

The Glovier Messenger

688 Highland Avenue • Waynesboro, VA 22980

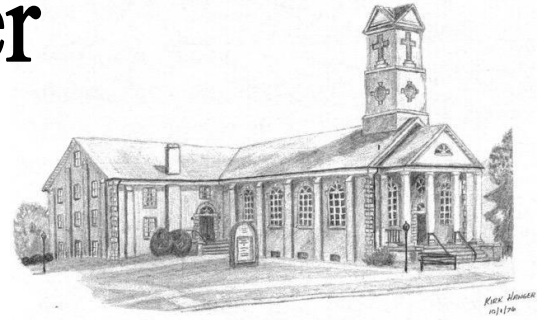
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From the Desk of Pastor Bill

Easter – A Terrible Thing to Waste

My favorite teacher of preachers, Dr. Fred Craddock, told the story of an annual Easter tradition at one church in Georgia. Every year, on Easter Sunday, the church was decorated with 500 Easter lilies! The lilies were arranged on the chancel in the shape of a cross, placed in each window of the church, across the altar rail, across the front of the baptistry – literally everywhere you looked on Easter morning, you could see Easter lilies! Each year, members of the church were given the opportunity to have one of the lilies placed there in honor or memory of a loved one for a contribution of \$5. Only \$5! And you didn't even have to take them home with you after the service. The church would dispose of them. Everyone just assumed that they were taken to shut-ins and hospitals and the like.

All went well until one Easter Sunday, after the worship service, a dear, sweet lady went back into the sanctuary after church. "I have an aunt who is in a nursing home," she said, "so if you don't mind, I'd like to take my lily to her. I'll just pick one out." Before anyone could stop her, she took one of the Easter lilies out of the window next to where she was standing. And in a voice loud enough to be heard in the farthest reaches of the church parking

lot, she exclaimed with horror and dismay, "Oh, my God! It's PLASTIC!" People rushed back into the sanctuary and began looking closely at all the Easter lilies, only to discover that every last one of the lilies was plastic!

There was a called board meeting the next night.

The pastor and the chairman of the board felt as if they were facing a firing squad, as one church member after another shot questions at them. "Just how long has this been going on?" "Where do you hide 500 plastic Easter lilies?" And the one question asked repeatedly: "What happened to all those \$5 contributions?"

The chairman tried to explain that the money had not been used for dishonest purposes, that each year half of the money raised from Easter lily donations was placed in the general fund of the church. The other half was sent to denominational headquarters, to be used to finance mission work in Africa and South America and other places around the world. The pastor chimed in and said, "Yes, and do you know what usually happens to real Easter lilies, after the Easter Sunday service? Most people just take them home and water them for a few days, until the blooms fall off. Then they just get thrown away. We just thought that was a terrible waste, and you wouldn't want to waste Easter, would you?"



I don't want to condone dishonesty, but the pastor had a good point. Easter is a terrible thing to waste. With not one single Easter lily in sight, with the shouts of "Christ is Risen!" only faint echoes, there IS something to be done after all the excitement of Easter and the Resurrection have died down. God's people, the followers of Jesus Christ, are given the command to witness to all the world. Jesus Christ is risen from the grave. What amazing good news Easter brings! Hallelujah. He lives.

When Easter Monday comes (April 6), I challenge each of you to devote yourselves to prayer in the week that lies ahead. Let all of God's people commit themselves to this active, prayerful waiting. But when the Spirit has come upon you, you'd better get to work. You wouldn't want to waste Easter, would you?



| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Jan Bottemiller | Pauline & Tobi Broyles |
| Teresa Childress | Sandra & Emmitt Eccard |
| Paul Glover | Walter Harlow |
| Linda Jones | Nancy Napier |
| Pete Phillips | Jean Pittman |
| Jim Roberson | Elsie Spencer |



AT HOME MEMBERS FOR APRIL

Eddie & Dottie Fisher

317 Loudoun Avenue, Waynesboro, VA 22980
540-943-2852

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



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1st - Judy Epperley
21st - Ana Childress
21st - Claudia Eshenour
24th - David McCallister



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | | |
|-----------------|---------|-------------------------|
| April 2 (Thurs) | 7:00pm | Maundy Thursday Service |
| April 5 (Sun) | 8:00am | Early Easter Worship |
| April 5 (Sun) | 8:30am | Easter Breakfast |
| April 5 (Sun) | 9:45am | Sunday School |
| April 5 (Sun) | 10:45am | Easter Worship Service |
| April 7 (Tues) | 4:30pm | Plummer's Bible Study |
| April 7 (Tues) | 3:00pm | Choir Practice |
| April 8 (Wed) | 6:00pm | Bible Study |
| April 9 (Thurs) | 6:00pm | United Methodist Men |
| April 14 (Tues) | 3:00pm | Women in Faith |
| April 15 (Wed) | 6:00pm | Bible Study |
| April 17 (Fri) | 5:00pm | UMM Pancake Supper |
| April 21 (Tues) | 4:30pm | Plummer's Bible Study |
| April 21 (Tues) | 3:00pm | Choir Practice |
| April 22 (Wed) | 6:00pm | Bible Study |
| April 28 (Tues) | 3:00pm | Choir Practice |
| April 29 (Wed) | 6:00pm | Bible Study |

United Methodist Men will be meeting on April 9th at 6pm. Bring your own supper and join the fellowship. They will be serving a Pancake/Sausage Biscuit & Gravy Dinner on Friday, April 17 at 5pm for a free-will offering. Make reservations today.



The United Women in Faith met on March 10, 2026. We discussed preparations for the Easter morning breakfast on April 5th at 8:30am. This will be following the early morning Easter service at 8am. We look forward to seeing you and joining in this time of fellowship.

The Women are also planning a dinner on May 9th at 5pm. The choir will be presenting a musical entitled "The Time of Our Lives" following the meal. More information will be coming soon.

Our program brought Zion Jackson to us to share her missionary work in Ukraine, Poland and Rwanda. We enjoyed listening to her experiences and how important missionaries are in reaching out and sharing the Word of God.

The UWF will meet on April 14th at 3pm in the social hall. The program will be presented by Mary Golden. We look forward to seeing you there.



**Sausage Gravy & Biscuits
plus Pancake Supper by UMM
Friday ♦ April 17 ♦ 5pm
in the Social Hall for a Free Will Offering.
Sign up in the hallway or call the office at
540-943-3071 for reservations.**

Into the Heart of Romans Bible Study continues each Wednesday evening 6-7pm in the JOY Classroom. Pastor Bill leads us through the epistle, lifting up the power and beauty of Paul's words for his day and for our own contemporary moment. You are invited to attend In Person or on Zoom (To attend via Zoom, please send your email address to billjones@vaumc.org).

Glovier UMC Phone Tree Update. We've recently experienced some issues with our Phone Tree system. Going forward, calls from the Phone Tree will appear on your caller ID as the church's phone number: 540-943-3071. To help you easily recognize these calls, please consider adding this number to your contacts. If you want to listen to the last message that was sent out, just dial 1-405-308-4474. Under the menu options press 1.

Plummer's Bible Study has changed to their summer schedule and will meet at 4:30pm on the first and third Tuesdays. Next meeting is April 7. Come and enjoy learning more about the Lord and bring a bag supper.

Easter Sunday Schedule, April 5, 2026:

8am - Early Worship Service; 8:30am - Breakfast provided by the United Women in Faith, 9:45am Sunday School, 10:45am - Easter Worship.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

April 5 **Resurrection: The Future Hope**
1 Corinthians 15:13-20 ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also

who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 15:51-58 ⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.

April 12 **Authority: Belonging to God**

Mark 12:17 ¹⁷ Then Jesus said to them, “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.” And they were amazed at him.

Romans 13:1, 6–8 ¹ Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ⁶ This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. ⁷ Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. ⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

1 Peter 2:13–17 ¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ¹⁵ For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. ¹⁶ Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God’s slaves. ¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

April 19 **Children: Gift and Model**

Mark 9:36–37, 42 ³⁶ He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one of these little

children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.” ⁴² “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea.

Mark 10:13–16 ¹³ People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

April 26 **Family: Distinct and Obedient**

Deuteronomy 6:3–9 ³ Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you. ⁴ Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Matthew 19:3–9 ³ Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?” ⁴ “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ ⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” ⁷ “Why then,” they asked, “did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?” ⁸ Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. ⁹ I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”