

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

885 Maben Ave., Garner, IA 50438

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Rev. Kristin W. Peters



Celebration of Baptism

Kasper Lee Casey

Cohen Jeffrey Smuck

*GUMC is a community of ordinary people seeking to put into practice
the extraordinary love of God.*

United Methodist Church

March 31, 2024 – 10:15 a.m. – Easter Sunday

*Welcome, everyone! Whether you are a member, a friend, or a visitor,
we are glad you are here!*

*Please stand as able

JOYS AND CONCERNS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP** adapted from Ann Siddall

Debra Hill

L: We are not eyewitnesses to an event, as were Mary and the disciples;
we have not journeyed through a dangerous city to seek answers or consolation;
we have not seen angels gathering at the rim of this day,
or wept in the garden this morning because we could not find Him.

**P: But we are here to attest to a story that has not lost its power
during twenty centuries of change and conflict.**

**We are here because those before us carried this story
as if it were precious gold;
cherished it as if it were the key to a hidden wisdom.**

L: Siblings in Christ, take your places here today in celebration and in awe.
What you are about to hear again,
has the capacity to change the world.
Your very presence attests to the rising up of life from the tomb of despair,
and to the uncontrollable power of God.

P: It is Easter morning again: and we will celebrate.

***OPENING HYMN: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"**

UMH #302

***DIVING DEEPER LITURGY: INTO HOPE**

Debra Hill

***OPENING PRAYER** by Christine Jarrett

Debra Hill

"Christ is risen!"

"He is risen indeed!"

**We repeat our Easter shouts of
surprise and joy
again and again,
for news of your victory
over powers of death and evil
is news so startling,
so amazing,**

so different from the news that bombards us day by day.

Beyond our comprehension
You startle us again and again
with resurrection Life,
bringing grace and hope and joy.

You, in your risen power,
are shaping all our days,
and so we praise you,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

BAPTISM: Kasper Lee Casey and Cohen Jeffrey Smuck
TRANSFER OF MEMEBERSHIP: Lora Brown

Rev. Kristin W. Peters

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

HYMN: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing," v. 1

UMH #400

*Hymn is sung as parents Nelson and Kylie Casey and Derek and Morgan Smuck
and sponsors Braden and Haley Meints and Chase Schilling, Natalee Dippel,
and Andrew Smuck are invited to come forward with
Kasper and Cohen behind the baptismal font.*

Pastor: Siblings in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Robin Sweers, Lay Leader: I present Kasper Casey and Cohen Smuck for baptism and Lora Brown for transfer of membership.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

The pastor addresses parents and other sponsors:

Pastor: On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

Parents and Sponsors: I do.

Pastor: Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

Parents and Sponsors: I do.

Pastor: Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

Parents and Sponsors: I do.

Pastor: Will you nurture Kasper and Cohen in Christ's holy Church, that by your teaching and example they may be guided to accept God's grace for themselves, to profess their faith openly, and to lead a Christian life?

Parents and Sponsors: I will.

The pastor addresses the congregation:

Pastor: Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

Congregation: We do.

Pastor: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Kasper and Cohen now before you in your care?

Congregation: With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Kasper and Cohen with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

Pastor: Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Do you believe in God the Father?

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

All: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Robin will pour water into the font.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Join me in prayer.

Eternal Parent: When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised. In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and those who receive it, to wash away their sin and clothe them in righteousness throughout their lives, that, dying and being raised with Christ, they may share in his final victory. All praise to you, Creative God, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. Amen.

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

Pastor: Kasper, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pastor: Cohen, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pastor: Now it is our joy to welcome our new children in Christ.

All: Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as a member of the family of Christ.

Kasper and Cohen will be introduced to their new church family.

RECEPTION INTO THE LOCAL CONGREGATION

Pastor invites Lora Brown to come forward.

Pastor: As a member of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

Lora Brown: I will.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Pastor: Members of the household of God, I commend Kasper Casey, Cohen Smuck, and Lora Brown to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

Congregation: We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Pastor: The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

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HYMN: "Easter People, Raise Your Voices"

UMH #304

Children will collect and present quarters.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Peters

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Peters

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Rev. Peters

***DOXOLOGY:** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH #94

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** by UMC Discipleship Ministries

Rev. Peters

God of the victory of life over death; on this glorious Easter Sunday, we rejoice in the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. Just as the women encountered the empty tomb and the angelic message of new life, we too encounter the living Christ in our hearts and lives. As we come to present our tithes and offerings, may they be an affirmation of our search for the risen Christ, the one who challenges us to see beyond our own expectations. Bless our giving and help us discover the transformative power of the living Jesus in our lives. In the holy name of our risen Savior, we pray. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: "An Easter Cry of Praise"

Pamela Stewart/Joel Raney

***HEARING GOD'S WORD:** Mark 16:1-8

Debra Hill

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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MESSAGE: Diving Deeper into Hope
MOMENT OF MEDITATION

Rev. Peters

BLESSING OF THE ELEMENTS

Rev. Peters

***HYMN: "Thine Be the Glory"**

UMH #308

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Peters

***SUNG PASSING OF THE PEACE: "As We Go"**

Composed by Jeremy Johnson

As we go, may your spirit go before us.

As we go, may we follow where You lead.

May we live what we have learned,

share the message we have heard,

and be a light unto the world as we go.

All share a greeting of peace as you exit the Sanctuary.

POSTLUDE

COMMUNION AT THE ALTAR FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO PARTAKE

SERVING AT GUMC TODAY

Officiant: Rev. Kristin W. Peters

Worship Leader: Debra Hill

Organist and Choir Director/Pianist: Myra Bowman

Ushers: Rick and Diane Gilbert

Hospitality (**at 9 a.m.**): Maurene House, Jeff and Carrie Omans

Tech: Jill Blank, Stan Isvik, Kevin Sweers, Jody East, Steve East, Beth Myers,

Ruth Legge, and/or John Bowman

SERVING AT GUMC NEXT SUNDAY (APRIL 7)

Ushers: Paul Nelson and Gary Thoms

Hospitality: Mark and Carrie Ricke

Worship Leader: Robin Sweers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please email your joys and concerns to Pastor Kristin at pastorkristingumc@gmail.com if you'd like them included in morning worship.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Monday, April 1	9-11 a.m., God's Pantry
Tuesday, April 2	1-4 p.m., Comfort Quilters 4-6 p.m., Mobile Iowa Food Bank 4:15 p.m., Old Testament Bible Study
Wednesday, April 3	7 p.m., Choir
Thursday, April 4	4-6 p.m., God's Pantry
Sunday, April 7	9 a.m., Adult and Youth Sunday School 10:15 a.m., Worship with Communion During the Service 11:15 a.m., Fellowship 2 p.m., GriefShare (Fireside Room)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday, April 1	5:30 p.m., Sarah Circle 6 p.m., United Methodist Men (UMM)
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ROOF (The Flat "L"): Cost: \$84,000; Raised: \$38,296; Still Needed: \$45,704
(Designate Roof on the memo line of your check.)

LENTEN QUARTERS: Jubilee Water Project

WELCOME: We welcome Kasper Casey, son of Nelson and Kylie Casey, and Cohen Smuck, son of Derek and Morgan Smuck, through baptism today as well as Lora Brown through transfer of membership. May the Lord richly bless and keep them all, today and always. Kasper's sponsors are Braden and Haley Meints, and Cohen's sponsors are Chase Schilling, Natalee Dippel, and Andrew Smuck.

EASTER FLOWERS: Thanks to all those who donated flowers to beautify the Sanctuary this morning. Please remember to take your flower(s) home with you after the service today. Deb Hill has a list of flowers purchased (name and kind) if you aren't sure what you donated. If you don't want yours, please let Deb know; we can share them with others.

EARL BESHEY DESSERT AUCTION & BAKE SALE: Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 14, when the United Methodist Men will sponsor the Earl Beshey Dessert Auction & Bake Sale. A light lunch of sloppy joes, baked beans, chips, and a drink will be served after worship, and the auction of desserts will then be held. Additionally, a bake sale will be included with pre-priced homemade goodies you can purchase to enjoy that day or to take home. All proceeds from the sale will go to the Building Stewardship Fund to help with the roof replacement.

DESSERTS NEEDED: A sign-up sheet is in the lobby for donations of desserts to be auctioned off as well as goodies to be sold as part of the bake sale. If you're donating bake sale items, please mark those with a price. Items will still be accepted on Sunday, April 14, if you don't have a chance to sign up.

LADIES TEA: SMILE (Single Moms in a Loving Environment) is hosting a fundraising event, SMILE: Ladies Tea, on Saturday, April 6, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Woden Christian Reformed Church. Check out the flyer on the bulletin board or grab an individual invitation from the lobby table for more information including cost and how to register.

WANTED: Plastic bags and aluminum can tabs; place them in the totes under the coat rack (bags) or the jug outside the offices (tabs).

BLOOD DRIVE: LifeServe will hold a blood drive here on Tuesday April 16, from 1-6 p.m. Text LIFESERVE to 999-777, visit lifeservebloodcenter.org, or call 800-287-4903 to make an appointment.

Easter Flower Donations - 2024

**Thanks to those who donated flowers to beautify the church this Easter morning.
Please take your flower(s) home after the service today.**

In Memory of Our Parents

by Bob and Janet Abele

In Memory of My Parents, My Brother, and My Grandson

by Tally Albertson

In Memory of J.D. Andrews

by Mary Andrews

In Memory of Earl Beshey and Don and June Beshey

by Terri Beshey

In Memory of Lloyd and Betty De Jong and Burdette and Annabelle Bowman

by John and Myra Bowman

In Memory of Jack Brown

by Pearl Brown and Lora Brown

In Memory of Charlene East

by Steve and Jody East

In Memory of Whip and Darlene Schmidt and Leo and Mary Formanek

by Randy, Chris, Ashley, and Chelsey Formanek

In Honor of Our Parents

by Wayne and Judy Fox

In Memory of Our Parents and Our Brothers

by Rick and Diane Gilbert

In Memory of Those We Have Loved and Lost

by Jim and Deb Hill

In Honor of the Hiscocks Family

by Melodie Hiscocks

In Memory of Chuck House
by Maurene House

In Memory of LeRoy and Bette Miller and Ernest and Doris Hovda
by Ted and Susan Hovda

**In Memory of Sheri's Parents, Clarence and Isabelle Ralston; Stan's Parents, Sterling and LeNora Isvik;
and Grandson Evan Grabko**
by Stan and Sheri Isvik

In Memory of Parker and Jass Family
by Doug and Marilyn Jass

In Honor of Jan Tjaden and In Memory of Fern Tack
by Scott and Renée Kramer

In Memory of Sue, Jim, and Mike Legge
by Rob and Ruth Legge

In Memory of Monte McClintock
by Joyce McClintock

In Memory of Our Parents
by Paul and Nancy Nelson

In Memory of John and Carol Omans
by Jeff and Carrie Omans and Family

In Memory of Nash, John Wolf, Wanda England, and Louise McConnell
by Rev. Kristin Peters

In Memory of Russell Schubert
by Cindy Schubert

In Memory of Nancy Smith
by Kenneth Smith

In Memory of Bennie and Mary Rose Sweers
by Jan Sweers

In Memory of Phil Sweers, Rev. Mike Shaffer, and Steve Eisenman
by Robin Sweers and Kevin Sweers

In Memory of Jim and Charlotte Trulson and Jim and Doris Smith
by Pat and Deb Trulson

To the Glory of God
by Russ and Barb Trulson