



## EVERY SEASON IS A NEW SEASON

Though it may be a bit chilly out, spring has arrived! Peek out your door, and you will see the signs; the daffodils are awakening from their winter slumber, the leaves are beginning to spring forth, and the grass is getting greener and greener. Spring always brings with it a feeling of excitement for me, as if everything is new, reborn...it always feels like a second chance, or a fresh start, and an opportunity to change. I don't think it's a coincidence that the Crucifixion and Resurrection took place in the spring...a season of both rebirth and change. You see the Crucifixion and Resurrection are all about rebirth and change. Every man and woman on the face of the earth is born with a death sentence, and every man and woman is in need of a second chance, or a rebirth. The problem of sin which is our birthright condemned us to separation from God and certain death. But, God had a plan, from the beginning of time to rescue sinners from their fate; Jesus Christ. Jesus lived and breathed and walked this earth in perfect submission to His Father. He died on a cross, so that our sins could be forgiven. He was the perfect sacrifice for those sins. Those who believe that Jesus Christ died for their sins will be saved, but the story doesn't end there. Those who are saved are born again. The bible says that they are a "new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17) ...and that old things have passed away. This means we have changed. Part of the "story" of Christianity is that we change. There are seasons of dormancy, just as we see in the winter months, where there are no visible signs of growth, but then spring comes and life seems to be bursting all over the place. Those fruitful months would not be possible without those months of quiet, because as always God is working behind the scenes. Growth and change goes hand in hand with our lives in Christ. Life in nature is a cycle, there is the season of new life, there is the season of bearing fruit, there is the season of harvesting the fruit, and there is the season of dormancy. This is so true to our lives as believers... every season is a new season, and every season brings about change. This is good, because it keeps us from getting stagnant and stale, but it can also be scary and uncertain.

I can assure you that no matter what season you are in, God is working in ways you cannot imagine. He is the God who created you, loved you before you knew who he was, and He is the one who sent his son to pay the price for your sins. He is there, and listens to your prayers.

He will walk with you through the changes.

And speaking of changes....we are about to begin a new worship series *R to the 4<sup>th</sup> Power*.

The power of rest! I will be preaching to the choir....or the pastor! But I think we will all benefit to hear what scripture says about the benefit of the Sabbath.

Please plan to be there, and bring a friend...remember this is the easiest form of evangelism!

Invite a friend to church and let the love of Christ and the word of scripture do the rest!

## Bluegrass is Friday, April 6, 7:00-10:00

Come join us for great entertainment. Watch three different performances on stage at 7:00, 8:00 and 9:00. Make new friends and feel free to sing along! The Blue Ridge Kitchen Special for April is Chicken and Noodles, more like stew than soup. The dessert special is Cherry Cheese Cobbler. Hot dogs and polish sausage and chili will be available as well.

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## UMW Keeps Busy in April

The UMW Unit Meeting will be held at 10:00 on April 11. Marilyn Yorke will give the program and Priscilla Circle will host the lunch at 12:00 in the dining room.

Priscilla Circle will play bingo at 10:00 on April 18 then go to lunch at the The Pizza Ranch.

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## Hospitality Impact

Welcoming people and connecting people to the life of the church is a team effort. Hospitality is a willingness to share, with discernment, what God has given us, including our family, home, finances, and food. It is an attitude of stewardship, where we do not own anything because we are merely the caretaker for the real owner, God. He desires that we share His stuff and His love, and we comply out of reverence and gratitude to Him. In relationships, it is honoring the boundaries of others, and sharing all we have without strings attached. In the church, it is to be welcoming, regardless how we may feel. A positive example is in Acts 16: 14-15 when Lydia opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. After she was baptized she invited Paul to stay in her home. *Implementing Hospitality by Dr. Richard J. Krejcir*

As Pastor Anchul has communicated on Sunday mornings, our "Missions Spot" has moved into the large coat closet. It is easily accessible, but if you need help, please ask someone at the Welcome Center. We would be glad to help out.

We are happy to announce that there are now weekly Greeter Teams and Connectors that are ready to go.

If you would like to be a substitute greeter to help out, please tell Donna or Barbara. Thank you to all who have stepped up and have served in this capacity in the past.

The clipboards will no longer be passed in the sanctuary. If you would like to share snacks on Sunday mornings, please sign up at the Welcome Center. Thank you. - Donna Teachman 358-0752 and Barbara McCready 582-1495

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## REAP, Mother's Refuge and EVening Circle Extend Thanks

The EVening Circle would like to thank everyone for their donations of diapers and wipes. The much appreciated delivery was made to Mother's Refuge and R.E.A.P. There were 438 diapers and 1688 wipes delivered! Watch for more information in upcoming bulletins for another collection in May. Thanks to you all! Parents should never have to choose between food and diapers. - Karen Johnson

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## Reserve Your Altar Flowers

If you did not get to see the Easter display of flowers on Easter Sunday, you missed a colorful table full of flowers to celebrate the Risen Christ. So many of you gave flowers to brighten up the Altar Table with honoring family and friends, and in memory of those who will be missed around the tables. I do not have a green thumb so have given up on growing flowers myself, but I do take joy in decorating the altar with the flowers for the holidays here at the church. Thank you for helping bring light and joy for me and so many others who need a little brightness in their day.

On another note, we have a lot of openings for Altar flowers for the church on the bulletin by the office. We just need your name and number, and I will call you to ask what you want to be said in the Sunday bulletin, what color and kind of flowers you would like. They are still \$40.00 and you may take them home after service. I know the chancel is a bit crowded sometimes, but any of the ushers or myself will be happy to get them down for you to take home after service. Again, thank you for all you do to brighten the Sunday morning service and often someone's day. - Sue Klotz

## New Books in the Library

The 2018 UMW books are now on the shelf in the library. You can find their books on the first shelf next to the desk. They can read books from 2013 through 2018. Even if you are not a member of UMW, you will find some excellent reading material on their shelf. The books range from fiction, to stories about great leaders, to advice on how to strengthen your faith, to true stories about people who sacrificed much. If you have questions please call Charlotte Robinson at 353-4946.

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## Golden Key to Eat Out

Golden Key will go out to eat at Perkin's on April 12 at 12:00 noon. Perkin's is just east of the Walmart on 39th street.

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## End Plastic Pollution

Plastic pollution is one of the most important environmental problems that we face today. It impacts the environment and our health and wellbeing. We have all contributed to this problem – mostly unknowingly – and we must work to reduce and ultimately to *End Plastic Pollution*.

After decades of producing trillions of oil-based plastic items, the negative consequences are startling. Plastic pollution is now recognized as a hazard to public health and the human body. Correlations have been shown between levels of some of chemicals leached from some plastics, and an increased risk of problems such as chromosomal and reproductive system abnormalities, impaired brain and neurological functions, cancer, cardiovascular system damage, adult-onset diabetes, early puberty, obesity and resistance to chemotherapy.

### What can I (you) do?

**Reduce** – It’s time for you to start cutting out that plastic. As consumers, we can’t only be responsible for what happens to products at the end of their lifecycle, we have to be responsible for which products we purchase in the first place. Ask yourself: Do I need it? (Do you really need a plastic straw to drink water?) Can I use something else? (Many of the most commonly disposed of plastic products have viable alternatives.

**Refuse** – When ordering a drink tell the waiter that you don’t want a straw. Take a cloth or mesh bags to carry groceries or other purchases. Select products without plastic packaging. When going clothes shopping, it is best to avoid fabrics with plastic microfibers such as nylon and polyester. Or check ways to collect the fibers in your washing machine.

**Reuse** – You can buy reusable mesh bags or canvas shopping bags for groceries or other shopping items. Donate old clothes, toys, electronics, furniture or other items instead of throwing them away. Try washable reusable diapers instead of disposable ones. Get a reusable water bottle instead of buying plastic ones. Use dishes, glasses, and metal silverware instead of their plastic counterparts.

**Recycle** – Recycling produces environmental and economic benefits. It reduces energy consumption and the need for new material to be used while slowing the rate of resource depletion. It decreases pollution from industrial waste and limits the amount of waste sent to the landfill.

**Remove** – The best way you can help the effort to remove plastic pollution from our environment is to support some of the great organizations working right now on that very issue. You can be apart picking up trash around where you live, work, or worship. The other side of the equation is the demand for recycled plastic products. If consumers demand the products they buy come from 100% recycled materials, there will be increased incentive for businesses to remove the plastic from the environment. ***This and more information from [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org)***

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## Save Your Prescription Bottles, Keys and Pop Tabs

The mission projects for April are collecting empty prescription bottles (labels removed, please) for Doctors Without Borders. We’ll also be collecting pop can tabs and old keys for Ronald McDonald House. The keys will be delivered to the Ronald McDonald House and will be recycled at Advantage Metals, their participating recycler. The money raised from the recycling project will go to House operations to help the families who stay at the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Kansas City.

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## Join Our Book Club!

We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month in the church Library. Join us!

Date	Book Title	Discussion Leader
April 19	<i>Small Great Things</i> by Jodi Picoult	Sue Klotz
May 17	<i>Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society</i> by Mary Ann Shaffer	Jane Wilkes
June 21	<i>Looking For Me</i> by Beth Hoffman	Margaret Tilly
July 19	<i>Glory Over Everything - Beyond the Kitchen House</i> by Kathleen Grisson	Darcy Munzer
August 16	<i>Magpie Murders</i> by Anthon Horowitz	Diane Decker
September 20	<i>The Mocking Bird Next Door</i> by Marja Mills	Charlotte Robinson
October 18	<i>Age of Innocence</i> by Edith Wharton	TBD
November 15	<i>OK For Now</i> by Gary D. Schmidt	Margaret Strader

# The Parable of the Incline

by Missy Marcella

In a time called spring break, there was a woman and her daughter who had traveled a long way to the land of Colorado. In this land were many mountains and many trails designed for hiking. The woman and the daughter had decided to hike the mountains, breath the fresh air, and soak in the peace and beauty of God.

Now the daughter was an idealist; she set lofty goals, so lofty that some might call them visions of grandeur. She didn't think about the details or the step by step plan; she just dreamed the dream and believed. She didn't let the naysayers get in her way; she didn't let fear stop her; she didn't wait to outline directions. She just picked out the steepest, most difficult trail in the land and decided to take one step after the other.

Now the mother wasn't so sure about this plan, or this "lack of plan". She knew she wasn't prepared. She knew she hadn't been working out consistently. She knew the trail, known as The Incline, had 3000 steps set at a 60-68 degree incline and ,needless to say, she knew it would be more than a challenge, maybe even impossible. She knew that the air was thin at these elevations, and her lungs and legs were probably not ready. She could feel the anxiety and fear setting in her bones, but the urging of her daughter rang in her ears.



"We can do this mom!"

"Slow and steady"

"We'll be together to encourage each other."

"Come on!"

So, the mother and the daughter started climbing the uneven railroad ties that seemed to disappear into the sky. At first, the steps were fairly even and the slope wasn't too bad. The two girls seemed to speed up, stride after stride. But after a few minutes, the pace slowed down, and the steps seemed to get higher and higher. Huffing and puffing with forceful gasps, the girls no longer took breathing for granted. Their legs and lungs needed a break, so they stopped and looked at their progress. The daughter, being the main cheerleader, commented on how high they already were. The mother thought about how foolish this hike was and how far they still had to go. This pattern continued until the two climbers reached the 2000 step mark. They had climbed a little, rested, climbed a little more, caught their breath, climbed a little more, took in the view, and now they were tired - really tired.

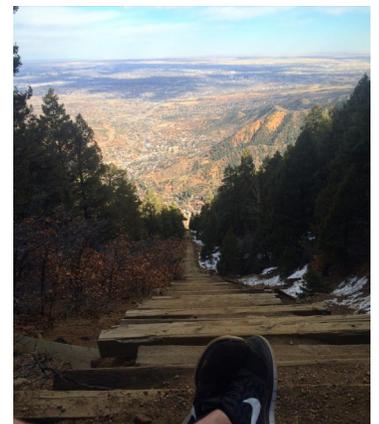
The daughter turned to her mother and with a look of exhaustion, said, "I'm not sure this was such a good idea." At that point the mother turned to her daughter and placing a hand on her shoulder said, "Look out there! Look how far we have made it! I'm in awe of your vision, and look at our reward. We are going to make it. Slow and steady. We can do this - just follow me!"

A few minutes later, the two hikers took the last step, turned around to look at the expansive view of the world below them, saw their accomplishment, and felt a joy and peace like no other. They made it - together.

Just like the hikers, we need each other. Working in God's Kingdom, sharing His Word, and connecting people along the Way is not for sissies. Just like the daughter, our vision of God's love provides the fuel for our actions, but like the mother, we are sometimes hampered by our fears and our anxieties. We need to encourage each other and hold each other accountable to the vision all along the journey.

Sometimes, like the mother, we don't even think the vision is possible. We don't believe that things can be different. We don't know we can make a difference. We don't fully believe. In our minds, we know that anything is possible with God, and we're told of the power of prayer. But, do we believe enough to take a chance? To be uncomfortable? To not worry about the steps so that we can be immersed in the brilliance and majesty of God's plan for us? We aren't in this alone. We are a community of believers. We are the body of Christ, and as God's children, we are called to step out into the world to share His Love.

I know for now, this mother is glad she took the first step.



## Church Board News – March 2018

The Church board met on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Sandy McConnell shared a devotional titled “The Beauty of Simplicity.” The short passage delivers an important message about worry. Worrying over all the tiny details in our lives isn’t going to get us anywhere and, more importantly, can be considered a lack of trust in God because we don’t have faith that he will provide for our needs in our day-to-day lives. The article urges us not to get caught up in the minutiae of our days and instead focus on all the positive things that God has provided for us.

### Spiritual Development

The board took some time to share some of their faith experiences and challenges from the past month.

### Pastoral Topics

Pastor Anchul brought a number of issues to the board’s attention this month. First, the church will be hosting a church security conference in the fellowship hall on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The conference will stress the importance of security within the church with a focus on active shooter situations and how to deal with them should the need arise. Approximately 100 churches will be invited.

Anchul also brought forth the suggestion that the church might open a day care service like we have had in the past. Ideally, this day care could be fully self-sustaining if it makes enough money for itself and it might be a good way to get more people interested in attending church for themselves. However, concerns were raised that the church facilities might not meet the state requirements for everything a day care would need. This topic was tabled for later as the feasibility of the project is still in question.

Lastly, the board explored some options for replacing the big sign in front of the church. Ideally, the board would be looking for something that the church could change the message on repeatedly, but city regulations make that difficult to obtain. More on this to come in the future as the kinks are ironed out.

### Generosity and Budget Topics

Marge Fredrickson presented the financial reports for both January and February of 2018. January was a strong month for the church, posting a \$2000 income overall. February, however, was not so fortunate, reporting a \$1000 loss. This puts the church with a total income of almost \$800 for the year so far, with January’s successes cushioning February’s failings. The church is still performing better than budgeted for this year.

	YTD January 2018	2018 Budget
Total Income	\$20,771	\$20,858
Total Expenses	\$18,379	\$21,553
Net Ordinary Income	\$2,392	-\$695

	YTD February 2018	2018 Budget
Total Income	\$39,088	\$41,716
Total Expenses	\$38,316	\$43,107
Net Ordinary Income	\$771	-\$1,390

### Trustees

- Dwight Robinson reported on the repair work proposed for the children’s wing bathrooms in the last board meeting. The repairs have been completed without incident at a reasonable price.

### Other Business

- A hospitality team is being put together led by Donna Teachman. The team will handle greeting people on Sunday mornings as they come in and leave, among other things. The possibility for nursery services being provided during Sunday services were explored as well.
- The next board meeting will take place on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:30 PM. - Tony Marcella, Board Secretary

Blue Ridge Church  
5055 Blue Ridge Blvd.  
KCMO 64133

### **BLUE RIDGE CHURCH**

5055 Blue Ridge Blvd.,  
Kansas City, MO 64133

Tuesday -Thursday 9:00am - 4:00pm  
Sunday Worship 9:30am

#### **Website:**

[www.BlueRidgeChurch.org](http://www.BlueRidgeChurch.org)

#### **Facebook:**

[Blue Ridge Church](#)

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## **BOY SCOUT TROOP 269 ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST SATURDAY, APRIL 7**

Boy Scout Troop 269 will have their annual pancake breakfast on Saturday, April 7. Come and enjoy all you can eat pancakes and sausage with juice and coffee for \$6.00 from 7:00-11:00 am. Tickets will be available at the door.



### **WEEKLY FACEBOOK CHALLENGE**



Go to the Blue Ridge Church page and hit "like". Then every Tuesday and Thursday evening go to our page and **like** and **share** the most recent posts. There will be two new posts each week. If you don't have a facebook account we encourage you to create one. Stop by the church office on any Tuesday and we'll help you set one up. The easiest way in the world to reach folks! Isn't technology great?