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Find us on the web: [www.signalhillumc.org](http://www.signalhillumc.org)

## Wehrly's World

**"Early on the first day of the week,"**

*John 20:1 (NRSV)*

Easter is celebrated on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after the 1<sup>st</sup> full moon after the Spring Equinox. This year it's March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

I believe Easter is the MOST important of all Christian holidays. Easter is the ultimate show of God's power. Death itself is conquered and we have nothing to fear.

Easter makes all other Christian holidays possible. Without Easter, would it matter that there was a son born to an unwed mother and a carpenter? Without Easter, there would have been no coming of the Holy Spirit as tongues of fire. Without Easter, there would be no reason of the abbreviations B.C.E. and A.D. because there would be no time before a Christian Era and no Anno Domini (in the year of our Lord). Without Easter, there would be no Christian faith and the world would still be waiting for the Messiah.

Yes, I believe Easter is the most important of all holidays to be celebrated. Come celebrate with all your friends at Signal Hill United Methodist Church on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30 or 10:45.

See you in church,

## Meet your ministry team

### SHUMC Staff/Pastor Parish Relations

The Staff/Pastor Parish Relations team is responsible for all personnel issues related to clergy and staff at Signal Hill United Methodist Church. The members of the 2008 team are Paul Vallina (chair), Sue Beach, Ray Helfer, Dowell Holdgraf, Bud Hollinberger, Lori Jobin, Barb Martin, Joe Walker, and Bill Wimmer. Sandy Smith, Lay Leader, and Richard Rawlings, Lay Member to Annual Conference, are also members of the team.

If you have any questions or concerns about the staff at Signal Hill UMC, contact one of the members of the S/PRC team for more information.



## Calendar

### March

- 16 Palm Sunday Celebration, 8:30 & 10:45 am
- 18 Trustees, 6 pm
- 19 No Kids Kount
- 20 Holy Thursday Worship Service, 7 pm
- 21 Good Friday Service of Shadows, 7 pm
- 23 Easter Celebration, 8:30 & 10:45 am
- 26 Kids Kount After School Pgm, 2:10-4:30 pm

### April

- Every Wednesday, Kids Kount, 2:10 - 4:30 pm
- 3 UMW, 9 am - 3 pm
- 15 Trustees, 6 pm

**Check the web site Worship Calendar for additional service and meeting information.**

## Get your "Easter Invitation Cards" today

This may look like an ordinary business card, but in the hands of members of Signal Hill UMC, it is a powerful, yet easy, way to invite friends and family to Easter Sunday services at the church.

"Easter is a time when people are receptive to the idea of attending church and even returning after a long absence," explained Pastor Peter Wehrly. "I encourage each member to take some cards and invite new people to join our worshipping community on Easter or any Sunday!"

Contact Velma Thompson, 398-7835, or the church office for extra cards.

## Remember to check the web site often

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



Check the Signal Hill UMC web site weekly for announcements, news and helps for your walk of discipleship.

*(This newsletter is posted to the web, mailed to a select mailing list and available at the church.)*

## Focus on ministry

### Rainbow Kids Childcare Center



Every weekday, the sound of children playing and laughing enlivens the Education Wing at Signal Hill UMC. Director Diana Hill and her staff welcome 32 children to a caring, nurturing and loving place. Rainbow Kids Childcare Center is licensed for children ages 6 months through 12 years by the State of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

Members of the church have been active in the establishment and support of the Childcare Center since its inception. The current president of the Board of Directors is Laura Sforza. Other members are Dr. Phil Auner, Sue Beach and Marge Buser. Pastor Peter Wehrly is an ex-officio member of the Board. Every week, Marge and Sue help with laundry. Other members of the church donate supplies and in recent emergencies have served as backups in the infant room.

"Diana has been selfless in keeping this ministry going," exclaimed Sforza. "I would like the church to acknowledge her efforts and commitment."

Parents interested in childcare can call Hill at 397-1050.

### Heritage Sunday, May 4, 3 – 5 pm

Plans for Heritage Sunday are taking shape. "Hempel Magic Show" will present a free program for all ages from 3:15-4. A Celebration Service will be held from 4:15 to 4:45, with the Rev. Dr. David Eadie speaking. There will be displays of different ministries around the church and refreshments by the Signal Hill UMW. More details are available at [www.signalhillumc.org](http://www.signalhillumc.org).

If you know someone who should receive a special personalized invitation, contact the church office with his/her name and address.

### OGHS Offering

One Great Hour of Sharing was celebrated on Sunday, March 2. Our finance team reports that nearly \$750 was collected to support the ministry of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and their worldwide ministry of hope and compassion. Additional information about UMCOR is at [www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org).

## Focus on ministry

### B.E.A.C.O.N.

B.E.A.C.O.N. (Belleville Ecumenical Action – Caring for Our Neighbors) is an interdenominational organization of churches operating as a social outreach clearinghouse, helping others through church volunteers and community resources. Signal Hill UMC is one of 42 partner churches in the greater Belleville area that supports this ministry.

Dr. Philip Auner is a member of the BEACON board, Barb Ford is an active volunteer, and several other members of our church have served and donated to the ministry.

"BEACON is an important part of our outreach," explained Pastor Peter Wehrly. "It gives persons in need a 'one-stop-shop' for referrals, and it helps multiply our helping efforts by pooling our resources with other churches in our community."

For more information about BEACON or to volunteer, go to [www.beaconministry.org](http://www.beaconministry.org), or call 397-9660. BEACON has been invited to have a display at the upcoming Heritage Sunday.

## Holy Week Schedule

### Make plans today to attend services

Rev. Peter Wehrly and the worship planning team are working to prepare a full set of meaningful worship services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. Palm Sunday remembers the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Maundy Thursday recalls the Last Supper of Jesus and his disciples. Good Friday solemnly commemorates the crucifixion. Easter celebrates the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior, who conquered death forever.

Palm Sunday and Easter services will be at 8:30 and 10:45 am, and will feature special music. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be at 7 pm.

"To truly appreciate the power of Easter, we need to walk with Jesus from Palm Sunday through the events of Holy Week," emphasized Pastor Wehrly. "I encourage everyone to be a part of these services so that they can celebrate Easter to its fullest."

For more information about the ministries of Signal Hill United Methodist Church, contact

**Rev. Peter J. Wehrly**, Directing Pastor  
**Eda Hackmann**, Director of Music Ministry  
**Kim Hutchison**, Secretary  
**Jeff Nelson**, Custodian

Church office hours: 8 – 1, Mon - Thurs

**618-397-7780**

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