

# The Glovier Messenger

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*From the Desk of Pastor Bill*

## Lord of All!

Every year we celebrate Easter Sunday with shouts of “Christ is Risen! The Lord is Risen Indeed” Alleluia!

When I was pastor of Aldersgate UMC, nearly every year during Holy Week a woman would call my office and ask if we were going to sing “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” on Easter Sunday. She didn’t want to miss out on singing that wonderful hymn. It is truly a glorious day – for our Savior lives. “He Lives.”

In the church calendar, Easter is not just one day, but a season of 50 days leading up to Pentecost and the outpouring of the Spirit of the risen Christ on the church. In fact, for Christians every Sunday is a “little” Easter, as it were.

A post-resurrection story is told about Lazarus, the man Jesus brought back from the dead (see John 11:1-45). You won’t find this post-resurrection story in the Bible, but it has the ring of truth. After Jesus was raised from the dead, all the disciples were empowered to witness for him all over the world. Easter set them free. They told everyone they met that Jesus was Lord of all.

The Roman officials saw these followers of Christ as troublemakers because they refused to acknowledge Caesar as Lord. Many Christians were arrested. Some were fed to the lions; some burned at the stake.

According to the story, Lazarus was arrested and threatened with death. He was brought before the Roman Emperor Caligula who ordered him to renounce his faith in Christ. “I cannot and will not renounce my faith in Jesus as Lord,” Lazarus replied.

“You don’t understand,” Caligula said. “I have power of life and death over you. If you don’t renounce Jesus as Lord and proclaim me as Lord, I will have you killed.”

According to the story, Lazarus laughed. He laughed uncontrollably. He laughed right in the face of the most powerful ruler in the world. Finally, when he finished laughing, Lazarus said, “You are the one who doesn’t understand. Death is dead, Caligula. Death is dead. I’ve been there. I know.”

The power of Christ’s love, of a love that was able to break the bonds of death itself, is a power that works however and wherever it will in this world.

During this season of Easter will you bear witness to the continuing outpourings of God’s redeeming love and resurrection power? Will you also be a witness yourself to this love within your own life?

By our actions and attitudes, as disciples of Christ we can be witnesses to the presence of Christ’s death-defying love, thus proclaiming so that anyone can hear love and know the power of resurrection.

Because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, death is dead. Death does not have ultimate power over



us. "Jesus is Lord of all." That is something to celebrate not just on Easter, but every day!

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**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- 6th - Terry Sager
- 21st - Ana Childress
- 21st - Claudia Eshenour
- 24th - David McCallister



**APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1st - John & Jan Bottemiller
- 1st - Ronnie & Pam Craig
- 17th - Gary & Karen Wright
- 24th - Walter & Sheree Harlow

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**AT HOME MEMBER FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL**

**Becky Miller**

2389 Jefferson Highway  
Waynesboro, VA 22980  
540-942-5330

Becky would love to hear from you. Send her a card or give her a call. We appreciate our at home members as they support us each Sunday with their prayers and love.

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# Announcements and Upcoming Events

**Pastor's Bible Study** on "Making Sense of Forgiveness" continues on Wednesdays at 6 PM in person in the JOY Classroom and online via Zoom. The purpose of this study is to explore practical applications of our biblical imperative to forgive. (To attend via Zoom please contact Pastor Bill at [billjones@vaumc.org](mailto:billjones@vaumc.org).)

**Thank you** to all those who were involved with the delicious meal, the music, and the Meet the Disciples presentation.

**United Women in Faith** will meet at 6 pm April 9, 2024 in church social hall. All women of the church are invited to attend. Pam Craig will present the program.

Someone needs a **ride to church** the fourth Sunday in each month. She lives on Ivanhoe Avenue, near Valley Mart on Delphine Avenue. She will be ready by 10:20am. Contact the office if you can give her a ride.

**United Methodist Men** will meet on April 4, 2024 at 6:00pm in the church social hall.

**Attention: All trash** must be in a bag and tied before disposing of it in the outside trash can. Thanks.

**Weather Closings.** Check WHSV, Channel 3 to see if Glovier is closed for Sunday Services. <https://www.wHSV.com/weather/closings/>

**Calvary United Methodist Church of Stuarts Draft** invites you to join us on a day trip to see DANIEL at the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA on Tuesday, July 16. The cost is \$213 per adult or \$153 per child ages 3-12 which includes round trip motor

coach transportation, lunch at Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant, and tickets to the show. Deadline for registration and payment in full is May 1. Please contact Christina Daniel at 540-337-2980 or email her at [office@calvarydraft.com](mailto:office@calvarydraft.com) for more information.

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John & Jan Bottemiller      Donna Mason  
Polly & Tobi Broyles      Dianne Thorne

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
LESSONS FOR APRIL**

**Lesson Summaries for April.**

This month we study the Measure of Faith.

**April 7 Faith of Four Friends**

Luke 5:17-26

One day, Jesus was preaching a message in a house when, suddenly, the ceiling started to crack. He looked up, and four men had torn a hole in the roof to let down a paralyzed man in front of the Master. These four men obviously deeply cared about this disabled man. Each man had to be convinced of Jesus' ability to heal. Interestingly, Luke recorded nothing about Jesus taking notice of the paralyzed man's faith. Instead, he focused on the firm hope of the men putting him down through the roof. Before healing the man's body, the Savior told him, "Your sins are forgiven. But Jesus zeroed in on the man's real problem: he needed spiritual healing.

The religious leaders thought Jesus just blasphemed. And rightfully so— only God has the authority to cleanse a person's sin. As keepers of the religious system and laws, they had a right to question this pronouncement. Jesus declared Himself on the same level as God, being able to cleanse a person of their sins. But Jesus backed up His claim as one sent from God as the Son of Man. He performed various

miracles and fulfilled Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah—even in His healing of the paralytic. The crowd stood amazed and gave all credit to God.

This biblical example should encourage Christians to bring those whom you are concerned about to Jesus. Those who are not only physically impaired but those who are mentally, spiritually, or emotionally broken. It is also essential for all believers to have at least one or two Christian friends who know them inside and out. So, when a storm hits, these friends can be there for you; and when they need an uplifting word, you are there for them.

**April 14 Faith of a Centurion**

Luke 7:1-10

Jesus traveled to Capernaum, and on entering the city, a group of elders of the Jews made a request on behalf of a centurion, a captain of the Roman army. The centurion had a sick servant who was precious to him. He reached out to Jesus, asking him to heal his servant.

The centurion had a reputation for helping the Jewish congregation, especially for helping them build their synagogue. When he asked Jesus to come and heal his servant, he considered himself unworthy, a Gentile, to come to Jesus face-to-face. So, he asked the Jewish elders to appeal on his behalf.

Jesus agreed to go and headed toward the centurion's home. Before He reached the front door, friends of the centurion came out and delivered a message. He said he was not worthy for Jesus to enter his home. The centurion also recognized Jesus' power and authority. As the leader of a regiment of soldiers, if he gave an order, those under him would carry it out. The centurion basically said, "You don't need to step inside my door; speak to this illness."

He believed in the power of Jesus' words, not only His physical touch and presence. When Jesus realized the centurion's great faith, He turned around and spoke to the crowd following Him, saying this was utterly exceptional and extraordinary. This was a Gentile; He hadn't seen a Jewish person express such a strong belief in Him! Jesus granted the desire of the centurion and healed the servant.

Those reports from the centurion's servants proved to be enough for him to call on Jesus and believe in His ability to heal. God's children today have 66 books of the Bible through which the Father speaks. There are thousands of principles and promises God desires to fulfill that are written plainly in Scripture. Will those in this generation call on Jesus for healing, the salvation of loved ones, or to bring order to a chaotic situation? Will Jesus stop, stand back, and "marvel" at such great faith? Maybe it's time to ask the Lord to teach today's Christian Church what it means to have great faith.

#### **April 21 Faith of a Woman Who Loved Jesus**

Luke 7:36-39, 44-50

Even though most religious leaders opposed Jesus, some desired to talk honestly with Him. Some longed for a closer look at this ordinary man with a strange message and miraculous powers.

On one occasion, Jesus visited the home of a prideful Pharisee named Simon. As the men dined, a woman walked in with a sinful reputation, perhaps a prostitute. She proceeded to wipe Jesus' feet with an expensive bottle of fragrant perfume. Her gesture expressed her affection and love for Jesus. She mingled her tears with the oil. She had no towel, so she used her hair to spread the perfume on Jesus' feet. In biblical days, only immodest women took down their hair in public. This woman repeatedly kissed Jesus' feet in addition to this awkward scene.

He thought, if Jesus knew about this filthy woman of the streets, He'd order her to stop touching Him at once. Nothing came out of His mouth, but the Master heard what rumbled in the arrogant Pharisee's heart. Jesus commended the woman over the Pharisee. Jesus in effect asked Simon, "Do you see what I see? I see a repentant sinner; I see a woman filled with love, ashamed of her sin, and desiring to be close to Me. She publicly chose to demonstrate her love and gratefulness to her Savior."

Jesus turned to the woman and told her that her sins had been forgiven. Jesus said He would wipe clean her list of offenses! Of course, this upset the Pharisees, and they accused Him of blasphemy. Here

was a mere man forgiving sins like God! Her belief in Him saved her. She could go and live in peace.

When a person becomes a Christian, the same declarations made over the wayward woman apply to the believer. This woman demonstrated her love and gratitude to Jesus by anointing His feet. How do you put your faith into action?

#### **April 28 Faith of a Canaanite Woman**

Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus expanded His boundaries and traveled into Tyre and Sidon—Gentile territories. Jesus encountered a Gentile woman called a Canaanite. The Jewish nation considered the Canaanites their enemies. But this bold woman showed remarkable faith in Jesus by requesting the healing of her demon-possessed daughter. Many of the Jewish people, up to this point, still doubted Jesus' identity. However, the Canaanite woman confidently called the Savior, the Son of David. Her reference to Him in this way indicated she believed He was the Messiah (see Matt. 22:42).

Initially, Jesus appeared to ignore the woman's request. Perhaps this was a test of her faith and a lesson for His disciples. His disciples were disturbed, asking Jesus to get rid of her. Yet, she kept calling after Him. Finally, Jesus told her, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel" (Matt. 15:24).

This desperate mother patiently persisted. Jesus answered negatively again. The Gentile woman reasoned with Him. She admitted her low position as a Gentile, but she also believed in the compassion of the Master. Somehow, she knew His ministry reached beyond the Jews. She believed Jesus would at least give her something. Crumbs? She bowed low with great expectation. "Lord, help me! Lord, have mercy on me!" Jesus responded to this woman's persistence and her tremendous confidence in Him. He called her faith "great," and granted her request.

The New Testament tells of people with "great faith," such as the centurion, the woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment, and the two blind men (Matt. 8:13; 9:29-30; Mark 5:34). What word would Jesus use to describe your faith?