

APRIL 2023

THE EVANGEL



Easter is a time of celebration, a space for us to recognize the hope found in Christ's resurrection and rejoice in God's continuing power over death.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP | 8:30 am & 11:00 am

ONLINE WORSHIP | 8:30 am

EASTER BREAKFAST | 9:00 am - 10:45 am

EASTER EGG HUNT | 10:00 am

THE NEWSLETTER OF  **AUDUBON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



Rev. Geoff Helton
Lead Pastor

geoff@audubonparkumc.org
[fb.com/geoffhelton](https://www.facebook.com/geoffhelton)

FROM THE LEAD PASTOR

On the first Sunday of this month we begin Holy Week, the most sacred period of our Christian faith. It is a time when we gather together as a community of faith to journey with Jesus to Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), to gather at the Table with his friends for one last meal (Maundy Thursday), to stand with him before his accusers, to walk to Golgotha, and to stand at the foot of his cross (Good Friday). Finally, on Easter Sunday, we will joyously celebrate the resurrection of Christ, lifting our voices in praise of the hope that is ours and the world's.

I invite you to join us for all of it (either in-person or online), if you can, remembering that without the journey of Holy Week, Easter loses its deep meaning. We will remember both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday with Covenant United Methodist Church and our District Superintendent, Rev. Daniel Miranda, will preach for us on Maundy Thursday. Our special Holy Week services and Easter Activities are designed to help us walk with Christ and experience the joy of Easter!

One of the occupational hazards of being a preacher is that we are constantly on the look-out for sermon ideas. I'm sure my daughters cringe when I start a story that involves them. If they don't yet I'm sure they will by the time they're teenagers. While she's never said anything, I'm sure my wife dreads the drive home from a movie because it is almost inevitable that I will find something in the movie that I think might "preach."

There are so many illustrations of our faith out in the world and in popular culture. And those of us who prepare sermons week after week after week, we have learned to look anywhere and everywhere for ideas about how to talk about our faith.

In that spirit, later this month I will begin a new series of sermons based on some quotes from the fictional TV character and series, "Ted Lasso." Ted Lasso is the story of a semi-successful, mid-level college football coach in the USA who is surprisingly hired as the new manager (coach) of the Richmond Football (soccer) Club in England. It's a classic "fish out of water" trope that is compelling because of Coach Lasso's intentional and genuine optimism.

This TV show tells a great story and has compelling characters and there is much to like about it. At the same time, it is not "Christian programming," as it contains adult language and adult situations that are not appropriate for all audiences. So just a warning. It is entirely up to you whether or not you watch the show. You will not need to watch the show in order to understand the sermons. I'm planning to share a few of Ted Lasso's best one-liners and a few clips from the show paired with scriptures to help us explore essential truths for living lives of faith and love.

I'm calling the series "Gospel Lessons with Ted Lasso." I hope you'll consider joining us on Sundays at 9am & 10:30am beginning April 16.

Grace & Peace
-Pastor Geoff



DAYS of GIVING

February 22-April 9

The 40 days of Lent are almost over, which means our 40 Days of Giving campaign has nearly reached its end as well.

Thank you to everyone who has donated their time, money, and grocery prowess to this drive, and those who have prayed for our partner organizations and the people they serve — we are proud to be part of a congregation that gives so generously of their prayers, their gifts, their service, and their witness.

And if you haven't been able to go shopping yet, but still want to — there's still time! Stop by the church Monday through Thursday from 9am-12:30pm, or bring your items in after church on Sunday.

You can also donate \$40 for the 40 days of lent and we'll divide the money amongst the ministries and organizations we're supporting with this campaign.

Please email us if you have any questions: hannah@audubonparkumc.org.

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
OUR 40 DAYS OF GIVING CAMPAIGN!**



HOLY WEEK

AT AUDUBON PARK CHURCH

Mark your calendars and plan to join us as we journey with Christ through Holy Week.

PALM SUNDAY | April 2

9am & 10:30am at Audubon Park Church.

On Palm Sunday we remember Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem that marks the beginning of Holy Week.

MAUNDY THURSDAY | April 6

Noon at Audubon Park Church & Online

The night before his arrest, Jesus gathered with his followers in an upper room, to share one last meal and give them one last command.

GOOD FRIDAY | April 7

6:30pm at Covenant UM Church & Online

We remember and commemorate Jesus' crucifixion and death.

For more on these events and others related to Lent (including 40 Days of Giving), Holy Week, and Easter, visit our church website:

audubonparkumc.org/lent

Youth Ministry Upcoming Events

Fellowship & Formation for students in 6-12 grade.

Easter Eggs/Movie Night

Monday, April 3rd | 6pm - 7:30pm

We will meet downstairs in the Youth Room for a movie and fellowship as we fill Easter eggs for our Annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt.

All-Church Clean-Up

Saturday, April 8th | 10am - 2pm

Bring some clothes you don't mind getting dirty as we help tidy up the inside & outside of our church.

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 9th | 8am - 11:30am

We will be preparing and serving an Easter breakfast in the parlor between services as a fundraiser for camp memberships for our youth. We thank you for all of your support and generosity!

Basketball

Friday, April 21st | 6pm - 7:30pm

We will meet at the church and then head over to Finch Elementary for a variety of basketball games. Make sure to bring your running shoes.

Game Night

Friday, April 28th | 6pm - 7:30pm

Bring your favorite boardgames & card games as we have a game night at Audubon Park UMC.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Our Youth Sunday School program (6th grade - 12th grade) meets downstairs in the youth room on Sundays from 9am - 10am.

If you have any questions about our Youth Programs please contact Drew Homchick for more info! drew@audubonparkumc.org

YOUNGISH ADULTish

A fellowship group for those in their 20's, 30's, & 40's

Bowling at Lilac Lanes

Saturday, April 15th | 2pm - 4pm

We will meet at Lilac Lanes for a fun afternoon of bowling and fellowship. We look forward to re-connecting with you all!

Tomato Street

Sunday, April 30th | 5pm

We will gather at Tomato Street for dinner and enjoy some good food and company.

Do you have questions? For more info on our Young Adult-ish group, contact Drew Homechick: drew@audubonparkumc.org



Help us fill the Easter Eggs for our annual Easter Egg Hunt!

Bring donations of individually wrapped (egg-sized) candy by Sunday April 2 so that we can fill those eggs!

AUDUBON PARK FOOD BANK



Thank you to all who have supported the Food Bank with your products, time, and money. We are serving about 35 families each month.

We are in need of recipes using split peas; lentils; green beans; and tuna. If your family has a delicious recipe using any of those products please pass it on to us.

We continue to be in need of canned fruit and we also are collecting the plastic bags from the grocery store.

*Blessings,
Karen Peacock*

By The Way...

Did you know we collect aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House?

You can just pop the tab off before you recycle the can, then once you've got a min-collection, you can bring them to the church next time you're here! Please turn them into the office — thank you!



Saturday, April 8th | 9am-Noon

Help us clean up the church (inside and out)
for spring and get set up for Easter Sunday!

Gospel Lessons

with Ted Lasso



A new sermon series
beginning April 16!

So, who's Ted Lasso? This series is based on a wonderful and inspirational show on Apple TV+ called Ted Lasso. It is about an American football coach, Ted Lasso, who is hired by a struggling British soccer team. He seemingly lacks the knowledge needed to lead a soccer team but something magical happens that changes the locker room and the members of it due to Lasso's character, attitude, and leadership style.

There are so many gems found in this show that powerfully illustrate gospel lessons, but be warned – there is also “colorful” and/or explicit language and subject matter that may be inappropriate for younger ages and/or those offended by such language.

While it is helpful to have watched the TV series, you will enjoy the sermon series even if you have not. We hope you'll join us as we explore **Gospel Lessons with Ted Lasso**.



Rev. Glenn Kennedy

Associate Pastor of
Congregational Care
glenn@audubonparkumc.org

Pastor's Pen: "Can It Be That Simple?"

Dear Ones,

I had a moment (well, actually, several hours) one night during my recent "down time" that brought me around once again to that most basic of all questions: "What is this life really all about anyway?"

Not long after my surgery I had one of those nights when I just couldn't sleep, not a wink. As I lay there hour after hour trying to count sheep, what came popping up instead of sheep were all of my past mistakes, failures, and missed opportunities, coupled with a deep dread that I wasn't going to have enough time left to get it all done...and my "it" list is still pretty long.

Later I would recognize that the darkness I felt that night was no doubt fueled by a recent birthday, pain, and some fairly heavy-duty medication...but what I felt that night was pretty dark, and it took me a couple of days to fully shake those feelings – feelings of failure, disappointment, and of a too-short future. ("Seventy-seven" just sounded different than any other past birthday!)

So, for two or three days, the questions lingered – "Has my life mattered? Should I have done more? How can I make these last years count?" et cetera, et cetera, et cetera...You would think that I've walked in the light of God's grace long enough to know better than to fall into such a dark, deep hole...but "fall" I did!

So, how did I crawl out? My best attempts at self-talk didn't get the job done...prayer wasn't working real well...Carol's loving kick in the britches didn't break me out of my "the sky has fallen" funk...

Two things broke me loose. The first was re-remembering the most central of Jesus' commands: *"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself."* – Luke 10:27

I've lost track of how many times I've preached that passage in my 48 years of pastoring. The question is, "can it really be that simple?!" With all the complexities of faith, belief systems, Theological ponderings...is it truly as simple as loving God, others, and self with our whole being? The answer, I found again, is "yes."

And as my soul reopened, I did another thing – I re-read the cards and notes I'd received since being down from folks (including some of you who are reading this) who have been friends and members of churches I've pastored. A word would break through here and there that gave a more concrete answer to the question "what is it all about, anyway?" A note from a young Syrian woman whose family I've known and loved for the last 6 years (since they came to Spokane as refugees) meant so much to me. The note reminded me again of what actually happens when we expand our view of "loving our neighbor as ourselves". The note returned that love which was given.

Again, I know that my temporary darkness was being aided by pain and medication...but it wasn't a wasted exercise at this stage of my faith walk to have to stumble around in the darkness for a couple of days, and re-remember the most central premise of Jesus' teaching — that 3-pronged command to love. After all, isn't that the Easter Promise?

There are things in my life that I can't do over, but this is one thing I can continue doing – I can continue to grow in love.

*Lovingly,
Pastor Glenn*

MEN'S COFFEE WITH PASTOR GLENN



**Thursdays at 11am
in the Parlor**

Come visit, catch up, pray together, and share some moments of devotional thought.

Let's connect and reconnect for the sake of our spirit's growth and for the sake of the ministry we're called to live out in this place.



Steven Ministry

We invite you to join us on **Sunday, April 23** at both worship services as we commission Carol Hendershot as our new Stephen Leader, say thank you to Barbara White, and give thanks for the ministry of our Stephen Ministers!

Weekly Schedule

Sunday

- 9am Children's Sunday School
- Youth Sunday School
- Worship Service In-Person
- Worship Service Online
- 10:30am Worship Service In-Person

Monday

- 9am Art Group - 1st and 3rd Monday
- 11:30am Bible Study (Melva Lohstroh)
- 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Tuesday

- 8:30am Food Bank, Breakfast, & Daily Bread - 2nd & 4th Tuesday
- 9am Quilting Group
- 6pm Cub Scouts

Wednesday

- 10am Overeaters Anonymous
- 1 pm Knitters
- 6:30pm Boy Scouts

Thursday

- 11am Men's Meeting with Pastor Glenn
- 6pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday

- 10am Stephen Ministry - 1st & 3rd Friday

April Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 - Jenny Anderson | 15 - Cathy Jones |
| Norma Bauer | 16 - Diane Cramer |
| Ralph Penick | 19 - Jim Enzler |
| 2 - Kate Raynaud | Mel Gantney |
| 5 - Jeff Johnson | 22 - Brady Homchick |
| 7 - Heather Homchick | Riley Sullivan |
| 8 - Braden Dodson | 23 - Evie Patel |
| Sue Wisor | 26 - Mike Gilbreth |
| 9 - Joseph Meersman | 28 - Amy Sullivan |
| 10 - Karen Peacock | 30 - Kathy Dung, |
| 11 - Galen Butterbaugh | Amanda Nicol |

April Anniversaries

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 - Tony & Lorelee Ross | 18 - Don & Bonnie Holm |
| | Mike & Jan Cooper |
| 14 - Don & Marlene Peters | 26 - Mike & Iva Jean Gilbreth |

Address Service Requested

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REGULAR SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

IN-PERSON at 9AM & 10:30AM

ONLINE at 9AM

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES!

IN-PERSON at 8:30AM & 11AM

ONLINE at 8:30AM