



TRINITY NEWS

Trinity United Methodist Church
211 North Second Purcell. OK 73080

April 2021
Volume 54 Issue 3

Easter in Purcell

“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!”
Luke 24:5-6 (NIV)

Spring is here! Officially on the calendar, as well as in the weather and in signs of nature, the cold and dormancy of winter has given way to new life. Trees have begun to show new growth, spring bulbs are in bloom, grass is slowly greening, and the allergies and pollen are rampant! But Spring is a wonderful reminder that God created the world, and the seasons remind us that nothing lasts forever. Eventually, things change. No one season lasts forever, neither in nature, nor in our lives.

Our Lenten series has been People of the Passion, where we have talked about 6 people who encounter Jesus near the end of his life, and the choices they must make. Each week, the burning question has been, “Which choice will we make?” It isn’t always easy to make the right choice, but we are called to be the light of Christ and to live out that love.

This year, we will have our usual Holy Week services. (See article inside) We focus on the suffering and the sacrifice of Christ during this time, and then we celebrate Easter—the Resurrection! And Easter is more meaningful, because we get just a glimpse of the suffering of Jesus during that time. All too often, we see so many Christians completely skip the journey through the wilderness and go straight to Easter.

But we are an Easter people! We are a people who have been present under the shadow of the cross, but are called to live as people of the Resurrection. We are to turn towards the joy of Resurrection, and fully embrace the hope that is given to us through the miracle of that Easter Sunday morning. Yet too often, we Christians live as if Jesus is still on the cross. The image of Christ on the cross—the crucifix—is an important and meaningful image, as we understand that Christ suffered and is with us in our suffering. But the image of the empty cross—that is the hope that Easter represents. The knowledge that the worst thing is never the last thing. (Frederick Buechner). The empty cross reminds that Jesus conquered death, and that because of that, we have life in Him. The wilderness will end for us too one day.

Are you living as an Easter person? Does the Resurrection of Christ impact your life in a real and meaningful way? Are you living into the joy, the beauty, the love, and the connections in life? Are you working towards reconciliation with those who need a word of grace from you? Is your heart more open towards others? Even those who are different from you?

On that Easter morning, when the women discovered the empty tomb, there was disbelief, fear, confusion, and then finally unspeakable joy. All of the events of that terrible Friday were put aside as the women and the other disciples reveled in the fact that Jesus was alive. They were changed forever, and the establishment of this movement of Jesus followers was begun, in the undeniable reality the Jesus was alive. What was the first thing they did? They told others. They told others that Jesus was alive, and shared the good news. They were no longer people living under the shadow of the cross, but people living within the hope of Resurrection, shaped by the events of the cross.

Easter Blessings,
Pastor Susan

Bishop Jimmy Nunn

District Supt. Rev Dr Victor McCullough

Trinity United Methodist Staff Members

Mike McElderry - Organist

Rhonda Ingram-Harper – Administrative Assistant

Rev. Susan Whitley, Pastor



April

- 2 Kimber Andrews
- 3 Marilyn Ellis, Kaitlyn Sheehy, Mary Hope
- 4 Ann Ewing
- 6 John McCurdy, Nicky Hail
- 7 Beth Adams, Amy Tolle
- 10 Matthew Stanton
- 11 Chris Hurt
- 12 Janet Woolly, Gordon Richards
- 13 Nanette Williams
- 14 Rhonda Thomas
- 16 Kelly Nemecek, Courtney Boudreaux
- 17 Katie Adams
- 18 Coralee Castle
- 19 Ryan Umber
- 23 Dusty Mathews, Katelyn Dawson
- 26 Mike Tolle
- 27 Susan Peters
- 28 Adam Duffy, Jennifer Kozik
- 29 Bridget Roper

PRAYER
IS THE BEST
WIRELESS CONNECTION
TO GOD

At Trinity United Methodist Church, we believe in the power of prayer. We are thankful to have a God who hears our prayers. Just submit a prayer request to our prayer committee at jmehawks@yahoo.com and clarica@suddenlink.net or drop it in the offering plate at Sunday worship your prayer will be sent to the people within our community committed to praying for you. We need to continue to pray for all who are dealing with health issues, to include; Charles Dawson, Don McQuerrey, Bill & Rayora Moore, Marilyn Ellis, Mike & Karen Horoho & Mike's Mom & Family, Glenda & Perry Nemecek, Ralph & Clarica Wall, Carolyn McCoy, Judy Moring, Tom & Pat Martin, Navoy & Connie Sue Skinner and Jerry & Margaret Maynard. Also remember others who are saddened due to the loss of a loved one, those who are in nursing facilities or receiving care at home and everyone who provides their care.

Thank you for being a part of our Prayer Ministry.



Announcements

- **Maundy Thursday Service:** 1 Apr (Thur) @ 7:00 PM.
- **Good Friday Service:** 2 Apr (Fri) @ 7:00 PM
- **Easter Sunday:** 4 Apr Fellowship @ 9:00 AM, Egg Hunt @ 9:30 AM, Worship @ 10:30 AM
- **SPRC Meeting:** 7 Apr (Wed) @ 6:30 PM
- **Trustees Meeting:** 12 Apr (Mon) @ 6:30 PM
- **"Reading the Bible in 2021:** In person meetings, 25 Apr (Sun) @ 6:00 PM & 29 Apr @ 10:00 AM
- **Children's Church:** Held the 2nd and 4th Sunday after Children's Moment.



The season of Lent is upon us, and it is not too soon to be making plans for Holy Week, which comes at the very beginning of April. I invite you to join us, as we walk with Jesus those final days and nights to the cross. Many of us want to skip right to Easter, but the joy of Easter is much better experienced when we have experienced the darkness beforehand.

April 1: Maundy Thursday: 7 p.m. We will have a special service that remembers Jesus' final night on earth, as he eats with his disciples for the final time. We will have a special communion as we see Jesus institute that new ritual.

April 2: Good Friday: 7 p.m. We will have a somber, moving service in which we recall Jesus' death on the cross, and the great sacrifice he makes on our behalf.

April 4: Easter Sunday! He is risen indeed! Join us from 9:00 – 10:00 for fellowship, 9:30 there will be an egg hunt for the children. Worship at 10:30 for a joy filled service that celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus.

**MOST OF US SPEND OUR LIVES
SEEKING OUR DESTINY, ONE
MAN CREATED HIS OWN. IT
BEGAN IN A MANGER AND LED
TO A CROSS, AND IT INCLUDED
YOU. THANK YOU, FATHER,
FOR YOUR SON**

**HAPPY EASTER,
UNCLE RALPH & AUNT CLARICA**

News from Our Children's Group

Children's Ministry Planning Meeting

For the past year, due to Covid and other circumstances, our Children's ministry has been pretty much shut down, (with the exception of Children's Church twice a month. Thank you, Patricia!!) It is unfortunate that we weren't able to offer very much in the way of children's education, or even Vacation Bible School this past year.

If you are interested in the future of our children's ministry and programming, join me after worship on Sunday April 18 for a meeting to dream and plan some new and exciting things, both for our kids here, and for those "not yet here." (Because we believe God is working at Trinity!) We will talk about Sunday School, a possible VBS kind of program this summer, refreshing and revamping our children's spaces, and making ourselves and our space ready for children to learn more about God's love. (We will focus on kids through elementary school for now, with a later scheduled meeting to talk about youth.). However, youth and kids are certainly encouraged to attend if they wish. We do want to know what YOU want as well!

We will furnish pizza and drinks, and plan to be no longer than an hour or so. Anyone with any input, interest, ideas, etc is welcome!!! See you there.

Susan

News from Sunday School Classes

God's Helpers Sunday School class is meeting at 9:30 AM in the fellowship hall. So glad to be meeting in person again!

CrossTalk is reading the Book of Revelation. Meeting in person in the library at 9:15 AM Sunday for coffee and visiting. If you don't feel comfortable visiting please join us at 9:30 AM for class. If you have any questions please contact Carolyn Cummings at 405-834-8980.

"Reading the Bible in 2021"

Join Carolyn Cummings and others who are reading through the Bible in 2021. Carolyn is using the Chronological Bible as the guide. Each day you will read a few different passages from various parts of the Bible. We will meet once a month, informally, to discuss or reflect on what has been read. What a wonderful way to stay grounded in God's word! Let Carolyn know if you are interested.

FINANCE NEWS

Thank you to all of you who have given so faithfully! Earlier in February and March, we spent two weeks focused on five of our connectional ministries and missions (also called apportionments.) We want to be very transparent as to where our money goes. Quite a few of our mission obligations are actually not as well known, and throughout the year, we will continue to highlight a few here and there. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to meet our obligations to Skyline Ministry, Project Transformation, the Office of Mission, Jurisdictional Conference, and Cookson Hills Ministries. An additional \$200 was donated to Circle of Care!

Please know that your giving goes where it is directed by you. We are transparent in our record keeping. First quarter giving statements will be going out later in April. If you have any questions or corrections to be made, please let Rhonda in the office know, and she will be happy to help you out. We will continue to keep you updated about our finances. Though we are not passing the collection plate each week due to Covid precautions, we do have an offering box near the front doors of the church. It is brought up to the front during the "offertory" time. Donations may be made either before or after worship, or mailed to the church, or even dropped by the office. Even a little makes a difference in our mindset as we practice the spiritual discipline of generosity. I pray that you let God speak to your heart about what you are called to do!

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APRIL 2021 TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS THE 21ST OF EACH MONTH! WORSHIP TIME – 10:30 AM				1 Noon: 40 Days of Prayer 7 p.m.: "Maundy Thursday" service	2 Noon: 40 Days of Prayer "Good Friday" service @ 7:00 PM	3 1 p.m. Decorate for Easter
4 Easter 9-10 am: Fellowship Brunch 9:30: Egg Hunt 10:30 Worship	5	6	7 Rotary Cooks "To-Go Lunches" 12:00 – 12:30 PM, 6:30 SPRC Mtg	8	9	10
11 9:30 a.m.: Sunday School 10:30 AM, Worship Service, Children's Church	12 6:30 PM: Trustees' Meeting	13	14 Rotary Cooks "To-Go Lunches" 12:00 – 12:30 PM,	15	16	17
18 9:30 AM,: Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Children's Ministry Mtg after worship Pizza Lunch Provided	19	20	21 Rotary Cooks "To-Go Lunches" 12:00 – 12:30 PM,	22 10:00 AM: Reading the Bible Mtg	23	24
25 9:30 am: Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service and Children's Church, Reading the Bible Mtg @ 6:00 PM	26	27	28 Rotary Cooks "To-Go Lunches" 12:00 – 12:30 PM	29	30	