



## Inside This Issue...

Riz's Reflections .....	1
FoodMobile .....	2
Blue Barrel.....	2
Session Highlights.....	3
Staff Contact Info .....	3
April Birthdays .....	3
Earth Day Sunday.....	4
April Calendar .....	5

*Daring to live  
in Jesus  
transforming  
love*

## Riz's Reflections...

Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice. – Psalm 96:12

Dear Church,

Peace be with you. This month we celebrate Earth Day, and in today's rapidly urbanizing world, 56% of the global population resides in cities where the call for environmental stewardship grows ever louder. Our cities, brimming with life and activity, are also the source of 70% of the world's emissions. As faithful stewards, we are tasked with not just preserving but also enhancing the quality of life for all of God's creation. This challenge is intricately linked to our handling of a prevalent yet problematic material: plastic.

Since its inception in 1907, plastic has infiltrated every aspect of our lives. From food packaging to technological devices, its omnipresence is undeniable. Alarming statistics reveal that in 2019 alone, 460 million tons of plastic were produced globally. Unfortunately, this convenience comes at a high cost. Plastic pollution is now a critical environmental

threat, with single-use plastics being a major culprit. They are found cluttering landfills, polluting water sources, and even entering our bodies and those of other living creatures.

The impact of plastic pollution extends beyond mere aesthetics. It disrupts natural habitats, hinders ecosystem adaptability to climate change, and compromises human health and livelihoods. Alarming, the average adult consumes microplastic particles equivalent to one credit card per week, and these particles have been linked to serious health issues. The chemicals in these plastics have been linked to reproductive harm and obesity, organ problems, and developmental delays in children.

Cigarette butts (whose filters contain tiny plastic fibers), food wrappers, plastic bottles, plastic bottle caps, plastic grocery bags, plastic straws and plastic stirrers are among the most common pollutants. These plastics can take anywhere from 20 to 1000 years to decompose, depending on the material's structure and environmental factors such as sunlight exposure.

*(Continued on page 2)*

Riz's Reflections... (cont'd)

*Every person, every being has a use and has a purpose within the Kingdom of God."*

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It's estimated that it will take a plastic bag up to 1,000 years to break down once it is in a landfill and even once it has done so, it lives on as microplastics that get into water, soil and the bodies of living creatures.

We, as people of faith, are not immune to the overuse and misuse of plastics. Therefore, we must act. Our actions, guided by our commitment to God and thus creation, can make a profound difference. Pastor Stephanie Allen of North Carolina reminds us, "Every person, every being

has a use and has a purpose within the Kingdom of God."

Here are practical steps we can take to combat plastic pollution:

Embark on a Plastic-Free Season: Challenge yourself to live without single-use plastics. Start by carrying reusable bags and swapping plastic straws for metal, paper or bamboo alternatives.

Rethink Shellfish Consumption: Microplastics consumed by shellfish eventually make their way into our bodies. By reducing shellfish intake, we can decrease our own microplastic consumption.

Understand your personal plastic footprint. Investigate how much plastic you use weekly and the fate of your plastic waste. Inquire about your state's recycling efficacy and look for ways to improve.

In embracing these actions, we uphold our duty as stewards of God's creation. It's not just about preserving our environment; it's about honoring the interconnectedness of all life and ensuring a sustainable, healthy future for generations to come. In doing so we can live into the words of the Psalmists which proclaims that all of creation can be joyful and rejoice. That's good news worth celebrating!

In Christ,

Rev Riz

FoodMobile & Blue Barrel



FoodMobile is on Thursday, April 18th from 2-4. Our next date is as follows: **Thurs May 16**, from 2-4p.

Blue Barrel will be on April 14. Stop by and visit the atrium's Blue Barrel with non-perishable items to be donated to Keystone Food Shelf. Let's feed the Blue Barrel!

Contact Information	2023-24 Church Leadership
<p><b>Ministers:</b> New Life Congregation  <b>Minister of Word &amp; Sacrament:</b>                      Riz Prakasim, ext 211 (Sabbath Mondays)  <a href="mailto:riz@newlifechurchroseville.org">riz@newlifechurchroseville.org</a></p> <p><b>Director of Music Ministry/Custodian:</b>                      Logan Combs, ext 217  <a href="mailto:logan.combs@newlifechurchroseville.org">logan.combs@newlifechurchroseville.org</a></p> <p><b>Business Administrator:</b>                      Michelle Kozitza, ext 220  <a href="mailto:michelle@newlifechurchroseville.org">michelle@newlifechurchroseville.org</a></p> <p><b>Administrative Assistant:</b>                      Roshelle Mountain, ext 210  <a href="mailto:rmountain@newlifechurchroseville.org">rmountain@newlifechurchroseville.org</a></p> <p><b>Communications Collaborator:</b>                      Justin Combs, ext. 227  <a href="mailto:communications@newlifechurchroseville.org">communications@newlifechurchroseville.org</a></p> <p><b>Church Phone Number:</b> 651.488.5581</p>	<p><b>Building &amp; Grounds:</b> Kim Spear</p> <p><b>Celebration &amp; Worship:</b> Sara Drake</p> <p><b>Mission &amp; Outreach:</b> Pam Hord</p> <p><b>Community Garden:</b> Molly Cacek</p> <p><b>Congregational Care:</b> Sandy McGiffin</p> <p><b>Finance:</b> Margie Johns</p> <p><b>Membership &amp; Growth:</b> Yvonne Lewis</p> <p><b>Nominating:</b> Judi Klotz</p> <p><b>Personnel:</b> Lindy Maurey</p> <p><b>Faith Formation:</b> Ducky Johnson</p>

**Session Highlights—February 27, 2024**

The Fiscal 2023 Audit Team Report was received and reviewed.

The provisions of the Knox Legacy Fund have been met for the requisite ten year period. It was therefore RESOLVED: The Knox Legacy Fund will continue to be used primarily for major capital expenditures. However, it may also be used for other purposes, including covering operating deficits, if session so chooses (APPROVED.)

**April Birthdays**

1st: David King	17th: Jackson Gienger	30th: Geoffrey, Kristopher & Nathaniel Sargent 
2nd: Bob Jensen	19th: Carole Rust	
6th: Kristi Peterson	20th: Michelle Kozitza	
7th: Kenn Phipps	21st: Terry Lee	
9th: Lorraine Bangle, Ben Ihlenfeldt	23rd: Conrad Miller	
12th: Honorine Asoh	24th: Judi Klotz	
15th: Alice Brotherton, April Rust	26th: Irene Meinen, Julie Kehne	
	27th: Arlene Faehn	
	29th: Bill Beck	

If your April birthday is missing from this list, our apologies. Please let Sandy, Care Coordinator know so we can include you next time. ([sandymcgiffin@gmail.com](mailto:sandymcgiffin@gmail.com) or 651-633-2924)

## News



*(Continued from page 3)*

Current Stewardship chair, Bruce Nelson, has retired from this position. We thank him for leading us through a successful stewardship year. A replacement is needed.

Staffing changes--Justin Combs has resigned as Custodian, but continues as Communications Collaborator; Logan Combs has assumed the Custodian role in addition to his role as Music Director, giving him full-time status at 40 hours/week.

Sprinkler bids of \$71,000; \$38,000; and \$36,000 have been received.

A draft lease for preschool space has been delivered. Awaiting Building and Grounds feedback.

From the Church Reformation Task Force--Town Hall surveys are still being

compiled. Next Town Hall scheduled for May 19, 2024. Partnering conversations with other churches include: a joint task force with Falcon Heights UCC that has meetings scheduled for March 23, 2024 and either April 6 or 7, 2024; conversations planned after Easter with Presbyterian Church of the Way. CRTF will draft a strategic plan consisting of two main parts—a plan for the building and a plan for the congregation.

## Come Join The Earth Day Sunday Celebration April 21st

**Come join our church family for this special event and bring a friend with you.** Our theme this year is **“REAL FAITH in a SYNTHETIC WORLD”**. It was developed by Creation Justice Ministries (formerly the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program) which represents the creation care and environmental justice policies of major Christian denominations throughout the U.S. We

work in cooperation with 38 national faith bodies, including Protestant and Orthodox communities as well as regional faith groups and congregants to protect and restore God’s creation.

Be sure to come a little bit early so you can sit in the sanctuary and enjoy the beautiful sounds of nature being played before the service begins.

After our special service, you will have a chance to take part in many different activities for all ages plus drink juice, coffee, or tea and nibble on environmentally friendly snacks.

Be sure to check for upcoming announcements for more details.



April 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> <i>Office Closed— Easter Monday</i> 12p E-Notes items due 7p Mission & Outreach	<b>2</b> 9:15a TOPS 1p Staff Meeting 6:30p Membership & Growth	<b>3</b> 9a Quilters 11a Meals on Wheels 6p Sanctuary Choir 7:15p Prime Chimers	<b>4</b> <b>E-NOTES DAY</b> <i>3p Possible Oyate Ota Ctr Meeting</i> 6p GFANC Prayer Mtg. 6:10p AA Big Book	<b>5</b> 10a JFC Event 12p Sunday Worship Prep 1p NSC rehearsing in lower level	<b>6</b> 10a DIW Event in Great Room 2p GFANC Board Mtg. 6p Youth JFC
	<b>7</b> 9:30a PCG Worship 10a NLPC Worship 10:30a Kenyan Church 10:30a GFANC Prayer Mtg. 11a Fellowship 11:30 CRTF Mtg. 11:30a GFANC Worship 1:30p JFC Worship 5p AA Firing Line	<b>8</b> 9:30a Care Coordinators	<b>9</b> 9:15a TOPS 1p Former Dementia Caregivers 1p Staff Meeting 6:30p Esther Circle 6:30p Faith Formations	<b>10</b> 9a Quilters/Men's Breakfast 6p Sanctuary Choir 7p Personnel 7:15p Prime Chimers	<b>11</b> 5p Celebration & Worship 5:30p Buildings & Grounds 6p GFANC Prayer Mtg. 6:10p AA Big Book	<b>12</b> 12p Sunday Worship Prep 12p NSC Board Mtg. 1p NSC Rehearsal
<b>14</b> 9:30a PCG Worship 10a NLPC Worship 10:30a Kenyan Church 10:30a GFANC Prayer Mtg. 11a Fellowship 11:30a GFANC Worship 1:30p JFC Worship 5p AA Firing Line	<b>15</b> 12p E-Notes items due 12p New Life News items due 7p Church Finance	<b>16</b> 9:15a TOPS 1p Staff Meeting	<b>17</b> 9a Quilters 6p Sanctuary Choir 7:15p Prime Chimers	<b>18</b> <b>E-NOTES DAY</b> <b>2p Foodmobile</b> 6p GFANC Prayer Mtg. 6:10p AA Big Book	<b>19</b> 12p Sunday Worship Prep 1p NSC Rehearsal	<b>20</b> Earth Day set up – Carole 2p GFANC Board Mtg. 6p Youth JFC
<b>21</b> 9:30a PCG Worship 10a NLPC Worship 10:30a Kenyan Church 10:30a GFANC Prayer Mtg. 11a Fellowship 11:30a GFANC Worship 1:30p JFC Worship 5p AA Firing Line	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:15a TOPS 1p Former Dementia Caregivers 6:30p Session	<b>24</b> 9a Quilters/Men's Breakfast 11a Meals on Wheels 6p Sanctuary Choir 7:15p Prime Chimers	<b>25</b> 6p GFANC Prayer Mtg. 6:10p AA Big Book	<b>26</b> 12p Sunday Worship Prep 1p NSC Rehearsal	<b>27</b> 6p Youth JFC
<b>28</b> 9:30a PCG Worship 10a NLPC Worship 10:30a Kenyan Church 10:30a GFANC Prayer Mtg. 11a Fellowship 11:30a GFANC Worship 1:30p JFC Worship 5p AA Firing Line	<b>29</b> 12p E-Notes items due	<b>30</b> 9:15a TOPS 1p Staff Meeting				