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Brookings United Church of Christ

Issue

4

Pastor's Corner

Just last week, Lisa and I went over to the Dakota Nature Center one evening to attend a presentation on the solar eclipse which is happening on April 8th. Before a month or so ago I had no idea that another one was happening, but I guess it's a big deal. In fact some folks from our congregation are even travelling several states away just to get a view from an area where the sun will be totally shaded by the diameter of our moon. The last time we had a total eclipse somewhere over the United States was in 2017 and our next one will be in 2044.

So the presentation we attended was led by an astronomy professor at SDSU and it was pretty interesting. I have to admit I had forgotten some of the basic elements of our own solar system, so this was a good refresher. Specifically, I didn't remember the sizes of things. Like the fact that our sun is 400 times larger than our moon, and that our earth is 4 times the size of our moon, which makes our sun about 100 times larger than the earth.

This information about our own solar system then started me thinking about the Milky way galaxy which we reside in. It is 87,000 light years in diameter, meaning if you were travelling at the speed of light, that's how long it would take to get from one edge to the other. At the center of the Milky Way is a black hole which has a mass 4 million times greater than our Sun. Other galaxies within our universe range in size from dwarfs (with less than a thousand stars) to supergiants (which 100 trillion stars). It is estimated that there between 200 billion to 2 trillion galaxies in the observable universe, and these galaxies are separated from one another by millions of light years. If that isn't enough to totally blow your mind, I don't know what is!

This information then serves as a reminder to me of how immense our universe is, and how infinitesimally small our earth is in comparison. So as we continue through this month of April in which we celebrate Earth Day, let us continue to remember how important it is to care for our earth, and continue to encourage others to do so as well!

Blessings,

Pastor Mark

***"Whoever
you are,
wherever
you are on
life's jour-
ney, you
are wel-
come here"***



GOOD FRIDAY AT BROOKINGS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



First Station:
“The Last Supper”

Luke 22:14-19

¹⁴When the time came, Jesus and the apostles sat down together at the table. ¹⁵Jesus said, “I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. ¹⁶For I tell you now that I won’t eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.”

¹⁷Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. Then he said, “Take this and share it among yourselves. ¹⁸For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come.”

¹⁹He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Second Station:
“Jesus Prays Alone”

Luke 22:39-44

Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

Then, accompanied by the disciples, Jesus left the upstairs room and went as usual to the Mount of Olives. There he told them, “Pray that you will not give in to temptation.” He walked away, about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.” Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him. He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.

At last he stood up again and returned to the disciples, only to find them asleep, exhausted from grief. “Why are you sleeping?” he asked them.

Third Station:
“Jesus Is Arrested”

Luke 22:47-54

Jesus Is Betrayed and Arrested

But even as Jesus said this, a crowd approached, led by Judas, one of the twelve disciples. Judas walked over to Jesus to greet him with a kiss. But Jesus said, “Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?”

When the other disciples saw what was about to happen, they exclaimed, “Lord, should we fight? We brought the swords!” And one of them struck at the high priest’s slave, slashing off his right ear.

But Jesus said, “No more of this.” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him. Then Jesus spoke to the leading priests, the captains of the Temple guard, and the elders who had come for him. “Am I some dangerous revolutionary,” he asked, “that you come with swords and clubs to arrest me? Why didn’t you arrest me in the Temple? I was there every day. But this is your moment, the time when the power of darkness reigns.” So, they arrested him and led him to the high priest’s home

Forth Station

(After Jesus was arrested. He was held at the High Priests home. He was held in a pit, overnight.)

Luke 22:66-70

Jesus before the Council

At daybreak all the elders of the people assembled, including the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. Jesus was led before this high council, and they said, “Tell us, are you the Messiah?”

But he replied, “If I tell you, you won’t believe me. And if I ask you a question, you won’t answer. But from now the Son of Man will be seated in the place of power at God’s right hand.”

They all shouted, “So, are you claiming to be the Son of God?”

April 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Something to Chew On 6:30			
7 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	8	9 Coffee and Conversation 10:30-11:30	10 Something to Chew On 6:30	11	12	13
14 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	15	16 Coffee and Conversation 10:30-11:30	17 Something to Chew On 6:30	18	19	20
21 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	22	23 Coffee and Conversation 10:30-11:30	24 Something to Chew On 6:30	25	26	27
28 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	29	30 Coffee and Conversation 10:30-11:30				

APRIL Birthdays & Anniversaries



April Birthdays
 1 Christie Reiners
 11 Steve Prunty
 15 Chad Gloege
 22 Rebecca Marshall
 ANNIVERSARY
 11 Stuart and Melissa Apland
 22 Ron and Linda Langner



Cause of the Month

The cause of the month for April will be creation care. As such we will once again be conducting a cleanup day somewhere in our community on Earth Day, which is Monday, April 22nd. We will meet at the church at 5:30pm and then head out to a location which the Brookings Parks and Recreation department has guided us to pick up litter which has accumulated since last fall and over the winter. (In the case of inclement weather, we will reschedule to the following Saturday.) Over the next few Sundays we will have a signup sheet for folks to commit to helping care for our creation in this way.

In addition, our April 17th and 24th Wednesday night "Chew" potluck gatherings at the church will be focused on videos having to do with environmentalism. In this way, people who are physically unable to participate in the cleanup day will be able to participate in the Earth Day theme through education and advocacy.



Fifth Station:

"Pilate Tries Jesus"

Mark 15:1-15

Very early in the morning the leading priests, the elders, and the teachers of religious law—the entire high council met to discuss their next step. They bound Jesus, led him away, and took him to Pilate, the Roman governor.

Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"
Jesus replied, "You have said it."

Then the leading priests kept accusing him of many crimes, and Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer them? What about all these charges they are bringing against you?" But Jesus said nothing, much to Pilate's surprise.

Now it was the governor's custom each year during the Passover celebration to release one prisoner—anyone the people requested. One of the prisoners at that time was Barabbas, a revolutionary who had committed murder in an uprising. The crowd went to Pilate and asked him to release a prisoner as usual.

"Would you like me to release to you this 'King of the Jews'?" Pilate asked. (For he realized by now that the leading priests had arrested Jesus out of envy.) But at this point the leading priests stirred up the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas instead of Jesus. Pilate asked them, "Then what should I do with this man you call the king of the Jews?"

They shouted back, "Crucify him!"

"Why?" Pilate demanded. "What crime has he committed?"

But the mob roared even louder, "Crucify him!"

So to pacify the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.

Sixth Station:

"Jesus Wears a Crown"

Matthew 27:26- 31

Pilate ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.

Some of the governor's soldiers took Jesus into their headquarters and called out the entire regiment. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. They wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head, and they placed a reed stick in his right hand as a scepter. Then they knelt before him in mockery and taunted, "Hail! King of the Jews!" And they spit on him and grabbed the stick and struck him on the head with it. When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified.

Seventh Station:

"Jesus Carries His Cross"

John 19:17-19

Carrying the cross by himself, he went to the place called Place of the Skull (in Hebrew, *Golgotha*). There they nailed him to the cross. Two others were crucified with him, one on either side, with Jesus between them. And Pilate posted a sign on the cross that read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

