



280 E Stillwater
Fallon NV 89406

775.423.4714

www.epworthfallon.org

Rev Dawn Blundell
Senior Pastor

pastor@eumcfallon.org

775.671.5553

Laura Butcher
Administrative Ministries

Grant Mills
Church Council Chair

Steve Russell
Board of Trustees

Doug Coval &
Kathy Fraker
Lay Leaders

April 13, 2021

Hello beloved members and friends of Epworth UMC!

This time of year, when the weather is getting nicer and the busy time of Holy Week and Easter Sunday is past, I always start thinking of new and exciting things we can do together as a church. I find myself wanting to find a new Bible study to lead, some kind of spring event to create or thing to do to bring some smiles and joy to our neighbors, creative ways to improve our ministry to children and families and homebound folks, neat new things we can do with video to improve our online presence and invite more people to experience the love and grace of God. All kinds of stuff. You all know me well enough to know by now that I have FAR more ideas than there is time and energy to accomplish. But still! I find this time of year very inspiring.

But now, I especially have to remember that, whatever new things we might begin together, we have to do them as a team. I can't just run off and do whatever sounds interesting to me, and do it all alone, because I am the world's most unreliable person on earth right now. As chemo continues, I find that it takes a bit longer to recover after each treatment, and the recovery isn't as complete either. So I'm tired, and forgetful, and kinda anti-social too. It is very annoying, I have to tell you.

It is also a very good and important lesson.

I've been spending time reading the letters of Peter and Paul and the rest, and one of the VERY important themes that repeats often, over and over in different contexts, is that the early church thrived because of the active participation and leadership of MANY. They worshiped together, and rejoiced in it, lifting their voices together in song and prayer and praise, sharing their testimonies and talking openly about answered prayers and the ways God was working in their lives. They served together, sharing what they had to help those in need, leading and participating in ministries of mercy and service. They supported each other, leaned on each other, encouraged and advised and protected and uplifted and prayed for each other. They did all of this together, participating in the life of the church using whatever gifts and resources God had given each person. Church was not a building, but a community.

As we return to in-person life together as a church -- and continue to bring church to folks at home in some of the new ways we have learned over this past year -- let's keep our eyes and hearts open to the new things God is doing. Let's worship and serve and create, pray and praise and teach and learn and love one another in spirit and in truth. And rejoice, for Christ is risen! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

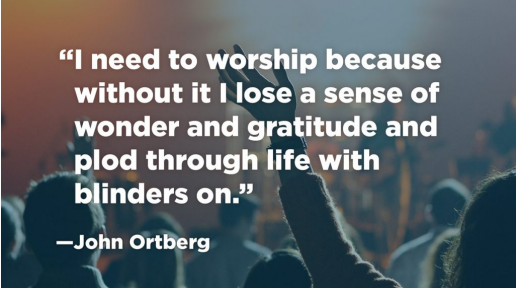
Pastor Dawn

Worship Any and Everywhere!

Living the Resurrection

This season, we will be spending our time in the letters of Peter and Paul, John and Timothy and the rest, as we take ourselves back in time to the earliest church. Written just a few short years after Jesus' resurrection, when many people still remembered vividly Jesus' miracles and teachings and expected his return any moment, these letters are a powerful witness to how the church lived as people of the resurrection.

We will begin together in the letters of Peter. We will learn some history, some archaeology, some theology...and we will hear what the early church can teach us about being people of the resurrection today. As you prepare your heart for worship, you might like to read Peter's letters in their entirety...to read them both will take you only about 10 minutes. Or, you might like to focus on the passage we will hear on Sunday, 1 Peter 1:22-25.



"I need to worship because without it I lose a sense of wonder and gratitude and plod through life with blinders on."

— John Ortberg

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

Zoom fought us on Easter Sunday, but that issue has been resolved. Yippee! So please join us for **virtual coffee hour after worship at 10:45am**. If you have never joined us, we hope that you will consider doing so...especially for the sake of those who can't join us in person for worship yet, gathering together in this way is a great gift you can give to yourself and your church family. You will get the link in your email as always; if you prefer to join by phone, here's the number:

1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: **870 1639 8986**

Passcode: **929340**

News and Fun Stuff

Sound and Video Training

If you have ever wanted to learn how to run the sound and/or video on Sunday mornings, we would love your participation! It is a great gift especially to those in worship who have trouble seeing and hearing, and to everyone else too. Join us on Saturday, May 1 at 11am for about an hour to learn how it's done! Ideally, we need 2 people each Sunday, and the more folks we have the better our rotation will work. Thank you!

Kids Sunday School

As we continue to explore how and when we can re-start kids' Sunday School, WE NEED YOU! In order to make our Sunday School program a success, we need a few people who will gather together to choose curriculum, and shower love on our little ones. You do NOT have to be an expert in the Bible, or know how to teach, or anything at all. You just have to love them, and be willing to partner with other folks to use good curriculum to teach them about God. If you have an hour to spare after worship to rotate with other kid-lovers, please contact Ashlee McGarity or Pastor Dawn by calling the church office, 775-423-4714.



Men's Fellowship Monday Mornings at 6:30am

Join members and friends of Epworth for breakfast, prayer, and conversation about faith and life today. It is a great group of men, supporting and caring for one another in their faith journey. For more info, call Jim Wieboldt at 775-423-3187.

Adult Sunday School has Begun

Jeanette Strong's Sunday School class meets in the Wolf Center dining room after worship. They will be studying the Parables of Jesus. All are welcome!

Al Anon Every Wednesday at 10:00am in the Wolf Center dining room

A new Al Anon group will meet in the Wolf Center dining room every Wednesday morning beginning April 14. Al Anon is Please call the church office if you have any questions 423-4714.

Grief Class and Support Group

A new Grief Class has begun to meet on Wednesdays from 5:30-8:00pm at Trinity Episcopal Church, led by Pastor Trudy Erquiaga. Please spread the word to anyone grieving a loss, who might like a supportive community to be with and some tools to help navigate this difficult time.

Holy Humor Sunday

From the Joyful Noiseletter, at joyfulnoiseletter.com

"Many American churches are resurrecting an old Easter custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity-"Holy Humor Sunday" celebrations of Jesus' resurrection on the Sunday after Easter.

For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, including "Bright Sunday" (the Sunday after Easter), was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

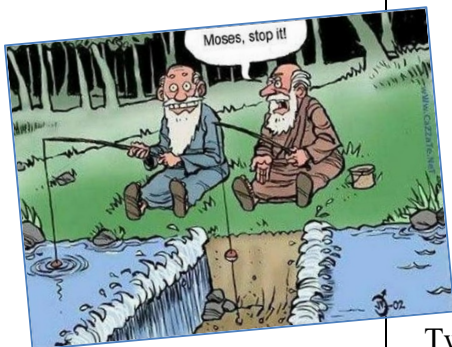
Churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, told jokes, sang, and danced.





April Birthdays!

Jim Hertz, 4/1
 Elena Wolf, 4/2
 Kyle Dugan, 4/4
 Dana Endacott, 4/8
 April Butcher, 4/9
 Jake Coval, 4/9
 Katie Jones, 4/12
 Greg Holmes, 4/22
 Megan
 Hockenberry, 4/24
 Ashlee McGarity, 4/24
 Nadine Miller, 4/24
 Michele Berney, 4/27
 Deanna Brown, 4/29
 Wilva Blue, 4/30



The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. "*Risus paschalis* - the Easter laugh," the early theologians called it.

In 1988 the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches and prayer groups to resurrect Bright Sunday celebrations and call it "Holy Humor Sunday," with the theme: "Jesus is the LIFE of the party."

Many churches from different traditions responded enthusiastically. Holy Humor Sunday services are bringing back large crowds to churches on a Sunday when church attendance typically drops dramatically.

If you Google "Holy Humor Sunday" on the Internet, you'll be amazed at how widespread Holy Humor Sunday celebrations on the Sunday after Easter have become among churches of all traditions. It's clearly a movement of the Holy Spirit to shore up belief in the resurrection of Jesus."

Here's some holy humor to bring a smile ☺

A kindergarten teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible. --George Burns

A Sunday school teacher asked the children just before she dismissed them to go to church, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

Annie replied, "Because people are sleeping"

At Sunday School they were learning how God created everything, including human beings. Johnny was especially intent when the teacher told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, "Johnny, what is the matter?"

Johnny responded, "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

Two boys were walking home from church after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?"

The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your dad."