Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

(Charles Wesley, 1739)

Every Easter for as long as I’ve been a Christian, I’ve sung the verses of this beloved hymn, written by Charles Wesley in 1739. I look forward to the opening moments of the Easter service when the pastor triumphantly declares, “Christ is risen!” and the congregation echoes back, “He is risen, indeed!” Those words are often followed by the sound of a trumpet beckoning the congregation to sing God’s praise, “Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!” The congregation next invites, “Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!” It is a glorious thing to hear the sound of God’s people declaring with one voice that, indeed Christ is risen from the dead, that sin and death have been defeated and hope is alive!

Part of the reason these opening moments of worship are so powerful for me (and hopefully, for you too) is that for the 40 days of Lent the word “Alleluia” is traditionally gone from the liturgy of the Church. After 40 days in the wilderness with Jesus, after spending time in prayer and devotion, fasting and self-examination, after walking slowly and deliberately through the pain and defeat of Holy Week, I feel like I have a deeper understanding of my need for forgiveness, my need for a savior, my need for a new beginning. After 40 days, I’m ready to acknowledge the amazing gift of new life offered through Christ’s resurrection; I’m ready to sing, and even shout again, Alleluia!

Alleluia is the Latin translation of the word “Hallelujah.” “Hallel” means to praise, to boast in, to shine forth, to be worthy of praise. “Jah” is a shortened form of “Jehovah,” which means the Self-Existent and Eternal One. Alleluia or Hallelujah means, “praise the Lord.”

Alleluia! Praise the Lord! God has given us salvation in Jesus Christ and sustains us with every breath. Praise the Lord! God has forgiven our sins and invited us to throw off the grave clothes of our past and to put on garments of righteousness and praise. Praise the Lord! God has invited us to live not for ourselves, but for the sake of others and for his glory. Alleluia, praise the Lord!

With thankful hearts we rejoice, Christ is risen and, we say, “Alleluia!” God, your love and wisdom and power are far beyond our comprehension. By God’s mercy in Jesus Christ, may we truly be God’s Easter people who sing and shout and live to bring God glory with our every breath. Alleluia!

Happy Easter! Alleluia!

Pastor Robin
APRIL 2018

Paul had an encounter that changed his life; he met Jesus. Paul was blinded and had to be led into Damascus by others, not the entry into Damascus he had planned! As a result of his meeting with the risen Christ, Paul was changed, not immediately, but over time. Paul ultimately showed the same determination in recruiting followers of Jesus as he had previously shown in persecuting those followers. Paul’s conversion story is an example of God’s ability to use anyone to carry out God’s work. With his history of persecuting Christians, Paul seemed an unlikely candidate to spread God’s Word. Many see young children as unlikely candidates, but their voices can change lives. “Out of the month of babies” They are our the future and we must supply them with the skills to carry God’s work.

None of the Gospels includes an eyewitness report of the moment of Jesus’ resurrection. The women visiting the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body do not see a corpse rise up in new life. They see an empty tomb and must begin to deduce what has happened with the help of two mysterious strangers. Peter, however, shows signs of curiosity about the women’s claim and investigates further. He tries to see for himself, to take ownership of the report. He wonders what could have happened. Like Peter, we are hearing a report handed down to us by others. It’s a puzzling report that doesn’t fit into our usual understanding, which tells us that people who die remain dead. We find ourselves in the midst of a puzzling mystery, full of uncertainty, which can be interpreted only by faith.

We may have some of the puzzle pieces, but each individual must figure out how they fit together. What does the Resurrection mean to us today? What do we mean when we say Jesus is alive or Jesus speaks to us? Teens are taking ownership of their faith. In this time, they are taking on the role of the disciples, investigating for themselves, and making sense of what they find.

Paul had an encounter that changed his life; he met Jesus. Paul was blinded and had to be led into Damascus by others, not the entry into Damascus he had planned! As a result of his meeting with the risen Christ, Paul was changed, not immediately, but over time. Paul ultimately showed the same determination in recruiting followers of Jesus as he had previously shown in persecuting those followers. Paul’s conversion story is an example of God’s ability to use anyone to carry out God’s work. With his history of persecuting Christians, Paul seemed an unlikely candidate to spread God’s Word. Many see young children as unlikely candidates, but their voices can change lives. “Out of the month of babies” They are our the future and we must supply them with the skills to carry God’s work.

None of the Gospels includes an eyewitness report of the moment of Jesus’ resurrection. The women visiting the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body do not see a corpse rise up in new life. They see an empty tomb and must begin to deduce what has happened with the help of two mysterious strangers. Peter, however, shows signs of curiosity about the women’s claim and investigates further. He tries to see for himself, to take ownership of the report. He wonders what could have happened. Like Peter, we are hearing a report handed down to us by others. It’s a puzzling report that doesn’t fit into our usual understanding, which tells us that people who die remain dead. We find ourselves in the midst of a puzzling mystery, full of uncertainty, which can be interpreted only by faith.

We may have some of the puzzle pieces, but each individual must figure out how they fit together. What does the Resurrection mean to us today? What do we mean when we say Jesus is alive or Jesus speaks to us? Teens are taking ownership of their faith. In this time, they are taking on the role of the disciples, investigating for themselves, and making sense of what they find.

DID YOU KNOW? Children and Youth need to experience the same Bible stories and Christian concepts at several stages of their faith journey, because their ability to understand the concepts continues to evolve as they grow!

APRIL 2018

None of the Gospels includes an eyewitness report of the moment of Jesus’ resurrection. The women visiting the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body do not see a corpse rise up in new life. They see an empty tomb and must begin to deduce what has happened with the help of two mysterious strangers. Peter, however, shows signs of curiosity about the women’s claim and investigates further. He tries to see for himself, to take ownership of the report. He wonders what could have happened. Like Peter, we are hearing a report handed down to us by others. It’s a puzzling report that doesn’t fit into our usual understanding, which tells us that people who die remain dead. We find ourselves in the midst of a puzzling mystery, full of uncertainty, which can be interpreted only by faith. We may have some of the puzzle pieces, but each individual must figure out how they fit together. What does the Resurrection mean to us today? What do we mean when we say Jesus is alive or Jesus speaks to us? Teens are taking ownership of their faith. In this time, they are taking on the role of the disciples, investigating for themselves, and making sense of what they find.

APRIL 2018

None of the Gospels includes an eyewitness report of the moment of Jesus’ resurrection. The women visiting the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body do not see a corpse rise up in new life. They see an empty tomb and must begin to deduce what has happened with the help of two mysterious strangers. Peter, however, shows signs of curiosity about the women’s claim and investigates further. He tries to see for himself, to take ownership of the report. He wonders what could have happened. Like Peter, we are hearing a report handed down to us by others. It’s a puzzling report that doesn’t fit into our usual understanding, which tells us that people who die remain dead. We find ourselves in the midst of a puzzling mystery, full of uncertainty, which can be interpreted only by faith. We may have some of the puzzle pieces, but each individual must figure out how they fit together. What does the Resurrection mean to us today? What do we mean when we say Jesus is alive or Jesus speaks to us? Teens are taking ownership of their faith. In this time, they are taking on the role of the disciples, investigating for themselves, and making sense of what they find.

We hope everyone has had a wonderful Spring Break and blessed Easter! As we begin the month of April learning new things, let us be reminded to trust in the Lord with all of our heart.

Registration period is complete with a very limited number of spaces available in some classrooms. We are once again blessed to have such a great preschool where families entrust their children!

Staff Appreciation week is April 16th -April 20th. We are so grateful and appreciative of the talented teachers and assistants who have dedicated their lives to educating children!
correction can be made. If there are any errors, please email or call the church office so that a correction can be made. Thank you!

**APRIL VOLUNTEERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>PICK-UP</th>
<th>TAKE HOME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Steve Boone</td>
<td>Steve Boone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Robert Waldron</td>
<td>Robert Waldron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>Bob Bainbridge</td>
<td>Bob Bainbridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>Ron Schmitt</td>
<td>Ron Schmitt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>Bob Bainbridge</td>
<td>Bob Bainbridge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MISSIONS CONTINUED**

**Greeters 11 AM Service**

We need Greeters to help welcome people to Grace before the Traditional Service at both the front door and the back door. The time is from 10:30 to 10:55. Everyone can greet, whether you’re a new member or a long-time member, come regularly or not so often. Also, if you attend the Contemporary Service and want to mingle and greet at a particular time, let us know. To volunteer, call Betty Jo Shiell 497-7854 or Mary Chambers 493-9644.

**MINISTRIES**

**Homebound Ministry**

We sometimes hear through casual comments of church members who are in assisted living, rehabilitation, or are homebound. Then it begs the question: How many are there that we don’t know about?

Please, if you know of someone in assisted living, rehabilitation or homebound (even if they have a caregiver), call the church office with their name and location. We want to make sure we are not missing anyone and we want to do a better job in reaching out to our homebound members. Thank you for your assistance.

Grace is a Stephen Ministry congregation. A Stephen Minister is equipped to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. If you are called to be a Stephen Minister or are in need of a Stephen Minister, please speak to the Pastor.

**Volunteers Needed**

We need at least 2 more volunteers to keep this ministry running. Sunday pick up and take home ministry is a great outreach to our homebound and shut-ins and we are in need of drivers! This ministry enables them to come to church to worship God with their fellow Christians in faith. We are flexible with your schedule! If you are interested in volunteering in this ministry outreach, please call 488-1374.

**Sunday Morning Team**

We have seven volunteers that open and lock up the church on Sunday mornings. This is saving GUMC funds because we do not have to hire someone to do it. Many thanks to the folks volunteering in this ministry. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact Jay Geerdes at 941-485-2634.
Board of Trustees Update – April 2018

Greetings from the Board of Trustees.

Last month I told you that we have a broken sprinkler line under the sidewalk by the Chapel. It turns out that we have about 6 breaks in the sprinkler line. Our current servicer says that he cannot repair it and we need to replace the system. It is not in the budget so we are looking into alternatives. If you know a good repair company please give me a call.

We are installing some new lights around campus for safety and security. We are also starting to look into more lighting for the parking area by TFEC.

We ordered new blinds and baby changing tables for TFEC in an effort to make the facility family friendly.

A big thank you to Gene Stover for stepping up and taking charge of cleaning up all of the leaves around the campus.

If you are looking to get involved please give me a call and I will help you find a place to plug in.

Blessings,

Your BOT President

Larry Bender

Grace United Methodist Women
Grace United Methodist Women's monthly luncheon and meeting will be on Tuesday, April 10th at 11:30 am in Punch Hall. This month's program will be about Immigration in the United States. We will look at immigration as found in the Bible and the United Methodist Church's commitment to migrants as found in the Church's 2016 Book of Resolutions. We will also present some current information on Dreamers. Dreamers are the approximate 800,000 young people in the United States who have been in the U.S. since a young age, brought here by their parents. They are here without legal status. Looking forward to seeing you at this informative program.

GRACE BOOK LOVERS
TUESDAY, APRIL 24 at 10:00 in the church library, Nancy Vanderwall will lead a review of THE MALTESE FALCON by Dashiell Hammet as an example of a detective novel with a femme fatale, as we continue looking at features of the detective novel genre. All are welcome.

GUMC Travel Group
Thank you to everyone that participated in our events and helped support the travel club. We are starting to plan upcoming events and will have more information shortly!

Threadcatchers
The quilting circle meets every Friday 9am to Noon in Room A8. For information call Lorry Stover at 485-0094.

United Methodist Men Monthly Breakfast
Please mark your calendars and join the men of the church for a time of fellowship and spiritual growth. We have a hot breakfast, good conversation and for those that have the time and inclination we do a few projects around the church. Our next Breakfast is April 2, 2018.

MISSIONS

Savings Box Tops for Red Bird Mission
Box Tops: it’s the little label that says 'Box Top' including the expiration date. Turn them in at the front office. Henderson Settlement uses the box tops for school supplies for the two schools that are part of the mission. They also were able to buy 29 Ford vans. For other information contact: Dorris Ann Wasson 941-412-0847.

GROUPS

GUMC Travel Group

The quilting circle meets every Friday 9am to Noon in Room A8. For information call Lorry Stover at 485-0094.

United Methodist Men Monthly Breakfast
Please mark your calendars and join the men of the church for a time of fellowship and spiritual growth. We have a hot breakfast, good conversation and for those that have the time and inclination we do a few projects around the church. Our next Breakfast is April 2, 2018.

Grace United Methodist Women
Grace United Methodist Women's monthly luncheon and meeting will be on Tuesday, April 10th at 11:30 am in Punch Hall. This month's program will be about Immigration in the United States. We will look at immigration as found in the Bible and the United Methodist Church's commitment to migrants as found in the Church's 2016 Book of Resolutions. We will also present some current information on Dreamers. Dreamers are the approximate 800,000 young people in the United States who have been in the U.S. since a young age, brought here by their parents. They are here without legal status. Looking forward to seeing you at this informative program.

GRACE BOOK LOVERS
TUESDAY, APRIL 24 at 10:00 in the church library, Nancy Vanderwall will lead a review of THE MALTESE FALCON by Dashiell Hammet as an example of a detective novel with a femme fatale, as we continue looking at features of the detective novel genre. All are welcome.

GUMC Travel Group
Thank you to everyone that participated in our events and helped support the travel club. We are starting to plan upcoming events and will have more information shortly!

Threadcatchers
The quilting circle meets every Friday 9am to Noon in Room A8. For information call Lorry Stover at 485-0094.

United Methodist Men Monthly Breakfast
Please mark your calendars and join the men of the church for a time of fellowship and spiritual growth. We have a hot breakfast, good conversation and for those that have the time and inclination we do a few projects around the church. Our next Breakfast is April 2, 2018.

Grace United Methodist Women
Grace United Methodist Women's monthly luncheon and meeting will be on Tuesday, April 10th at 11:30 am in Punch Hall. This month's program will be about Immigration in the United States. We will look at immigration as found in the Bible and the United Methodist Church's commitment to migrants as found in the Church's 2016 Book of Resolutions. We will also present some current information on Dreamers. Dreamers are the approximate 800,000 young people in the United States who have been in the U.S. since a young age, brought here by their parents. They are here without legal status. Looking forward to seeing you at this informative program.

GRACE BOOK LOVERS
TUESDAY, APRIL 24 at 10:00 in the church library, Nancy Vanderwall will lead a review of THE MALTESE FALCON by Dashiell Hammet as an example of a detective novel with a femme fatale, as we continue looking at features of the detective novel genre. All are welcome.

GUMC Travel Group
Thank you to everyone that participated in our events and helped support the travel club. We are starting to plan upcoming events and will have more information shortly!

Threadcatchers
The quilting circle meets every Friday 9am to Noon in Room A8. For information call Lorry Stover at 485-0094.

United Methodist Men Monthly Breakfast
Please mark your calendars and join the men of the church for a time of fellowship and spiritual growth. We have a hot breakfast, good conversation and for those that have the time and inclination we do a few projects around the church. Our next Breakfast is April 2, 2018.

Grace United Methodist Women
Grace United Methodist Women's monthly luncheon and meeting will be on Tuesday, April 10th at 11:30 am in Punch Hall. This month's program will be about Immigration in the United States. We will look at immigration as found in the Bible and the United Methodist Church's commitment to migrants as found in the Church's 2016 Book of Resolutions. We will also present some current information on Dreamers. Dreamers are the approximate 800,000 young people in the United States who have been in the U.S. since a young age, brought here by their parents. They are here without legal status. Looking forward to seeing you at this informative program.

GRACE BOOK LOVERS
TUESDAY, APRIL 24 at 10:00 in the church library, Nancy Vanderwall will lead a review of THE MALTESE FALCON by Dashiell Hammet as an example of a detective novel with a femme fatale, as we continue looking at features of the detective novel genre. All are welcome.

GUMC Travel Group
Thank you to everyone that participated in our events and helped support the travel club. We are starting to plan upcoming events and will have more information shortly!

Threadcatchers
The quilting circle meets every Friday 9am to Noon in Room A8. For information call Lorry Stover at 485-0094.

United Methodist Men Monthly Breakfast
Please mark your calendars and join the men of the church for a time of fellowship and spiritual growth. We have a hot breakfast, good conversation and for those that have the time and inclination we do a few projects around the church. Our next Breakfast is April 2, 2018.

Grace United Methodist Women
Grace United Methodist Women's monthly luncheon and meeting will be on Tuesday, April 10th at 11:30 am in Punch Hall. This month's program will be about Immigration in the United States. We will look at immigration as found in the Bible and the United Methodist Church's commitment to migrants as found in the Church's 2016 Book of Resolutions. We will also present some current information on Dreamers. Dreamers are the approximate 800,000 young people in the United States who have been in the U.S. since a young age, brought here by their parents. They are here without legal status. Looking forward to seeing you at this informative program.

GRACE BOOK LOVERS
TUESDAY, APRIL 24 at 10:00 in the church library, Nancy Vanderwall will lead a review of THE MALTESE FALCON by Dashiell Hammet as an example of a detective novel with a femme fatale, as we continue looking at features of the detective novel genre. All are welcome.

GUMC Travel Group
Thank you to everyone that participated in our events and helped support the travel club. We are starting to plan upcoming events and will have more information shortly!

Threadcatchers
The quilting circle meets every Friday 9am to Noon in Room A8. For information call Lorry Stover at 485-0094.
Policies: These policies are in place to ensure space and equipment will be available to you and your ministry and applies to everyone, including the congregation & staff.

1. Room reservations: Any time you wish to use any room or equipment on Campus the schedule needs to be checked and paperwork filled out for the office and custodian.

2. Groups currently using rooms: If your group needs a larger space, a different date, time, or is not meeting, we need to know so we can be sure your needs can be met.

3. Table/information reservations: If you wish to have tables or easels in the TVEC lobby or Narthex, paperwork is required.

4. Bus/van reservation: If you wish to use the bus or van for your ministry, please get with the office manager. Insurance paperwork must be submitted 10 business days prior to driving and the schedule needs to be checked.

Due date information:

1. Sunday bulletin information is due 10 days prior to the date.

2. Newscaster schedule is located on the bulletin board in the staff hallway or in the work room on the bulletin board.

Please contact the church office for any of these requests.

General information continued

Newscaster deadline: Please submit all articles by April 10th for inclusion in the May Newscaster. Thank you!

Meetings

- Finance meeting: NO MEETING IN APRIL
- Board of Trustees meeting: NO MEETING IN APRIL
- Staff Parish meeting: Tuesday, April 17 at 6:30 pm in Parlor
- Church council meeting: Tuesday, April 24 at 6:00pm in Chapel

Groups

The Piecemakers news

The Piecemakers are always open to new members. We have a variety of projects for quilters machine sewers, and hand sewers as well. We meet in the East Wing on Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Our mission is “to support each other in fellowship and love as we create quilts for our babies, shut-ins, and friends of Grace United Methodist Church who need comfort; and to make items for sale to assist our church financially.”

If you know of someone in the congregation who would like to receive a visit and a comfort quilt please let the Piecemakers know. If you have a son or daughter returning home from active duty in the military and would like to have him or her receive a quilt, please call Carol Simpson at 497-6738 or Audrey King at 497-5478.

Giving

We do not have a building fund. This would imply we are gathering/saving funds to start a new building project. We currently have a loan from building the preschool and renovation of TVEC. If you plan to give directly to pay the loan – please note on check “loan reduction” and we will know these funds go to the principle of the loan. Thank you!

We encourage you to give through online giving. Here are some options to choose from:

1. Bill pay thru your local bank via online banking - set up your weekly/monthly giving via your local bank just as you would your mortgage payment or your utility payment

2. Authorize GUMC to do a month debit transaction - this method will need an authorization form signed at the church office. Please contact the church office for the authorization form.

Freda Boone Scholarship for Grace Summer Camp has been set up for boys and girls to attend our Grace Summer Camp. We were blessed by Freda for so many years at our church. She was a charter member of Grace. Because of her love for children, it is our honor to have this scholarship in her name. If you find it in your heart, funds can be added to the scholarship in Freda’s name.

How will you leave your legacy?

Most of us have “income” in form of employment earnings or social security income. Most of us use our income for living expenses, food and shelter, insurance and to give our tithes and offerings. We also have “assets” which are different than income. Assets can be many things like a savings account, a certificate of deposit, or other similar investments. These assets in this day and age often produce very little income due to our low interest rate environment.

Many of us leave those assets idle as security for our future, to be a legacy for our children, grandchildren, and charities or for God’s work, when we pass on from this life, we believe, understandably by our human nature that tomorrow will always come. This can lead us to omit planning for the process of this legacy transition which normally involves a Last will and Testament or sometimes a Trust. A legacy can range from the proverbial widow’s mite to a surprising amount when assets grow in value over a long time period. How much planning have you done to create your legacy? This would be a great time to start.

If you would like more information on how you can leave a legacy to Grace United Methodist Church, please call Warren Wasson at 412-0847 or contact our church office at 488-1374 for details.