



# COALVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER



### From the Pen of Bro. Len

#### How can the death of Jesus “save” me?

For the past several weeks, I have attempted to answer this question through a series of messages—“What did the Cross mean to God the Father, God the Son, Satan, the world & the Church.” They were in answer to the question asked in this article, “How can the death of Jesus save me?” Allow me to offer an answer to that question as we consider this question in the context of Easter.

One way to understand the meaning of the death of Jesus is to imagine a courtroom scene in which we are on trial for our sins and God is the judge. Our sins against God are capital crimes. God Himself is our judge, and according to divine law our crimes deserve the death penalty. *Death*, in a spiritual sense, means eternal separation from God in unending torment. That’s a very serious judgment. By shedding His blood on the cross, Jesus took the punishment we deserve and offered us His righteousness. When we trust Christ for our salvation, essentially, we are making a trade. By faith, we trade our sin and its accompanying death penalty for His righteousness and life. In theological terms, this is called “**substitutionary atonement.**” Christ died on the cross as our substitute. Without Him, we would suffer the death penalty for our own sins. Here are a few verses that explain this concept:

He [God] made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#))

And while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. ([1 Peter 2:23-24](#))

Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities. The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. ([Isaiah 53:4-5](#))

The writer to the Hebrews puts it this way: “And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness” ([Hebrews 9:22](#)). For God to forgive our sins, His judgment had to be satisfied and that required the shedding of blood. Some object, “Shedding blood seems so barbaric. Is it really necessary? Why doesn’t God simply forgive us?” Because God is holy, He *must* judge sin. Would a just and righteous judge let evil go unpunished? At the cross, God poured out His judgment on His Son, satisfying His wrath and making it possible for Him to forgive us. That’s why Jesus shed His blood for your sins, my sins, and the sins of the whole world.

At what moment during the crucifixion ordeal did God pour out His judgment on His precious Son? Many believe it was when Jesus cried out: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ([Mark 15:34](#)). By taking upon Himself the sins of the world, Jesus removed Himself from God’s holy fellowship, and God, in turn,

removed Himself from His Son. It was a temporary but excruciating separation, for at that moment, the Son of God became the sin substitute for humanity.

God unleashed His wrath on His Son so that we might be spared that awful fate. **This is the central message of the cross and the reason for our hope:** God forsook His Son so that He might never forsake us. God assures us, “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you” ([Hebrews 13:5](#)). Isn’t that a wonderful promise?

Have you placed your trust in Jesus Christ as the substitute for your sin? Do you believe that Jesus died for you in order to give you eternal life and that He rose from the dead victorious over sin? If not, I encourage you to receive Jesus as your Savior. Sometimes it is that we get confused about “personal faith.” **What does it mean to “trust” in Jesus? What does it mean to “have faith” in Jesus?**

Let me try to answer this question. Have you ever eaten at a restaurant? Did you grow the food? Process the food? Cook and prepare the food? Did you personally watch the food be cooked? And you ate the food!? This is “faith.” You simply exercised a choice to eat the food placed in front of you without any knowledge of the processes because you trusted that the food was safe based upon some one’s witness about the restaurant. OR have you eaten frozen food or canned food? Same thing. Have you had surgery or visited a dentist and allowed them to perform some procedure on you? Did you go to school with the doctor or dentist? Do you KNOW them or their ability? Yet, you let them cut on you or perform some procedure. Why? Because someone you “trusted” shared a “testimony” about this person and you accepted their “testimony” and chose to allow this person to interact with you on a personal level. So, it is with Jesus...The ONLY difference is the OBJECT of our personal faith and trust.

I am not required to understand everything about anything to receive the benefits of that relationship...For example, I don’t have to understand everything about physics to benefit from gravity. I don’t have to understand everything about physiology or microbiology or science to benefit from the workings of the human body and all its components. I chose to

accept some things simply on “faith” without fully understanding all the underlying processes and principles associated with that which I am “believing.”

Happy Easter!!

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### Upcoming Worship and Easter Events

**Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 PM,** Easter Egg Hunt, CLC

**Maundy Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM,** S

**Good Friday Breakfast, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 7 AM,** CLC

**Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 AM** – Sunrise service, S, breakfast following in CLC, **10 AM** – Combined Worship, S

**Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM,** Traditional Worship, S, **10 AM,** Sidewalk Service, CLC

Beginning Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, we will start our new Sunday schedule:

**9 AM** – Sunday School, FH

**10 AM** – Combined Worship, S: Our plans are to begin the children’s church and passing of the peace back as part of worship.

If you would like to have some input into restructuring of worship, please contact Bro. Len.

## CORNERSTONE

Hello from Cornerstone! Welcome to April. We hope everyone has a very happy Easter! Join us for our spring Sunday sidewalk service the week after Easter, **April 27<sup>th</sup>**! Rain or shine at the CLC at **11 AM**. Lunch will be provided. We would love to see you all there.

\*No second Sunday luncheon in April.

Some of us were recently talking about the power of prayer and our prayer ministry leader, Ms. Barbara Jones. She does such a beautiful job with her ministry and takes it very seriously. She puts her whole heart into it. A lot of times, she will say something to you about how she had been praying for you specifically, and you are shocked because you had been having difficulties and it's as if she just knew ahead of time. We sure appreciate her and all she does for our church family. Keep Ms. Barbara in YOUR prayers.

*Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus...Philippians 4:6 – 7, NRSV.*

## From Jan

### YOUTH

This is the youth's busy season as we are gearing up for the Easter Egg Hunt and VBS. These two outreach events are very important and a big part of the youth's mission work as well as the Backpack Blessings they work on each week.

### J.A.M.

Our JAM kids plan to participate in Palm Sunday by bringing in the Palm branches as well as singing a new little Easter song. All children of any age are welcome to help bring in the Palm branches. Just let Jan know so we will have enough Palm leaves for them all.

### EASTER EGG HUNT!

**APRIL 13<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 – 2:30 PM**

Egg hunt, hot dogs and nachos, prize eggs, devotion, candy and games!

### VBS

Save the dates! Vacation Bible School dates are June 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme will be Twists and Turns: Jesus guides us through all the twists and turns of our lives. He helps us know His ways and teaches us His paths. Psalm 25:4. Decorations will be giant classic board games etc. We are super excited about this year's VBS. If you are willing to volunteer in any way let Jan or Timothy know.

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Beginning in May we will start back children's church. The kids will go with volunteers right after the offering to the children's church room where they will have a Bible story lesson and prayer time. We plan on incorporating our puppets to make their learning fun and memorable. We already have several volunteers; most of which are our amazing young adults. These volunteers will rotate Sundays. If you feel led to volunteer please sign up with Jan Gum or Michael Roberts.



We finished our The Chosen season 4 Bible Study. We all had a wonderful time studying the Word and enjoying awesome fellowship with each other. In this last week's reading it said "growing Christians grow together." That was our group; growing together as we grow in Christ! Praise be to God!

# **BUNCO**

## **COALVILLE UMC**

**12298 SHORECREST RD. BILOXI**

**APRIL 5**

*DOORS OPEN AT 5:00*

*DINNER AT 5:15*

*GAMES START PROMPTLY AT 6:00*

**\$20 PER PERSON INCLUDES DINNER AND GAMES**

**ADULTS ONLY**

**TOP PRIZES VALUED AT \$100 OR MORE:**

**MOST WINS**

**MOST BUNCOS**

**MOST LOSES**

*LOTS OF DOOR PRIZES TOO!*

*COME AND JOIN THE FUN!!*

**Anniversaries**

**Birthday**

**Monthly Events**

**Scheduled Meetings**

**Weekly Events**

**CLC – Christian Life Center**

**FH – Fellowship Hall**

**S – Sanctuary**

**CW – Contemporary Worship**

**TW – Traditional Worship**

**2<sup>nd</sup> SL – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Luncheon**

**AB – Administrative Board**

**BG – BUNCO Group**

**CB – Cornerstone Band**

**CC – Cemetery Committee**

**DT – Daisy Troop**

**FISH – Young Adults**

**JAM – Children’s Ministry**

**MT – Mission Team**

**SL – Senior Luncheon**

**UMYF - Youth**

| April 2025  |   |   |                         |   |  |  |
|---|---|---|-------------------------|---|--|--|
| ◀ March   |   |   |                         |   |  | May ▶  |
| Sun   | Mon   | Tue   | Wed                     | Thu   | Fri  | Sat  |
|   |   | <b>1</b><br>11:30 AM, SL, FH                        | <b>2</b>                | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b><br>[-----]<br>[-----]                                   | <b>5</b> Bruce Garner<br>Jan Garner<br>BUNCO, CLC--]<br>---S Reserved--] |
| <b>6</b> 9 AM, TW, S<br>10 AM, SS, FH<br>11 AM, CW, S<br>4:30 PM, JAM, CLC<br>6 PM, UMYF<br>& FISH, CLC                                       | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b><br>6 PM, DT, CLC                           | <b>9</b> Scarlett Ortiz | <b>10</b> Garry Mason<br>12 – 3 PM, BG, FH<br>7 PM, CB, S   | <b>11</b><br>7 PM, AA, FH  | <b>12</b> Janice Laut  |
| <b>13</b> 9 AM, TW, S<br>10 AM, SS, FH<br>11 AM, CW, S<br>12:30 PM, Easter<br>Egg Hunt, CLC<br>4:30 PM, JAM, CLC<br>6 PM, UMYF<br>& FISH, CLC | <b>14</b> Jasper Bahm<br>Edie Rushing<br>6 PM, AB, FH | <b>15</b>   | <b>16</b>               | <b>17</b><br>6 PM, Maundy<br>Thursday, S  | <b>18</b> 7 AM, Good<br>Friday Breakfast,<br>CLC<br>7 PM, AA, FH | <b>19</b>  |
| <b>20</b><br>EASTER SCHEDULE<br>7:30 AM, Sunrise<br>Service, S<br>8:15 AM, breakfast,<br>CLC<br>10 AM, Combined<br>Worship, S                 | <b>21</b>   | <b>22</b><br>6 PM, DT, CLC                          | <b>23</b> Ian Bahm      | <b>24</b><br>[---Prep for-----]   | <b>25</b> Wayne Claude<br>Sidewalk Service<br>7 PM, AA, FH       | <b>26</b> [---Church Van<br>-----]                                       |
| <b>27</b> 9 AM, TW, S<br>10 AM, SS, FH<br>11 AM, Sidewalk<br>Service, CLC<br>4:30 PM, JAM, CLC<br>6 PM, UMYF<br>& FISH, CLC                   | <b>28</b> --CV-----]                                  | <b>29</b> Don Jones<br>Dustin Ray<br>Richard Winsor | <b>30</b> Donald Gum    | <b>Backpack Blessings</b><br>4 <sup>th</sup> – peanut butter<br>11 <sup>th</sup> – small cereal<br>18 <sup>th</sup> – chicken noodle soup<br>25 <sup>th</sup> – oatmeal/grits |  |  |