



It is hard to believe that it is almost Easter. Easter is the best time of year! What is better to celebrate the assurance that we have of salvation when we have faith in Jesus Christ and God, our heavenly Father? We have the opportunity to remember and reflect on the events that Jesus experienced during Holy Week.

We find part of this assurance in 1st Peter 2: 24-25, "He carried in his own body on the cross the sins we committed. He did this so that we might live in righteousness, having nothing to do with sin. By his wounds you were healed. Though you were like straying sheep, you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your lives" (CEB). The other part of the assurance of found in Romans 6:23, "The wages that sin pays are death, but God's gift is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (CEB). This assurance gives us hope. "The greatest gift of Easter is Hope!"

Easter holds a lot of memories for me. My dad died on Easter morning in our home, April 4, 1999. He had pancreatic cancer, and was living with us while on Hospice care. Easter is on the same date this year. You might think that this would cause me to have bad feelings about this Easter, or about Easter in general. I thought that it might be extra hard to get through Easters in the future, but it hasn't been hard.

The assurance of salvation and eternal life with Christ helped me to feel a peace the day my dad died. I knew that he was healed completely that day and was no longer in pain. On Easters since then, I think of my dad and smile, and I thank God for the time that I was able to have with my dad. I was a Daddy's Girl! God has given me hope that my dad is living eternally with Christ.

Rejoice in the wonderful gift of Easter Hope!

Blessings,
Pastor Ruthie Trigg





Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, & Sunrise Worship Packets

The packets with devotional materials for Holy Week: Monday-Easter Sunrise have been mailed to the homes of each church family if you haven't been attending the in person services. If you didn't receive one, let Becky or Pastor Ruthie know, and one will be delivered to you as soon as possible.



Jesus knows me; this I love, that's the message from above.
Loves me though I still do wrong, so I sing this silly song.

Refrain: Yes Jesus knows me, and He accepts me,
Yes, Jesus knows me. He died to prove His love.

All of us belong to Him. He has come to make us whole.
Jesus suffered just for us, Came to save each sinning soul.

Jesus loves it when we laugh, and he smiles at every gaff.
Satan tries to steal our fun, but he knows that Jesus won.

God must love to laugh, you know.
Check the zoo out and you'll see giraffe, elephant and skunk,
hippo, snake, bat and monkey.

Jesus knows me; this I love. That's the message from above.
Jesus died upon the, died to save us, you and me.

~Laura Roome



Joys

Bill & Lori Ullman celebrated Betsy's birthday with her

Brett Richard's co-worker & wife had a baby

Pam H. - back in church Betty W. - finished last chemo treatment

Pastor Ruthie's friends; Roseann, Bruce & Sandy - improving

AJ's uncle's sister, Linda - cancer free

Pastor Ruthie - improving

Dawn Hennie's son Chad & daughter-in-law Rachel had a baby girl,

Juniper Jene Lyn Hennie

Born 3/12/2021; weight - 8lbs. 15oz.

Concerns

Niles B. - cancer has returned, remember Rita, too

Pastor Ruthie - health Nancy B. - health Nancy M. - health & testing

Brett R.'s sister in law, Rhonda - recovering from Covid

Pauline R. - health (house bound) Joanne S. - health & testing

Judy B., sister Geni, & mom Faye

Ruth Sargent's sister, Marti - health

Nancy B's son's friend, Donna & family - ex-husband passed away

Our sympathy to the families of:

Sofija Atanasov

Alan Nolt, Linda Nolt's brother

Andy Hontert (Wadworth firefighter)



April

3rd - Heather Richards

6th - Brooke Britton

19th - Marvin Frase

Don Trigg

23rd - Zachary Richards

27th - Mickey Shankland

Lucinda Yoss

5th - Andy Baillis

11th - Joanna Shankland

20th - Ruthanne Lindenmuth

24th - Emily Cook

Chad Gasser

Sheila Stoll

29th - Bryan Yoss



April

5th - Dale & Nancy Booth

Chad & Sandy Gasser

Mary's Meanderings - April 2021

An Easter Prayer, by Helen Steiner Rice

God, give us eyes to see
the beauty of the Spring.
And to behold Your majesty
in every living thing.

And may we see in lacy leaves
and every budding flower.
The Hand that rules the universe
with gentleness and power.

And may this Easter grandeur
that Spring lavishly imparts
Awaken faded flowers of faith
Luring dormant in our hearts.

And give us ears to hear, dear God
the Springtime song of birds
With messages more meaningful
than man's often empty words.

Telling harried human beings
who are lost in dark despair
'Be like us and do not worry
for God has you in his care."

An Easter Flower Gift, by John Greenleaf Whittier

O dearest bloom the seasons know,
Flowers of the Resurrection blow,
Our hope and faith restore;
And through the bitterness of death
And loss and sorrow, breathe and breath
Of life forevermore!

The thought of Love Immortal blends
With fond remembrances of friends;
In you, O sacred flowers,
By human love made doubly sweet,
The heavenly and the earthly meet,
The heart of Christ is ours!

May God bless you as only He can with full knowledge of
your deepest needs.

~Mary





Dear Church Family,

We did it! The very long year is over and I am beginning to regain my strength.

I can't thank you enough for all of your support through my cancer. All of your cards, calls, texts were so appreciated. But most of all, your prayers lifted me up and carried me through. Thanks also to pastor Ruthie in checking on me as well.

God bless you all! You are a wonderful church! Praising Jesus.

Love, Betty

Fireside Chat



From the Finance Chair

Dear Church Family,

The Ides of March have passed. It is time to write my monthly financial news report, and it isn't bad at all compared to this time last year. We have kept up on our monthly bills, have a little cushion for bigger bills that are due quarterly or half year, and have paid a portion of our Conference apportionments. That is after stretching ourselves to pay about \$10,000 at the end of 2020 to be at 100% on apportionments last year. **Thank you, Lord! You are an awesome God!** And thank you church family for helping to make this a better financial year so far, even if it is still challenging.

Martha Baillis,

Finance Chairperson

New Life in the Spring

How exciting to watch God's creation come to new life in the Spring;
To joyfully welcome migrating birds and hear them happily sing!

To watch the tulips and lilies push through the stubborn sod;
To know, "tho we planted bulbs, growth is in the hands of God.

Something inside our beings is renewed by the earth in bloom;
"Twas Easter when Jesus was crucified and rose from an empty tomb.

God loved each one of us, He gave His only Son;
And as we believe in Him, our new life has just begun.

Women's Bible Study



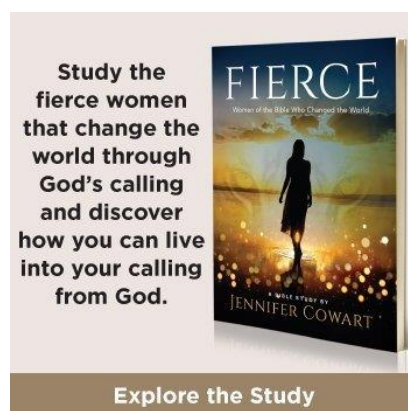
Join us for a great chance to learn more about God's Word!

We meet on Thursdays with a choice of 10:30am in person led by Pastor Ruthie, or 6:30pm led by Sara Ullman and Betty Winchell. Contact Pastor Ruthie or Betty, if you need books.

We are almost finished with the current Bible Study! It has been a deep search into the Book of Hebrews. Our evening group has been meeting by Zoom, but we are hoping to begin meeting again at the church for the next study

Beginning April 29th & ending June 10th (6 sessions)

Fierce: Women of the Bible Who Changed the World by Jennifer Cowart



**Be watching the May newsletter for the new list of Bible Studies planned!
Thanks to Betty, we have the next year of studies ordered from the
Conference Media Center.**

Legend of the Dogwood

Once upon a time, the dogwood was as might as an oak. Then one day, the Roman authorities decided to use it for the cross of Jesus. Upon learning this, the tree was seized with sorrow. But Jesus sensed the agony of the dogwood timbers over the cruel duty they were forced to perform. And in His great compassion Jesus said: *“Because of your sorrow over my suffering, you shall henceforth grow slender, bent & twisted, so that your wood can never again be used as a cross. And you shall bear blossoms in the shape of a cross. And on them shall appear a crown of thorns & nail prints stained with red so that all who see them will remember that I carried you to Calvary.”*



The joyful news that He is risen does not change
The contemporary world.
Still before us lie work, discipline, sacrifice.
But the fact of Easter gives us the spiritual power to do
the work, accept the discipline, and make the sacrifice.

~Henry Knox Sherill



Thank you to everyone who continues to support the funding & volunteering for the food pantry. Our March Food Pantry, we had 9 families (0 new), 24 people and 11 sets of bags given out. If you hear of anyone needing food, please have them call the church office to come pick up a food supply during office hours, or they can contact Pastor Ruthie to set up a different time to pick up. Our next Food Pantry will be Wednesday, April 21st, 4 - 5:30pm.



Welcome April

*Welcome April, child of Spring,
Give our hearts a song to sing -
Bid the world awaken do,
Lend us precious skies of blue.
Time to dress the naked trees,
Send a gentle springtime breeze.*

*Welcome April, come right in,
Let the lovely spring begin -
Blooming tulips, grass of green,
Nature's oh so magic scene,
Tiny raindrops, gentle showers,
Miracle of birds and flowers.*

*Winter moments are no more,
Spring is knocking on our door.
Golden sunshine warms the earth,
Welcoming the Spring's birth.
Cloud steps charm the skies of blue -
Dearest April, we love you*

~Garnett Ann Schultz