

METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL 2021



HADDY EASTER

PASTOR JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her (John 20:18, NRSV)

I am looking forward, and also looking at where I am right now, as I write this. April is coming, Easter is coming, the season of unending celebration because Christ is alive. The sign that God's love has and will triumph over sin and death. However, as I write this, it's not Easter yet. I have 2 extremely busy weeks ahead of me (as may some of you?) It is not a bright beautiful morning with flowers blooming out the window of the parsonage study. Rather its grey and gloomy and wet, though at least the grass is greening up!

It is all symbolic of where we are as a world on many levels. Christ has come, the world is greening up, but it's not there yet. Spring has started springing, life is coming back. But we all know we might get an April snow yet, it is Northern Illinois after all. The pandemic has lessened in many places, but it's not over yet. Outbreaks all over the world and in places in the U.S. are still happening. Life, blessing, above all love, they show through just as some of the grass is green out my window. But the trees haven't leafed out, the grass isn't all green, and our tulips aren't blooming yet.

In these final days of Lent, (if you are reading this before Easter) we are invited to ponder that, yes, this world needs a Savior. The world was not in Jesus' time, the place God created it to be, and it's

not now. We are invited to declutter our hearts, get rid of the bitterness, the greed, the fear of others, the whatever that gets between us and God in these final days of lent (and to keep doing it even after lent.)

While all of the above is vital, we also prepare (or if you are reading this after Easter, do it now) to celebrate the fact that yes, there is brokenness in the world and within us. But God's love in Christ is bringing healing, hope, joy and blessing to all creation. In every moment, the love of God is with us, guiding us and reaching out to us. God in each moment seeks to bless us and calls us to bless others. Jesus lives, "he lives" as the old hymn says, and because he lives, we know that all things are moving towards life, life abundant, and God's love.

So, let us spend the final days of lent, praying for God's wisdom to do what we need to do to declutter our hearts and lives. And let us prepare for a party, a celebration, the joy that Christ is alive. God loves us all, and people can learn to love each other. Amen and Amen!



Our Holy Week schedule will be as follows:

 Thursday, April 1, Maundy/Holy Thursday: our Hub Cluster(Chana UMC, Creston



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UMC, Franklin Grove UMC, Lee UMC, Lighthouse UMC, Reynolds UMC, Steward UMC, Malta UMC and Rochelle UMC) pastors are putting together "a Living Last Supper" Worship Service, where various people will portray some of Jesus' followers. You are invited to watch the service online via YouTube or Facebook at your convenience, and then share a meal and some reflection questions with someone you love.

- Friday, April 2, Good Friday 7:00 p.m.
 Worship Service: we will have a Good
 Friday Service of music and scripture, both in person at Malta UMC and on Zoom.
- Sunday, April 4, Easter 9:00 a.m. Worship Service: Join us for the celebration of Easter, either in person, or via Zoom as we celebrate that Christ rose, and that death and sin are not more powerful than God's love for us!



Lenten Bible Study
Book
Review:
"The Walk"

by Adam HamiltonFive Essential Practices of the Chrisitan Life.

For those who did not attend the Lenten Bible Study, we read a wonderful book based on how you can have a closer walk with Jesus.

The Walk talks about **Worship and Prayer** and why it's important to Worship with others and also by yourself. Through prayer we are called to give Thanks, because "everything" in our lives is a wonderful "gift" from God. Study and how important it is to read the Bible everyday and "listen" and "pay attention" to what God is saying to us. Serving – here I am Lord – send me! When God wants something done in the world, He sends humans!!!! When you help others, God blesses you so much more in return. Give - what we do with our money tells us something about the condition of our heart. It is more blessed to give than to receive. Share – our most powerful sermons are those that we preach by our actions, but there are times when we also have to speak. Jesus said, "come follow me and I will show you how to fish for people." Go and make disciples of all nations.

There is so much more in this book to help you navigate your walk with Jesus. Adam Hamilton makes it an easy way of thinking about our Christian life. He focuses on 5 essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus' own walk with God. Contact Pastor Jeremiah if you would like to get your own copy of this book "The Walk".







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HADDY FASTED



Upper Room Devotionals

are available for March/April.

I can mail one to you!

We have small & large print.

Just call the church office at
(815) 825-2118 or text Pastor

Jeremiah at castiger1@gmail.com
and let us know.

at 6:30 p.m. in church basement.

2nd Thursday of each Month at 6:30 p.m.



THANK YOU Donna Willress for donating this beautiful stained glass picture made by your father (Frank) to hang in our church. A beautiful rainbow to



remind us of our commitment to support local, regional and international mission projects through the Rainbow Covenant.



HAPPY APRIL ANNIVERSARY

7[™] Tom & Nancy Plote(42 Years) **8[™] Brian & Jacque Fucilla**(16 Years)



HELPING "FOOD PANTRY"

Your are welcome to bring Non-Perishable Food anytime throughout the year for the Salvation Army Food Pantry. Place your items in the box in the narthex marked "Food Pantry." Salvation Army appreciates all you give.





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MIDWEST MISSION DISTRIBUTION CENTER is in

NEED of "PERSONAL DIGNITY KITS"

Please help Midwest Mission by bringing contributions for their "Personal Dignity Kits." Place these items in the box in the narthex marked (Personal Dignity Kits).

NEEDED: (Value \$15)

- 1 Bath Hand Towel No Kitchen Towels
- 1 Bath Washcloth No dishclothes
- 1 Adult Toothbrush No multipacks
- 1 Bar of Soap 3 to 4 oz.
- 1 Shampoo 15 to 18 oz.
- 1 Deodorant 2 to 3 oz.

(Stick, roll on, or pump)

- 1 1-gal resealable Plastic Bag
- \$2.00 donation for razor & toothpaste

All items must be new and placed in a 1-gal resealable plastic bag.

Here is a list of all the other KITS that are needed at Midwest Mission.

Monetary donations are welcome for any of these kits: Feminine Hygiene Kit- \$50; Home Care Kit - \$20; Student Kit - \$16; Tornado Kit - \$50; Layette Kit - \$45; Birthing Kit - \$9.

Monetary donations can be sent to MMDC, 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558



UP COMING EVENTS IN MALTA

Saturday, April 3

Malta Lions Kids Easter Egg Hunt in Lions Park - 9:00 a.m. Followed by Easter Bunny Story Time at Malta Library from 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Saturday April 24

Malta Fire Dept. Annual Drive Thru Dinner

For tickets & more information contact Dave Fenstermaker (417) 291-2031

Saturday, May 8 - Malta Lions ROSE DAY

Saturday, June 12

Malta Fire Dept. Pancake Breakfast from 6:30-11:30 a.m. For tickets & more information contact Dave Fenstermaker (417) 291-2031.

There will be a <u>Tractor Trot 5K Race</u> – starting at 9:00 a.m. at Lions Park. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Contact: Brenda Jergens at

brendajergens@gmail.com or

Katie Fenstermaker at kkuhl@hotmail.com

MUSIC IN THE PARK from 2:00-9:00 p.m.

June 12th -in place of Malta Days! More information coming in May as plans are finalized.

<mark>Saturday, June 19th</mark>

Family Fishing Day at Prairie Springs Fishing license not required.

Additional Music In The Park scheduled for July 22 and August 26



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HELPING OUR KIDS AT MALTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Below is a list of supplies and items we can donate to help the children of our Malta Elementary School. We will have a collection box for theses items in the narthex of the church.

School supplies NEEDED:

Boxes of crayons with 24 colors, glue sticks, boxes of #2 pencils, boxes of Kleenex, 3 ring binders, plastic school folders, black dry erase markers, scissors, (for younger and older children, and boxes of regular colored markers. (I believe they come in boxes of 8 colors). Finally a donation of a new stocking hat, pair of gloves or mittens would be wonderful. (Hand-made mittens and hats are ok, as long as they are new).



MALTA / AREA MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN CURRENTLY SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Almburg, Brett
Bakken, Benjamin P.
Bakken, Monique
Barclay, Kendra
Builta, Andy
Clark, Ben
Clark, Kerry
Howe, Chase
Hoyle, Steve
Brett Johnson & Mrs.
Samantha Johnson
Madsen, Jeff

Nelson, Michael Norman, Jacob Page, Greg Peterson, Eric Ritter, Matt Swink, Ashley West, Jonathon M. West, Lawrence R. Wilson, Kim Woodyatt, John M. Yedinak, Pete



Send Cards & Letters (anytime) to the Troops,Send them to:

Support Our Troops 13791 N. Nebraska Avenue Tampa, FL 33613.



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CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS:

Next meeting is Monday, April 12th Finance at 7 p.m. / CC at 7:30 p.m.

Church Council Committee:

Pastor Jeremiah Thompson Church Council Chair: Ed Cheek Secretary of CC: Sue Augustine Church Finance: Bill Augustine Church Treasure: Kevin McArtor Lay Leader Delegate: Jodi Slade

Alternate Lay Delegate: Mary Lynn McArtor

Church Education: Kitty Jouris

Ruth Hueber

Church Financial Secretary: Nancy Plote

***Send all monies & donations for the

church to Nancy Plote at

411 S. Malta Road, Malta, IL 60150



Church Council Chair: Ed Cheek Board of Trustees Chair: Tom Plote

Committee of Finance & Stewardship Chair:

Bill AugustIne

Staff, Pastor & Parish Relations Chair:

Marcia Hueber

Worship Ministries Chair: Jodi Slade

Mission & Outreach Chair: Mary Lynn McArtor

Christian Education Chair: Kitty Jouris Membership Care Chair: Sue Augustine Committee on Lay Leadership Chair:

Pastor Jeremiah

Committee on Records & History Chair:

Marilyn Berg

If you are interested in joining one of these groups, please contact the Chair. They would love to hear from you!



SO JESUS, HAVE YOU MADE ANY PLANS FOR EASTER YET?



MISSION TRIP
SCHEDULED

MIDWESTMISSION

DISTRIBUTION CENTER

FOR Tuesday & Wednesday

May 11 & 12, 2021



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HADDY FASTED

A Mission Trip is scheduled for the 11th and 12th of May to the Midwest Mission
Distribution Center. Tentatively, we are going to be there for 2 days. It includes a tour of the facilities and 2-half days of volunteer services. A limited number of 10 adults will be allowed to go. We will organize car pools for 1 day or both days.

If you prefer to go 1 day and return the same day, check that box on the sign-up sheet. There will be a volunteer material fee to pay of \$6.

If you want to go both days, check that box. They will have a dorm room available with bunk beds for up to 10 people. The cost for the dorm room is \$40 per person for the night. There will also be a \$12 material fee for the 2 days. Hotels are also available, at your cost. We will leave to come home the 2nd day at noon.

Everyone will have to sign an Assumption of Risk, Waiver & Release From Liability Form and also a COVID-19 ADDENDUM Form to the Assumption of Risk and Waiver form. These forms CANNOT BE FILLED OUT UNTIL YOU GET THERE! A SAFETY POLICY FOR TEAMS form along with the other forms will be on the table in the narthex along with the Sign-up Sheet.

We will be delivering supplies also!

DEADLINE TO SIGN-UP: APRIL 12TH



	APRIL
2	Jaycee Mattis
4	Rev. Megan Thompson
6	Nevaeh Slayton
9	Ed Cheek
12	Harry Berg
14	Paul Augustine
18	Gabbie Engstrom,
	Danielle Rempfer
22	Peyton Madsen
25	Kitty Jouris
27	Jennie Madsen

Spring is finally here
as April comes along,
flowers blooming bright
and birds sing out their song.
A birthday wish for you
for blue skies up above
and may your days be filled
with family, friends and love.



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2021 RAINBOW COVENANT

"Giving Apportionments" and how your Giving Apportionments are spent.....

What is Connectional Giving?

Connectional Giving is just what the name implies. As a connected church – the word united is in our very name – we work together to accomplish what could never be done on our own. People today want to know where their gifts go and how the money is managed. When United Methodist give to the church, we have a structure and process that demands the kind of strict accountability one would expect of gifts meant for God's work in the world. We have a careful process in which United Methodist general funds are apportioned to the conferences and churches. Other special funds come from those participating in Special Sunday Offerings and other second-mile initiatives.

After the general church budget is approved by General Council, the responsibility for raising these funds is divided among annual conferences based on a specific formula. Each annual and central conference, using its own formula, divides these requests, along with conference and administrative fund requests, among its local churches.

In the past, central conferences have supported the Episcopal Fund through their giving. In 2016, the General Conference approved central conference apport-ionments that will be paid toward the General Administration Fund, Episcopal Fund and World Service Fund. In addition, local churches, districts and annual and central conferences may make monetary gifts to the designated funds and support mission and ministry of special significance to them. Together, apportioned funds and designated funds represent our con-nectional giving. By combining several small gifts into a larger amount, we can truly effect transformation around the world. We can do more, in the name of Jesus Christ.

APPORTIONED FUNDS

World Service Fund

The World Service Fund is the financial lifeline for core ministries of the United Methodist Church. The 2016 Discipline says that it represents the minimum needs of our general agencies, thus local churches and conferences should regard payment in full as the first benevolent responsibility of the church (Paragraph 812).

The following are just a few of the ministries supported by World Service contributions: building new churches, preparing clergy and lay leaders, increasing the number of young clergy, paying missionary salaries, expanding Bible studies, providing leadership for youth ministry, continuing our proud tradition of cooperation and dialogue wih other faith traditions, expressing the church's commitment to God's reign through advocacy for



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peace and justice, encouraging church growth and discipleship, providing theological education for students in central conferences and helping God's children everywhere.

AFRICA UNIVERSITY FUND

This vital fund supports the first fully accredited United Methodist – related education institution on the African continent. It draws students from 25 African countries, providing higher education of excellent quality, enriched with Christian values. Africa University enrolls both women and men, develping visionary leads for Africa and the world. The university is located in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe. Programs include agriculture and natural resources, education, health sciences, humanities and social sciences, management and administration and theology. The Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance offers postgraduate diplomas and master's programs. Gifts to the fund support general operating expenses, including faculty and staff salaries and infrastructure. Other donations through World Service Special Gifts support scholarships and the endowment fund.



"CONNECTIONALISM"

The United Methodist Church is a connectional denomination. Unlike many independent

churches, or Baptists and other denominations, we are organized in a web of churches connecting us in our local area, state, nation, and world. I as your pastor believe deeply in connectionalism. It's part of why I wanted to be United Methodist and not something else. Connectionalism allows for two things that lead me to support it deeply: one, support for the local church, particularly in times of crisis, and two, it allows congregations to pool resources with others and engage in ministries that no local church (no matter how big) could on their own. There are three connectional matters currently that I want to share with you all as part of our congregation.



The first is that we are part of the "Hub Cluster." Our cluster consists of the churches in and around Rochelle. (Chana, Creston, Franklin Grove, Lee, Lighthouse, Reynolds, Steward, Malta & Rochelle UMC's) These congregations work together to raise money for missions, to hopefully, when we can (after the pandemic) organize a mission trip, and also to work together on worship services and other joint events. Much of this collaboration is done by the clergy, but each church is invited to have a lay representative to the cluster meetings as well. If any of you would be interested in this (the cluster meets maybe 6-8 times a year, via Zoom right now) please let me know. It would be wonderful for us to have a lay person as our representative and to bring back to our church what the cluster is doing and how we can help.



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Northern IL Conference

The second connection matter is our new District. In the interest of saving money and with the advantages and efficiency internet-based communication offers, the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is moving from having 6 districts to 5. Our new district will be called **Prairie South**, at least for now. Name changes have been suggested, but the district boundaries and churches in it will not change. Honestly, at Malta our new district wont' change much for us. It will be largely the churches that were formerly part of the DeKalb district. Some new churches, particularly around Morris, Illinois will be joining our district, as their old district is being dissolved. But to the best of my understanding, this change won't have a large impact on us. But we will as a district be working in partnership with some new churches.

The final connection issue I want to share with you is much more complicated and multilayered. I will try to cover it concisely. Due to differences in biblical interpretation, particularly in how literally one should understand scripture, and in reference to whether it is sinful or not to be Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, or Asexual (LGBTQIA.), there has been a great divide in the United Methodist Church in recent decades. Our Annual Conference (Northern Illinois) and many others have chosen to welcome LGBTQIA persons, saying they do not need to change their understood sexual or gender identity to be faithful followers of Christ or clergy. (Full disclosure this is

also where your pastor faithfully stands on the questions.) Others have taken the stance that anything other than being heterosexual and or celibate is sin, and in their mind and word take a more "orthodox" stand on other issues of biblical interpretation and theology. A group of people who take the second position, folks in the U.S. and other places, have stated they plan to start a new denomination soon. The Global Methodist Church is the name they have chosen. They seek to have the denomination break into to two pieces. Hopefully amicably, but at this time they claim they will break away soon, whether there is an agreement in place or not. (Also, full disclosure I disagree with their theological stands in many places and could not in good conscience be part of their denomination.) The Global Methodist Church is inviting clergy, congregations, and annual conferences to join them. You can read more about them on their website

https://www.globalmethodist.org/

When and if a split in the United Methodist Church into at least 2 new denominations will happen, I can't say. However, it is certainly possible that it could happen this year, and I will seek to keep you informed on the situation.

Related to this issue of a possible split is the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, which is the gathering of lay and clergy from all over the world which makes up the deciding body of our denomination. This body was to have met in Minneapolis in 2020, and then the pandemic struck, and there was no way to safely have the body meet. So the General conference was to be moved back to 2022, and there was to be



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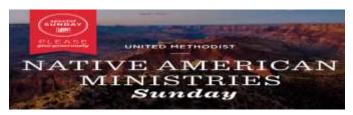
an online meeting in May this year to handle a few administrative matters (not including a possible split in the church.) However, the bishops of the UMC have decided not to try to have this short online meeting before the main conference in 2022. They have decided this primarily because in some parts of the world the internet needed for such an online event is not available to all the delegates who need to be part of the conference. Also, due to the 16-hour time difference between various members of the conference (we are a global church spread over, as I understand, at least 16 different time zones in this world) it was felt that it would not be possible to meet online. (Again, full disclosure, that makes sense to me. It's important delegates not be disenfranchised!)

So, at this time there won't be a general conference until 2022, and some of the people who want to form the Global Methodist Church may not want to wait till then to break away. We shall see what will happen. In the meantime, there is also discussion on whether or not there will be an election of bishops before 2022. Bishops are elected on a regional basis, so time differences are not much of an issue. For instance, in our jurisdiction (the North Central made up of the churches from Ohio to the Dakotas) there are three time zones, which makes an online meeting complex, but not impossible. The issue of bishop elections does have relevance to Malta. Currently because our former bishop was not allowed to serve beyond the end of her term, we have an interim bishop. If bishop elections happen, we would have a new permanent bishop elected later this year. If elections cannot happen, Bishop

Hopkins will remain our interim bishop through at least part of 2022. So again, there are some unknowns and I will pass on information to you as it becomes available.

If you have any questions, concerns, etc. about any of these connectional issue, please shoot me an email, castiger1@gmail.com or call or text me at (815) 592-3764. If you've already had your vaccine and it's been 2 weeks since your last dose, we could even meet face to face. I want to provide any information I can.

Blessings and Peace everyone! In Christ, Pastor Jeremiah



In the late 15th century, before regular contact between Europeans, Africans, and Native Americans, there were likely 10 million Native Americans living in what is now the U.S. (This is drawn from an average of estimates that range from around 2 million to around 18 million.) By 1890, the population of Native Americans in the U.S. was less than 300,000. A catastrophic drop regardless what number you start from. Many Native American nations had ceased to exist, their language and culture lost forever. Some of this disaster was caused by war and other acts of hostility. Such as seeking to cause famine for Native Peoples, or deliberately spreading disease among them. Many more Native Americans died



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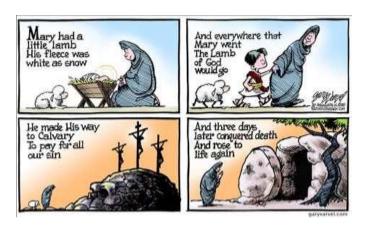
due to diseases from across the Atlantic, for which they had no immunity. Not unlike how Europeans died when they moved into tropical areas and frequently got sick. There were other struggles and cruelties inflicted on Native Americans. Particularly attempts to get them to change their culture, trying to coerce them into becoming Christians by withholding food from them, and forcing Native Americans onto reservations that frequently were on poor land where people could not make a good living.

Considering all the damage done to Native Americans by various European nations, the USA, Canada, Mexico, and others, the United Methodist Church remembers Native American Ministry Sunday each year. The history of the people called Methodists with Native Americans is complex. Some Methodists, even at personal cost in finances and risking threats to their lives, did much to help Native Americans seek justice. Seeing it as part of the call to love all out neighbors from Jesus. Other Methodists led militia units that slaughtered peaceful Native American villages; men, women, children, everyone regardless of age. In attempts to help bring healing and health to Native Americans the United Methodist Church has started many ministries in partnership with Native communities all over the U.S.

The special offering we will take on **April 18**, **Native American Ministries Sunday** this year, will go to support many types of ministries. Ministries such as schools, community centers, nutrition programs to help elders and children, and various public health initiatives. I (Pastor Jeremiah) encourage

you all to read more on the history of the various Native Americans in the U.S., particularly those histories written by Native Americans. Also, if you feel lead by the Holy Spirit, I hope you will join me in supporting this special offering on April 18. Finally, if you won't be in church that day, and want to support this offering you can simply send a check (or money) to the church or directly to Nancy Plote, Finance Secretary, at 411 S. Malta Road, Malta, IL and indicate that the money is for Native American Ministries Sunday.

God's Peace & Love,
Pastor Jeremiah



HAPPY EASTER

April 11th – Sunday after Easter, the Worship Service will on Facebook or YouTube. NO IN-CHURCH SERVICE OR ZOOM that Sunday. Pastor Jeremiah will be on a Vacation Day.2



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TUESD

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HADDY EASTER







SUNDAY	MONDAY	AY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 MAUNDY THURSDAY	2 GOOD FRIDAY Worship Service at 7PM at MUMC	3 HOLY WEEK
9 A.M. In-church Worship or Zoom	5	6	7 Prayer Group 7:00pm	8 4H 6:30 p.m.	9	10
11 NO IN-Church WORSHIP SERVICE ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE Only Pastor -Vacation Day	12 Church Council 7:30pm Finance Comm. 7:00pm	13	14 Prayer Group 7:00pm	15	16	17
18 3 rd Sunday of Easter Special Offering for "Native American Ministries"	19	20	21 Prayer Group 7:00pm	22 Happy Earth Day	23	24
25 4 th Sunday of Easter	26	27	28 Prayer Group 7:00pm	29	30 MATIONAL ARBOR DAY	



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Malta UMC (815) 825-2118

maltaunitedmethodistchurch@ outlook.com

Rev. Jeremiah Thompson, Pastor Vicke Heins, Adm. Assistant Mon – Wed – Thurs 8-Noon.



Keep Informed on:

Maltaumc.org and

Facebook:

Malta United Method ist Church



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