

# Senior Ministries Newsletter

April 2026



For information regarding Senior Ministries events or trips, or if a loved one is moving to a care facility, please contact Terri Hempstead at [thempstead@springfieldfirst.org](mailto:thempstead@springfieldfirst.org) or 217-793-9760 x111.

“For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” (Matthew 7:8)

## Are you getting older?

(Yes, you are.)

## Do you have a plan?

Monday, April 20, 1 pm  
Atrium 4



Nick Hibbs with Hometown Senior Care Advisors says most people avoid thinking about a possible future decline in their health and the changes it might bring. It is never too early to understand the options for care and to share one's preferences with family members or care partners. Nick and his colleague Morgan Heckman will outline some considerations and describe Hometown Senior Care Advisors' services, which are always no-cost to the client.

## Senior Fellowship

Thursday, April 9  
9:30-12:30  
Room 5/6

See old friends and make new ones. The lunch menu includes pork tenderloin, twice-baked potato, and mixed vegetables. We will play table games for a few hours, followed by lunch. Suggested donation \$8. Reservations are needed by Monday, April 6, for purposes of food preparation and room set-up. To register:

- Leave a message at 217-793-9760 x111
- Email [thempstead@springfieldfirst.org](mailto:thempstead@springfieldfirst.org)
- Register at [springfieldfirst.org/seniors](http://springfieldfirst.org/seniors) and click on **Senior Fellowship**.

## Josephine's Tea Room

Wednesday, April 8



The church van will leave from the east entrance at 9am. The van is full. If you are willing to drive and to take passengers, or interested in going but need a ride, contact Terri ASAP. Carpools will be arranged if possible.

## Technology Class for Apple Product Users

Wednesday, April 29, 1pm  
Choir Room

Beta Club members from Lincoln Magnet School will teach us how to make the most of our iPhones, iPads, Apple watches, and Apple computers.



## Monthly Church History Class

Topic: The Reformation Spreads and Fragments, Part 2  
Thursday, April 16, 1pm  
Choir Room

## Financial Scams that Target Seniors

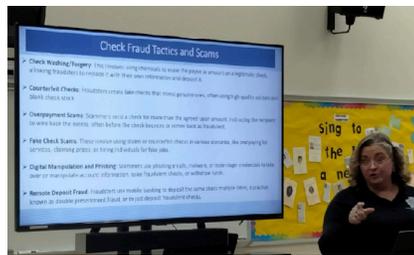
Detective Jen Wallace from the Springfield Police Department spoke to our members on March 9 about financial scams.

Common frauds include romance/dating scams, government impostors, lotteries & sweepstakes, tech support & computer security hacks, bitcoin sales at vending machines, and many more.

She advised using credit cards rather than debit cards, and always paying bills online.

She suggested never putting a check in the mail because “all the criminals” have copies of the universal key for opening mail drop boxes.

Request a full set of her slides from Terri.



## DEATHS

Please hold in prayer the families of:

Arlene Flury 2/21  
Barbara Archer 3/16

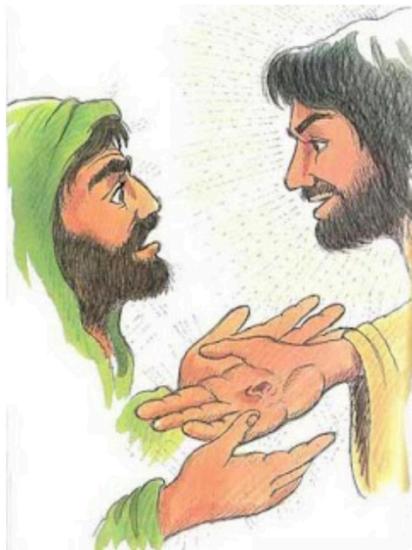
## He Is Risen! Believe it!

During my college days, I took a Philosophy class. I can distinctly remember the antics of the professor during his classroom instructions. On one occasion, he took a simple chalkboard eraser and held it before us for a few seconds with an impish grin while standing at his lectern.

Then, with a dramatic movement, he held the eraser behind him to simulate how it had disappeared from the students' view. He asked, “Is the eraser real? Does it exist now that you can't see it?” It was a lesson in metaphysical theory that “objects of sense exist only when they're perceived.”



This extended discussion of reality has stuck in my mind throughout the years. It isn't always easy to determine what is real and what is not. Undoubtedly, one of the most storied of the post-resurrection



accounts regarded Thomas and his reaction to the other disciples' declaration, “We have seen the Lord!”

Thomas boldly responded, “Unless I see the nail marks... and put my finger where the nails were... I will not believe it!” (John 20:25). A week later, Thomas would experience the reality of resurrection with all his senses and humbly confess, “My Lord and my God!” (20:26).

Believers understand that the Christian faith is a reality-based decision! On Easter Sunday, we will stand with fellow believers to declare our belief in the resurrection of Christ, “He is risen! He is risen, indeed!”

Doubting Thomas Believes!  
Image Credit: nqhparrish.com

- Mike Keppler, Care Pastor  
Follow Mike's weekly blog called “Serve by Design” at [mjkministries.com](http://mjkministries.com).



**Springfield First**  
A UNITED METHODIST FAITH COMMUNITY

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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## WEEKEND WORSHIP EXPERIENCES

**Sunday** 9:00am & 10:30am Contemporary (CLC) 10:30am Traditional (Sanctuary)