

God is love and love lives here!



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Office Hours: Mon-Thur 8:30a-12:30p

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Sunday, March 31, 2024, Easter Sunday

Romans 5:6-11

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. 8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. 9 Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.[e] 10 For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. 11 But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Scripture and Sermon:

John 20:1-10

“Running Together”

Our Words Matter

If you had to compare this Sunday to anything else in the world it would be something like "The Superbowl of Church". Easter, Christmas, and Mother's Day rival the biggest Sundays of the year but for the most part Easter takes the cake. I will tell you that I still get butterflies when getting ready to give the message on these special Sundays and most pastors I know would say the same. The pressure is on, visitors are sure to be present, and it's often one of a few opportunities to engage people who may not come the rest of the year. We prepare for this Sunday like no other and work diligently to deliver a good old-fashioned gospel message that appeals to the hearts of every individual in the building. We want you to know Jesus and know him well by the time you leave. It's the Super Bowl, the World Series, the Stanley Cup, the Kentucky Derby, the Bassmaster Classic.....gotcha! It's a big deal!

It's also a Sunday unlike any other for families as well. Traditions are formed here that will be discussed for generations. One day a loved one will talk about going to church together on Easter. Memories are made with pictures taken in front of elaborate crosses and the words "He is Risen" are forever engrained in our hearts. There's pressure to make sure everyone is matching and on their best behavior as we wheel into the parking lot trying not to be too late. Again, it's the Super Bowl of Sundays!

It's the Sunday when our words matter the most. This isn't to take away from any other Sunday, but on this particular day we are bearing witness to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ; a foundational truth to the gospel and our life as believers. Who would we be without Resurrection Sunday as a people of faith? On this day, what we say and how we say it is of extreme importance as Pastors but also as the church. Our goal is to communicate the love of Christ and His love for us shown through the crucifixion and resurrection. What if we removed words like crucifixion and resurrection altogether and dismissed the notion of such a sacrifice to not offend someone in an attempt to bring more people into the building? Would it be the same? Would the day, Easter Sunday, lose value or our witness as the church? How important are our words and what we communicate on such a momentous day?

There is a very large and globally recognizable church that made the decision to not use these words in their Easter services this week. Their explanation was they did not want to offend or use language that seemed offensive or harsh. This is not a judgment or even criticism of their decision but only a different perspective. Our words matter, just as much as the day itself, the outfits we piece together to match, the pictures we take, and the sermons we give. What we say and how we say it gives value to who we are as God's people. To cheapen it by not using language that is foundational to our faith does a disservice to those we are ultimately called to serve and to our faith.

When we read the Gospels, Jesus does not shy away from using language that may have been harsh or not easily understood. He was big on the truth. He told people in His sermons to eat his body and drink his blood, something they did not understand at the time. He told them that the entire law hinged on loving God more than anything else and loving your neighbor as yourself. On one occasion, he told a man to let the dead bury the dead and to follow him. These things seemed harsh and even offensive at times. But these words mattered, to the original listeners of Jesus' words and to us today as we gather for worship on such an important Sunday.

From His perspective, which should be ours as well, the Super Bowl can not even begin to compare to Easter or any other competitive sport. The resurrection wasn't a competition to begin with, he was going to win, it was the ONLY option. We are justified through faith and words like crucifixion, resurrection, the blood of Christ, and other foundation truths are not offensive but freeing for someone who chooses to believe. Christ didn't just die for the good man but for those who had not yet chosen to love Him. It all matters, our words matter, and on this day we need all the words we have to share the good news that He is Risen and He is Risen Indeed!

Keep The Faith,
Pastor Tommy



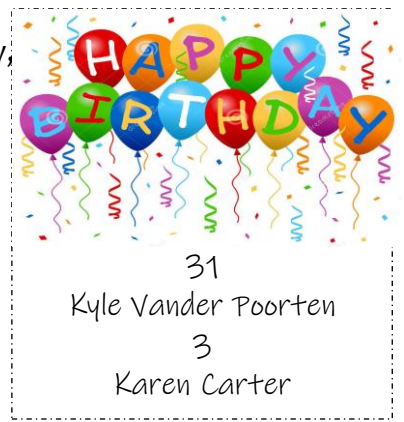
Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Egg Hunt will be on Easter Sunday, March 31, during the Sunday School hour.

What is needed?

- Kids to participate so INVITE!!
- Volunteers to help manage the event
- Candy to fill eggs

Please see Katie for more information.



Gifts Given to the Glory of God

- ☼ In memory of Sue Braun by Beth Ann Warnock
- ☼ In memory of Floyd Griggs by Tony & Hilda Rozier, Brenda Craw & Paul Smith, Christian Fellowship SS Class, Iris & Daniel Henderson
- ☼ In memory of Bill Outz by Brenda Craw & Paul Smith
- ☼ In memory of Jimmie Sue Smith and K.I. Smith by Paul Smith



- ✓ 03-28-24 Maundy Thursday Service 6p
- ✓ 03-28-24 Prayer Vigil 6:30p til noon Friday
- ✓ 03-29-24 Good Friday Service 12 noon
- ✓ 03-31-24 Easter Sunday
- ✓ 04-07-24 Luncheon after Worship Service 11:30a
- ✓ 04-08-24 Finance Meeting 6p
- ✓ 04-09-24 Trustees Meeting 6:15p
- ✓ 04-12-24 Blood Drive 1p
- ✓ 05-13-24 Finance Meeting 6p
- ✓ 05-13-24 Admin Council Meeting 6:30p
- ✓ 05-27-24 Office Closed- Memorial Day
- ✓ 06/04-06/24 CMC General Conference, Laurel, MS
- ✓ 06-10-24 Finance Meeting 6p

Community Missions

- The next Food Pantry has begun opening every Wednesday, 10a-1p with a new format and process for recipients... also, volunteering will be on rotation now, so get with Cheri and sign up... come on out and volunteer! You will be blessed. Our Food Pantry Team rocks!
- Opening Day for the Open Door Mission Closet will be April 3rd and we'll be open from 9am until 12 noon every Wednesday. We would love for you to stop in for a brief visit when possible and/or become a volunteer. We work on a rotating basis so you would not be obligated to work every week. Please see Brenda if you are interested. Tuesdays will become our new Sorting/Processing day and volunteers are also needed on that day. We will continue to accept donations in April for spring and summer clothes.
- April 3 volunteers- Joy Fleming, Debbie Herrington, Barbara Hilliard

Friendship Sunday

Since this month's 5th Sunday falls on Easter, Admin Council voted to move it to Friendship Sunday, which is the Sunday after Easter, April 7 and of course, after the Worship Service. The church will provide fried chicken, so bring your favorite side dish. Join us for some food, fun and fellowship!

Thank You

"Just a word of thanks to the two ladies from Partners in Prayer who visited me during my recent illness. The kindness shown and the beautiful gift basket meant so much to be and the healing began. Thanks to all – I'm so thrilled to be a part of The Well at Centerville!" ~~ Sincerely, Mollie Austin ~~

"Thanks to everyone for your prayers, cards, phone calls and texts. I have felt the love from our church family. Hope to see everyone soon." ~~ Love, J.O. & Lynn ~~

Family Promise

Our next rotation is April 14, 15 16. Times for meals with families- Sunday- 4:30-5:30; Monday and Tuesday- 6:30-7:30. If you can provide a meal for one of these days/times, please see J.O. or Lynn.



Our next Blood Drive will be April 12, 2024, 1p-5p in the Fellowship Hall. Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: The Well at Centerville to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome, too!

Bible Reading Plan

Week of March 31st:

Sunday..... James 5
 Monday... .. Genesis 39
 Tuesday... .. Genesis 50
 Wednesday..... Exodus 1
 Thursday..... Exodus 2
 Friday..... Exodus 3
 Saturday..... Exodus 7

New Concerns

Leon

Continue Prayers for:

Kimberly Cochran and Family
 Barbara Bruschke
 Family of Floyd Griggs
 J.O. Miller
 Gary Hawk
 Mary Leary
 Kathy Holland
 Mollie Austin
 Pat Maddox
 Barbara Carter

Christa Avret
 Michael & Jennie Walston
 Betty Byrd
 Leon Hudson
 Mary Prater
 Jim & Mary Leary
 Virginia Eadie
 Bill Reedy
 Sarah Mayer
 Cary Martin
 Mac McNeal
 James McNeal
 Our Country, Leaders, Military

Finance Report for March 24

Operating Budget..... \$7,319.00
 Food Pantry..... 330.00
 Total..... \$7,649.00

Worship Attendance

171

Sunday School

40

Are you Looking for a place to serve? To get involved? We have it!

This Week's Schedule:

Sunday- March 31

Easter Sunday

Ushers

10:30a J.O. Miller, Tony Rozier
Mel Smeltz, Cheri' Cox, Roy Carter
Keith Mobley, Stevie Bowen
Joy Fleming, Sherrie Shell
9:15a Sunday School
10:30a Worship



Greeters

10:30a Linda Blanton, TBD



Communion Servers

Eric & Gloria Nelson
Elaine Shierling, LaWanna Porter



Finance Stewards

Paula Williams, Sherrie Shell, Kelly Evans



Assisting with Children

Sunday- March 31

Nursery- Joy Fleming, Dawn Wilkins
Children- Sherry Armour



Women at the Well

Sunday- April 7

Nursery- Marie Davis, Cinderella, Laura
Children- Nancy Hudson

Monday- April 1

10:00a Quilters
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Tuesday- April 2

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'
10:00a Partners in Prayer
10:00a Yoga
6:30p Miss Terry's Circle
6:30p Bass Club
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Wednesday- April 3

8:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast
9a-12p Clothes Closet
10a-1p Food Pantry
1:00p Life Group 1 "Under Construction"
6:30p Choir Practice
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Thursday- April 4

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'
10:00a Yoga
4:30p Dulcimers
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Friday- April 5

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Saturday- April 6

7:30p . . Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday School at 9:15a

Are you looking to get involved in Sunday School? We have a great line up of classes to explore! Maybe you've been attending Sunday School regularly but see a topic you're interested in – it's okay to move around and try different classes – let's learn and grow together!

Sunday School Class

Seekers
Issues & Answers
New Beginnings
Christian Fellowship
Youth

Studies

Easter Bible Story
Matthew
Revelation
2 Corinthians
Message of the Empty Tomb

Teacher

LaWanna Porter
Katie Odum
Nancy Hudson
Don Schall
Eric & Gloria Nelson



HE IS NOT HERE;
HE HAS RISEN!

LUKE 24:6, NIV



HE **is**

ALIVE!