

# THE MAGNOLIA MESSENGER

Volume 2 Issue 14

April 5, 2020



## Special points of interest:

- \* "The Triumphal Entry!"
- \* Crossword - "Easter!"
- \* Announcements!
- \* Our Corona Response
- \* Liturgical Colors and Misc.



## Inside this issue:

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| "The Triumphal Entry!"  | 1   |
| Crossword: "Easter!"  | 2   |
| Announcements-<br>Crossword Puzzle Solution,<br>and much more | 3   |
| Sermon Continued:   | 4-5 |
| Sermon Cont.  | 6   |
| Our Corona Response.  | 7   |
| Liturgical Colors and Misc.                                   | 8   |

## The Triumphal Entry - 2020

""The Lenten Season is a time for us to draw closer to God and our neighbors. It is characterized by prayer, fasting, and self-examination so that we might see where we have fallen short of God's best for us. In addition to prayer, fasting, and self-examination many of us will also sacrifice some favorite food or activity to join Jesus on His wilderness journey. This Lent we have not only considered giving up trivial things like chocolate, or coffee, or some other tantalizing treats, only to pick them back up after Lent. We have hopefully given up some really "bad" things for Lent, things like: bitterness, apathy, discouragement, unforgiveness, selfishness, hoarding, negative self-talk, miscommunication, and many other truly bad things so that we can better love God with the totality of our beings and loving our neighbors as we love ourselves.

If we take the time, just five short weeks of prayer, fasting, and self-examination along with the Holy Spirit's empowerment, can radically change us for life.

The end of Lent 2020 is right around the corner and with it, we have found ourselves living in a much different world than we began with some 5-short weeks ago. That's the way life is sometimes, isn't it?



I don't know what you're battling with...it could be financial distress, a physical ailment from which there is no ready cure, or some other combination of unwanted life-changing events. It seems like one day, you're sailing along

without a care in the world and the next minute your whole world comes crashing down and your life is forever changed!

A question comes to my mind, *"Is there a constant in this world or are we just throwing dice like we're playing some cosmic game of chance?"*

Sometimes it might feel like a game of chance, but I want you to know

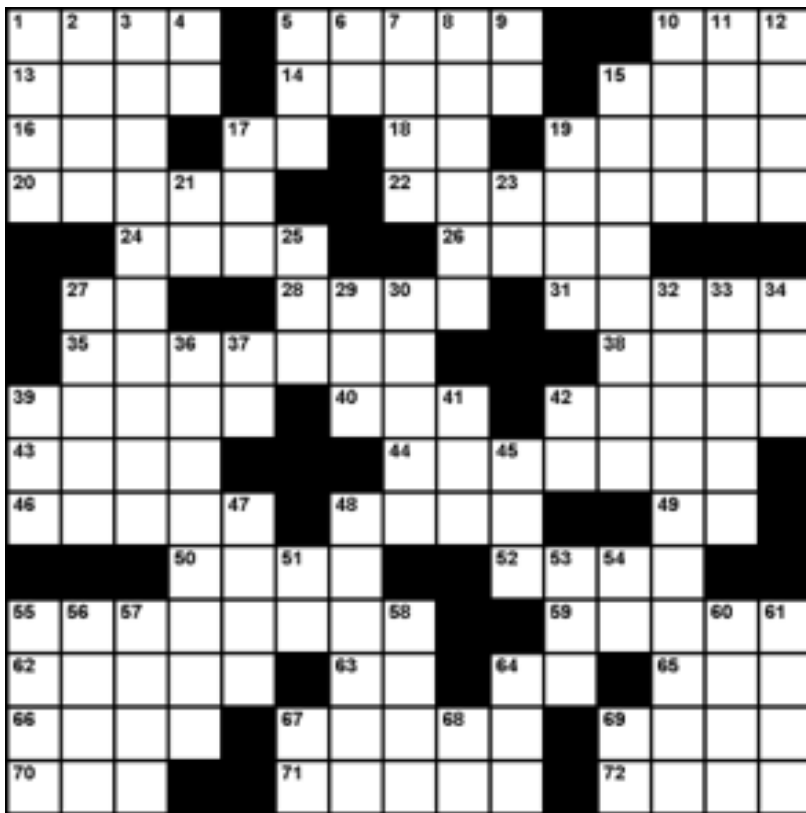
that while so many things have recently changed, there is one thing that has not changed.

The apostle Paul writes in the *Book of Hebrews* about this one constant, *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."* *Hebrews 13:8 (NIV)*

Jesus has not changed and neither does His message of grace and love for all! Even in this morning's passage, we can see His grace,

*Continued on Page 4*

## “Easter - 2020!” — Crossword Puzzle



### Across

- 1 \* Symbols of Spring seen during **EASTER** and **PASSOVER**  
 5 \* **PASSOVER** was a Spring Festival in pre-Mosaic times, but then became a celebration of the Exodus of the Israelites from here  
 10 Small indefinite amount  
 13 \* **EASTER** and **PASSOVER** are 'Movable Feasts' (religious holidays which change dates from year to year) because they are based on the cycles of the what?  
 14 \* Some churches of this origin are among those that celebrate #30D  
 15 Physical body  
 16 Italian "one"  
 17 Word With Way  
 18 Part of a play title by Shakespeare  
 19 Concerns of Chemists  
 20 \* Ceremonial feast of **PASSOVER**

- 22 \* This narrative of the Exodus is recited during #20A  
 24 Double Drumbeat  
 26 Gossip  
 27 Little Rock's locale on an env.  
 28 Part of a Milne book title  
 31 City of northwest Peru  
 35 \* Item seen set on a feast table for **EASTER** or **PASSOVER**  
 38 Exactly: \_\_\_ even keel  
 39 Elizabeth or Eve  
 40 Jeanne d'Arc, e.g.  
 42 \* State of the Candles at #36D prior to illumination  
 43 American zoologist Fossey  
 44 \* Triangular Candelabums used during #36D  
 46 More cunning  
 48 Cartoonist Walker  
 49 Initials associated with the Theory of Relativity  
 50 Blocker or Carotene  
 52 Mr. Griffin  
 55 "Veni Creator \_\_\_": Liturgical Latin Hymn heard during Pentecost (Seventh Sunday after **EASTER** commemorating the

descent of the Holy Ghost onto the Apostles)

59 \* With #32D

62 \* **PASSOVER** occurs during this month of the Jewish Calendar (var. sp.)  
 63 Locale of Yellowknife, for short

64 Stomach muscle, commonly

65 Type of Drama pioneered in Japan in 1383: \_\_\_ Drama

66 Bancroft or Brontë

67 Farewell remark

69 \* It begins on #64D and ends at Midnight on Holy Saturday

70 Acquire

71 Aromatic Resin of the Bible

72 Lyric poems

### Down

- 1 They're flightless in Australia  
 2 Part of a Margaret Mitchell book title  
 3 \* Christian Commemoration of the Crucifixion  
 4 Symbol for Tin  
 5 Self importance  
 6 It's often seen with Brit.  
 7 When tripled, it's part of a Beatles chorus  
 8 \* Another name for **PASSOVER**  
 9 He (Initials) is the host of "Nightline" (TV)  
 10 \* It plays a large role in **EASTER** and **PASSOVER** celebrations  
 11 Novel by Jane Austen  
 12 Cleanse with Cleanser  
 15 \* At **EASTER**, this devotion represents the 14 stages of Christ's journey to Calvary: \_\_\_ of the Cross  
 17 Charlton Heston backs this org.  
 19 Heard in a Dentist's

Office: "I have \_\_\_ between my front teeth. Can you fix it, Doctor?"

21 Word with Niño

23 Luke 'n' Laura's Soap

25 It's seen on a sign on a hwy.

27 \* **EASTER** Sunday: \_\_\_ 23RD, 2000

29 It'll turn "Can" into Birchbark Boats

30 \* Its date is based on the Julian Calendar:

\_\_\_dox **EASTER**

32 \* It is eaten throughout the Festival of **PASSOVER** (With #59A)

33 Salary increase

34 Social insect

36 \* Ceremony of Candles during Holy Week (The week before **EASTER**)

37 Initials of the star of "Walker, Texas

Ranger" (TV)

39 Newspaper promos

41 Suffix to "Ballad"

42 Ancient city of Sumer

45 24 hr. banker

47 Control a Colt

48 \* The Thursday before **EASTER**

51 Her (Initials) latest album is called "Twenty Four Seven"

53 Type of Tide

54 He (Initials) starred in "Barefoot in the Park" (1967)

55 Hitch on a Hose

56 Coniferous tree

57 Veronica Lake flick: "\_\_\_ it Romantic?" (1948)

58 Commotion

60 First-Rate

61 Tiny round marks

64 \* Word With Wednesday

67 Morning indicator

68 Alternative indicator

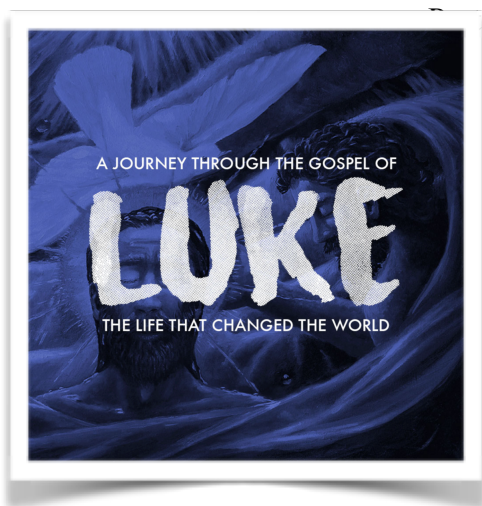
69 \_\_\_ and Behold!

## April 2020 News and Announcements



The past month has seen a tremendous increase in this terrible COVID-19 virus and know that our love and prayers are going out and up for each one of our church family and beyond. Our services have changed from being in person to only online with no home visits to prevent

the spread of this potentially deadly virus! I will try to contact most of our membership through phone calls and our newsletters. Our prayers are going up for all and we will be looking out for everyone's safety in the coming weeks! We look forward with great anticipation to see how God will bring us through this challenging time!



or Gary

**Temporarily suspended** — Our Luke Bible Study meets every Sunday evening at 4:30 p.m. and every Wednesday at the noon hour in Averitt Hall! Bring your Bible and an open heart and mind that is set on learning and we will adventure through this beautiful gospel account!

**Temporarily suspended** — Get in shape with DDP Yoga! "Not sure?:"

Check out the web page <https://ddpyoga.com/>

[pages/about-us](https://ddpyoga.com/pages/about-us)

Then come join us at 5:15 on Mondays, Tuesday and Thursday at First UMC Magnolia as we work our way through this program to become stronger and



Always remember that you have been blessed to be a blessing.

So be one!

*Pastor Gary*

### Crossword Puzzle Solution - "Easter!"



## The Triumphal Entry - 2020

mercy, and love”

*name of the Lord!”*

*“Hosanna in the highest!”*

Let’s hear this familiar Palm Sunday account once again...

*Matthew 21:1-11 “Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage [BEHTH-fuh-dzhee], at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. <sup>3</sup>And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them.” <sup>4</sup>All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying:*

*<sup>5</sup> “Tell the daughter of Zion,  
‘Behold, your King is coming to  
you,  
Lowly, and sitting on a donkey,  
A colt, the foal of a donkey.’”*

*<sup>6</sup>So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. <sup>7</sup>They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. <sup>8</sup>And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:*

*“Hosanna to the Son of David!”  
‘Blessed is He who comes in the*

*<sup>10</sup>And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup>So the multitudes said, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.”*

Let me retell this passage, with some artistic license employed, from the perspective of a time-traveling disciple who was present that day...

“Ah, Yes, I remember it well! It was the time of the Passover and this was one of three mandatory feasts of Israel in which every able-bodied Jewish man was to attend. The three feasts were the Passover, Shavuot [Pentecost], and Sukkot [The Feast of Tabernacles]. We were with Jesus in Jericho, prior to what you just heard. When the time was right, we left Jericho and began the tiring, and very stressful, westward trip to Jerusalem. We took the best route available to us, which was the 17-mile long Roman Road.”

Before arriving in Jerusalem, we stopped in Bethphage. Bethphage was a small town located on the ridge of the Mount of Olives overlooking the Kidron Valley. The view of Jerusalem from that location was absolutely beautiful! Bethphage was, to use modern terms, a suburb of Jerusalem. It was at this time that Jesus told two of us to go into a nearby town to secure a suitable means of transportation so that He could

enter into Jerusalem. He need to enter. Whether the arrangement for the animals was made ahead of time or the owner was a follower of Jesus — I don’t know, but what I do know is that two animals were given to us for Jesus’ use.

*<sup>6</sup>“So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. <sup>7</sup>They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them.”*

The colt was one that had not been ridden before and it was therefore an appropriate animal to be used for such a sacred occasion. But since the colt had not been ridden prior to this time, the colt’s mother also accompanied him to keep him calm amid the shouting crowds.

*Why a donkey?* That’s a good question! This was done not only to be a sign to the crowds, but it was also in fulfillment of Zechariah’s prophecy,

*<sup>5</sup> “Tell the daughter of Zion,  
‘Behold, your King is coming to  
you,  
Lowly, and sitting on a donkey,  
A colt, the foal of a donkey.’”*

Indeed, this was a day to remember as Jesus approached the holy city, not only as the messiah, but as Zechariah prophesied as the King! That’s why Jesus chose a lowly donkey rather than a chariot or war-horse, for this king was a man of peace, He was, and is, the Prince of Peace!



## The Triumphal Entry - 2020

As Jesus began His colt-powered trek down the Mount of Olives, across the Kidron Valley and up to Jerusalem, the crowds following him acknowledged Him with all of the regal splendor due to a king, they spread their garments in front of him on the dusty roadway in a ceremonial “red carpet” style and gathered together palm branches which some waved while others spread them on the roadway as Jesus made His way to Jerusalem!

The crowds were partially composed of some of the Galileans who saw Jesus’ many miracles in their hometown and perhaps others who had witnessed Jesus’ raising of Lazarus from the dead! These crowds were bringing forth the customary praises that one could hear every year.

You see, on each of the mandatory pilgrim feasts of the year, the *Hallel* or *Praise Psalms*, would be recited. But this time, the crowds applied them to Jesus as He rode into Jerusalem!

The words they shouted out that day were from *Psalms* 118:

“*Hosanna to the Son of David!*”  
 “*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*”  
 “*Hosanna in the highest!*”

This procession of praise began some distance from Jerusalem and increased in its excitement as we inched closer to the city. Our noisy group attracted so much attention

that the whole city was stirred up and asked, “*Who is this?*”<sup>11</sup> [and so we all answered] “*This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.*”

And with these words, ends Matthew’s account and our the narrative from our time-traveling disciple.

So...as I read this passage, just a few thoughts stood out to me: As the Palm fronds were waved and/or placed on the ground, the people chanted the messianic words from *Psalms* 118! The crowds chanted “*Hosanna*,” which is from the Hebrew and means “*Save us, now!*” [“*Hosanna*” is a Greek representation of the Hebrew hôšî‘â-nâ’, “*Save us now*,”]

Now, I can’t say for certain, but I don’t believe that everyone in that crowd desired to be saved from his or her sins, but rather, most of them wanted to be saved from the burden of Roman rulership and oppression. As important as that kind of salvation may have felt to the people, Jesus came to free them from a different kind of rulership and oppression. He came to save them from the slavery of sin, which leads to death!

For those of us here this morning, who are not yet believers in Christ Jesus, trusting in Him for salvation, this is of the utmost importance! “Save

me Lord!” is a prayer, by grace through faith, which is always answered with a resounding “**Yes**” from God!

But what about the rest of us, who have been saved, what can “*Save us now*” also mean?

Is there more that we need to be saved from?

Or have we arrived?

Besides the salvation that comes through faith in Jesus, I think one of the most important things that we can be saved from is...

- Are you ready? Buckle your seatbelts!
- **We need to be saved from ourselves!** Yes, saved from ourselves!

We have been traveling through the Lenten Season, a time of deep introspection and soul-searching. If we’ve been honest with ourselves, some of what we have discovered ought to make us shout out, “**Lord, save me from me!**”

So, if that’s you then you might be asking, “*How should I pray that God would save me from me?*”

How about these as possible prayers?

## ***The Triumphal Entry - 2020***

—Lord, save me from my past and give me a new future!

—Lord, save me from my negative thoughts about mistakes I've made and the hurtful words of others and let me go on to be all that you've called me to be in Christ!

—Lord, save me from life's heartbreaks and give me a heart that can trust and love again!

—Lord, save me from my thoughts of inadequacy and remind me of who it is that I am in Christ Jesus – for I am more than a conqueror!

—Lord, save me from my past, present, and even future earthly rejection(s) and failures and remind me that I am of such great worth in your eyes that you gave your only begotten Son as a sacrifice for my sins so I can spend eternity with you!

—Lord, save me from the countless things that might be haunting me everyday and free me for joyful service in your kingdom!

*Do you get the idea?*

Any of these would make great prayers, but only you know what your personal prayer should be!

In conclusion: Change can and will occur, but there is one vital change that can transform us from bitter, apathetic, discouraged people into people of faith and confidence in this ever-changing world that we live. It is the life transforming power of the Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ. If He can change me, He can change anyone!

If you don't know Him this morning, that prayer of faith and trust is always answered with a resounding, "Yes!"

But do remember, as Jesus entered Jerusalem some 2,000 years ago, Luke records that many people missed His first visit and rejected Him and He held them accountable! *Luke 19:28-44*

Please, don't be like them!

But if you do know Him, then seek to be transformed from glory to glory into the very image of Christ! (*2 Corinthians 3:18*)

And always remember that you have been blessed to be a blessing. So be one!

Pastor Gary

## Magnolia First United Methodist Church Corona Response

The Magnolia First United Methodist Church Administrative Council unanimously voted this evening to discontinue all in-person church services, Bible studies, and meetings until further notice.

We will continue our Lenten journey but in a most unexpected way:

**Services:** Our heart's desire is to continue worship but in an online format so that our family of believers can safely worship God! Youth and Treehouse Kids will be done via YouTube for the Treehouse Kids and "Zoom" Conference calls for Youth!

We will provide more information later this week as to how the services will be viewable. We will also have our Sunday service videos available via a YouTube link. Our services will be conducted with a "skeleton" worship team so that the service will be nearly identical to our regular Sunday morning worship experience. **This week — we will be live-streaming on Facebook live from the church webpage!** Channel 13 and our radio broadcasts are back in operation! Praise God!

**Giving:** God's tithes, along with our offerings, and gifts can be given via multiple avenues that will be announced later this week. We have mailed out offering envelopes and are currently exploring online giving options!

**Time Frame:** We will reevaluate this temporary change of worship services, Bible studies, and meetings at the end of April, 2020. The safety of our congregation is of the utmost importance; therefore, we will only resume regular in-person worship services, Bible studies, and meetings when safety permits.

Blessings to our beloved family of faith and our prayers for healing and safety go with you all in these challenging times!

Pastor Gary

### A Word from Joe Kaar, Finance Chairman

From your Finance Committee....

For the first three Sundays, our giving for March has been \$56,916 and year to date has been \$131,255. Our bills are current and we will finish the month with a positive balance.

Without having a face-to-face service, we will not have a Sunday offering which is our main point of giving. While we have reduced our weekly worship and programming due to the President's request to help curtail the spread of the Covid-19 virus, our expenses continue.

Enclosed is an envelope addressed to the church. If you are able, please try to keep your giving current by mailing the check that you would normally place in the offering plate.

God is good, all of the time!

Joe Kaar, Chair

THE MAGNOLIA  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHAPEL WORSHIP 8:30 A.M.  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 A.M.  
CHAPEL WORSHIP 10:45 A.M.  
YOUTH 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Mailing Address:  
Magnolia First United Methodist Church  
320 West Main Street  
Magnolia, Arkansas 71753

**Phone:** 870-234-4530 (Church)  
**Pastor:** The Reverend Dr. Gary L. Maskell  
**Email:** homiletics2002@gmail.com  
**Webpage:** <http://www.magnoliafumc.org/home>

Lectionary Texts for this Week  
April 12, 2020

**Easter Sunday**

**Lectionary Texts:**

*Acts 10:34-43;*  
*Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (UMH 839);*  
*Colossians 3:1-4;*  
*John 20:1-18; or Matthew 28:1-10*

**Liturgical Color: White or Gold**

White symbolizes purity, holiness, and virtue, as well as respect and reverence. White is used for all high Holy Days and festival days of the Church Year, especially the seasons of Christmas and Easter, as well as for baptism, marriage, dedications, and in some traditions for the ordination of ministers. In some church traditions it is also used for funerals as a symbol of the resurrection.

