
Murray Presbyterian Messenger

April 2018

Murray Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 196, Main Street Murray, NE 68409

www.murraypresbyterian.org Tel: (402)235-2754

Featured This Month: New Website!



Upcoming Events

March 29

7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service

April 1 **EASTER CELEBRATION**

8:30am Breakfast

9:00am Sunday School

10:00am Worship

11:00am Easter Egg Hunt

April 3

8:30am Breakfast Club, HyVee
Plattsmouth

April 4

1:00pm Afternoon Bible Study

April 19

Open Hearts Kitchen Volunteering

April 29

5:00-7:00 pm Open Door Mission All
church Service Project

In this Issue

Featured This Month p.1

Pastor's POV p.2

Worship Opportunities p.3

Christian Education: p.3-4

Church Life & Worship p.5

Mission & Outreach p.6

Page 1 of 6



[I'M NEW](#) [ABOUT US](#) [MINISTRIES](#) [OUTREACH](#) [MEDIA](#) [EVENTS](#) [CONTACT](#)

Celebrate Easter with us!
8:30 am Breakfast
9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Worship Celebration
11:00 am Easter Egg Hunt

Welcome to Murray Presbyterian Church

Bringing a message of hope . . .
to the village and beyond

On any given Sunday, folks from all over Eastern Cass County converge on a simple white church building in the middle of Murray, Nebraska to worship the Lord together and hear his Word for their lives. What was once a rural village church now serves the spiritual needs of people from surrounding towns, farming areas, and suburban subdivisions. They've all found there's something special here—a warm friendly atmosphere, lively worship, and solid biblical teaching. This is one of the oldest churches in the state of Nebraska—yet it continues to have a youthful vitality and vibrant ministry. We invite you to discover a little of what God is doing here through the pages of this website. Then visit us in person and see if this might be the spiritual home you've been looking for!

Murray Presbyterian Church, Murray, NE
(402)235-2754
www.murraypresbyterian.org

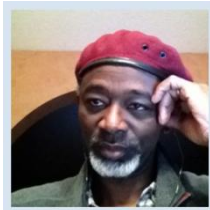


Pastor's Point of View

"Welcome to the revolution!" With those words, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School junior Cameron Kasky greeted hundreds of thousands of demonstrators who converged on Washington DC Palm Sunday weekend in the "March for Our Lives." Fellow Parkland student David Hogg likewise hailed this gun-control movement as "the birth of a revolution" that would represent "the beginning of democracy" in America. Regardless of what one thinks about their specific agenda, there's much to admire about this newly-minted crop of student activists. They're not the public policy savants fawning media portrayals make them out to be. But they are earnest, idealistic, and articulate. There are far worse things high schoolers could be doing besides starting a revolution.



Still, whenever the rhetoric of revolution starts filling the air, I'm reminded of the wise counsel my good friend, Dr. Ennis Barrington Edmonds gives to his students at Kenyon College in Ohio, where he chairs the Religious Studies Department. Like the MSD High students, many of Prof. Edmonds' students are bright, passionate, and fired up with revolutionary zeal. But he tells them, "If you ever start a revolution, you better hope you don't succeed." He says this, not out of any reactionary conservative tendencies. (Ennis has always been well to left of me politically.) Rather, he's a careful student of history—as well as a thoughtful



"If you ever start a revolution, you better hope you don't succeed."
Dr. Ennis Barrington Edmonds

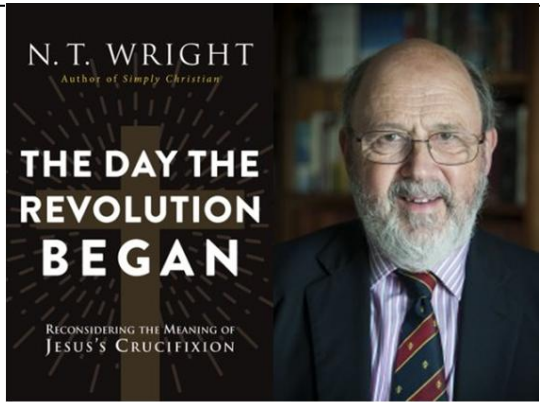
Christian. And he knows that humanly-orchestrated revolutions don't have a terribly good track record. Successful revolutionaries have a nasty tendency to morph into the very thing they rebelled against. As the old adage puts it, revolutions are like Saturn—they eat their own children.

(About the only exception to this general rule of thumb was the so-called American Revolution. But, it's sometimes been noted that this conflict is more aptly

characterized as a "War of Independence," rather than a revolution. More importantly, it was spearheaded by Presbyterians, whose Calvinistic view of human nature didn't allow them to trust anyone—including themselves—with too much unchecked power.)

Interestingly, just as this talk of revolution was heating up, I came across a relatively new book by the renowned New Testament scholar N. T. Wright entitled, *The Day the Revolution Began*. He's not talking about the March for Our Lives rally or some other rather obvious revolutionary event (like the storming of the Bastille). He's actually talking about an event we commemorate this week. Allow Bishop Wright to explain (in the opening paragraphs of the book): "When Jesus of Nazareth died the horrible death of crucifixion at the hands of the Roman army, nobody thought him a hero. His movement was over. Nothing had changed. This was the sort of thing that Rome did best. Caesar was on his throne. Death, as usual, had the last word. Except that in this case it didn't. As Jesus' followers looked back on that day, they came up with the shocking, scandalous, nonsensical claim that his death had launched a revolution. That by 6:00 p.m. on that dark Friday the world was a different place. They believed that with this event the one true God had suddenly and dramatically put into operation his plan for the rescue of the world. They saw it as the day the revolution began."

Jesus didn't just die, Wright contends, so that we can all go to heaven when we die. Rather, his death was about defeating the powers of evil that have held this world captive and enabling us to reclaim our vocation as divine image-bearers, working to implement God's design for the created order. The revolution Jesus launched was unlike any other revolution. It



"As Jesus's followers looked back on that day, they came up with the shocking, scandalous, nonsensical claim that his death had launched a revolution. That by 6:00 p.m. on that dark Friday the world was a different place." N.T. Wright

operates not on the basis of seizing power, but rather on the basis of suffering love. But it's the one revolution that succeeded and is still bearing results. The revolution Jesus started continues through the Church's work today. So in the midst of this Holy Week, I would extend to you the same message that greeted the marchers in Washington last weekend: **"Welcome to the revolution!"**

I look forward to seeing you in church—as we solemnly recall the message of the Cross on Maundy Thursday and as we joyously celebrate the Resurrection—on Easter Sunday and throughout the month of April.

Worship & Family Life

Sherrill Konfrst, Team Leader

Easter Celebration!

8:30 Easter morning breakfast

9:00 Sunday School

10:00 Worship Service

11:00 Children's Easter Egg Hunt



Come to church EARLY for breakfast including a delicious selection of egg casseroles, cinnamon rolls, and fruit! Stay AFTER church for a children's Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the service.

Worship Opportunities

April 1 EASTER SUNDAY

"Resistance is Futile"
(Psalm 2)



"This Changes Everything"

(Sermon Series for the Easter Season, based on 1 Corinthians 15)

April 8

"Consider the Evidence"
(1 Corinthians 15:1-9)

April 15

"The Greatest 'What If' Of All Time" (1 Corinthians 15:12-20)

April 22

"The Future is Now"
(1 Corinthians 15:20-28)

April 29

"Matter Matters" (1 Corinthians 15:35-44)

May 6

"The Last Enemy" (1 Corinthians 15:50-58)

Outreach and Mission

Ann Weiringa, Team Leader

One Great Hour of Sharing

Thanks to the amazing generosity of our Murray Presbyterian Church family we have EXCEEDED our ambitious goal of \$750 for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering! The Palm Sunday meal alone raised \$305 and our youth have brought in \$61.54 in their fish boxes. The campaign will wrap up on Easter Sunday morning, so there is still time to make a gift that will push us well over the top. Remember, One Great Hour of Sharing is our main Presbyterian Special Offering of the year, with proceeds divided almost equally between the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Self-Development of People program.

Open Hearts Kitchen, Plattsmouth

Volunteers from Murray Presbyterian Church serve meals at Open Hearts Kitchen, First United Methodist Church in Plattsmouth, on the third Thursday of each month. This rich and rewarding ministry offers us the opportunity to be the hands of Jesus, helping to feed neighbors who might otherwise have difficulty putting food on their tables. Our shift runs from 4:30 – 7:00 pm (with serving from 5:00-6:30). Reserve your spot on the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary. You will be blessed by the experience!



Next Volunteer opportunity April 19



All Church Mission Experience

April 29 from 5-7pm at the Open Door Mission in Omaha

We will be serving dinner for the homeless. Donations of gently used clothing are accepted also. For more information and carpooling details contact Ann Wieringa.

Murray Presbyterian Church, Murray, NE
(402)235-2754
www.murraypresbyterian.org



Leadership Teams

Worship and Family Life

**Sherrill Konfrst, Team Leader*

Amanda Anderson
Jeff Anderson
Adam Gillaspie
Rebecca Gillaspie
Linnea Hill
Charlotte Mars
Laraine Young

Mission and Outreach

**Ann Wieringa, Team Leader*

Jennifer Corrick
Stacey McConnell
Diana Puls
Sara Remmers
Sharon Rivas
Matthew South

Christian Education

**Julie Nickels, Team Leader*

Denise Ayers
Sharlyn Deterding
Kathy Friedli
Linnea Hill

Properties and Finance

**David Schwindt, Team Leader*

Ray Avidano
Gary Reike
Sharlyn Deterding



Calvin Crest Church Camp Registration Forms are on the back table of the church!

At Murray Presbyterian, we want to make the church camp experience possible for all our young people. Whether your child is a seasoned Calvin Crest attendee or has never been away from home for an extended period of time there's a camp suited to your family. Pick up a registration form and talk with Julie Nickels for more details. If you want to know what camp is like ask one of the many campers from among our youth. Check out Calvin Crest on their website or Facebook page.

**Youth are invited to participate in MPC All Church Mission opportunity Serving dinner at Open Door Mission, Omaha
April 29, 2018
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**NEXT Youth Group Meeting:
May 6th from 5-7pm at MPC, dinner served**

Let's go out to the ball game...



SAVE THE DATE: June 24, 2018

You and yours are invited to the All Church family baseball afternoon with the Storm Chasers at Werner Park. Tickets will be \$10 if we have 20 or more participants. More details to come in next month's newsletter.

Session

Moderator
Rev. William McConnell

Clerk of Session

Debra South

Class of 2018
Julie Nickels
David Schwindt

Class of 2019
Sherrill Konfrst
Ann Wieringa

Class of 2020
Ray Avidano
Debra South

Deacons

Class of 2019
Mike South
Jocelyn Deterding
Patricia Hansen

Class of 2018
Jennifer Corrick
Peggy Etherington
Lee Hill



Free copies of **Our Daily Bread** available in the back of the church. a friend!



Spiritual Formation

Afternoon Bible Study April 4

On the first Wednesday of the month join us in the social room at 1:00 p.m. for a topical Bible Study based this year on the book "Growing Older and Wiser," by Dale and Sandy Larsen. It's never too late to join or invite a friend!! See Sherrill Konfrst for more details.

Devotional Prayer Gathering

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome and there are no study materials. Devotions are from *The Prayer Bible* followed by a time of prayer. Come as you are able. Feel free to add your prayer requests to the "prayers" bulletin board in the back of the church. Sticky notes are provided for your use. The prayer gathering collects these requests to pray over weekly.

April 4 , April 11 April 18 , April 25

Properties and Finance

David Schwindt, Team Leader

Our church building is about to receive a complete overhaul with the installation of new siding. As some of the photos below show, the existing siding has been damaged by weather and ordinary wear. So during the month of April, K O Roofing will be completely replacing it and also "dressing up" the steeple with a new siding design. Along with any specially earmarked receipts, this \$24,000 project is being funded (in roughly equal measure) by the Memorial Fund and the Gilmore Endowment.



Another project in the works inside the church building is the installation of a multimedia station at the rear of the sanctuary. This will enable one person to operate the computer, sound system, and other equipment from one convenient location. Thanks to the hard at work members of the team for making these improvements happen!