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March 23, 2021

Hello church family!

I've learned some very important things in the past few weeks.

1. It's hard to find excuses to stay in the warm shower longer when you have no hair.
2. Buttered popcorn is the most horrible of the Jelly Belly flavors.
3. There is some kind of hormonal thing that happens when husbands turn 50 that makes them obsessed with Corvettes.
4. Very occasionally, when the dog whines to go outside at 2am, his intention is not to chase cats and dig holes and irritate his humans. Sometimes, he really needs to pee.
5. You won't be able to find any cabbage at Walmart on March 17, no matter how much you want it.
6. Dennis literally just showed me another Corvette, while I'm sitting here writing. It's blue, and in Ohio.

Anyhoo.

This Sunday is Palm Sunday, when we remember Jesus coming triumphantly into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey like the King of Peace that he is, fulfilling the prophecy in Zechariah from 700 years before. In John, it all begins 6 days before Passover with Jesus coming to Bethany and having dinner with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus whom he had recently raised from the dead. The Jewish leaders are plotting to kill Lazarus, too, we are told, because of the testimony he gives about Jesus. The time they share together is colored by this tension.

At dinner, Mary "anoints" Jesus' feet with costly perfume, and dries them with her hair. The other gospels tell this story, too, all a bit differently (Luke's is my favorite). John (and Mark, too) intends us to see here not just a loving gesture but the anointing of Jesus as King and as Messiah, and a foretelling of his death. *Then*, after this anointing, Jesus rides into Jerusalem knowing that his time is growing short.

"Unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies, then it bears much fruit." Nobody knows what he means, really, when Jesus says this. But we do. We live in the miraculous result of Jesus' resurrection truth.

The thing is, this saying of Jesus applies to us, too. When a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies in fertile ground, it becomes more and more wheat. In the same way, when we give the best of ourselves in goodness and love, goodness and love is multiplied. But we, in Christ, are a new creation. When we give up what is *not* good in us for Jesus' sake – our ego, our pride, our self-loathing, our anger or hatred or destructiveness – that, too, dies and bears glorious, miraculous fruit.

In this last week before Holy Week, what needs to die in you?

In faith, hope, and love,

Pastor Dawn

Worship Any and Everywhere!

PALM SUNDAY: The Power of a Suffering King

Join us on Sunday to celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, as Holy Week begins. We will sing Hosanna and praise the Lord, and then walk together with Jesus into the most important week of his – and our – lives. If you feel ready to join us in person, we would love to see you! We remain committed to healthy protocols including masks, distancing, and careful sanitation as we worship together.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to learn the sound and video systems! Your participation and leadership is a tremendous gift to your church. Stay tuned for a training session very soon.

In the coming weeks and months, we will be talking together and making decisions about when is the right time to safely begin Sunday School, nursery care, and coffee and goodies in the Fireside Room. Our priority is always the health and safety of everyone, while we live out our faith. Your thoughts are welcome and really helpful to us as we prayerfully discuss and consider. Please send your questions and thoughts to Grant Mills grantmfi@cccomm.net, Doug Coval grandpa.doug@yahoo.com, Kathy Fraker kathyfraker@charter.net, and/or Pastor Dawn at pastor@eumcfallon.org.

And as always, please join us for **virtual coffee hour after worship at 10:45am**. Because we are worshipping in person, it takes a bit more time before she can get away to start the Zoom call, so we have shifted the time by 30 mins. 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**

Good Friday Worship

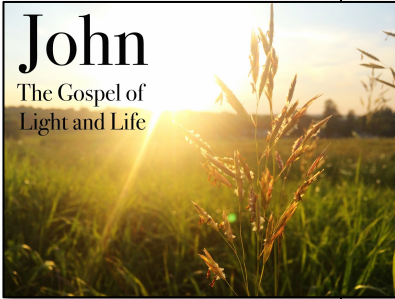
On Friday April 2, the church will be open from 12:00 noon until 3:00pm for anyone who might like to come in and spend some time in prayer. Candles will be lit, and lights will be low, and Bibles will be in the pews for any who might like to read the story of Good Friday in John 18:1-18:42.

Easter Sunday Worship

Join us to celebrate the Risen Lord on Sunday April 4 at 9:00am! The Praise Team will lead the music, and we will spend the day in thanks and praise.



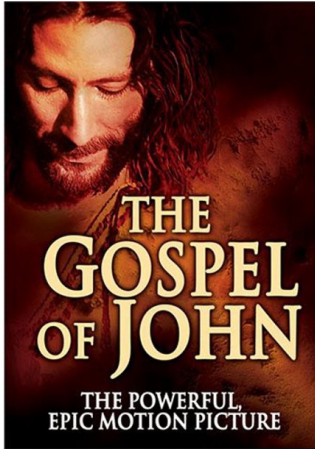
John
The Gospel of
Light and Life



**"O give thanks
to the LORD, for
he is good; his
steadfast love
endures
forever!
Let Israel say,
"His steadfast
love endures
forever."**

Psalm 118:1-2

News and Fun Stuff



“The Gospel of John” Movie at the Fallon Theatre

Join us for a FREE showing of “The Gospel of John” starring Henry Ian Cusick on **Sunday, March 28 at 2:00pm**. It is an outstanding movie, critically acclaimed, beautifully acted, and narrated by Christopher Plummer. It’s a great way to begin Holy Week. The concession stand will be open, so it’s a great way to support the Theatre! Invite your friends! Donations to Epworth’s roof fund are welcome, too.

Special Council Meeting after Worship March 28

Please stay after worship on Palm Sunday for just a few minutes so that we can take an important vote that will allow us to access funds from the American Rescue Plan. Steve Russell will be there to answer any questions, and guide us in the specific vote. Thank you in advance for this few minutes of your time!

HERO Club Fundraiser at Ana’s Café on April 17!

Ana’s Café is partnering with the HERO Club for an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner fundraiser on April 17 from 4 til 9pm. The meal includes salad, bread and a drink, too, for only \$10.99! Or only \$2.99 for kids under 8 years old. All proceeds go to the HERO Club. Spread the word!

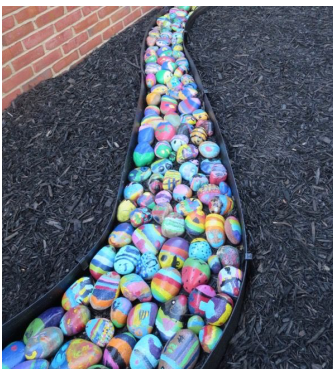


Easter Egg Hunt Saturday April 3 at 2:00pm!

Epworth UMC and the HERO Club are putting on an Easter Egg Hunt! We are inviting the neighbors, collecting filled plastic Easter eggs (THANK YOU to those who have already brought some, keep them coming!), and planning lots of fun surprises. This is a wonderful outreach of Christian love and care to our neighbors, come enjoy it and help us extend laughter and grace to our community.

Painted Rock Path of Easter Joy!

Thank you to everyone who is painting colorful rocks to make our path of Easter joy! We would LOVE to have it laid by Easter Sunday, so keep them coming. We will be laying out the path this coming week. We have as many stones as you could ever want here at church (thanks Maggie Neidigh!), and we need more and more and more, the more colorful and varied the better. The whole beautiful thing will be dedicated to Kelly Wieboldt, too, and all of the Easter hope she shared with so many.



Fifth Sunday in Lent: We Can Know!

by Deb Pattee, United Methodist Women

John 12:20-33

People have a lot of different thoughts about the afterlife. My son recently showed me a Netflix docuseries called Surviving Death in which people met with

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

psychics and others who would channel their loved ones from the great beyond. They were so sad about the passing of someone they loved that they felt the need to communicate with them. After the show, I shared with my son my thoughts about heaven and how I did not feel the need to do what these people longed for. But it made me wonder what they thought about heaven and whether they were fearful in some way.

One thing we all know for sure is that this life will end. While scripture is clear about this, I am impressed by what Jesus says in one of today's readings: "Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die." (John 12:31-33) Clearly, death awaits us all, including Jesus. But there is another, perhaps more important truth. Jesus declares, "Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also." (John 12:25-26) Eternal life will certainly be better than the present. This is good news in view of all of the suffering that has taken place this year. But I think the part that many get wrong is their view of eternal life. Why do so many seem to not understand it? Why do so many not long for it? We have a blessed hope, the knowledge that there is something better than what we have now, when, "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away. And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'" (Revelation 21:4-5)

We can know that we have a future home. Praise the Lord that Easter is coming and Jesus' death and resurrection allow us to experience this new home.

Prayer: Dear Lord, Thank you that we can know that we have a glorious future home as the old song says, "This world is not my home, I'm just a passing through, my treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue." Hallelujah!

Mission U: Learning Together for the Transformation of the World

Each year, United Methodists prepare for faithful living and action by participating in United Methodist Women's Mission U, a transformative education program that offers study on biblically grounded curricula. These curricula are intended to motivate, inform and enrich our commitment to be in ministry for a more just and equitable world, locally and globally.

In place of in-person events in 2021, each of the Mission U curricula were adapted for virtual or at home learning. This year, Mission U will offer the following studies:

Finding Peace in an Anxious World;

Pushout: the Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools; and

Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship.

The youth study this year is *Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence*, and for children *Responding to Violence*.

For more info about United Methodist Women, please see Carol Roeder or Margaret Knox by calling the church office at 423-4714.