

Mid-Week Reflection
April 10, 2019

Time flies; except when it doesn't. This coming Sunday is Palm Sunday. It is later this year, and yet, it feels all of a sudden. Easter will be here before we are ready. I wonder if Jesus was ready for all that week would hold. Jesus entered Jerusalem, through what would be considered a back door, riding a young donkey as a symbol of the resistance. His followers knew it and those in power knew it. Understand, the emperor was not simply the ruler of Rome, but the Son of God. Jesus was a rival and a threat to Emperor Tiberius. Tensions were high. Some had suggested he not return there as his life had already been threatened.

The week we are approaching is historic. Palm Sunday sets the stage for this Holy Week to come. As we approach Easter together I am not going to ask you to do one more thing. I am going to strongly suggest we each recognize our limitations. We cannot do it all. We can only thrive when we rely on God's presence and comfort and strength. We are not Jesus, any of us. God understood our need to be rescued from ourselves and I suggest we need that life-line again today.

We cannot do it by ourselves. Toddlers think they can. Young children think they are invincible. And, they will refuse help of any kind as often as possible. "I do it myself," they scream as they attempt to put on a shoe or climb in the car or feed themselves a more challenging morsel of food. "I do it myself."

I've noticed toddlers are at their worst when they are tired. The tears and tantrums come quickly. Then, they are even more moody, clumsy and hardheaded. What about us? Remember, I am not suggesting you do more. I am suggesting you receive the help we all need. We do not journey through this next week and a half on our own. God is with us and so are many who represent Jesus with skin on.

If you have one of the "Sanctuary for Lent" daily devotions we handed out starting on Ash Wednesday you might have read the entry from April 9th. It speaks of "toddlers" and inspired my thoughts today. The author reminds us, "...do not despair, as you are in good company. We are not Jesus. We will fail, as the disciples did. And, in those stumbles we will learn about ourselves and those who provide us care and compassion. May we each embrace the moments of this day and the days to come. May we recognize our limitations. And, may we return more fully to God's loving embrace...our shelter, our refuge, our hope. Always.

This Sunday the sermon is "The Uncertainty of Obedience." During worship we will move from the triumphant entry to the despair of the cross, Jesus' crucifixion. The primary text is Matthew 26: 36-46. I look forward to welcoming you to worship.

Coming Up

Choir rehearsal at 6:30 tonight.

An Opportunity: Church grounds could use some **weeding and spiffing up** before Easter. Any help would be welcomed whenever you are available.

Youth can still be "hired" for clean-up needs around your home.
Forms are in the gathering area.

Our Scout troop is now selling the trash bags UMM previously sold.
Those are also in the gathering area in the SE corner.

NEXT Thursday, 4.18 is Holy Thursday. Worship will be at 7:00pm

Easter Sunrise Service is Sunday, April 21 at 7:00 at Patterson's Farm

Flowers...some folks like to bring flowers to the church on Easter morning. We welcome them. Just place them near the altar and Pastor Barb or ushers will find a place for them during worship.

Echoes Deadline is Wednesday the 24th (next Wednesday)
NO MID-WEEK next week. Please do let the office know if you have a family member graduating/receiving a degree this spring.

Sunday, April 28th

Italian Dinner Fund Raiser for Youth Mission Trip following worship.

A Celebration:

New Staff Member

We are happy to announce that Eian Lewis has started as the Custodian for Heights of Learning and will begin his work for SHUMC this week. We are grateful for Eian and look forward to his new role with our faith community.

Blessings, all. Find the love and peace,
Barb