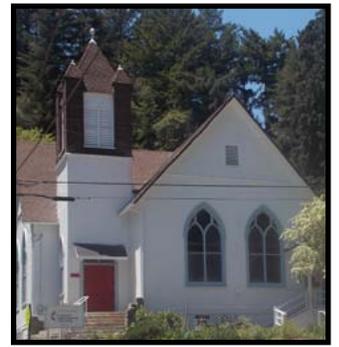


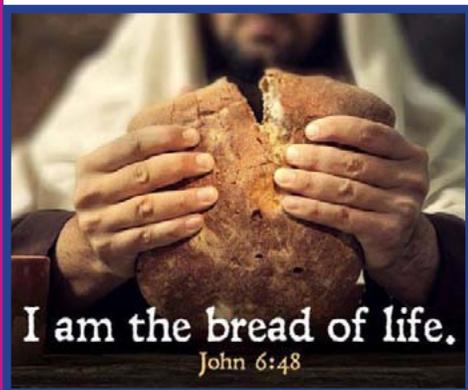
Boulder Creek United Methodist Church Mountain Messenger April, 2018



Our Vision

*"To illuminate the world with
God's love by serving our
community as faithful followers
of Christ."*

Holy Week at BCUMC



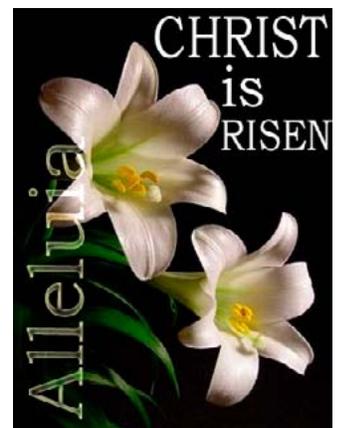
March 29, 7:00 p.m. **Maundy Thursday**, as we remember the Last Supper of our Lord with his disciples. The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin for "mandate." Jesus invites us to come together for this meal.

March 30, 7:00 is **Good Friday**. Gabe House will lead us in a time of meditation.



Easter Sunday

April 1 is **Easter**. Whether you have new clothes or just a renewed spirit, join us as we celebrate the victory of life over death! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Easter Service begins at 10:00.



Rev. Clyde has titled his Easter message "Who Rolls Away Our Stones?"

Our youth will have their own Sunday School class to learn more about how Jesus defeated death.



Children and youth (up to the age of 18) will have the opportunity to hunt for Easter Eggs. Please be sure to invite your neighbor children.



My Thoughts as we approach Easter

I mentioned before the irony that Easter falls on April Fools Day. I don't know much about April Fools Day, sounds like an invention of some clever minds in our country. I know I have played my share of April Fools jokes ... most of them were pretty innocent - no one got hurt!

That said, it seems that Easter is God's ultimate April Fools joke. People thought they had handled the "problem." This rabble-rousing peasant from Galilee had been handled. Life could return to normal and the "silly hopes" of the common folk would

just go away.

Matthew tells us of a great earthquake and an angel who rolled the stone away. He says "the guards shook and became like dead men." So God gets the last word ... hope is stronger than fear and life is more powerful than death. Those who thought they had a final say learned that it is God who gets the victory.

We learn that Jesus is the "Word of God" made flesh. People learned that this "peasant" from Galilee was able to outsmart the wisest people of the time, and was stronger than the most powerful government on earth.

It's no April Fools Joke, it's just Good News: Christ is Risen. He is Risen Indeed!

Blessings,

Rev. Clyde



Relief for the weary in Syria

By Bella DiFilippo

The ongoing civil war in Syria has internally displaced more than 6 million civilians. Through support from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), families struggling with unstable security situations and exhausted by harsh living conditions are finding some relief.

Seliman is one such person. He is struggling to care for his two grandchildren after their parents died during an attack on Aleppo, Syria, and couldn't afford to buy soap, toothpaste, and other personal care items the children needed.

"Thank God, my house was not destroyed by the attacks, but my work has been negatively affected," said Seliman. "Before the crisis, I used to work in a construction workshop; however, I lost my job, and I became totally dependent on aid offered by NGOs [nongovernmental organizations]. You have no idea how very important the [hygiene] kits are to me and my grandchildren."

A \$90,000 grant from UMCOR provided hygiene, infant, dignity, and bedding kits for vulnerable people in Aleppo who were forced to leave their homes because of the seven-year war. UMCOR provides assistance through two implementing partner organizations, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) and the Department of Ecumenical Relations and Development (DERD), the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch.



Aleppo, Syria, a mother receives nonfood essential items from an IOCC employee. PHOTO COURTESY OF IOCC

You Are Welcome Here!

As a Reconciling Congregation, we celebrate God's welcome to us and to all people, including any who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender and their families. At Boulder Creek UMC your friendship is valued and safeguarded. You are accepted for who you are. **You have a home!**





A Word from Ted

Join BCUMC Youth Easter Sunday for a celebration of the Risen Lord! We will learn about how Jesus defeated death during Sunday School at 10 AM, and then at 11:30 there will be a youth (18 and under) easter egg hunt!

--Ted

PICTURES FROM OUR EASTER EGG HUNTS, 2016 & 17





JOYS:

Herbie Bond was recognized as the San Lorenzo Valley Student of the Week in the Friday, March 9 issue of the Press Banner. Here is a link to the page:

http://www.goldenstatenewspapers.com/press_banner/eedition/page-communitys/page_8d9d63a0-aed2-5080-a465-18c8edc9a44a.html.

Sunshine Johnson has graduated from her sling and now going through P.T..

We are grateful for the gentle rains this month. Also grateful for the first responders and utility workers whose efforts keep us safe and warm.

CONCERNS:

Ron Perry: Becky writes, "We just returned from a long day in Seattle, at the hospital, more chemo began today. Not much time or good news to update Caringbridge."

Becky Perry also asks prayers for **Akira**, her son-in-law, dealing with a lymphoma tumor, resistant to treatment.

Bob Belzer is going to have chemotherapy but is very hopeful.

Dan Jett's sister, **Jena**, has been hospitalized with congestive heart failure. Dan & Gina have had to travel to So. California to be with her.

As always we pray for our first responders as they deal with fallen trees, mud slides and other life-threatening issues. They put their lives on the line for us every day.

For our **shut-ins** who are unable to be in church because of age or illness. Our prayers are with them.

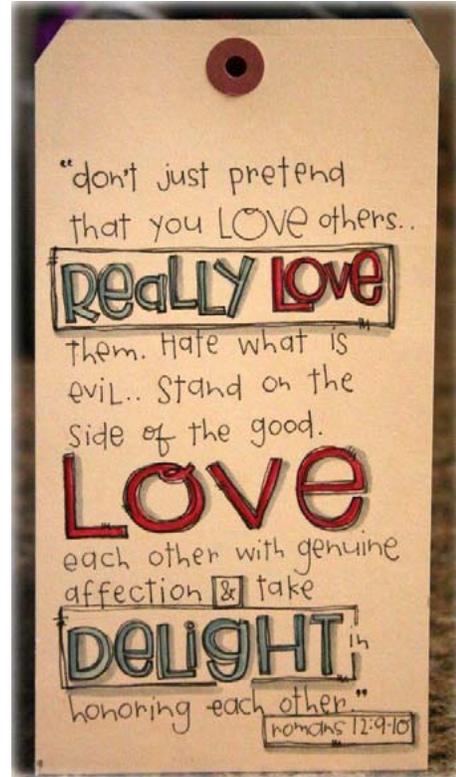
If you have joys or concerns and desire prayer, please contact Linda Lininger, our prayer coordinator, LindaLinCA@aol.com, the Pastor or the church office with your request.



Thanks to **Rex & Mardell Lawson** who frequently come to care for our garden.

Also want to thank **Gina Billington** for filling in when we needed custodial care. The church sure looked nice!

THANK YOU!



April Birthdays

- | | |
|------|---------------------|
| 9th | Jennifer Warner |
| 11th | Rick Deits |
| 13th | Bob Belzer |
| 16th | Livingstone Johnson |
| 16th | David Schlesinger |
| 17th | Les Gripkey |
| 19th | Angelo Acker |
| 20th | Tami Zigelhofer |
| 20th | Marge Borchardt |
| 29th | Sharon Ulstad |



April Anniversaries

- April 9, 2016, Ted & Alora Bond
- April 26, 1981, Dan & Gina Jett

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed and you would like to have it added, please send your information to the office: bcumc@bcumc.com

Gabe's Thoughts on Easter...

On the darkest day in history, Jesus died on the cross. Then on the brightest day in history, Jesus rose again. In his death, He saved us from our sins. In His resurrection, He invites us into life with Him.

But His work is not just for us...not only for you and me.

Remember, God so loved THE WORLD. His perfect sacrifice was more than enough for every single person in the world. And the life He offers is available to all people.



Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He gave His disciples an important job. Tell your friends and neighbors about me. Teach them to live the way I've taught you to live. As Christians today, we are His disciples and that important job has passed on to us.

So let your life be an example. And let your words be a witness. Enjoy your Easter celebrations, but don't keep the wonderful story of Jesus to yourself. There's plenty of God's love to go around for everybody.

-Gabe House



This is the first of three essays about basic United Methodist beliefs.

By grace we are forgiven: Justifying grace

A UMC.org Feature by Joe Iovino*

“Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.” Many United Methodists know John Newton’s words so well that we can sing more than one verse of this great hymn from memory. We may be a little fuzzy, however, on the [concept of grace](#).

Newton’s lyrics echo those of scripture, like [Ephesians 2:8](#), “You are saved by God’s grace because of your faith. This salvation is God’s gift.” Both the Apostle Paul and the hymn writer teach us that our salvation is not something we earn or deserve. It comes to us because of God’s great love for us.

[John Wesley](#), the founder of the [Methodist movement](#), preached and wrote often about the amazing grace of God that leads us into renewed relationship with God.

The gift of God

The Rev. Matt O’Reilly, pastor of St. Mark United Methodist Church, Mobile, Alabama, wants United Methodists to know that when we speak of the grace of God, we are not talking about a substance. It is instead a description of God at work in our lives.

“Grace is primarily about how God relates to us,” O’Reilly teaches, “not based on our merit, but based on God’s resolve and love for creatures made in God’s image.”

“Human effort does not play any role,” shares the Rev. Nday Bondo Mwanabute, professor of theology at [Africa University](#), Mutare, Zimbabwe. “All that is required from human beings is to avail themselves to receive everything from God by faith.”

Wesley taught that our entire spiritual lives are an act of God’s grace. He names at least three periods in our spiritual development and the ways God’s grace is at work during those times—[prevenient grace](#), justifying grace, and [sanctifying grace](#). It may sound like he is talking about three different graces, but that is not the case.

“The issue is timing,” O’Reilly explains, “not so much different stuff.”

Justifying grace: God making things right

The grace with which we are most familiar is what Wesley called justifying grace.

The Bible tells us, “All have sinned and fall short of God’s glory” (Romans 3:23). Try as we might, we cannot be good enough. We need God to make things right between us, to justify us.

“Justification is another word for pardon,” John Wesley writes in a sermon called [The Scripture Way of Salvation](#). “It is the forgiveness of all our sins; and, what is necessarily implied therein, our acceptance with God.”

The Rev. Gary Henderson of United Methodist Communications uses an [illustration from our word processors](#) to help us understand what it means to be justified.

“I’m typing and the words and the lines are all over the page... and it looks like a mess,” Henderson begins. “With a keystroke or two, I can bring it all together and order it and align it. They call it *justifying* to the left, to the right, or to the center... Sometimes it seems as though our lives are in pieces. We need a sense of order.”

When we are justified, we are made right with God. Our sins are forgiven and God begins the process of lining our lives up to God’s original design for us.

We are created in God’s image, but that image is distorted by sin. By God’s grace, through faith, we receive forgiveness. All of this is God’s gift to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

“Justifying faith implies, not only a divine evidence or conviction that ‘God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself,’”

Wesley writes in another sermon, [Justification by Faith](#), “but a sure trust and confidence that Christ died for ‘my’ sins, that he loved ‘me,’ and gave himself for ‘me.’ And at what time soever a sinner thus believes...God justifieth that ungodly one.”

Those familiar with Wesley’s recounting of his [Aldersgate experience](#) in his journal, may hear echoes of similar themes in this description of justifying faith.

A door

In a pamphlet titled *The Principles of a Methodist Farther Explained*, Wesley likens this moment in our spiritual development to a door. At the moment of justification, we cross the threshold from unbelief to belief. This, however, is not of our own doing.

As Ephesians 2:8 reminds us, salvation is a gift offered to us by our gracious (i.e. grace-filled) God. We do not earn it. Not one of us is worthy of it. We simply receive it in faith.

Getting to the door and growing on the other side of it, are also by God’s grace. We will look at these dimensions of grace in the coming weeks.

Look for upcoming posts about [prevenient grace](#) and [sanctifying grace](#).

*[Joe Iovino](#) works for UMC.org at [United Methodist Communications](#). Contact him by [email](#) or at 615-312-3733.



Calendar

**April 1, Easter Sunday, Rev. Clyde,
"Who Rolls Away Our Stones?"**

Mark 16:1-8, Communion

10:00, Youth study - the meaning of Easter

11:30, Easter Egg Hunt

April 8, Worship led by Gabe House, John 20:19-31

April 15, Worship led by Gabe House, Luke 24:36b-48

April 22, Worship led by Gabe House, John 10:11-18

April 29, Worship led by Ted Bond

May 6, Rev. Clyde, "We Have Been Chosen"

John 15:9-17, Communion

Leadership Team after Worship

Sundays, **Choir Practice:** 9:00 - 9:45 a.m.

Sundays - Youth breakfast, 9:00 a.m. with Bible Discussion

Our website is up and running!
Check it out at

www.bcumc.com.

Thank you to **Gabe House** for the hard work to create and maintain our website. It's a great tool to help people know more about our church.

Website



**The May Mountain
Messenger** deadline for
information will be
Sunday, April 29.

Boulder Creek United Methodist Church

Church office: 831.338.6232

Web: <http://bcumc.com>

Join us on Facebook, friend us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/BoulderCreek-CAUnitedMethodistChurch>

Pastor: Rev. Clyde Vaughn: 831.662.8908

Cell: 831.212.1052

Children's Ministry Director: Ted Bond

831.419.0241

Church Administrator & Bookkeeper:

Gina Billington 831.246.0394

Prayer Chain, please contact the pastor, or the prayer chain coordinator, Linda Lininger, LindaLinCA@aol.com, if you wish prayers for family members or friends.

Worship Leadership

Ministers: People of the parish

Music Director: Gabriel House

April, 2018 Mountain Messenger

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