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APRIL 2023

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MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dearest Faith,

Last Sunday, I shared a story about these trilliums. Back in March of 2020, I discovered these flowers while Teresa and the kids and I were walking in the Corneille Bryan Native Garden at Lake Junaluska. I loved the yellow ones in particular because they smelled like lemons. Later that day I ordered some to plant in our own backyard, and what eventually arrived in the mail were rhizomes, which basically look like dead twigs. We planted them right away, and while I didn't have a lot of hope that those dead twigs would ever grow into flowers, that's exactly what they did. Yellow and red ones, and the yellow ones smelled like lemons!

And they keep coming back every Spring. Can you spot them in the photo? I almost missed them myself amidst all the fallen leaves and branches. I was worried they wouldn't grow the first year, and I've been a little surprised every year when they come back. After all, they were just dead-looking branches buried in the ground.

They remind me of Easter. Those flowers remind of the surprising ways that God brings about new life from what looks to us like death. They remind me that God is making all things new. We might miss it in the twigs and leaves of everyday life, but we can find signs of life all around us if we pay attention. Where do you see those signs of God's grace, of new life? You may have to look closely, and in places you might not expect, but I think you'll find them.

Grace and peace,
Jed



PS In addition to Sunday services for Palm Sunday and then Easter Sunday, we will also have a Maundy Thursday service at noon.

MESSAGE FROM LAY LEADER

“Lord, Give Me Patience and Hurry Up!”

Recently I read a story about a man who went to the doctor with a swollen foot. After a careful examination, the doctor gave the man a pill big enough to choke a horse. “I’ll be right back with some water”, the doctor told him. The doctor had been gone quite a while and the man was becoming impatient. He hobbled out to the water fountain, forced the pill down his throat and drank enough water for the pill to clear his throat. He then hobbled back into the examination room. The doctor finally returned with a pan of warm water and instructed the patient “to place the large pill in the water, let it dissolve, and sit there and soak his foot for at least 20 minutes.”

Lord, give me patience and hurry up! How many times have we found ourselves waiting on a sign or answer from God about a situation in our lives? Rarely does God’s time match our time. Immediate answers are not always the best for us.

I hope your Lenten journey has been a time you have been walking by faith and not sight. That you have put aside your own tendencies to try to figure out answers to questions on your own and have allowed God to work on your behalf to prepare you for the plans he has for your future.

Patiently waiting for Easter Sunday!

Susan



RICK'S REFRAIN

This is a busy time for me. Musical preparation for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter is taking much of my time. But it is a labor I love. This is a special season when we pause to remember the agony our Savior went through to provide salvation for us. And with my finite mind, I can't begin to imagine the turmoil and agony of our God as He sent Jesus to live among us and ultimately to give His life for us.

So much music has been written for this season, that making appropriate selections is a daunting task. I anticipate hearing strains of “Handel’s Messiah” when I enter though the portal of heaven. I also look forward to listening to “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” with Ludwig van Beethoven, who was losing his hearing and may not have actually heard his beautiful rendering. I’m sure the heavenly choruses will reverberate with songs of praise sung directly for our king.

It must have been a time of unequalled excitement for the women who went to the tomb on that first Easter Sunday. The stone was rolled back, and Jesus was not in the tomb. Continuing in Luke 24, we find: “They were puzzled, wondering what to make of this. Then, out of nowhere it seemed, two men, light cascading over them, stood there. The women were awestruck and bowed down in worship. The men said, ‘Why are you looking for the Living One in a cemetery? He is not here but raised up. Remember how he told you when you were still back in Galilee that he had to be handed over to sinners, be killed on a cross, and in three days rise us?’ Then they remembered Jesus’ words.” (Luke 24:4-8 The Message) But

the joy didn't end there. In verse 9, it reads, "They left the tomb and broke the news of all of this to the Eleven and the rest."

Our message of Easter is one of triumph over sin, death and the grave. We serve a RISEN Savior. We must tell it to "the rest."



BETH'S MISSION MESSAGE

Healing prayers to Beth for her recovery and a reminder that Haywood Christian ministry has issued a plea for canned foods.



Stewardship News as of March 26, 2023

I will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and uphold it with my Prayers, my Presence, my Gifts, my Service, and my Witness.

2023 Budget	\$50,519.00
Needed through 3/26/23 for budget	\$13,134.94
Received to date for budget	\$ 9,691.00
Behind Budget	\$ 3,443.94
Paid out to date for budget	\$10,267.22

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS!



APRIL 2023 DATES TO REMEMBER

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
WORSHIP 11 AM

Smokey has Sunday School lessons for children ages 4 to 12 and Mark has adult lessons each week.



April 1-Lazarus Saturday in Eastern Christianity (consisting of the Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox Churches) refers to the moveable feast before Palm Sunday to which it is liturgically linked. It celebrates the raising of Lazarus of Bethany. Bethany is recorded in the New Testament as a small village in Judaea, the home of the siblings Mary of Bethany, Martha, and Lazarus, as well as that of Simon the Leper.

John's gospel reports that "Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead." Presumably, it is where he spent the Great Sabbath that occurs immediately before Passover, prior to his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Jesus is reported to have lodged there during Holy Week, and it is where his anointing by Lazarus' sister Mary took place a few days later on Holy Wednesday.

HOLY WEEK is the most sacred week in the liturgical year in Christianity traditions. Holy Week occurs the week after Lazarus Saturday and starts on the evening of Palm Sunday.



April 2-Palm Sunday is a Christian moveable feast that falls on the Sunday before Easter. The feast commemorates Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, an event mentioned in each of the four Gospels. Palm Sunday marks the first day of Holy Week. For adherents of mainstream Christianity, it is the last week of the Christian solemn season of Lent that precedes the arrival of Eastertide.

In most liturgical churches, Palm Sunday is celebrated by the blessing and distribution of palm branches (or the branches of other native trees), representing the palm branches which the crowd scattered in front of Christ as he rode into Jerusalem; these palms are sometimes woven into crosses. The difficulty of procuring palms in unfavorable climates led to their substitution with branches of native trees, including box, olive, willow, and yew. The Sunday was often named after these substitute trees, as in Yew Sunday, or by the general term Branch Sunday.

Many churches of mainstream Christian denominations distribute palm branches to their congregations during their Palm Sunday liturgies. Christians take these palms, which are often blessed by clergy, to their homes where they hang them alongside Christian art (especially crosses and crucifixes) or keep them in their Bibles and daily devotional books. In the period preceding the next year's Lent, known as Shrovetide, churches often place a basket in their narthex to collect these palms, which are then ritually burned on Shrove Tuesday to make the ashes to be used on the following day, Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of Lent.



April 5-Holy Wednesday In the New Testament account of Holy Week, after Palm Sunday, the Sanhedrin (an assembly of elders appointed to sit as a tribunal) gathered and plotted to kill Jesus before the feast of Pesach (Passover). On the Wednesday before his death, Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the Leper. As he sat at the supper table with his disciples, a woman named Mary anointed Jesus' head and feet with a costly oil of spikenard (also called nard, nardin, and muskroot, is a class of aromatic amber-colored essential oil derived from *Nardostachys jatamansi*, a flowering plant in the honeysuckle family). The disciples were indignant, asking why the oil was not instead sold and the money given to the poor. But Judas Iscariot wanted to keep the money for himself. Then Judas went to the Sanhedrin and offered to deliver Jesus to them in exchange for money. From this moment on, Judas sought an opportunity to betray Jesus.

In reference to Judas Iscariot's intent to betray Jesus, formed on Holy Wednesday, the day is sometimes called "Spy Wednesday". The word spy, as used in the term, means "ambush, ambuscade, snare". Additionally, among the disciples, Judas clandestinely was a spy and Wednesday was the day he chose to betray Christ.

April 5 Passover Begins

Ends April 13- The holiday of **Pesach**, or **Passover**, is an annual weeklong festival commemorating the emancipation of Jewish peoples from slavery (in ancient Egypt). The Hebrew name, *Pesach*, means "to Passover" because the plague in Egypt that killed all first-borns passed over the Israelites' homes, sparing the lives of their children.



April 6-Holy Thursday is the day during Holy Week that commemorates the Washing of the Feet and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles, as described in the canonical gospels. It is the fifth day of Holy Week, preceded by Holy Wednesday and followed by Good Friday.



April 7-Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary. It is observed during Holy Week as part of the Paschal Triduum (or **Easter Triduum, Holy Triduum** or the **Three Days**) is the period of three days that begins with the liturgy on the evening of Maundy Thursday reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil, and closes with evening prayer on Easter Sunday. It is also known as Holy Friday, Great Friday, Great and Holy Friday and Black Friday.

Members of many Christian denominations, observe Good Friday with fasting and church services. In many Methodist churches, the Service of the Great Three Hours' Agony is held from noon until 3 pm, the time duration that the Bible records as darkness covering the land to Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross.



April 9-Easter Sunday- also called **Pascha** or Resurrection Sunday, is a Christian festival and cultural holiday commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred on the third day of his burial following his crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary. It is the culmination of the Passion of Jesus Christ, preceded by Lent (or Great Lent), a 40-day period of fasting, prayer, and penance.

Easter-observing Christians commonly refer to the week before Easter as Holy Week, which in Western Christianity begins on Palm Sunday (marking the entrance of Jesus in Jerusalem), includes Spy Wednesday (on which the betrayal of Jesus is mourned), and contains the days of the Easter Triduum including Maundy Thursday, commemorating the Maundy and Last Supper, as well as Good Friday, commemorating the crucifixion and death of Jesus. In Eastern Christianity, the same days and events are commemorated with the names of days all starting with "Holy" or "Holy and Great"; and Easter itself might be called "Great and Holy Pascha", "Easter Sunday", "Pascha" or "Sunday of Pascha". In Western Christianity, Eastertide, or the Easter Season, begins on Easter Sunday and lasts seven weeks, ending with the coming of the 50th day, Pentecost Sunday.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4-Izzabella Setser
6-Tracy Edwards-Villeveces
7-Pat Griffith
8-Mark Dooly
12-Pam Johnson
13-Charlene Snyder
16-Steve Scarbrough
30-Gordon Wheeler



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

8-Rick & Kay Boen
30-Chris & Pam Johnson