



Twin Cities Christian

# NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of Riverview Park Christian Church

APRIL 2024

2929 Niles Road, St. Joseph MI 269.429.0700 [www.riverviewparkchristianchurch.com](http://www.riverviewparkchristianchurch.com) Follow us on FACEBOOK!

## HALLELUJAH!

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Jesus is risen! Happy Easter to all of you, as we celebrate again the triumph of Jesus over death.

*Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.*

We're celebrating the resurrection of Jesus all throughout the Easter season until Pentecost on May 19. Of course, we celebrate that resurrection throughout the year, but this is the season we especially commemorate Jesus' new life that he shares with all of us.

The lyrics above and below are to the hymn, "Now the Green Blade Rises," written by John M. C. Crum in 1928. I especially love his last line of each stanza, saying that Love has come again, like new, green, growing wheat poking through the ground in early spring. New wheat can be especially green this time of year, announcing spring and the growing season. And that's what the weeks of Easter are, a season of

growing into our new lives with Jesus.

*In the grave they laid the love by hatred slain  
Thinking that Jesus would not wake again  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.*

Easter is a reminder that, despite the evidence sometimes all around us that hate and violence have the upper hand, Love does indeed win in the end. We may not see that victory always, and some days, it feels like love is sleeping. But Jesus, as the Love of God in human form, is with us always, walking with us and supporting us, sometimes even unknown to us.



*Christ came forth at Easter like the risen grain  
Who that for three days in the grave had lain  
Raised from the dead, the risen Christ is seen;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green*

There are moments in our lives when we have to wait for that Love to waken from its sleep.

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Sometimes, like the disciples of Jesus, we even think all hope is lost. But God is faithful, and Love will burst forth, whether in the risen Christ or in God's love shown to us by others.

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
Your touch can call us back to life again,  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have  
been;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.*

So in those moments when we experience pain or grief, know that God is faithful, that the Holy Spirit of Love is with you, and that new life is possible. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Jesus is risen!

May you know the Love of God always, so that you may rise both this day and in the life to come.

*Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Dan Robinson*



The CCMR DW invites you to join us at Central Woodward CC or via Zoom to make homeless kits for our Spring Mission Day Retreat on April 27. Sign up by April 20. Whether you attend in-person, or via Zoom...for more details and to register, go here:

<https://christianchurchdocmichiganregi.regfox.com/ccmr-dw-spring-mission-day-retreat>

If you attend via Zoom, a link will be emailed to you along with a list of items needed to make two kits "at home" for distribution to a local organization.

## KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS



### PRAYERS FOR HEALTH:

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY**— For Peggy and Frank and their family. Continued prayers for Chris Ashley, Glenn Chapman, and Ken Stover.

### PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY:

- Chris Ashley's daughter, Jackie, as she continues to battle cancer.
- Fred Wagoner, June Stover's brother.
- Dale's friend from Niles Harding's who has breast cancer.
- Tom's friend, Abe, who has liver disease.
- Continued prayers for Dan's sister-in-law Anna who had surgery.
- Dale's sister-in-law, Sherry, who recently had a liver transplant.
- Dale's friend Emily who's dealing with seizures.
- In gratitude for simple acts of kindness.
- In gratitude for this time of year, as we move into spring.
- For people in the path of late winter storms.
- For parents and caregivers of children with special needs.
- For the mother of a co-worker of Tom Brady, who has leukemia and dementia.
- For a friend of Tom Brady's and his wife, after the death of the wife's father.
- For Kay's cousin whose husband passed away.
- For the people of Haiti.

## Happy Birthday!

<b>Sheila Mayne</b>	<b>April 1</b>
<b>Randee Scholz</b>	<b>April 1</b>
<b>Kathy Karsten</b>	<b>April 2</b>
<b>Eric Lange</b>	<b>April 14</b>



## Happy Anniversary!

**Dale and Cathy Easton April 16**



## Leader Formation at Kgolagano College

Written by: [Paul Chimhungwe](#), who serves with Kgolagano College, Botswana. March 20, 2024

The beautiful Botswana sunrise reminds me daily that our God is at work in this part of the continent. As a mission co-worker, I am just participating in what the Almighty is accomplishing in Botswana and other parts of the beautiful continent of Africa. His wonderful deeds are displayed daily—what a wonderful miracle-working God we serve.

Sub-Saharan Africa is now the epicentre of Christianity, with close to 650 million Christians. The Lord is calling many to his fold, but there needs to be more qualified leaders. Only five percent of church leaders are estimated to have a seminary/college education. This includes even Pentecostal and Charismatic churches. There is a chronic shortage of qualified teachers; this calls for a symbiotic relationship between churches in the Global South and Global North to tackle this challenge.

Therefore, it is a privilege to teach at Kgolagano College, the oldest ecumenical seminary in Botswana, founded in 1975. The who-is-who across the churches in Botswana rubbed their shoulders at Kgolagano College, and that legacy continues. I am grateful to our brothers and sisters in the West—especially the United States and Canada—who are partnering with us in eradicating poverty, enhancing justice issues, fighting gender-based violence, improving the quality of life, and training men and women who want to teach and minister to their kith and kin in Africa. Kgolagano College in Gaborone, the capital city of Botswana, is deeply involved in the later training of men and women who aim to teach the Cross of Christ from an ecumenical point of view.

### **Gorata Balemoge: A Reformed Former Inmate**

Kgolagano College trains Christian leadership principles to selected inmates in some of Botswana's main prisons. In 2022, our students included Gorata Balemoge, who has been in and out of prison on several occasions. But in 2022, she accepted the lordship of Jesus the Christ of Nazareth and vowed not to break the law. She was released on January 17, 2023, and we have been monitoring her integration programme. So far, she has kept the other side of her vows, and I am constantly in touch with her. At the end of November, she recorded a six-track album, *Jeso Ke Kgosi* Jesus is the King. It will be launched sometime this year. She is currently raising funds to start a tailoring/dressmaking project. Industrial sewing and industrial overlocking machines are her two main requirements, and I pray that one day, someone will touch and assist her. Gorata is a talented tailor who made four shirts for me while serving her term. Currently, she is operating a small home bakery, baking confectionary for primary stu-



dents, but it's not sustainable financially, hence the need for dressmaking.

### **Teaching Load**

The college has about thirty students in the three delivery modes: full-time, block release and open distance learning. Most students are in their late twenties and mid-thirties, but a few are above forty. My teaching load includes:

- African Theologies
- Christian Worship
- Christology
- College Study Skills
- Denominational Polity and Administration
- Pauline Epistles
- Survey of Church History

### **Writing Modules**

The college library needs more resources; hence, teachers have to write modules to assist students in getting quality reading material. Since I arrived at Kgolagano College, the Lord has guided me to write six modules: Christian Worship, Survey of Church History, Christian Leadership, Denominational Polity and Administration, the Synoptic Gospels, and College Study Skills. I incorporate these modules in both my virtual and in-person classes. I use Google Class for virtual classes, which is handy for our block and open-distance-learning program.

### **Legislation**

The Government of Botswana legislated that all churches be registered under the Societies Acts, 2022 No. 6 of 2022. The Act requires that all churches be led by an individual with a minimum of a theology/biblical studies certificate from an accredited seminary. Hence, the increase in our enrollment is a trend we expect to continue. Let me close by thanking all who have contributed to our stay in Botswana. The Lord is at work, and we thank him for what he is accomplishing through your support.

*Paul's appointment to the Kgolagano College, Botswana, is made possible by your gifts to the Disciples Mission Fund, Our Church's Wider Mission, Week of Compassion, and special gifts.*

**All the World's Alive Again**

*by Jennifer Gunner*

The rabbit hops its gentle step  
The lark sings lyric songs  
All the world's alive again  
Spring rights the winter wrongs.

Mother he protects her chicks  
White blossoms are in bloom  
All the world's alive again  
No snowy clouds to loom.

A kitten chirps her tiny mew  
The child blinks his eyes  
All the world's alive again  
A new world crystalized.

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INSECTS  
BUTTERFLY  
GROWTH  
BLUE SKY  
FLOWERS  
PUDDLES  
BUNNY

MEADOW ↗↘↙↚↛  
SUN  
BREEZE  
BIRDS  
GARDEN  
RAIN  
PICNIC

**CONTACT US!**

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