

SHOUT THE NEWS



In April, as the earth itself seems to breathe again with new life, we find ourselves living in the long, unfolding light of Easter. Resurrection is not only a moment we celebrate but a reality we practice. Budding trees and emerging blossoms quietly testify that what appeared dormant or lost is still held in God's renewing care. While our national life can feel strained by division, uncertainty, and competing fears, Easter's witness calls us back to the steady work of hope. We are invited to embody the Enduring Principles of Worth of All Persons and Sacredness of Creation, noticing both the dignity of our neighbors and the healing rhythms of the world around us.

As we move toward Pentecost, now is the season of becoming. The Spirit is not waiting for ideal conditions but is already stirring among us, urging communities toward Unity in Diversity and courageous acts of Responsible Choice. We may not resolve every tension we face, but we can choose how we show up in their midst, with compassion instead of contempt, with curiosity instead of fear. Easter people live as if new life is truly possible now, tending small signs of renewal until they grow into something more. As Spring continues to unfold all around us, may we be attentive to where life is emerging, and faithful in joining God's quiet, persistent work of resurrection in our shared world.

Love and blessings,
Robin Linkhart, Mission Center President

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What Happened

APRIL RETREAT AT CAMP NAUVOO FEEDS HEARTS AND MINDS

What an awesome weekend filled with learning, deep sharing, laughing, singing, spiritual practices, worship, and more with new friends and old. A total of 58 people (including 15+ youth and young adults) attended some or all of the “Ministry and Mission with Younger Generations” retreat at Camp Nauvoo April 10-12. Another six folks joined our Sunday worship which featured testimonies from our guest ministers Tyler Marz, Humberto Tinsman, and Doug Roberts. These young men brought powerful ministry throughout our retreat.

Humberto kicked off Saturday’s first session. He emphasized how congregations can deepen connection and grow not by focusing on getting people into church, but by becoming meaningfully present in their communities. Rather than leading with programs or canvassing with invitation flyers, he encourages congregations to build authentic relationships by listening, showing up consistently, and partnering with local organizations, schools, and neighbors in shared work for the common good. This relational, trust-centered approach moves beyond transactional outreach toward mutuality, where the church both gives and receives, creating space for belonging before belief. Over time, these networks of connection naturally open pathways for spiritual conversation, shared mission, and deeper engagement with the life and message of the church.

In the *Spiritual Formation for All Ages* session, Tyler suggested that if we want to recognize what God is doing now, look to the youngest among us, not as future participants, but as present bearers of spiritual insight and life. Children, youth, and young adults are already deeply attuned to wonder, connection, and the sacred. Their questions, imagination, and compassion can shape the whole community. Spiritual formation is a shared, Spirit-led journey that we nurture together, not something reserved for adulthood. Communities that create space for curiosity, intergenerational connection, and diverse spiritual expressions become places where all ages grow, and where God’s movement is not just taught, but experienced and lived.

Doug’s afternoon session framed ministry through a practical theological lens as an ongoing rhythm of experience, reflection, study, and renewed action. Rather than beginning with strategy, he emphasizes discerning what God is already doing and asking what God is calling us to in our specific context. In this way, God’s agency always comes before our plans, and leadership becomes the work of noticing, joining, and participating in that divine movement. Faithful change, then, is not simply about effectiveness or function, but about alignment with mission, grounded in a deep theology of belonging, transformation, and sacred community. And *that* gives shape to Spirit-led, life-giving ministry.

In the last session participants were invited to take what they had learned and come up with something they could actually explore in their own contexts. The rest of the evening included a dynamic SPEC presentation, Panel Q & A with guest ministry, campfire with Humberto and Katie Mitchell, Teen Hangout with guest ministry, and a rousing cribbage game with the adults that went way past lights out.

Young adult Brady Brassfield, and first-time camper at Camp Nauvoo, shared this review on his Facebook page: I had an amazing experience at Nauvoo Campground with the Community of Christ church. I met some AMAZING people who were just so genuine. Uhhh friends for life now boys. I really can’t begin to explain the amount of Happiness that brought me. But it was exactly what I needed to set me in the direction I’ve been wanting to go! Meeting new peers, and mentors. I really can’t thank you enough Pat Reaves for that opportunity—memories I will never forget! I just wish someone would have got a video in our little play! I really did enjoy that! Being able to actually be a part of something is just so huge for me. And how can I forget the campfire songs. I have no excuse not to sing them now lmao! I’m just ready for this next chapter in life for me...nothing but love and good vibes for all.



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From Coralville: The windy, cold weather did not stop us from hosting our annual neighborhood egg hunt the day before Easter. Attendance was smaller than usual, but it was a Super Saturday! People enjoyed making crafts, face painting, snacks, a photo center, and visiting with friends. Every child could select a prize!



Holly, Maddie, Lorelai, Melissa, Megumi



Photo center



Lots of activities in the gym

Easter Sunday activities included breakfast, another egg hunt for anyone who is still in school (elementary through college ages) and a worship service that included communion with very beautiful music. Eiko Thompson was the pianist, and soloists were Karen Roberts on the violin and Sam Kinzer, vocals.

(These musical numbers were all part of our Easter Service on Sunday, but done by our own musicians.)

Love Crucified Arose

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VoRGixkuVsg>

“Resurrection”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0duJOnH500>

The Holy City

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIGJ_or0yRw

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Coming Up

CVNMC Reunion 2026

!Only 60 days left to register for 2026 CVNMC Reunion being held at Camp Nauvoo!

Please go online and register so plans for meals and housing can be made. Registration is on line at cvnmc.org or you can email or call Dawn Durgin. durgindawn74@gmail.com or call 217 453 9930

Evelyn Dustin is directing with the help of many others. The dates are June 20 to June 26.

Our guest minister is Apostle Richard James who is President of the Council of Twelve Apostles.

We encourage you to join us and enjoy a refreshing week of recreation, food, worship, time to make new friends and reconnect with longtime friends.

REUNION, FAMILY CAMP & YOUTH CAMPS

Don't forget to sign up early for the other camping opportunities in the Mission Center. Planners need to know how many are coming to be sure of the amount of food and material that will be needed. Consider volunteering.

Reunion & Family Camp: [Click here for more information and to register online!](#)

Youth Camps: [Click here for more information on the camps and to register online!](#)

Ft. Madison congregation will begin JAM FM (Jesus and Me) KIDS CLUB every week beginning on April 23rd from 4:00-5:30 for kids Kindergarten through 5th grade. There will be stories, games, food, crafts and chance to make new friends.

The Center for Innovation in Ministry and Mission (CIMM) through the Community of Christ and Graceland University Seminary announces the Christian Ministries and Ministry and Priesthood classes for Summer 2026 sessions.

May 4 – June 28, 2026

- CIMM0400 – Introduction to Scripture - \$25
- CIMM0450 – Children and Youth Worker Core Training - \$25
- *No Christian Ministry Certificate class*

June 29 – Aug. 23, 2026

- CIMM0307 – Ministry of the High Priest – Jenn Killpack - \$25
- CIMM0308 – Ministry of the Evangelist – M. Arnaud & K. Judd - \$25
- CIMM0450 – Children and Youth Worker Core Training (cont.) - \$25
- CIMM1150 – (Christian Ministries Certificate) Introduction to Hebrew Scriptures – Susan Oxley - \$100

Students can register by visiting our website at www.graceland.edu/cimm.

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From Cedar Rapids

Once each quarter we provide a dinner for the Willis Dady homeless shelter in Cedar Rapids. The next one is the last Sunday of April.

We will be having a fun activity at church April 26, with lunch and game time after church.



Prayer Requests

Barbara Lee Collins, Muscatine
Lynn Poplett, Burlington
Raymond Nehring, Fort Madison
Lee and Karen Ourth, Nauvoo
Tracey Chamness, Nauvoo
Steve DePriest, Fort Madison
Linda Hardy, Burlington
Ron Howell, Carthage
Jackson
Becky and Mike Will, Hannibal
Pat Lawson