

# LAKE HARBOR UMC's Harbor Light

Volume 20. 4

April 2020

## FROM PASTOR MARY IVANOV:

Last month, our front page focused on grief and our GriefShare ministry. The grief of losing my dad was very fresh and continues to be something I carry, though differently in these days.

These days, I'm thinking a lot more about collective grief. It's a very real thing for all of us. Whether it's grief about a virus that threatens life around the planet, the social and economic impacts of "shelter in place," changed and cancelled plans, physical distancing, more time alone, or just normal grief of everyday struggles, **acknowledging our grief is vital to our overall health.**

It's OK to say that we feel sad and angry, worried and afraid. Scripture is filled with **laments – words of sorrow where pain is expressed through prayer** (see Psalm 42 or Psalm 90). It's faithful to tell God how we feel because it confirms our faith; it doesn't diminish our faith.

As we think about this season of Lent and Holy Week, **the emotions of our current situation echo all that Jesus and his disciples and followers experienced – uncertainty, loneliness, fear, and so much more.** It's difficult that we can't worship in-person right now, but we're acting as a community of care to protect one another, our loved ones, and our community.

**We'll continue to follow the directives from the state and our Michigan Conference. The church building isn't open** until we have the go-ahead to meet together, **but the church is at work in the world.** A minimum amount of staff and leaders are performing needed tasks and checking the building with approval from our Administrative Council.

If you have any questions or need something from the church building, please contact me at 231-780-3951 first.

Please make sure you're staying connected to us as you're able. **We're trying to stay connected to you as best as we can, but we need your help!** If you have E-mail access, please make sure that **we have your current E-mail address.** Send it to [Office@LakeHarborUMC.org](mailto:Office@LakeHarborUMC.org) so that we can add you to our mass E-mail list.

**If you're on Facebook, please make sure to connect:**

- *Lake Harbor United Methodist Church* page **This is where you can find the livestream and see updates.**
- Lake Harbor UMC – closed group
- Lake Harbor Youth Group - page
- LHUMC Children's Ministry – closed group **There are daily posts for kids and families.**

We're going to **use Zoom for meetings as needed and for connecting with one another.** Zoom is an online meeting app that allows people to connect with video and audio using your preferred method of technology. We know that not everyone uses technology, and we're trying our best to stay connected to those who don't have Internet. You can help by making a call or sending a card. Thanks to many of you who have been reaching out!

I want to encourage you to **send in your tithes and offerings as you're able.** This is so helpful and appreciated as we want to avoid financial hardship. For those of you who have set up online giving through our website or through your bank, **consistent giving is a blessing. You can use your offering envelopes** to mail in your giving to LHUMC, 4861 Henry St., Muskegon, MI 49441. Mail and phone messages are checked daily.

## April Worship News by Karen Booth & Vicki Zuker

### “A Place at the Table”

#### April 5 – Palm Sunday – Facebook livestream at

**10:00 a.m.:** “Barabbas – A Place for the Loser”

*Scripture:* Matthew 27: 15-26

*Synopsis:* What do you do when you hitch your wagon to the wrong star? When you take the wrong path? When you think you are absolutely right, but you are not?

*Media:* “Our Risen Savior: Barabbas.” We all know what happens to Jesus after the crowd chooses him for crucifixion. But rarely do we consider what happened to Barabbas. Watch this interpretation of what Barabbas must have been contending with.

<https://skitguys.com/videos/our-risen-savior-barabbas>

#### Thursday, April 9 – Holy Thursday – Facebook livestream at 7:00 p.m.:

“The Table – A Place of Grace for Everyone”

*Scripture:* Exodus 12: 1-4, 11-14; I Corinthians 11: 1-2, 23-26; John 13: 1-17, 31-35

*Synopsis:* Remembering God’s saving work from the Exodus until the Last Supper invites us to come to the table of grace that is for all people.

*Invitation media:* The table is more than a place to eat- it’s a central location for much of our lives.

“The Table invites us all to God’s table.

<https://journeyboxmedia.com/product/the-table/>

**Prayer Vigil:** Lake Harbor hosts a Prayer Vigil after Holy Thursday worship through the night and into Good Friday. This year will be different as we will still “sheltering in place” and therefore, sheltering in faith. Please consider signing up for a 30-min. or hour long time to **pray at home**.

Sign up is located online at this link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1L9fsDqGJihCEP2YzBdEqIKcrSgJjiSxzrc5X7Ok1-DE/edit>

**Specific prayer requests can be added at the bottom of the document. You can also call the office (231-798-2181) and leave a message.**

#### April 10 – Good Friday – available online:

A Tenebrae service is being developed by Pastor Mary and her colleagues in Muskegon and will be available via a link that will be sent during Holy Week.

**April 12 – Easter Sunrise Service – Facebook livestream at 8:00 a.m.:** Welcome the promise of resurrection and join Pastor Mary outside (from where you are) for a short time of worship.

**April 12 – Easter Sunday – Facebook livestream at 10:00 a.m.:** “Thomas – A Place for the Skeptic”  
*Scripture:* John 20: 19-31

*Synopsis:* Thomas is a powerful reminder of the need for each of us to experience the reality of resurrection for ourselves – and to come just as we are to Jesus – even if it means wondering and questioning.

*Media:* “Jesus Reigns: Thomas.” Thomas wasn’t known as a doubter when Jesus was alive. He was a fierce follower and believer. But when Jesus returned from the grave, Thomas needed to see and touch his wounds before he could reconcile what he was seeing.

<https://skitguys.com/videos/jesus-reigns-thomas>

### “Restoring Vision”

After Easter we’ll look at two post-resurrection stories in which Jesus (literally) opens the eyes of those who would take his story to the world. We’ll also hear how focusing on one word for a year, a “star word,” has helped people grow in faith and see God’s presence in a new way. If you have a story to share, please contact Pastor Mary at [Pastor@LakeHarborUMC.org](mailto:Pastor@LakeHarborUMC.org) or 231-798-2181.

**April 19 - Facebook livestream at 10:00 a.m.:** “Burning Hearts and Opened Eyes”

*Scripture:* Luke 24: 13-35

*Synopsis:* Jesus used mealtime – eating together – to show that God loves, forgives, and welcomes

all people. As the Body of Christ, we experience the love of God in community as we worship, study, share meals, and spend time together. The risen Christ is known through a community that welcomes, accepts, and forgives one another in his name.

**April 26 - Facebook livestream at 10:00 a.m.:**

**Facebook livestream at 10:00 a.m.:**

*"When Jesus Knocks You Down"*

*Scripture: Acts 9: 1-19*

*Synopsis: Paul's conversion experience and faith story is as dramatic as it gets. Our relationship with God may not have such extremes, but it's our witness to the world.*

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## *Worship Connections Teams*

### Worship Connections Calendar

Mon., April 6 2:00 PM Tentative Worship

Connections Team meeting via Zoom (online)

Mon., April 20 2:00 PM Tentative Worship

Connections Team meeting via Zoom (online)

**Worship Connections Team meetings** are open to everyone. Karen Booth leads Worship Connections Team which meets most Mondays at 2:00 p.m. under normal circumstances. In the coming weeks, they'll meet via Zoom (<https://us04web.zoom.us/>). Please contact Karen (231-798-8431 or [kwbooth@comcast.net](mailto:kwbooth@comcast.net)) for more details. Vicki Zuker leads the Celebration Team. Please contact Vicki (231-759-8848 or [zukerr@comcast.net](mailto:zukerr@comcast.net)) for more details.

## LAKE HARBOR'S MUSIC MINISTRY



*"God gave us music, that we might pray without words."*

We're deeply grateful for our staff and leaders who continue to provide the ministry of music even as we worship online. Thanks to Mary Scott, Michael Boersma, Diane Thompson, and so many others who are offering their gifts of music!



## Radical Hospitality

Thanks to our Worship Connections team and many helpers for their time and commitment to make it possible for worship to be livestreamed. **This is a great opportunity to share with others and invite them to worship online where they are!** We've seen people connect from all over the world on Sunday mornings.

*"Lord, Hear our Prayers..."*

**Pastor Mary is livestreaming a mid-week devotional time on Facebook on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.** Join her and our church family there!

**Lake Harbor's Prayer Chain** is an important ministry to our congregation and community. Contact LHUMC office at 231-798-2181 OR **Office@LakeHarborUMC.org** if you want to be included on the chain. FYI: Prayer requests are not shared or published without permission.



**Remember in Prayer:** Those fighting Covid-19 and those whose health is compromised, Essential workers in healthcare, public service, and other areas, Leaders in government at every level, Teachers and students, Those recovering from surgery and fighting cancer, Homebound members and friends, Families grieving losses, Military personnel and their families, and Pastor Mary & our staff.

**In My Father's House...Ginny Reynolds**, March 10, 2020. Ginny was a lifelong member of Lakeside UMC and then joined Lake Harbor UMC. Our sympathy and prayers are with her family and friends.

**In My Father's House...Edna Gilbert**, March 21, 2020. Edna was 101 years old and a faithful member of Lake Harbor UMC for many years. Our sympathy and prayers are with her family and friends. A memorial service will be planned at a later date.

## **FROM SOME OF OUR LEADERS...**

As I reflect on the past few weeks, I find myself in a state of disbelief. Times we're now living in are new, strange, and unsettling. In the midst of my grief over the loss of the life I knew only one month ago, I find myself searching for the hidden gifts.

Even though I ache for the arms of my children and grandchildren around me, I am thankful for texting and FaceTime. I'm thankful that they, like me, have more time to spend in conversation and sharing. Their words and smiles comfort my soul! Although I miss my Christian brothers and sisters, I am grateful for the prayer texting, the phone calls and the uplifting Scripture shared at just the right time!

Even though I miss gathering in community with my Lake Harbor family each week, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to light a candle in my own home and attend meaningful, comforting worship online.

Although I've always enjoyed my daily walks they have somehow taken on a new, more powerful delight for me. As I breathe the fresh air, see new life poking through the ground, and feel the sun on my face, I'm reminded that God is still at work in my world!

My prayer is that when life returns to "normal," I would never forget:  
The power of human touch.  
How God speaks when I take time to Be Still in His presence.  
How worship is meant to be fully experienced no matter where it is!  
How praise music keeps me grounded.  
How His word can comfort me.  
Most importantly:  
May I never forget how God walked with me through this difficult time and quieted my fears.  
I can't help but feel blessed!!

Until we hug again, brothers and sisters,  
**Rose Emmons, SPRC co-chairperson**

As I sat and listened to our leaders during the Ad Council meeting last week, my heart was warmed hearing what was being discussed. Yes, we discussed the financial health of the church and made decisions about non-emergency spending, but what we really wanted to talk about was our church staff, how we could care for them, and what we might have to do in the future. It's hard to have to have these discussions, but as leaders, that's what we must do. Every person on the call was so concerned and showed their hearts for our staff.

We spent much of the time on the call talking about you - the people in our congregation - and what we can do as a church to assist people of Lake Harbor near and far. It was apparent to me that our leaders love the Church and the people in it.

During this time of self-isolation, I ask that you call one another to check on your friends and family. I also ask you that if you are feeling down and need to talk to someone, please call someone just to talk. Please, please do not try to get through the isolation (alone). Please reach out if you need to.

On a personal note, I want to thank Pastor Mary, and everyone involved in livestreaming the Wednesday evening and Sunday services. Like many people that I have heard from this past week, the service means so much to them. It allows us to stay connected via Facebook streaming. Thanks be to God for everyone involved.

Blessings to all,  
**Jim Post, Ad Council chairperson**

Life is different these days. In some ways, more time on our hands; in some ways time is moving fast. We have become more aware of things and people precious to us. We have "stopped to smell the roses" more often. Reaching out to others and others reaching out to us has made us more

aware of how much we love and how much we are loved.

How many times have I (Vicki) said to others and in prayers, "God is with us all of the time." I am even more aware of this in my life these last couple of weeks. It feels like a time when I need to practice what I preach. To be aware of God's presence. To really feel Him deeply. To trust Him with the lives of my children, my grandson, my husband and myself. To let Him calm me. To try and be His hands and feet. To really mean "Thy will be done."

We are so grateful for the ministry of Pastor Mary. So grateful for our church family at Lake Harbor. So grateful for family and friends.

God will lead us through this. It may not be completely with the results that we want, but we will get through this, with God at our side and with the togetherness as Brothers and Sisters In Christ.

Love, Prayers and (distance) Hugs,  
**Vicki Zuker, Celebration Worship Coordinator & Ron Zuker, Lay Leader**



## **INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT**

***Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***

***Our vision is that all people may experience the love of Jesus. Our call then, is Love: welcoming all, empowered by Christ, sent forth to serve.***

Our mission remains even as our church building is closed. **The church is never closed, but is always sent into the world in Jesus' name – all of us given spiritual gifts to serve God and others.**

Take some time to **complete a spiritual gifts inventory:**  
<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4262/finding-your-gifts-and-talents-for-service>  
**Share your results** with Pastor Mary!



On March 11, our Wednesday Night Bible Study group made up some snack mix and trail mix for Kids' Food Basket.

**Tuesday morning Bible Study** is not meeting in-person. Please **keep on reading through the Book of Revelation** so that when we're back together, we're ready to discuss it. For those who have the companion resource *Breaking the Code*, use it as you read.



GriefShare offers help and encouragement after the death of a loved one. More information is at [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org). **Our next session will begin on mid-August.**

## Lake Harbor Youth Groups

Due to public health response to COVID-19 and our Bishop's directive, we are not meeting in-person at this time. **We're sending out a weekly lesson online every Wednesday, and we'll be having a Zoom hangout on Wednesday nights at 5:30 p.m. for 30-40 minutes.** This will just be connection and conversation time!

In the meantime, stay healthy & wash your hands!  
Much Love,  
Jimmy, Niki, Kelsey & Patrick

Here's a **spiritual gifts inventory for youth:**

[https://www.fumcr.com/June\\_8\\_-\\_Youth\\_Spiritual\\_GiftsTest.pdf](https://www.fumcr.com/June_8_-_Youth_Spiritual_GiftsTest.pdf)

Be sure to share your results with your leaders!

### **SUMMER MISSION TRIP to Henderson**

**Settlement** in Frakes, Kentucky. If you're currently in 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, this trip is for you. If you have questions, just ask me. There are spots available.  
PEACE AND LOVE, JIMMY

**Youth Director Jimmy Epplett's Contact Info:**  
Facebook = Jimmy Epplett cell # (231) 750-9707

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS...



CELEBRATING April Birthday blessings to our Sunday School friends:

Aurora Morin	on the 9th
Breckin Bailey	on the 12th
Luka Ivanov	on the 15th
Sage Pallasch	on the 17th
Max Puffer	on the 17th
Gavin Cross	on the 21st
Kamden Cross	on the 21st
Aric Hutchins	on the 27th

**Many, many thanks** to the wonderful substitutes and helpers who so willingly served in Room #5 during Mrs. Swisher's visit to see her newest granddaughter. Marie Kordecki, Karen Post, Kathy Mertz, Janie Bultema, Rhonda Mosley, Julie Fuller, and Molly Epplett, your loving care of Lake Harbor's children is SO appreciated!!

**Many hands and lots of cleaning supplies** spruced up the temporary nursery in March. Everything was sprayed and wiped down. Thanks to the cleaners and our wonderful nursery caregivers!

**Mark your calendars** for a special Camp Sunday fundraiser when we're back together! Church Camp is a special time for many of our kids, youth, and families, and we want to send "s'more" kids to camp this year!

**With the shutdown of so many activities**, I know some families were having a challenge finding ways for kiddos to get change into their Lenten offering boxes. I've been surprised at some of the places I've found change - under a car seat, in a coat pocket I haven't worn since September, and a few days ago, while walking the dogs, I found six coins just sitting in the grass next to the sidewalk - had to be a God thing! I just want to encourage families to just do what you can, and know that

God knows your heart, and is happy with even the smallest "mite." Please bring your offering boxes to church when we're back together again, and all of our offering boxes added together will do great things!

For more info on the Tansen United Mission Hospital, check these links:

<https://advance.umcmmission.org/p-216-tansen-united-mission-hospital.aspx>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qR8v3VWOYE#action=share>



**Our LHUMC Education Team** loves to share the fun activities and events that involve our children and youth. We've created a private Facebook group to share photos and information that needs to be sent to parents in a timely manner. Because we strive to be conscious of where pictures of our children and youth are shared, this Facebook Group, called **LHUMC Children's Ministry**, is closed and is strictly for families of our students. All members of the group are subject to administrator approval. Non-family members can create posts and send photos, but such posts must be approved before being added to the group's wall. As always, any parent has the option to decline photos of their child/children from being posted. If you have any questions, please see Kate Robbins or any member on our Education team.

We hope your summer plans include Christian



camping! We're so fortunate to live in Michigan because we have such great opportunities to camp - specifically our United Methodist options and other Christian camps!

Lots of information is posted on a tower in the sanctuary. You can follow this link to look at the website: [www.umcamping.org](http://www.umcamping.org)

Scholarships are available but go fast, so don't delay! If you have any questions, please contact Niki Epplert, our Camping Coordinator, or the office.



## Membership, Nurture & Outreach (M.N.O.) News:

We welcome new members to this fun-loving group! Contact Sheryl Thompson at 231-563-6417.



**Ross Park Elementary outreach** in early March was a huge success! The teachers and staff were so appreciative. A thank you note is on the tower in the sanctuary. Thanks to everyone who donated delicious treats!

## Fellowship Opportunities

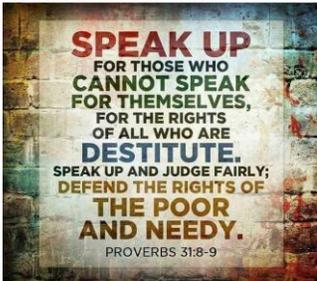


*Members on the move...*

**Ray Post email - [rpost79322@comcast.net](mailto:rpost79322@comcast.net)**

**Please keep the office informed** when you're moving or changing phone numbers or E-mail.

## Missions Corner



We're grateful for our congregation's heart to carry out these words from Proverbs and invite everyone to find a place to connect. If you're interested in

being more involved in Missions, please join us!

**Though we normally receive a special Easter offering that supports missions, we're waiting to send out that mailing until after our office is open again.**

You'll see a lot of updates from our local mission organizations. Please continue to pray for and support them in whatever way you can.

**Supper House is serving Take Out Meals with minimal workers. If you have questions, please call Sheryl Thompson at 231-563-6417.**



## Change the World!



**Our March Noisy Offering and UMCOR SUNDAY** is **\$481.13** so far. When disasters occur, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is there to help people recover from the catastrophe and put their lives back together. Thank you for your generous support of this important outreach mission! **Gift can be made toward UMCOR at anytime.**

**Our April Noisy Offering** will support **Camp Fund at Lake Harbor**. Lake Harbor has scholarships available for our kids that are attending Summer Camp.



To Volunteers and Supporters:

We are concerned about our volunteers. Most of them are the most vulnerable to this horrendous virus. To keep them safe, and to protect our families, we imposed "Housing-in-Place" on Friday, March 13 that will last until April 11. At that time, we will reevaluate. Things have been changing so quickly!

**We do have a few needs if you'd like to help:** canned beef stew, tuna fish, crackers, single serving microwave soups, canned fruit, single serving mac and cheese – anything that can be microwaved. There's a box outside of our door, underneath the red awning at the day center (2160 Crozier).

We want to be prudent and proactive. Call me anytime with questions or concerns. The number is 231-747-8855.

Let's all pray, care about each other, and help one another.

In Peace,  
Marian McDermed, Director

**Our next week to host Family Promise guests is June 28-July 4.** Save these days on your calendar!



## April MAP Items:

**Potatoes (canned) and Bars of Soap**

**MAP also needs clean, white shopping bags.** If you have items for MAP, please call our office.

**ALL MAP services are currently being cared for by MAP staff.** Food Pantry and Medical Fund are still serving those in need.



**KFB locations are centralizing our operation out of the Grand Rapids location. We are confident that we will be able to serve all locations out**

**of our headquarters. Minimizing potential exposure to volunteers and our staff remains our priority. We will have 2 staff members at our Muskegon location during operational hours.**

### **What can you do?**

- Please follow us on social media and our website for the latest updates.
- Give online: <https://bit.ly/2QdqizG> or by mail: PO Box 34, Muskegon MI 49443
- Wish List items: individual pretzel and cracker bags (single servings), Nutri-grain bars, Tuna packets, fruit-cups
- Decorating bags for Sack Suppers



Pastor Mary and Lake Harbor family,

The past few months have been an emotional roller coaster during Evan's medical scare and recovery. We are thankful for his quick and tremendous recovery. Our family is beyond grateful for the power of prayer and the support from the Lake Harbor UMC family.

Much love,  
Evan & Calie Aamodt and David & Julie McLouth

Dear Lake Harbor UMC,  
On Behalf of the Norton Shores Fire Department, I would like to thank you for the generous donation. We are very fortunate to have partners

such as Lake Harbor UMC. Our community is a safe place because of it.

Thanks again,  
Fire Marshall Ted Karnitz, NSFD

I would like to thank everyone who is calling people in the church to check on them. It's a wonderful idea, and it means a lot to hear from my church family.

Jean Wasserman

To our church family and friends at Lake Harbor UMC,

Thank you so much for your care, prayers, cards, and memorial gifts to the church and Lansing City Rescue Missions after the death of Pastor Mary's father, Joe Bement. Your love continues to be a reflection of God's love in this difficult time.

Pastor Mary, Ivan, Ana and Luka Ivanov  
Chris Bement, Pastor Mary's mom  
Anne Hudgins and family, Pastor Mary's sister  
Jean Bement, Pastor Mary's sister



### **From our FINANCE Team:**

In light of the current situation with the "shelter in place" order and the effect on all of our lives, **we're being proactive and realistic in how we move forward.** Our weekly offerings for our General Fund have been half of what we need to meet monthly expenses because we haven't been able to meet in-person. That being said, we greatly appreciate giving that continues to come online and in the mail. Please continue to give regularly.

**We are cutting expenses as much as possible without decreasing services to our congregation and community.** We have directed our staff and committee chairs to freeze spending for non-emergency needs. Our priority is to pay payroll, payroll taxes, and utilities.

We do want to offer you financial information for the month of February. **At the end of February,** our total income for General Fund for 2020 was \$59,888.59. Our total General Fund expenses

were \$54,994.03. **We are current on all expenses, including Ministry Shares.**

Thank you for your faithfulness in giving as we journey through this time together and continue to give thanks for God's love and grace in our lives.



Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit card or debit card. Electronic giving offers convenience for you and much needed consistency in giving. You can set up your donations on our website or if you'd rather, stop by the church office for assistance.

To set up your electronic donation on our [www.lakeharborumc.org](http://www.lakeharborumc.org):

- 1) Click on "Give" button
- 2) Click on "Create Profile" button
- 3) Follow onscreen instructions.

It's easy and stress free!

### From our Trustees

**Our chairpersons will check in on the church building during this time of closure.** Downstairs renovation work is on hold, but we look forward to the time when we can gather together again!



**Our office is closed at this time.** LHUMC Office phone is **231-798-2181**. Mail and messages are

**checked every weekday.** If you leave a message on the answering machine on the weekend, **it may not be received until Monday morning.**

### **LAKE HARBOR UMC on SOCIAL MEDIA**



Make sure you're connected.

We also encourage you to

**"check in"** when you're livestreaming at home.

It's an easy way to share your witness with others.

**Our website** ([www.lakeharborumc.org](http://www.lakeharborumc.org)) has current events and other information, including messages and media.

**Please make sure we have your current E-mail** so that you can receive weekly info notes!

### **Staying connected:**

These websites continue to **offer the most accurate information** on what's happening in the larger UMC:

**United Methodist Church:** [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org)

**Michigan Area UMC:** <http://michiganumc.org>

For opportunities in our Muskegon and Grand Rapids area:

**Midwest District:** <https://midwest.michiganumc.org/>

You can access sermons and other information through our church website at:

**Lake Harbor UMC:** <http://lakeharborumc.org>

## **Sunday Servants**

It will be a great day when we gather together. In the meantime, **stay connected in whatever way you can, reach out to your neighbors, and look for God's presence each day.** Make it a point to worship on Sunday morning.

**Serving April 5:**

**10:00 a.m. Service**

**Live Stream from the Ivanov residence**

**Serving April 12 :**

**10:00 a.m. Service**

**Live Stream from the Ivanov residence**

**Serving April 19:**

**10:00 a.m. Service**

**Live Stream from the Ivanov residence**

**Serving April 26:**

**10:00 a.m. Service**

**Live Stream from the Ivanov residence**