten their meaning? I talked to Bonnie a few days ago and told her the beads brought me great comfort when I was recovering from surgery last May. I still use them and treasure the number of hours it took to complete the 25 or more sets of prayer beads.

I remember that I chose lavender and white beads because my birth stone is an amethyst. Bonnie said she was curious about the color combinations that people chose, so I decided to write an article about her project. I wish I had a list to share in this article; perhaps I can write a follow up piece about that.

I know that the children helped a little bit during Children's Church, but time was limited due to weather and the illness that comes with cold Illinois winters. Most of the work was done by Bonnie at her home. Thanks for your dedication to this meaningful project!

Do you remember the directions for using the beads? I did some online research to help us

as we continue to use the beads during our personal prayer time.

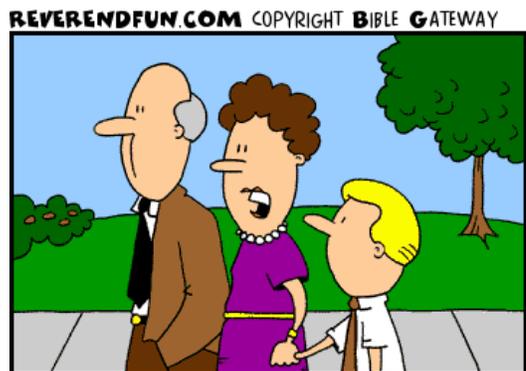
*"The prayer beads are divided into 4 sections. You will notice that next to the cross is one big bead that is called the "Invitatory Bead." This bead invites us to a journey of prayer.*

*Then, you will notice that the prayer beads form a circle. In the circle, there are four big beads, with seven smaller beads in between. The four big beads create a cruciform shape to remind us of the four points of the cross. Four also reminds us of the four gospels, the four seasons of the year, and the four directions.*

*The smaller set of 7 beads is also significant. Because a week has 7 days, these are called the week beads. Seven, of course, is a significant number for Christians. The church calendar has 7 seasons (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time). There were seven days of creation and in the book of Revelation, John writes letters to seven churches. Both Jews and Christians believe that the number 7 symbolizes spiritual perfection."*

– Rev. Jill Sander-Chali

[www.greatplainsumc.org/prayerbeads](http://www.greatplainsumc.org/prayerbeads)



05-07-1999  
YOUR FATHER HAS AGREED TO STAY AWAKE  
IN CHURCH TODAY SINCE IT IS MOTHER'S  
DAY ... IT WOULD BE NICE IF YOU WOULD  
DO THE OPPOSITE FOR ONCE

## Herbs of the Bible by Jenny Garver

I was thinking . . . How can I share my love of botany (aka plants) with all of you? Hmmmm . . . A newsletter article of course.

When I was in college, one of my Bibles, which was a woman's study Bible, had a special section just about plants of the Bible. Woohoo! I was so excited to find those pages tucked in just before the New Testament began.

Plants are mentioned throughout the Bible, usually in the form of gardens. Notable Biblical gardens include The Garden of Eden, Solomon's Gardens and Gethsemane. Adam and Eve start out in a garden and Jesus freedom was taken away in a garden. Gardens fulfilled numerous roles in the Bible: beauty, shelter and shade, meeting place for friends and events, provision of food, protection, and retreat for quiet mediation.

Within in a garden during Biblical times you could find flowers, vegetables, bitter herbs, herbs, shrubs, and trees. We are just going to look at herbs that you can incorporate into your diet for the moment.

The Bible mentions *coriander* (Exodus 16:31, Numbers 11:7). Coriander seeds are often used in rice dishes, soups, and pickling recipes. *Cumin* is another spice mentioned in Isaiah 28:27, Matthew 23:23. This spice is used to flavor soups, stews, meats, and vegetables.

Dill is referred to as *anise* and can be found in Matthew 23:23. It is one of my favorite herbs and has many uses. It can be used to season vegetables, meats, salad dressings, pickles, eggs, and soups. Fennel, called *black*

*cumin* in Biblical text, is found in Isaiah 28:25-27. Fennel can be used in soups and sauces.

Marjoram, a variety of *hyssop*, is mentioned numerous times: Exodus 12:21-22, Numbers 19:6,18, 1 King 4:33, and Psalm 51:7. It can be used to flavor salad dressing and meat dishes. *Mustard seeds* are found in Matthew 12:31-32, 17:20. It can be used to season vegetables and meat dishes.

*Mints* like peppermint and spearmint can be found in Matthew 23:23 and Luke 11:42. I like to put mint leaves in my water or drink mint tea. Mint can be added to vegetable salads, pestos, salsas, sauces, marinades, and pasta salads. *Sage*, referred to as lampstand in the Bible, is found in Exodus 37:17-18. This herb can be added to salads, butters, meat marinades, pastries, and breads.

These herbs can be grown in a home garden or purchased in stores. There are so many versatile uses for herbs in cooking. I remember my grandparents growing mint and dill. We have mint popping up in our yard that my husband's grandparents planted many years ago.

What are some of your favorite herbs? The herbs and spices that I use the most in our kitchen is dill, cinnamon, rosemary, mint, garlic powder, oregano, basil, and sea salt. Which plant group would you like to hear about next in an upcoming issue of the Crusader? Flowers, vegetables, bitter herbs, or shrubs/trees?

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*Articles for the June issue of the Crusader will be due on May 23. Please email articles to NewsletterChristUMC@gmail.com or turn in to Jenny Garver. Thank you.*