

## WEEK OF APRIL 20, 2025



**From Woody:** I want to start with thanks to all of the wonderful folks who came to worship yesterday, beginning on the hill at Blue Herron Farm, and then at our 10am service. Also thanks to Deb and her family for hosting it on the Astroturf and for Sam and Lynn for the great music under tough wind conditions.

Then more thanks to Shepard, Dan and Corey for a great breakfast and the junior and senior choirs, Sam and Karinna for the music of celebration to God for the resurrection. It was a great day and I am grateful to have had a small part in it. It was also special to have Francis Love with us in person. He is a man who served our country in Viet Nam and has been a peacemaker ever since. It is thanks to his request that the newsletter always contains a Peace Quote. I think between the two services it was the largest Easter turnout since I have been here.

*Now I just wish to end with our sadness at the news of the death of Pope Francis this morning. He has been and will always be one of my heroes. He was truly a humble man who was a spokesman for the poor as well as for peace and justice in the world. He was a spokesman for the marginalized in the world. Here are his words about the treatment of migrants:*

*The act of deporting people who in many cases have left their own land for reasons of extreme poverty, insecurity, exploitation, persecution or serious deterioration of the environment, which damages the dignity of many men and women, and of entire families, and places them in a state of particular vulnerability and defenselessness. In the culture of indifference we are not even able to see our brothers and sisters as our siblings*

He was a wonderful spokesman for the gospel of Jesus who made friends with the leaders of other faiths and a humble man who practiced as well as preached mercy, nonviolence, simplicity and care for the environment. He will be missed. The first Pope to take the name of Francis, he certainly lived in word and deed the Prayer of St. Francis. Maryland Senator Chris Van Hollen said, "Pope Francis was a Pope for all of humanity. Pope Francis was a beautiful soul."



**Spring Cleanup:** Our annual spring clean up will take place Saturday, April 26, from 9-noon. Clean-up activities will include raking, shoveling, sweeping and the spreading of mulch. All are welcome. Please bring rakes, shovels, street brooms and a wheel barrow if you have one. Thank you for your help!



**Peace Quote:** Let no man pull you so long as to hate him.....*Dr, Martin Luther King*