

Community United Methodist Church of Kenilworth  
455 Boulevard, Kenilworth, New Jersey 07033  
Church phone: 908-276-1956  
Pastor Roeline Ramirez 973-282-6237  
Rev. Heme Ares, Pastor Emeritus  
Pastor Don Knott, Retired Elder  
Rev. Dr. Baktha Kumar, Counseling Pastor



**The Circuit Rider**  
April 2024 Newsletter  
Community United Methodist Church of Kenilworth  
*A Faith Community Ignited by God's Love*

**APRIL 2024 EVENTS**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES, 10:30 a.m.**

Pastor Don's Bible Study on Facebook Live, Fridays at 9:00 a.m.

Treasure Shop open Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Prayer Meetings via Zoom every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

ESL Class Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

Adult and Youth Sunday School after Sunday worship

April 7, 2024 Ignite UMC Council Board Meeting after Worship

April 10, 2024 UMW Fellowship, 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

April 14, 2024 Confirmation and Membership Class begins, time to be announced

April 18, 2024 Community Care Food Pantry, 4:00 p.m. at Fellowship Hall

April 21, 2024 Festival of God's Creation

April 25, 2024 Circuit Rider, 11:00 a.m. at Fellowship Hall

Spring Clean-Up to be coordinated with Pastor Roeline - Date to be Announced

# Pastor's Page

*"The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.'" Matthew 28:5-6:*

**My Beloved Church Family and Friends,**

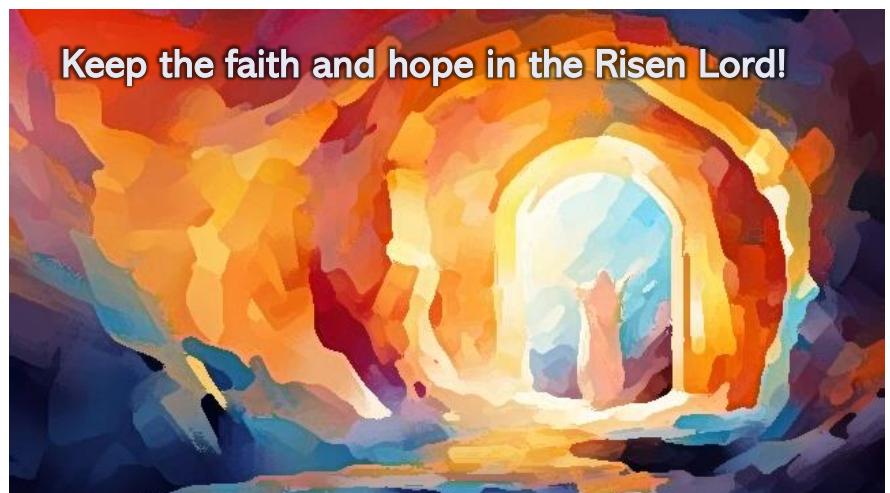
How did your Holy Week and Easter go?

Personally, I have always enjoyed taking the time to reflect and celebrate during the Lenten season leading up to Easter. When I was younger, I did not fully comprehend why we needed to remember and sometimes reenact Jesus' crucifixion, but I found it very moving and entertaining. As I have grown older, however, I have come to understand more about God's plan of salvation and how each year, as I reflect on the story of Jesus as my Savior and Redeemer, new pieces of the puzzle come together to enhance my understanding.

This year, I joined a group of individuals who studied 40 Lenten Words for 40 days. Traditionally associated with the season, these words have taken on new meaning in today's world. Through daily learning, scripture reading, and prayer, we found strength in our faith and hope in Jesus. As we reflected on His great love for us, we were reminded of His suffering, death, and burial. However, we also celebrated His resurrection, which gave us renewed hope and the knowledge that our God is alive.

Just as the angel had foretold, Jesus has risen! Although they searched the tomb, the women and disciples did not find Jesus there. Instead, they encountered the Risen Lord! This inspiring story has been passed down through generations and is now our story to tell. It reminds us that even in our moments of fear, we, too, can experience the Risen Lord.

**Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Roeline "Wee" Ramirez**



**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- 5 Nathan Crisci
- 7 Peter Tran
- 8 Pastor Don Knott
- 13 Nice Diaz
- 16 Rachel Nonan
- 17 Rev. Hemesias Ares
- 20 Reden Cenizal
- 21 Titus Ares
- 22 Sharon Santiago
- 26 Deanna King



*"Today is your special day. May you be surrounded by the people you love the most and may your heart be full of joy."*

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**APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**

- 10 Fernando and Melinda Lim
- 20 Reden and Gloria Cenizal
- 30 Bryan and Rachel Nonan



*"Wishing you all the love and happiness today and forever. May your love for each other continue to flourish and grow each year. Happy anniversary!"*

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**GOD HOLDS MY HAND**

Coming out of Winter's blight  
 Into Summer's golden light,  
 My heart fills with joyous love  
 As my eyes fill with blue above.

Flowers so red, leaves of green,  
 My heart is once again serene,  
 Knowing God renews the land  
 And reaches down to hold my hand.  
 By Helen Gleason

**A SPECIAL PLACE**

**Author Unknown**

There is a special place in life,  
 That needs my humble skill  
 A certain job I'm meant to do,  
 Which no one else can fill.

The time will be demanding,  
 And the pay is not too good,  
 And yet I wouldn't change it  
 for a moment – if I could.

There is a special place in life,  
 A goal I must attain,  
 A dream that I must follow,  
 Cause I won't be back again.

There is a mark that I must leave,  
 However small it may be,  
 A legacy of love for those  
 Who follow me.

There is a special place in life,  
 That only I may share,  
 A little path that bears my name,  
 Awaiting me somewhere.

There is a hand that I must hold,  
 A word that I must say,  
 A smile that I must give  
 And tears to blow away.

There is a special place in life  
 that I was meant to fill.  
 A sunny spot where flowers grow,  
 upon a windy hill.

There's always tomorrow  
 and the best is yet to be,  
 And somewhere in this world,  
 I know there is a place for me.

From the Fishwrapper, Sept. 5, 2017

## **EARTH DAY**

**Written by Walter Sosnosky**

I have been a lifetime advocate of organic gardening and also recycling and reusing. April 27 is the observance of Earth Day (Life Day). Its significance has never been more poignant than today. Maybe Mother Earth is sending us a wakeup call. I wrote the following to honor Earth Day.

A day of awareness of ecological responsibility. The majestic snow-capped mountains piercing the azure blue sky. The rushing of the rivers' journey to the sea. The lush green of our forest trees. The golden waves of grain as far as the eye can see and all the great creatures of land, air, and sea. They are all entrusted to you and me, but we have turned our back on our Earth's needs.

We have polluted water, land, and the air that we breathe. We care little of the wake left behind as long as our comforts are met. Now we are paying in full measure for our reckless deeds. Children are struck in alarming numbers with respiratory diseases such as Asthma. There is a market increase in Autism among children. For the rest of us, we are drowning in the sea of prescriptions that we need to get through daily life. Our calendars are crisscrossed with doctors' appointments.

In the bible, GOD banished Adam and Eve from paradise because they ate from the forbidden fruit. The fruit Satan said is the fruit of knowledge. Did we not do what Adam and Eve did? We used our knowledge to satisfy our own pleasures and comforts. Are we on the verge of losing this paradise? The answer lies within us. We are all caretakers of this planet we live on. This is confirmed in the book of Genesis, and I paraphrase, GOD

created all living things, gave man dominion over all. It is said the longest journey begins with the first step and our first step begins in the home. Recycle, reuse, and pledge to keep your house and garden pesticide free. There are many organic alternatives.

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### **A GARDENER'S PRAYER**

**Written by Walter Sosnosky, 2018**

Dear GOD, as I sow these seeds I ask for your blessing, you who created the land, air, and sea, and created your humble servant - me.

If it be your will, let our sun fill these planted seeds with energy and rain to provide water that they need.

Under your watch they will grow strong and tall and provide food for us all.

Lord, the life cycle that you have provided is truly divine.

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### **BAD BUNNIES**

**Written by Walter Sosnosky, 2017**

Bunnies busy in your garden poaching your pansies, dianthus, and daffodils, too?  
Have no fear. Are they crunching your carrots?  
Have no fear, puppy hair is here.

Here is the protocol -  
Gather up your old pantyhose, cut the pantyhose legs into eight-inch lengths. Tie one end in a knot. Go to your local groomer with a shopping bag and ask for the puppies' locks. I am sure they will comply because you are helping them clean their floor. When you get home, put a fistful of puppy locks into the pantyhose and secure the end in a knot. Then place them about your garden and the bunnies will hightail it out of your garden without a bruise, and that's good bunny news.

# PRAYER REQUESTS

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** *(Let us pray for you. Send your prayer concerns and thanksgiving)*

**FOR HEALING:** Jen (co-worker of sister Norma), Cathy, Lauren, Boyet J., Bobot G., Hermie S., Soyoun, Brenda G., Zoe Holkar, Beverly A's Brother, Margaret (friend of Doris), Charles, Eileen, Cyndee, Edna R. Jason & Janet C., Marie, Nadine F., Jaden Peterson, Jessie R., Bob Wood's Father-in Law, Luis (Luisa's Dad and grandmother, William P.,

**FOR GOOD LAB RESULT:** Reden C., Elba M **FOR SAFE PREGNANCY:** Gracielle R.

**FOR STRENGTH AND BLESSINGS:** Melissa F., Mary Oels, Mary Ellen, Dee K., Elaine Puma and her husband, Pastor Don and Elba, Evelyn S., Betsy DC and her parents, Bob and Karen, A. Restrepo Fam, Fuquay Fam, Opacity Fam, Nunez Fam, Silva Fam,, Yen & Will, Viuya Fam, Janielle & Gerald, Adrian M, Al Bowman., Blanco Fam, Cenizal Fam., Robin T. Jane R., Ms. Toni, Kathleen, Levine fam, Janet H. and Mom Grace, Drew & Gracielle Restrepo, Mary Rogers, Faith S., Mr. Tony S & Fam, Caffrey fam, Ptr Heme Ares and Norma Fam, Rachel A., Sharon, Dustin, Leonardo, Carmelita, Dale S., Luz, Luisa, Lucianna, Wilson Fam, Francis Fam, Vallez Fam, Jeremias Fam, Freda Fam, Crissi and Johnston Fam, Cindy P., Vercillie F., Phil L., Lori Strubble, Stephanie P., Pagan Fam., Kollory Fam., Abigail., Rich Woods., Duely Fam., Ramirez Fam., Salvador Fam., Stephen N., Peterson, Theresa,

**FOR UNITY AND WISDOM:** UMC General Conference\*Apr 23-May 3\*Charlotte, NC

**FOR PROTECTION AND WISDOM:** Pastor Roeline, Ignite UMC Leaders, GNJ Annual Conference staff, pastors, deacons, leaders, Kenilworth Mayor Linda and Council members, Men & women in service. Government officers and staff. : *Otelia*



For your prayer concerns and pastoral care, please contact Pastor Roeline.

Text or call at 973-282-6237

email: [ramirezroeline@gmail.com](mailto:ramirezroeline@gmail.com) [igniteumckenilworth@gmail.com](mailto:igniteumckenilworth@gmail.com)

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## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women met on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The program presented "Three Women of the Bible", (Ruth, Mary-Mother of Jesus, and the Samaritan woman).

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 10, 2024. Lunch and fellowship will follow a short business meeting. Please bring a bag lunch. Dessert will be provided. All women are welcome to join us. Zoom will be available for those who are unable to attend in person.

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## COMMUNITY CARE FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry served 12 families from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 21st, providing food and non-food items. Acme Gift cards were given to help supplement Easter meals, and six Pet Smart Gift Cards were also provided for those who have pets.

The next distribution date will be on April 18, 2024. We again sincerely thank all of you who donate to the different ways we provide for our clients (food and non-food items, Acme and Pet Smart gift cards). Your generous support makes it possible for us to continue to support those in need.

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## THE TREASURE SHOP

The Treasure Shop is open on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We welcome all who come to shop and/or to donate items. It's always good to see you.

We are so happy to welcome Mary Ellen back after her long absence. She was missed!

**BENEFIT CONCERTS  
IN MAPLEWOOD AND BRIDGEWATER  
ON APRIL 13 AND 14**

Ginny Johnston and Dan Crisci, along with the members of Triad Arts Ensemble, will present their annual *Canticles for Life AIDS Benefit Concerts* on Saturday, April 13, 7:30 PM at Saint Joseph Church, 767 Prospect Street in Maplewood AND Sunday, April 14, 4:00 p.m. at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 1350 Washington Valley Road in Bridgewater.

The program will feature Ginny conducting, and Dan as the piano accompanist for the 28-voice **Triad Vocal Ensemble** mixed choir. They will perform traditional anthems, pop arrangements, and the premiere of an inspiring new work "When The People" by composer Amy Scurria and noted New Jersey poet and visual artist Jim Haba. Also performing will be the **Dan's Jazz Trio**, featuring his original jazz compositions. Additionally, **singer-songwriter Abbie Gardner**, of the acclaimed Americana trio Red Molly, will share an eclectic mix of originals and cover songs incorporating folk, blues, and jazz. Panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display, and receptions will follow the two-hour concerts.

The concerts will benefit **EDGE New Jersey**, based in Morris County, the **National AIDS Memorial - NJ Chapter** which supports the AIDS Memorial Quilt, and the **AID Resource Foundation for Children** in Newark.

There is no admission charge, but free-will offerings will be accepted at the concerts. For those who cannot attend in person, the April 14 performance will be live-streamed. Visit [www.CanticlesforLife.org](http://www.CanticlesforLife.org) for more

information and the livestream link. Secure online donations are also welcome at any time and can be made through the website. Thank you for your support!

This year marks the 27<sup>th</sup> year of the *Canticles* concerts. Since 1998, over \$200,000 has been raised to support those impacted by HIV/AIDS and related issues.

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**THE UP SIDE  
From GUIDEPOSTS, June 2009**

1. "Goodness in other people and what they contribute inspire me. I love it when someone is gifted and shares it in some way so that it has a trickle-down effect." ~actress, *Renee Zellweger*
2. "When we are weak, we can still be strong. When we're under the greatest stress and facing the greatest challenges, it may be the best day of our lives, for God is working to make us into the people he wants us to be." ~Casey Treat, from his book *How to Be Your Best When You Feel Your Worst: 5 Steps to a Great Life!*
3. "One of the very first things I figured out about life... is that it's better to be a hopeful person than a cynical, grumpy one, because you have to live in the same world either way and if you're hopeful, you have more fun." ~Barbara Kingsolver, *novelist and essayist*.
4. "See a need - perform a deed." ~submitted by *GUIDEPOSTS* reader *Joe Fleming of Sun City, Arizona*, who says he uses this quote as a 'booster for action' in his life

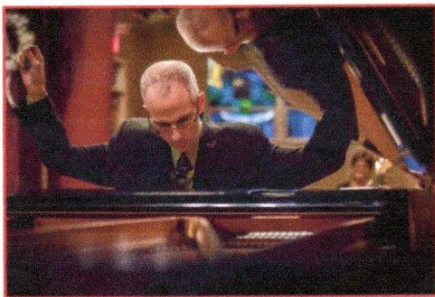
TRIAD ARTS ENSEMBLE  
PRESENTS THE 2024



a musical journey and celebration of  
the human spirit through song

# Canticles for Life

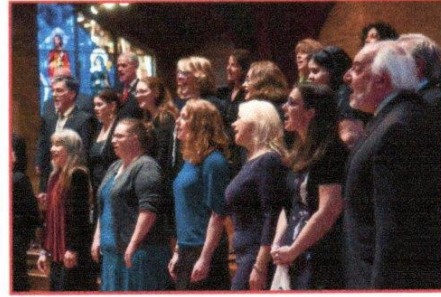
## AIDS Benefit Concerts



Dan Crisci Jazz Trio



Abbie Gardner  
*Singer-Songwriter*



Triad Vocal Ensemble

**Saturday, April 13 at 7:30 PM**

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
767 Prospect St., Maplewood, NJ

**Sunday, April 14 at 4:00 PM**

St. Martin's Episcopal Church  
1350 Washington Valley Road, Bridgewater, NJ

This performance will be live-streamed  
via a YouTube link on our website home page:

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

**Please join us for an effervescent musical mix  
of choral, jazz, and Americana folk-blues !**

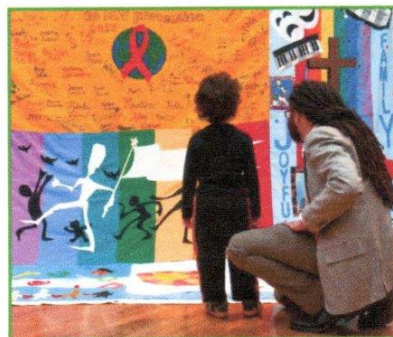


Scan the QR code  
to learn more  
about our artists.

**All concert proceeds to benefit:**

The AIDS Resource Foundation for Children  
EDGE New Jersey  
AIDS Memorial Quilt—New Jersey Chapter

To make a donation securely online,  
and for more information, visit  
[www.CanticlesforLife.org](http://www.CanticlesforLife.org)



**Free-Will Offerings  
at each concert**

Cash and Checks (payable to  
Triad Arts Ensemble) accepted

AIDS Memorial Quilt Panels  
will be on display





If you would like to support the *Canticles for Life* concert series *ahead* of the performances, you can make a contribution securely online or by check.

Simply visit [www.CanticlesforLife.org/donate](http://www.CanticlesforLife.org/donate) for online payments.  
OR

Complete the form below and mail your check to:  
Triad Arts Ensemble, 129 Oakview Ave,  
Maplewood NJ 07040.



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## 2024 *Canticles for Life* Donation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I/we would like to make a contribution. Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

You can scan our QR code with your mobile device to make a secure online donation.



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*Thank you for your support!*

For further concert information, visit the website or call Triad Arts Ensemble at 973-763-5481.



# A Glimpse of MARCH 2024



40 Days Prayer Challenge



Worship Stewards



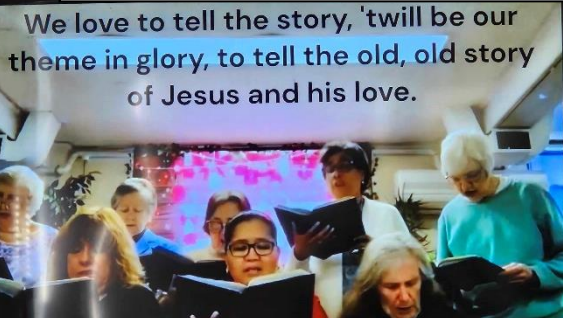
Palm Sunday



Love Talk



Luncheon Fellowship



Message in Song by the Women



Young Disciples' Time



## QUIET MOMENTS

From The Upper Room, May-June 2023

*Sun and moon, praise God! All of you  
bright stars, praise God!  
~Psalm 148:3 (CEB)*

Sunrise walks are an important spiritual and physical exercise for me. Sometimes I wake up before dawn with the sense that the Creator has something to show me. And I'm never disappointed as I step out under fathomless stars and into the calm, pre-dawn air.

Often I give voice to the spontaneous and heartfelt prayer of thanksgiving that rises within me. I understand how the beauty and magnitude of God's creation could elicit the psalmist's cry: "Sun and moon, praise God! All of you bright stars, praise God!" When a guiding star or clear crescent moon adorns the night sky, I'm especially glad to have been invited to witness God's handiwork.

In the stillness of these early-morning moments, I sense God's presence. I become aware of the calm that surrounds me in this place on this planet at this hour, and I'm grateful to God for leading me to this moment. With my soul stilled, I give praise and ask for guidance in my Christian walk.

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY  
When my soul is still, I become  
receptive to God's presence.

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**Prayer:** Thank you, God, for quiet moments in the beauty of your creation. Open our hearts to your promptings to be still before you. Amen.

By Joann Wilson (Nebraska, USA)

## SOME APRIL FOOLS' HUMOR

1. Believe nothing and trust no one this April Fools' Day. So it's just like any other day.
2. What monster plays the most April Fools' jokes? *Prankenstein*
3. Did you hear about the guy who swapped labels on the pumps at the gas station? *It was an April Fuel's joke.*
4. A and C were going to prank their friend – but they just letter B.
5. A couple of pranksters broke into the local police station and stole all the lavatory equipment. A spokesperson was quoted as saying, "We have nothing to go on."
5. There are some friends you know will never pull an April Fools' Day prank. Because they think it's still March.
6. What do you call a hammer bought on April 1<sup>st</sup>? *An April tool*
7. Why was everyone so tired on April 1<sup>st</sup>? *Because they just finished a 31-day long March.*
8. What's the biggest difference between Thanksgiving and April Fools' Day?" *On one you're thankful, and on the other you're prankful.*

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May *April* bless you  
with good health, happy  
moments, and kind people.

**SPIRITUAL REBIRTH**  
Written by Walter Sosnosky

The month of beauty, love and renewal. In fact, the name April is grandchild from the Greek Goddess of lover and beauty, Aphrodite. So it's no coincidence that three major religions observe their most sacred celebrations. The Christians celebrate Easter, the risen Christ. Jews around the world observe Passover, when the lives of Jewish children were protected by GODS' angels. In the Muslim world, it's the observance of LeiLat al-Meira, also known as the Prophets Ascension.

As you read, these three radically different forms of devotion to a higher power have the commonality of this month of April. So as we celebrate our holidays, it should be with union of prayers for each other in the name of your higher power.

May this month of April bring to you a revived spirit of love, humanity, and hope for a blessed future.

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**INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK DAY**  
April 2, 2024

International Children's Book Day is celebrated every year on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the birthday of the famous fairy tale write Hans Christian Anderson. The International Board sponsors this worldwide observance on Books for Young People (BYB), to commemorate the books that shape us all from a young age and the positive influence on children and their development.

Children's books stimulate the imagination, teach values, and introduce children to new things. International Children's Book Day also aims to encourage children to read more (or parents to read more to their children) to inspire their love of books.

**GOD IS LOVE**  
Written by Walter Sosnosky

With spring in start and Passover and Easter in approach, we must embrace the message of our Creator and reset our humanity and his message of love, peace, forgiveness, and tolerance.

Our nation has been consumed by anger, hatred, and senseless violence over political views, which is a first amendment right. It is the genesis and the cornerstone of our democracy.

Stop looking for what separates us, rather look for what unites us, faith, family, pocket books, and cup holders in our cars. It's thrown in Salvation Army kettles during Christmas time, it's a belief so strong and unyielding it is emblazoned on all our coins and currency (**IN GOD WE TRUST**).

Take a moment, take a breath. Expel that hate and rage. Hold a coin, feel those words with your fingertips, **IN GOD WE TRUST**. Its power will set you free to open your heart.

Peace and love to all. Happy Easter and a Joyous Passover.

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**WORLD HEALTH DAY**  
April 7, 2024

World Health Day is observed on April 7<sup>th</sup>. The day is sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO), and every year a different global health issue is highlighted. The day also marks the anniversary of WHO's founding and aims to remind people that health and access to healthcare are human rights. To celebrate the day, the World Health Organization hold events and activities across the world, and at regional levels.



# APRIL

## WORD SEARCH



a d x a l i p c w a i  
y i g b e e d u j n s  
k a a i o l a v t h s  
u m e o h o f d u o e  
f b z i i u f h l i m  
a n c k j a o i i i y  
h d b n g r d o p u i v  
a e e e l b i i o j v  
m a g f o o l u d p a  
e a s t e r v i k e x  
p s a l m e o i o u a  
b v t o u u n c t o t  
c u n d e r g r a d s  
p a s s o v e r u u e  
e s h o w e r s r y i  
d a t a b f e d u r n  
v b l o o m q f s a i  
e s h p f g z v w x a

### WORDS

- 
- showers
  - underground
  - daffodil
  - tulip
  - bloom
  - taurus
  - diamond
  - earth
  - easter
  - passover
  - fool

