



The Circuit Rider

Salmon Creek Church



H E I S R I S E N

He is Risen Indeed!

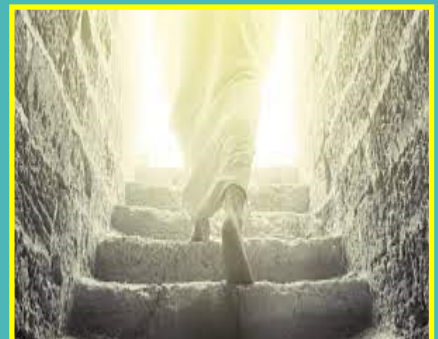
2022

The month of

April

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a note from Pastor John

What's New About Easter?

Prior to ordination in the United Church of Christ, the ordinand is required to attend an "Ecclesiastical Council," in which lay people and clergy are invited to hear the ordinand speak, and then ask him or her questions. I attended one of these in Hillsboro years ago, and a pastor friend of mine asked a question that he said he asked of all candidates: "What's new about Easter?" The ordinand squirmed a little but managed to cobble together a reasonably cogent answer. But in my mind I was thinking, "What *isn't* new about Easter?"

A great deal of the journey towards Easter Sunday – the palms, the last supper, the crucifixion – is in some ways the same old, same old song. People behaving very badly. People being hypocrites. People turning their backs on the Divine for their own ends. It takes only a cursory glance at human history to see this sad story played out over and over again. Things were as bad as they were before God sent the flood, but God promised not to do that again. Instead, God sent a savior.

God incarnated as Jesus:

who, though he was in the form of God,
 did not regard equality with God
 as something to be exploited,
 but emptied himself,
 taking the form of a slave,
 being born in human likeness.
 And being found in human form,
 he humbled himself
 and became obedient to the point of death—
 even death on a cross.

On that first Easter Sunday, as Mary discovers the empty tomb and converses with the gardener, God indeed makes all things new again. There's a freshness to the world; Jesus' first appearance is in a garden!

The same old, same old song of human sin continues to this day, but there is a strong counter-melody which can be heard by those who have ears to hear. And that song is as fresh as the new day, every day. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the very definition of new, granted that we might not only hear that song, but sing it ourselves in faithful living.

Blessings, Pastor John



Holy Week is fast coming upon us. Here is a schedule of events for the end of Lent and Easter:

Thursday, March 31, 7:00 pm. Taizé Style Worship. Come and experience the musical, meditative prayer worship inspired by the Taizé ecumenical community in France. John and Vivian have conducted hundreds of Taizé worship services over the last 30 years, including with members of the Taizé community. The service is designed to guide you into a deeper place of prayer and connection with God through chant, prayer and silence.

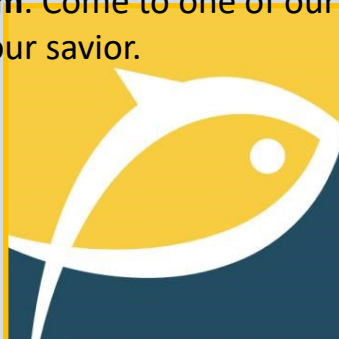
Saturday, April 9, 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Rise Up With Jesus – a family Easter event. Register at www.salmoncreek.church.

Sunday, April 10, 10:00 am. Traditional Palm Sunday worship.

Thursday, April 14, 7:00 pm. Maundy Thursday service. We will encounter the Last Supper and begin engaging with the Passion of Christ. Communion will be served.

Friday, April 15, 7:00 pm. Good Friday service. A service of diminishing light (“Tenebrae”) to mark the death and burial of Christ.

Sunday, April 17, 8:30 and 10:30 am. Come to one of our two Easter Celebrations as we embrace with joy the resurrection of our savior.





SPREAD THE WORD – Families can “Rise Up With Jesus!”

On Saturday, April 9th, our Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, St. Paul Room, and even our entry will be filled with the sights, sounds, and even *smells* of Easter morning as our youth lead families through an exploration of the miraculous truth of what really happened.

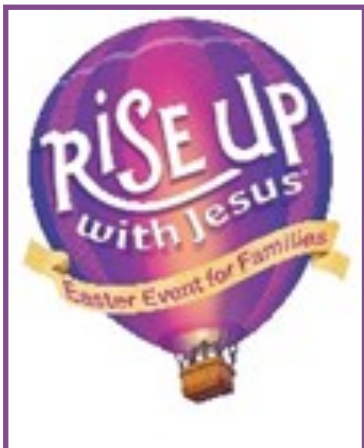
Each family will be greeted as they arrive with gifts of a bandera, a frame to hold the puzzle pieces they will collect, a tote bag, *and* be offered the opportunity to pose for a special gift photo commemorating the event.

Our youth will then lead families through 5 stations of activities that include:

- diving deeper into God’s truth through science
- experiencing the event through touch and smell
- using our bodies to understand the challenges
- experience the joy of Jesus through flight!

Once families have explored the miracle of Easter, all the pieces of their puzzles will come together in a special activity held in our Sanctuary!

And throughout the event volunteers and families will be able to relax in the “Jerusalem Café” in the St. Paul Room, where our youth will provide coffee, espresso, and baked treats!



Please invite families you know to this event by posting about it on your Facebook page, linking to our web site and Facebook page, or giving them a flyer (available in worship bulletins, at the Welcome Center).

You can register for this event on our website – www.salmoncreek.church – or by using a registration form found at our Welcome Center.



Trustees Update:

April is around the corner and besides flowers and rain, the Trustees are getting busy again as well.

HVAC Update—We finally got permits from Clark County for 2 HVAC system replacements – Chapel and Day Care unit 2. The installer (Miller’s HVAC) plans to start work mid-April. Trustees need to build a cement structure at the back for the Chapel unit. We will be getting rid of the old unit that is up in the attic with poor and scary access from a tall ladder. The second unit is above the Boys’ bathroom in the day care center. This too, has obstacles that will be improved with the new unit, getting rid of some large duct work over which we presently have to crawl to get to the units.

Day Care Lights and Ceiling Painting— The Trustees will be replacing lights in rooms 4 & 5 and the two offices later in April. At the same time, we will be painting the ceilings before installing the new lights. Help is certainly desired for this effort. Jim Roberts will be sending out details on when and request for volunteers.

Flames Youth Basketball Group.—As a reminder, they meet 3 times a week in the Gym and run a program for youth groups grade school to high school. They have meets around the greater Clark County area and sponsor several teams in addition to teaching the basics of basketball. They have a Christian part, as they teach kids how to behave with each other as well as the basics of basketball. They require commitment to the training and each other. Hopefully, they will sponsor another 3 v 3 event this summer, where we can drop by and see the kids play. Stop by and see them practice – 5:30 to 8:30 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

YMCA Summer Camp is back.—The YMCA will be holding 5 week– long summer camps again this year starting in June. It was well received last year by the parents of children who participated. They have both physical activities and sit-down crafts classes, 3-4 young adults are providing the instruction and supervision. Likewise, drop by and see what they are doing.

Free Tax Prep Volunteers—Ed & Heidi Kukulka are running a free tax preparation for those with limited funds. Starting in March, they were joined by several college students in a community outreach program supported by the Washington State University Campus, providing oversight for the students.

Trustees Committee—The Trustees have several openings now and need volunteers. The Trustees are an important committee in the church. We are responsible for the physical church property and vote on important decisions for the church. It is not just a group of volunteers taking care of the property, although that has certainly been a major effort during these times of limited funding. The *Pay It Forward* Campaign funds are a blessing, and we hope we are using them wisely. So, let me know if you are interested in being a part of making those decisions.

Thanks,

Steve Enyeart, Chair Trustees, Salmon Creek Church

Invite a friend!



The Word of Jesus Christ is alive and well, and while we can enjoy it in this post-Covid spring, we are also called to proclaim it. But how? I don't think a lot of us are ready to stand on a street corner thumping a Bible, but there are less dramatic, but more effective ways that everyone can employ to help spread the Word and grow our church.

Church staff and volunteers are working hard to use and/or upgrade modern communication methods, like social media, email, texts, direct mailing etc., but *the single most effective way* to spread the Word remains by personal invitation. And while sometimes we might meet resistance asking friends and family to a Sunday morning worship service, the church offers other ways for people to attend worshipful events like concerts, special services and family events. We have prioritized events this year to be spiritually meaningful even if not presented as a worship service, and I encourage you to invite a hesitant friend or family to one of these events. A list of events and services coming up in April is listed in this edition of the Circuit Rider.

Evangelism doesn't have to be about twisting arms. It is about offering a loving invitation to experience a meaningful exploration of God's Word in a safe, welcoming community. Let's each of us invite a friend or family at least once this year to an event or a service.



Salmon Creek Church is developing a new Facebook page - it's easier than trying to fix the old one. In order to use all of the functionality, like creating events, the page has to have a certain number of visitors, and that's where you come in. If you have a Facebook account, login to Facebook and search for "Salmon Creek Church," and visit our new page. There's not much there yet, but **if you could "Like" it**, and link to it from your page, that will help a lot in allowing us to get all of the functionality going. Thanks for your help!



DONATE TO UMCOR IN SUPPORT OF UKRAINE

Mail your checks directly to UMCOR:
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Atlanta, GA 30308

Or go online to:

<https://umcmision.org/advance-project/982450>

It is important to write on your check:

#982450 - Ukraine



Found at church: IPOD and case. Accompanied by plastic case containing earbuds, I-Tunes gift card and "angel" necklace.

To claim, please email Jim Roberts at jimpamrobert@gmail.com.



Coffee Fellowship

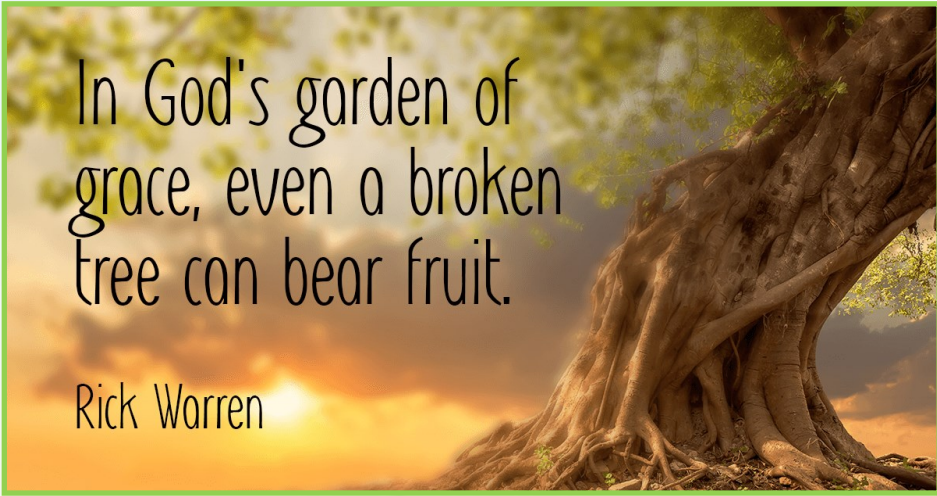
Coffee Fellowship is Back!

Hi everyone! I want to invite you to coffee fellowship. Come have a cup of coffee or tea with us. The tables will be down, with a chair waiting for you.

It will be looking a little different. For the volunteers' sake, we have simplified Coffee fellowship. Currently, we are only serving coffee and tea. On special occasions, we will have a simple treat. Eventually we will add something simple, like a cookie.

Please come for the fellowship. It is great to see faces again!

Karen Beilsmith

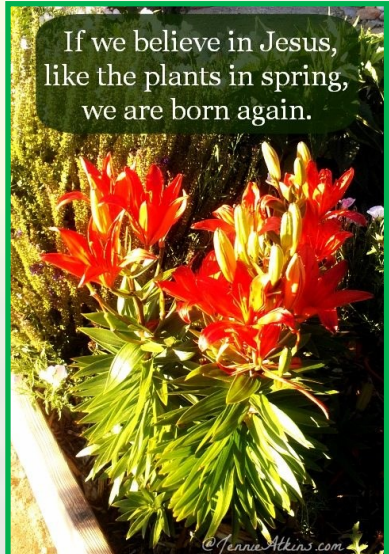


In God's garden of
grace, even a broken
tree can bear fruit.

Rick Warren

We currently have 11 garden plots available for this gardening season. Water will be hooked up around April 1st, so that early crops can be planted any time after that. Very few soil amendments will be needed, and I have extra dirt in my three plots that can be moved to other plots. Thanks to Richard Beilsmith, we now have a nice new metal gate on the East end of the garden, which opens out to the area where we take unwanted plants, weeds, etc. Our garden shed is very well equipped so that you should not have to buy any tools. We will be doing a thorough check of the fencing to make sure we can keep rabbits out as well. These gardens really produce with the way they catch sun, and have some breeze to keep insects and fungus at bay.

If you want to rent a plot for \$10 (includes the water costs as well) please contact Jim Selby, 828-508-5094.



If we believe in Jesus,
like the plants in spring,
we are born again.



Some Lenten Tips from umc.org

Beyond fasting: 10 tips for a more meaningful Lent

By Joe Iovino

Lent is a time for self-reflection and deepening one's relationship with God in Jesus Christ. For many this season leading up to Easter will be weeks of giving up something they enjoy. Others will spend extra time in devotions and prayer, while a few more will carry a cross or nail in their pocket as a reminder of the sacrifice Jesus made for them and the whole world.

If those practices work for you, wonderful! Others may want to find another way of observing this holy season. Consider adopting one or more of the following creative uses of the days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

1. Apologize to someone

Lent is a season of repentance. Most often we think of asking God for forgiveness from our sin, but that is only half of the story. Most sins include hurting others, which mattered to Jesus. He taught that if during worship if you "remember that your brother or sister has something against you... First make things right with your brother or sister and then come back and offer your gift." (Matthew 5:23-24 CEB). Lent is a great time to seek forgiveness from those we have harmed.

2. Perform random acts of kindness

Express your love for Jesus by loving others. Pay for the order of the person behind you in the drive-through. Give an extravagant tip. Carry gift cards to give away. Ask others how they are doing, then stop and listen to their responses. Share the love of Jesus in any way you can think of each day during Lent.

3. Delve into a book of the Bible

Enhance your devotions by getting to know a book of the Bible well. Read it repeatedly, at least once in a single sitting. Find articles about it. Meditate on it with a commentary. Memorize portions of it. Pray through it. Google sermons about it. Find hymns based upon it. In the six weeks of Lent, you could develop a deep understanding of a book of the Bible about which you have always been curious.

4. Serve people in need

Identify an organization with which you would like to participate. Find out what is required to become a volunteer, then sign up to serve throughout the season of Lent. When Jesus washed his disciples' feet at the Last Supper, he taught that we are called not to be served, but to serve (John 13:1-17).

5. Visit the lonely

Jesus also taught his disciples to treat others as we would treat him. This included visiting those who are sick and in prison (Matthew 25:31-36). Talk to local nursing homes, children's hospitals, prisons, senior centers or any other place where people need some human contact. Although Covid protocols may prevent in-person contact, you can send a card, make a phone call or seek another way to let someone know you care. If a facility allows for in-person visits, find out how you may visit (observing all procedures to keep everyone safe). When together, play games, look at photos albums, tell stories and enjoy those about whom Jesus said, "When you have done it for [them], you have done it for me."

6. Read Wesley's sermons about the Sermon on the Mount

These 13 sermons (see Matthew) are central to the message of John Wesley. They make up a little more than one-quarter of the fifty "Standard Sermons" he gave to his Methodist lay preachers to teach them "the essentials of true religion" ("The Sermons of John Wesley – An Introduction"). Reading these sermons will have you focused on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) and give you a sense of what it means to be a United Methodist in the tradition of John Wesley.

7. Tell others you love them

Some of us struggle to say those three little words. Maybe we assume others already know how we feel. Maybe we think we *show* our love and don't need to say it. Or maybe we are concerned it won't be reciprocated. Fight the fear and say "I love you" to friends, family members, and everyone else you love at least once during the season.

8. Throw a party for everyone

Jesus often used the image of a party to describe the Kingdom of God. He talked about wedding receptions and banquet feasts, and participated in several large group celebrations. Host your own Kingdom party! You may choose to keep your gathering limited to family members or those with whom you regularly socialize during our pandemic era. You may choose to cook for the neighborhood or office colleagues, preparing to go containers and invite others to stop by for a take home meal. Keep this act of love festive with fun napkins and other decorations.

9. Serve in worship

Your church needs you. For those meeting in person, sing in the choir, usher, serve as a reader, work with the tech team or find some other way to serve your church. For those meeting remotely, ask your church staff how you might be able to help, including sending out cards or making phone calls to people on the church prayer list. Don't wait for someone to ask you to use your God-given gifts. Offer yourself in service to your church for the season.

10. Say "thank you"

Parents, family members, mentors, coaches, teachers, authors, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and others have shaped you into the person you are. Each week during Lent, send a note of gratitude to one of them. Tell them how much they meant to you and how they inspired you. Consider including a small gift. Even if you do not know that author or speaker personally, draft an email of thanks.

There are many ways to be observant during Lent. Be original. Find yours.

Joe Iovino works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications. He may be reached at jiovino@umcom.org. Please share with him your creative ideas for observing Lent.

Happy April Birthdays!

- 2. Caleb Stokman
- 4. Don Hardy
- 4. Betty Voght
- 7. Mark Brandon
- 8. Kathleen Abramson
- 10. Diane Grubel
- 10. Sue Tibbs
- 13. Wayne Dudley
- 13. Grace Mammarella
- 13. Theresa Mammarella
- 13. Victor Mammarella
- 14. Bonnie Jean Brandt
- 15. Ken Olsen
- 19. Nancy Heup
- 22. Winston Asai
- 24. Alli Mattson
- 24. Reid Williams
- 24. Kathleen Zimmer
- 27. Larry Siewert
- 28. Maggie Mikalatos
- 29. Echo Langley
- 30. Richard Beilsmith

He is Risen Indeed!

A photograph of a tomb entrance, likely the tomb of Jesus, with a bright light shining through the opening, symbolizing resurrection. The interior of the tomb is visible, showing stone steps leading down. The walls are made of rough, textured rock.

Thank you for reading the Circuit Rider! If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

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Submissions for the Circuit Rider can be sent to nancy.volgamore@salmoncreek.church. Deadline for each month for submission varies and is announced at the beginning of the prior month.

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