

Make-up dates for Balsamlund Milestone Celebrations Balsamlund Confirmation Class dates May 16.

\*<u>VBS Save the Date!</u> June 20-24 with counselors from Pathways Bible Camp. Watch for more information coming soon.

\* Balsamlund Council Meeting Monday April 26 at 6pm.

**OSLC Announcements** 

\*If you are unable or don't feel comfortable joining us inside for worship, we are now using our FM Transmitter to broadcast Sunday morning worship to the parking lot. Please park upfront facing the front doors to get the best signal from the transmitter.

\*We are happy to announce we have started up fellowship before worship. Fellowship will start at 9am. We have a few guidelines to follow. They will be posted in the kitchen.

\* We will be celebrating our Confirmation Students on Sunday May 2 @ 10am. Reminder to students, robes will be available for you to try on at class Wednesday April 28. If you are unable to try them on at this time, please contact the church office.

## \*Teachers Needed: If you are interested in teaching Sunday School and/or VBS, please let Pastor Eric or Dawn know. If you have any questions you can talk to Roxie or Ronnie. Teachers are needed for this Summers VBS as well as next school year. Two teachers will be stepping down for sure so we are in need of volunteers to fill these roles.

\* Sign-up sheets are on the table in the fellowship hall for fellowship servers and ushers. If you have any questions please contact the church office.

\*Special thank you to Cindy Schwartz for making the labels for the senior quilts presented today.

\* Lions Breakfast Today, 8:30am-12pm at the Senior Center. Free will offering.

\*We will be having the Potato Booth this year during RERD, (July 30-August 1). Please watch for more information coming soon.

\*Outside spring cleaning will be Today Sunday April 25 after worship.

\*May 2 will be the last day of Sunday School.

\*\*Notice\*\* There will be a congregational meeting May 16, after worship to vote on using up to \$10,000 of the parsonage fund for building repairs. More information will be coming out in the mail this week.

When times are uncertain, as indeed most times are, we often turn to prayer as a way of comforting and guiding us in the midst of uncertainty. Sometimes those prayers look a little jumbled, when we're unsure of what to say or how to pray.

Sometimes our prayers look like silence. Sometimes our prayers look like shouting. Sometimes our prayers look like weeping. Sometimes our prayers look like a tired and weary sigh for enduring 14 months in a global pandemic with something that resembles an end in sight, but still not here yet.

I've found that sometimes it's helpful for me to find prayers of others and use them when I'm unsure of how to pray.

One of the prayers that has been helpful for me, that I've returned to in stressful times and in times of joy, has been a prayer called "Open Unto Me" by Pastor Howard Thurman.

If you're feeling like you don't know what to pray, or even if you'd just like a minute to breathe and connect with God, I'll commend these words to you.

Open unto me - light for my darkness. Open unto me - courage for my fear. Open unto me - hope for my despair. Open unto me - peace for my turmoil. Open unto me - joy for my sorrow. Open unto me - strength for my weakness. Open unto me - wisdom for my confusion. Open unto me - forgiveness for my sins. Open unto me - love for my hates. Open unto me - thy Self for my self. Lord, Lord, open unto me! Amen. I hope and pray through this week that you have some time to set aside the busy-ness to connect with God, our Good Shepherd.

God bless you as we continue the journey together.

Grace + Peace, Pastor Eric

