



The Wellspring

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News and Encouragement for the RSUMC Family

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 8

APRIL 2020

Online Worship

Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Bishop Dindy Taylor, resident bishop of the Holston Annual Conference has mandated that all United Methodist Churches within this conference suspend worship and all other activities at their facilities until further notice.

At Rock Springs UMC, we are complying with that mandate. Worship is still happening! Only now it is online on our Facebook page, on YouTube and there is a link on our website. See below for details.



What this means for us is that for Palm/Passion Sunday and all Holy Week activities including Easter will be online and in your homes this year. We are including a devotional for Holy Week in this newsletter. When we are able to physically gather to worship, we will celebrate the Resurrection together.

April 5th – Palm/Passion Sunday

Palm Narrative: Matthew 21:1-11

Passion Narrative:

Matthew 21: 12-13 – Tables turned
Matthew 21:22 – Authority Questioned
Matthew 26: 6-13 – Anointed
Matthew 26: 14-16 – Betrayal

Holy Thursday – April 9

We will remember Jesus' last night, as he gave a new commandment to love one another, as he shared a meal with his disciples, and as he went to the garden to pray.

Scriptures:

John 18:1-12
John 18:13-27
John 18:28-19:16a
John 19:16b-30
John 19:31-43

April 12th – Easter Sunday

John 20:1-18

Message – Good News!



April 19th – 2nd Sunday of Easter

John 20:19-31

Message – Believing Is Seeing

April 26th – 3rd Sunday of Easter

Luke 24:13-35

Message – Journeying with Jesus

Unfortunately
we have had to
suspend our

**ROCK SPRINGS
FISH FRY**

until
further notice



**Rock Springs
United
Methodist
Church**

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Organist: Dr. Sandra Ramsey
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ONLINE *worship*

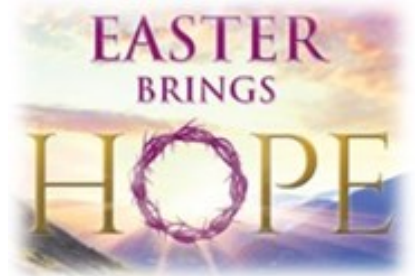
**On Facebook
Sunday 9:30 am**

<https://www.facebook.com/rockspringsumckpt>
at YouTube—search for @rockspringsumckpt to see each week's sermon
AND www.rockspringsumc.com

Never could I have imagined such a time as we are in. When I was planning for Lent this year, the wilderness theme seemed right, based on where I thought we were, so very long ago in late February. We were concerned about torrential rains and floods, intermittent snow days, and schools being closed to help slow the spread of the flu. How far in the distant past it all seems!

Wilderness is where we are. All the signposts that help us orient ourselves and our lives are missing or immaterial in the present moment. In the absence of all that normal noise of daily living, what do you notice? I think I'm more aware of spring bursting forth around us. I'm paying more attention to the songs of the birds, the warmer days, the flowers budding and then exploding in color. I'm not rushing as much from one thing to another. There are a few pauses. A few moments to take a deep breath. Gratitude for life. Stopping to be thankful even in the midst of uncertainty.

Everything that seemed important for us to do, all the places to go, activities that we needed to attend has all faded into the background as we focus on the pandemic in front of us and around us. In our house, Dan has turned our dining room table into his workstation. He is doing his work from there, nearly business as usual, constantly on the computer, taking calls, and attending meetings online. Meanwhile, our granddaughter is trying to get enough attention to do her school work in between calls, with both of us on our computers a lot. In general, all of us are together more than we are used to. We are eating suppers together, and, because there isn't anything to rush off to, we are taking more time to talk about things that matter – in the moment and longer term.



But we miss the routine and rituals of life. We miss the clamor and the hectic pace. We miss being with other people. We miss worship. We miss the rituals of worship – of singing together, of offering signs of peace, of sharing in the bread and cup. We know that rituals are important, and now handwashing has become its own ritual. As we prepare our hearts and minds for Holy Week, I think about how Jesus washed his disciples' feet. Even the feet of the one who was about to betray him. Which makes me think that what we do now to try to stop the spread of the virus in this time of pandemic is for us, and it is for those who are not us. We are all in this together. As ones whom God loves, as ones for whom Jesus died.

Where is God in the midst of all this? God is with us. God is with the health care workers on the front lines who are putting their own lives at risk. God is with the ones who get sick and even die without family around them. God is with the families who lose loved ones, even as grief is overwhelming in the moment. I don't for a minute believe that God sent the pandemic as punishment or to get our attention. But I do believe that as in any time of trial, there are lessons that we can learn about what is truly important.

COVID-19, the novel corona virus has taken over the news and has dominated the changes in behavior. We won't know if our response is right until later, when the metaphorical dust settles. For right now, not gathering for worship, staying home and away from other people seems to be the best, most caring, loving response we can make as a faith community.

Yet, we are social creatures. We struggle with the social distancing. I'm a hugger by nature. One way I've heard this described is a time of physical distancing. We can still connect socially. We have all these wonderful ways of communicating with one another. Telephone calls, texting, email, social media...now is a great time to get in touch with someone you are missing seeing. Perhaps someone you usually only see at work or in church or at the beauty salon. Let them know you are thinking about them. See if they need anything. We are still the church.

My prayer for all of us is to find ways to be the church outside of the building. The vision I've always had for the gathering community that is the church is that we come to building for teaching and worship, and are then deployed for mission. We, right now, are in an extended time of deployment. Paul reminds us:

God shows no partiality and doesn't favor one group over the other. This is the message of peace that comes in proclaiming the good news through Jesus Christ – He is Lord of All! (Acts 10:34-36 paraphrased).



Grace and peace,
Pastor Carole



A Note from our Choir Director

being able to see a smiling choir again soon.

All are welcome to join us to "Lift every voice and sing..."!

An Easter

Musicology Note:

Most hymnals include "The Old Rugged Cross," composed by George Bennard (1873-1958) in the early 20th century. Bennard was a Christian evangelist, lyricist and composer who traveled throughout the Midwest. The inspiration for the hymn came from several youth attending a revival meeting in Michigan. While we would love to believe he was inspired by their examples of Christian love, it was their constant heckling during the revival meeting.

He was troubled by their disdain for the gospel and turned to his Bible when he was alone later. As he studied and considered the works of Christ and the cross he stated, "I seemed to have a vision ... I saw the Christ and the cross inseparable." He quickly composed the melody and the first verse and then continued to work on the verses over a period of months. In June of 1913 he played and sung the hymn for the pastor and wife in Pokagon, Michigan where he was leading a revival at a local church. The minister was moved to tears and the song premiered in the revival service on June 7, 1913. First, Bennard sang the hymn with guitar accompaniment, then a five-voice choir sang with organ and violin accompaniment. This barn turned church is now owned by the non-profit Old Rugged Cross Foundation and receives thousands of visitors each year.

Martha

We have gone digital!

The COVID-19 pandemic is forcing us to do things differently, as we are not able to meet in person. Fortunately, today's technology makes it possible to stay connected, to Worship together in song, to share the gospel and give through tithing.

We have created a new Facebook Page and YouTube channel, and re-designed our website to accommodate our Sunday morning worship service, which ever, and whenever works for you...it's your choice !

We are not limiting our Facebook posts to worship and sermons either, be on the lookout for Live devotions. And feel free to start a Watch Party with your friends and family, so you can all worship together...Sunday's at 9:30 am. On Facebook.

Can't join us live? No problem...the videos will be there when you are.

Please continue to faithfully worship the Lord by mailing in your tithes and offerings or going to our website and clicking the "Donate" button.

Find Us!

Facebook: (Rock Springs UMC KPT)

YouTube: by searching @rockspringsumckpt

Website: www.rockspringsumc.com

To God be the glory,

Dawn Adcox, Administrative Board Chair

April Birthdays

4/1	Bert Carter
4/8	Blakley Dishner
4/11	Chad Riggs
4/13	Doug Osbourne
4/16	Cruz Weber
4/20	Chloe Weber
4/20	Victor Hite
4/24	Meghan Carroll

April Anniversaries

4/25	John & Peggy Hughes
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Last month we were privileged to serve 80 needy families God is Good...

FOOD
pantry

Shopping
Friday 4/24
1:00pm
Food Pantry
OPEN
4/28
from 5-7 pm

A big shout out to the team of volunteers who made our rainy day March Drive-thru Food Pantry distribution a Great Success !

Thank You!

Prayer Requests

Jon Light
Charlie Fischer
Judy Bradley
Richard Smith
Bo Compton
Lotus Jean Compton
Patti Jones
Carl Painter
Mary Ruth Gott & Family
Mykah Harris
Eric Harris
Bert Carter
Charlene Osborne
Pat Lyons
Bob & Nell Reidmeyer
Virginia Berry
Trinity Watlington
Harlee & Theresa Harlan
C.M. Jinkerson
Forbes family
Creech Family
Dean & Donna Woodruff
Sonny Forbes Family
Peggy Hughes
Mary Emma
Paul Rutledge
Branson Helvey



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Unfortunately, due to the
Corona Virus we have
had to suspend our

ROCK SPRINGS
FISH FRY

Until further notice

ONLINE *worship*

April 2020

<https://www.facebook.com/rockspringsumckpt>
YouTube: search for @rockspringsumckpt
AND www.rockspringsumc.com

Sunday 9:30 am on FaceBook

ONLINE *giving*
Fast...Simple...Secure!



Many of you are asking,
"How can I still give my weekly tithe if we aren't
physically going to church?"

- * We've set up an online giving account on our website
www.rockspringsumc.com
- * If you're more comfortable sending a check, our
address is 227 Church View Dr. Kingsport, TN. 37664

We appreciate your generosity during this challenging
time, and pray for your good health and safety.