

Garrett's Jottings



Dear Friends,

As I begin to immerse myself in the biblical stories surrounding Jesus' Resurrection, I find myself struck by something. In John 21, Jesus appears to his disciples as they are out fishing. Mind you, Jesus has already appeared to them prior to this, so they are aware that Jesus has indeed been raised from the dead. What strikes me as odd, though, is that even though they knew Jesus had been raised...they returned to their old way of life! It's as if the past few years of their lives had been some extended "vacation" and they are now picking things up where they left off before Jesus invited them to follow him. As I roll this around in my head, I am left with two conclusions. Either they 1. didn't see the Resurrection as any big deal, or 2. they didn't know what to do about it.

I wonder sometimes if that's how Easter is for us. We either don't see it as any big deal or we don't know what to do with it once it is past. My hope, certainly, is that we do not fall into that first category. The reality is this: EASTER IS A BIG DEAL!! Easter is God's way of extending new life to us and to all of Creation. The enduring Easter message is that we have been raised and given new life, just as Christ was raised and given new life...a life that is glorifying and pleasing to God. Has there ever been any more glorious news?! Christ is alive and so are you!

The challenge that Easter presents to us, though, is to make Easter matter every other day of the year. In other words, we are challenged by Christ to keep the tomb empty throughout the year. How do we do this? How do we make Easter matter? The most obvious way is to continually celebrate Easter and Resurrection. We do this every Sunday as we worship. We are Easter people and it defines and guides our worship. Perhaps you've been away from worship for awhile.

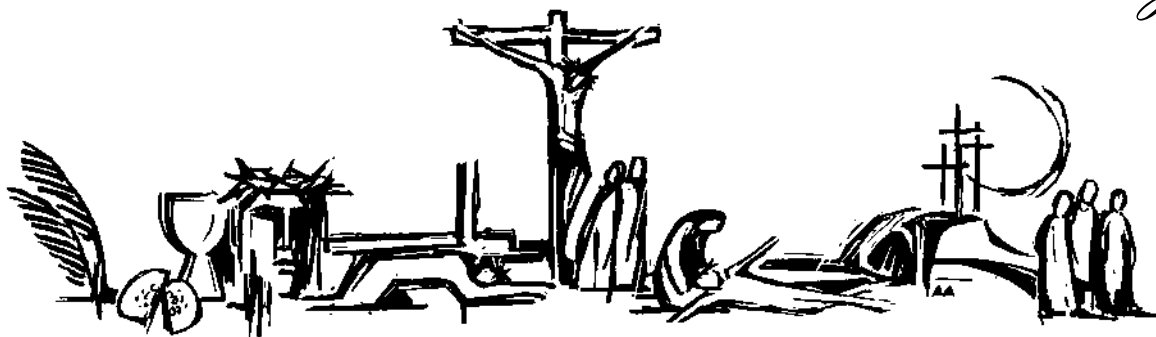
This Easter season is a great opportunity to come back...for the sake of celebrating the new life God has given each of us in Christ. In the Church, the seven weeks after Easter Day is known as the "Easter Season". During this season, we're going to be slowly walking through Paul's Letter to the Philippians, with the emphasis on returning to our first love — drinking deeply of God's love for us, and offering all that we are to God (more on that in another part of the newsletter).

As we begin to ever-so-slowly emerge from the past year, perhaps, now, more than ever, Easter is exactly what we need. We are faced now with the challenge of running as fast as we can back to the way life was, OR meeting the new day with a fresh perspective, outlook, and intentions. I don't know about you, but there are parts of pre-pandemic life I don't want to return to; I want to welcome life anew — however different it might be or look like. Maybe, just maybe, God is inviting us to venture out "into the deep", to journey with Jesus in ways we've not considered before. Maybe there's a life out there that is far better, more full of God's presence than anything we could imagine.

Friends, Easter is God's greatest gift to you, to me, to the world. It is too big of a deal and there is too much at stake for us to not allow Easter to influence and guide us. My hope and prayer for each of you this Easter is that God might make your life new again and fill you with the knowledge and joy of Resurrection and God's amazing love! From our family to yours...may your Easter be filled with love and joy

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Garrett



The Mustard Seed

April

Ministry Team:

- Pastor ~ Jarrett Wells
- Office Manager ~ Maria Hymes
- Pianist/Organist ~ Jill Roegge
- Choral Director ~ Tim Bartholomew
- Financial Secretary ~ Lynne O'Hara
- Treasurer ~ Susan Treadway
- Youth Director ~ Andrea Wells
- Custodian ~ Tonya White

Sunday Services:

- Worship Service ~ 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday School ~ 10:30 a.m.
- Phone ~ 217-323-1257
- E-mail ~ beardsumc@sbcglobal.net
- Website ~ beardstownfumc.com
- "Like" us on Facebook ~ Beardstown First UMC

Birthdays

- 2 Danah Looker Hurst
- 3 Marilyn Becker
Brett Nordsiek II
- 6 Beatrice Coats
Clinton Bell
- 7 Shirley Cronin
- 8 Peg Burgett
Cindi Reither
- 12 David Humphrey
- 13 Trey Reither
- 14 Mary Clarke
Susan Shaw
- 15 Ron Blakeman
Bill Robeson
Julie Thompson
- 16 Jerry Burgett
- 17 Matt Roegge
Sergio Ruiz
Drake Vermillion
- 18 Heather Riley Booth
- 19 Maddie Ashcraft
- 21 Sue Clendenen
- 25 Virginia Thompson
Avery Quigley
Kelly Herter
- 27 Sydnee Hamlin
- 29 Richard Walton
Nora Cowen
- 30 Ross Blakeman

Anniversaries

- 1 Lonny & Debby Malcomson
- 2 Jerry & Jody Peacock
- 4 Rob & Maria Hymes
- 14 Wayne & Mary Kight
- 19 Jim & Shirley Bush
- 30 Richard & Barbara Walton



Christian Love In Action

Currently C.L.I.A. is in need of: *Canned Tuna & Wide Noodles*. You can bring your donated items to the church again. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CLIA hours are: Tuesdays from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Thank you for donations. If you would like to contribute but don't have time / remember to shop, you can give money to Lynne O'Hara and she will pick up the items.

Cass County Food Pantry

The Cass County Food Pantry is another place that helps Cass County residents in need of food. To help with their mission, they are asking churches for donations for the month of **APRIL: Spaghetti Noodles, Spaghetti Sauce, Pasta Mixes, Canned Mushrooms.**

They are always in need of: *Peanut Butter, Jelly, Macaroni & Cheese, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Cereal, or Non-Perishable Food Items*. They have a walk in cooler or freezer to hold perishable items, and are able to take fresh produce items.

April Worship

As mentioned in the column on the front page, throughout the Easter season, worship will be centered around a slow walk through Paul's letter to the Philippians. Our aim and focus for this series is going to be returning to Jesus as our first love — embracing again the overwhelming love of God for each of us, and how we make Jesus the first, or primary, love of our life.

Our scripture readings and message titles throughout April will be:

Series Title: First Love

- **April 11:** Philippians 1:1-14
“What's Love Got to Do With It”
- **April 18:** Philippians 1: 15-2:4
“Waving the White Flag”
- **April 25:** Philippians 2: 5-13
“The Power to be Perfect”

As a companion to our Easter series, I'd like to invite us to read through Philippians, slowly and intentionally. I've shared in this space (and others) about the ministry and work of Seedbed, as a resource for the Church. Part of the ministry of Seedbed is a daily devotional reading sent out, via email, each morning called The Daily Text. It consists of a scripture reading, a reflection, a prayer, and some questions for personal reflection. The Daily Text will begin this slow walk through Philippians on Monday, April 5th. Now is a perfect time to jump in! You can sign up to receive the daily text at www.seedbed.com/daily-text.



“Why do you look for the living among the dead?

He is not here;

He has Risen!

~ Luke 24:5b-6a

Administrative News

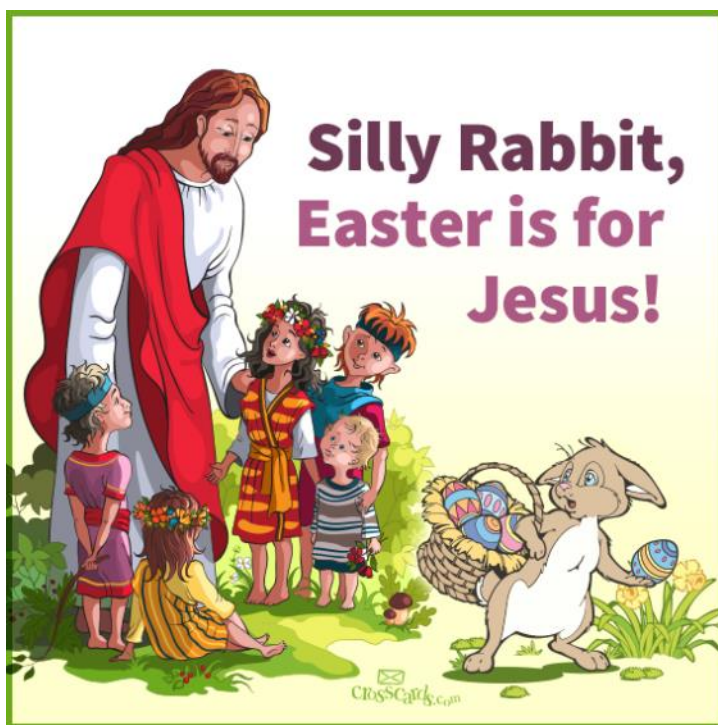
It is with sadness that our Administrative Team announces the resignation of our Administrative Assistant/Office Manager, Maria Hymes, effective at the end of March. Maria has faithfully served in that capacity for the past eight years. We are grateful for Maria's work and service to the church and we bless her as she moves into other endeavors. Please take a few moments to read Maria's note that is also included in the newsletter.

With Maria's resignation, the Administrative Team is now accepting applications for a new Administrative Assistant. Application packets can be picked up in the office or can be found on the church Facebook page. At the moment, the closing date for applications is May 31st. Please contact Pastor Jarrett with any questions.

In the interim, the Administrative Team has asked Andrea Wells to serve in this capacity. Andrea will be in the office Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Additionally, as of April 1st, all requests for the prayer chain, and other church-wide communications, should go through Andrea or Pastor Jarrett. Numbers to use for communication are: (church) 323-1257, (parsonage) 323-2420, (Andrea) 309-338-9462.

UMW Scholarships

As a crazy school year winds down, applications for the UMW Scholarship are now available. An application, along with requirements and criteria, can be picked up in the church office. Deadline for the return of applications is May 31st.



A Letter from the Secretary

Hello Dear Friends,

This is the last newsletter that I will work on. At the end of March I resigned as secretary of FUMC. I started working here in April of 2013, and it has been a wonderful 8 years. You have all been so helpful to me when I needed it. I am sure there were times when I would call and you see my caller ID on the phone and wonder, "oh great, what does she want now!" But you were always gracious to help out in preparing food, loading boxes or volunteering wherever needed. My wonderful Newsletter Ladies I am eternally grateful for, for always willing to come, no matter the weather, to fold and get the newsletters together. I started to list everyone who has helped but I am afraid I will forget someone and I don't want to do that. Please know that I have loved listening to you, as you worked so diligently to help me out, and also beside you to work and chat. Your dedication and service did not go unnoticed. And of course loved giving/getting hugs from all you lovely ladies. I also love my "morning crew". Making it a joy to come into work everyday. While I love my job now, I so miss you guys and the laughter we shared. Best way to wake up and start my day! Better than coffee, I don't care what anybody says.

Last year when Covid hit and everything was up in the air, it came about that I took on another job as a teacher's aide in Virginia, just before the school year started. Not because I was unhappy here, but needed more to do. I wanted to continue to work here, as I so enjoy my work and service to all of you, and did so just in the evenings. However, now that things are beginning to open back up, a secretary is needed again during the morning hours, and unfortunately I am unable to do both anymore. I am not leaving, if you may be wondering that, I will still see you Sunday mornings etc.

Again, it has been a privilege and honor to work here and serve you. May God Bless and keep you.



Love,
 Maria Hymes
 Former Office Administrator



Beardstown First United Methodist Church

415 S. State St.
Beardstown, IL 62618

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Mustard Seed



*They found the stone rolled
away from the tomb...*

~ Luke 24:2



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