

A PUBLICATION OF PEOTONE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE YOKE-April 2021

SUNDAY SERVICE

In co-operation with requirements set forth by state government and the Northern Illinois Conference, please follow these social distancing guidelines when attending services:

- -Only sit in the approved areas pre-marked
- -PLEASE BRING AND WEAR A MASK
- -Please take home your bulletin. Do not leave in pew or discard at church. Please do not discard ANY garbage at the church, including tissues and gum or candy wrappers, etc.
- -The offering plates and bulletins will be on the table at the back of the church. These will NOT be passed around. Please take a bulletin and submit your offering at the table.
- -NO COFFEE HOUR

An Easter prayer

From the grave's depths, Lord Jesus Christ, you emerged, breaking the hold of sin, death and hell, that those who trust in you might share in your righteousness, life and beloved community with God the Father and all God's children. We bow in awe before your majesty, giving thanks for your grace extended so bountifully to us. By the power of your Spirit who lives within us, may we share the astonishing news of your resurrection with others, that they also may know your saving grace. Amen.

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY
AND ALL OTHER
ACTIVITIES
CANCELLED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE

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"The earth laughs in flowers."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

FROM THE PASTOR:

Dear Friends,

Easter excites us with the prospect of great relief. When Jesus died the hopes of those who had followed him suffered death as well. Life had fallen apart.

The death of someone special to us is devastating. We are confronted by what Paul called our last enemy. When I lost my grandmother in my preschool years seeds were planted that led to my loss of innocence about death. I realized that my dad and mom were vulnerable as well. My memories are vivid of times when I would sit alone and think, "what if...".

The death of Jesus was more than devastating to them.

Then some of his followers went to the tomb on Sunday morning and heard the startling word, "He is risen"!

Easter explodes with life! The last enemy is defeated! Hope is re-born! Life does make sense, and things have not gone out of control. Death is not the last word after all. LIFE IS!

The message of Easter is a message of life, and we find life at the heart of the Good News of Jesus Christ. In Christ Jesus is life.

He spoke much of life—about the water of life, the bread of life, abundant life, the resurrection and the life.

His actions were full of life—healing, restoring sight, preserving life, even calling

Lazarus out of the tomb, and rising on Easter morning.

Norman Vincent Peale wrote of visiting the tomb where Lazarus was supposed to have been laid. "At that moment for the first time in my life, Easter really happened to me, and I shall never be the same again. For the rest of my days I shall preach, out of a conviction so deep that it can never be shaken, that if people will accept Jesus Christ, they will have eternal life."

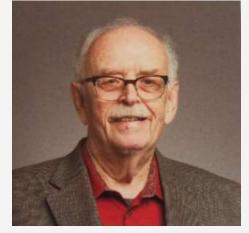
Let's get together and celebrate.

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN! CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!

See you soon,

RLY

Pastor Richard Young



OUR FAIR SHARE IN CHRIST'S OUTREACH TO THE WORLD

As United Methodists, we are part of a worldwide connection. This connectionalism offers many privileges, but it also carries responsibilities. We can do things together we never could do as a single local church.

The lifeline of our connectionalism is our apportionments (connectional ministries giving)—our fair share of support for local, regional and worldwide UMC ministries.

Even the smallest church has an opportunity to do its share in United Methodist ministries throughout the world. Together we send missionaries. We provide educational materials for children and adults. We offer hope and support for the needy and the hungry. We train clergy and provide pensions and benefits for them.

Connectional ministries are about people—people in local congregations all across the United Methodist Church who live, work and do ministry where they are—and have enough love left over to reach out to the world beyond their doors.

The scope of what we can do as a connected body is impossible to describe fully. But this connection remains strong only if we all are willing to do our fair share.

Apportionment ministries, the "first mile" in our journey of faithful giving and living, offer us the privilege and the responsibility of contributing our fair share.

Encourage wonder

For a new perspective on Bible accounts you've heard over and over, play "I Wonder" with children and adults alike. Similar to "I Spy," it encourages a deeper dive into familiar passages. Simply explore ideas that aren't detailed in the Bible, starting with the phrase "I wonder." For example:

- I wonder if any Roman soldier was standing in the back *not* mocking Jesus (Matthew 27:27-31). If so, what was he thinking as others threw about insults?
- I wonder how long it took Joseph of Arimathea to cut his own tomb out of the rock (Matthew 27:57-60). What did he think about as he worked?
- The day after Jesus' ascension, I wonder which disciple spoke first at breakfast and what he said.

Scholars may have chimed in on some of these ponderings, but there's likely no right answer. Playing "I Wonder" can help you slow down to really pay attention and experience more of a Bible passage — especially one you seem to know by rote.

Add meaning to this year's Easter celebration by letting your wonder wander during Holy Week. Then continue the practice whenever you're eager to gain new insights on the "old, old story ... of Jesus and his love."

—Janna Firestone

Holy hilarity!

More churches lately have been resurrecting (pardon the pun!) the early-church tradition of celebrating the second Sunday of Easter as Holy Humor Sunday, affirming the season's joy. Need some jokes for April 11? Try these:

Easter is the only time when it's perfectly safe to put all your eggs in one basket.

Knock knock. Who's there? Hatch. Hatch who? God bless you!

What should you do after eating so many Easter treats? Eggs-ercise!

Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke? It might crack up!

An irate subscriber called the newspaper, demanding to know where her Sunday edition was. "Ma'am," said the employee, "today is Saturday. The Sunday paper isn't delivered until Sunday." After a brief pause, the caller spoke with a ray of recognition: "So *that's* why no one was in church today."

The Christian Review

It's About Us

Matuor Dot Alier is a social worker in North Dakota. A long, difficult journey and the memory of his grandfather's words — brought him from a childhood in Africa to his life today.

Alier fled with his brother and thousands of other youths when Sudanese soldiers attacked South Sudan. The children walked hundreds of miles with little food or water to a refugee camp in Ethiopia. In 2006, Alier and his brother arrived in Philadelphia, where they were sponsored and supported by a Lutheran church. Upon moving to Fargo some years later, Alier helped start a church where people who had survived war, displacement and other traumas could find healing, joy and love.

"My grandfather used to say, 'I cannot be whole unless everyone is whole,'" Alier shares. "I use this saying a lot to help me stay in a close relationship with others. It means that we need each other's support to survive and thrive. I don't want to be the only one doing well if others aren't doing well. It's not just about me — it's about us."

Believing In

Sometimes we get caught up in thinking we need to understand God in order to have faith. But faith is more about trust than knowledge; it's more about believing in someone than believing information. A child, for instance, doesn't have to know the precise roads to Grandma's house; he only needs to believe *in* his parents and their ability and desire to get him there safely. Similarly, we need not understand all the intricacies of how God works; we can take a cue from the disciples and let belief *in* the risen Christ transform and empower us.

In the words of Madeleine L'Engle (*The Rock That Is Higher*): "The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid."

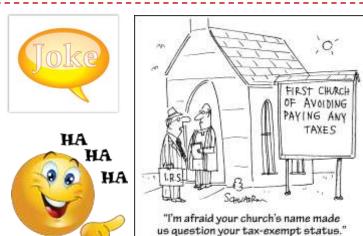
Christian Symbol

LILY

The lily that blooms around Easter is a symbol of Christ's resurrection because it rises from a seemingly lifeless bulb decaying in the ground. It is also used as a symbol of Christ himself. The lily, a symbol of purity, is often used to represent the Virgin Mary.







TRIVIA

We know the name of only one of the two disciples to whom the risen Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus. Who was he?

- A. John
- B. Paul of Tarsus
- C. Joseph of Arimathea
- D. Cleopas

Answer: D (See Luke 24:18.)

Last month's trivia answer:

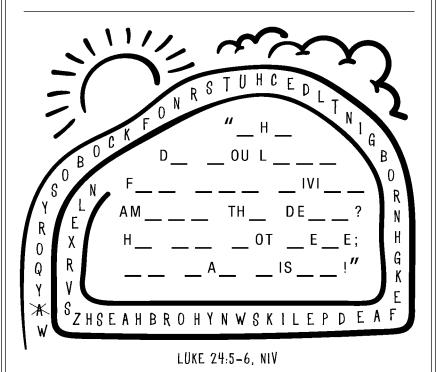
Answer: A (See Numbers 11:4-6.)



EASTER MORNING

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.



April 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				Maundy Thursday 5-7PM	Good Friday 7:30pm @ Green Garden	3
EASTER Service 10:30am	5	6	7 Disciple Bible Study 10:00AM via ZOOM	8	9	10
OPERATIONS Committee Meeting Service 10:30am	12	13	Disciple Bible Study 10:00AM via ZOOM	15	16	17
NOW Committee Meeting Special Sunday Offering Native American Ministries	19	20	Disciple Bible Study 10:00AM via ZOOM	22	23	24
Service 10:30am 25 Service 10:30am	26	27	Disciple Bible Study 10:00AM via ZOOM	29	30	
			Helping Hands - April The NOW Committee encourages you to bring your contributions of the following items to church so they can be delivered to Helping Hands: PAPER PRODUCTS: toilet paper, paper towels, and tissues.			

Peotone United Methodist Church

105 N. West St.

Peotone, IL 60468

Phone: (708) 258-6876 www.peotoneumc.com

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