

April
2021

Jefferson⁺town *United Methodist Church*

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THE PASTOR PONDERERS
And Ponders and Ponders, Poor Guy!

“Look, the world has gone after him!” *John 12:19*

April is known for bringing with it spring showers. This year, as is often the case, April brings with it the excitement of opening day for Major League Baseball. Beyond these, April brings Easter as well. The joy of the resurrection of Christ from the tomb, along with the blooming flowers and budding trees, is enough to lift the doourest of spirits.

Yes, over a year of this pandemic has left us all a bit underwhelmed and fatigued. The drudgery of social distancing gives way to feelings of depression. Yet, as the end of this year-long pandemic is nearing, now comes Easter and the joy of spring’s renewal.

Of course, Easter is something to get excited about! The resurrection of Jesus from the grave and His victory over death is of ultimate importance to all people. There has never been an event with such a profound effect upon the world. The relevance of this occurrence has ramifications on all of life today.

That’s what the Pharisees were afraid of as Jesus’ reception into Jerusalem swelled from curiosity to celebration on that epic Palm Sunday. The crowds had simply lost their minds! Enthusiasm rose as the energy of the crowd radiated out through the streets of the great city.

John 12:19 records the fear voiced by the religious leaders of the day. “Look, the world has gone after Him!” They could read emotions of the people and their readiness to follow their Messiah. It was a triumphant entry into the holy city at a time when visitors from all the realms of the earth would be there.

Excitement of this magnitude would get out. People would hear and Jesus’ followers would grow many-fold. They were right – but they didn’t know the half of it! Easter’s message of our Lord’s resurrection was the final act of a grand plan devised before the world was formed. God’s will had played out in front of their eyes and there was nothing they could do.

Today, people in literally every nation in the world have heard the news. The pulse of Christ Jesus as living Lord leads to every imaginable act of kindness and compassion. Hospitals have been built and homes for children have been established, ministry centers for food and clothing have been created; all this and more have been dedicated to the glory of our Savior and King.

Truly, the world has gone after Jesus. No name is as universally well-known, no person has inspired such acts of adoration. People like you and me, living in places around the face of the globe, have found themselves to be fanatical about our faith (in a way in which it makes us better persons). The Pharisees were angry and displayed their vengeance in the form of Jesus’ arrest, beating and crucifixion. Theirs was a simple plan – violent opposition to quell the movement.

Martin Luther King, Jr., was correct when he stated, “The question is not whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists we will be. Will we be extremists for hate or for love?” People like us, of course, we know where we fall in this equation. May God be glorified in all we do as witnesses of the power of the resurrection in our own lives.

Working to Build the Kingdom with you until Jesus returns! *Bro. Bob*

Lent and Easter Worship Opportunities

Good Friday Communion-April 2nd, from 1-3 PM (come-and-go), Holy Communion will be offered in the JUMC sanctuary. Scripture will be read, and music played as a few people at a time will be directed to the altar rail; as you stand, communion will be served to you. After you receive the elements, you are free to leave.

Easter Worship-Sunday, April 4th. Two identical opportunities for worship: 9:30 & 10:30am “Up From Under” *Luke 24:4-6a*. Worship will include special music and celebration of Easter. No communion served at these services (communion offered on Good Friday).

Upcoming Sermons

Eastertide: Miracle Series

4/11—Second Sunday of Easter-10 AM

“In the Presence of Miracles Unaware?” *John, Chapter 2*

4/18—Third Sunday of Easter-10 AM

“Miracles—Are We Prepared?” *2 Kings 5:1-14*

4/25—Fourth Sunday of Easter

“When Miracles Happen, Then What?” *John 9:1-42*

United Methodist Special Offering-Native American Ministries-April 18th

This offering funds scholarships for U.M. Native American seminarians, strengthens and develops Native American ministries and communities, both urban and rural, and supports Native American outreach at the annual conference level. Please give generously on April 18th or drop off or mail your donation to the church.

Red Bird Mission Trip Dates Have Been Set!

Ron Million and Doug Foster are going to Red Bird to work on a project (or projects) April 18th through 23rd. If anyone else would like to go with them, please contact Ron Million and let him know as soon as possible. Partial funds are available.

Finance Team Meeting-Tuesday, April 20th, 6:30 PM

All members of this Ministry Team are asked to attend. The meeting will be held in the CAYA classroom (using social distancing). Please bring a mask.

UMW Meeting-Monday, April 26th, 1:00 PM

All members of the Jeffersontown United Methodist Women are invited to attend. The meeting will be held in the church sanctuary. We will not be serving refreshments. We will use social distancing, and masks are required.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee Meeting-Tuesday, April 27th, 6:30 PM

All members of this Ministry Team are urged to attend. The meeting will be held in the CAYA classroom (using social distancing). Please bring a mask.

Church Re-entry Team

Bro. Bob will be bringing together a small group to discuss plans for various areas where we can re-enter more normal church activities. We'll be discussing things from our worship service to fellowship activities, Sunday School and more. During this time let us exercise patience and not drop needed precautions too quickly.

Children and Scouting Ministries

Children-As March came to an end that means Easter is this week. During Lent our children did weekly lessons on what Lent is, learning about the 5 finger prayer, we learned about mediation (we made meditation jars), they had take home lessons on breath prayers and nature prayer walks. We missed our children on Palm Sunday where they usually parade through our worship service carrying palm branch's. Beginning in April we will have a dedicated space for our K-5 grade children to have children's church. This room is right across from the nursery. Any questions feel free to call, text or email Kara Mattingly. 270-505-9519

Scouts-Are very excited to be back in church learning together with hands on activities. They are continuing to advance through so they can earn the next rank. We did have one very special scout who already achieved his Webelo rank early. This was David Jr. Turner. If anyone is not familiar with David Jr. he has been battling DIPG. From his FB page "March 17 marked 35 months since David Jr was diagnosed with DIPG. When we found out he had cancer the doctors told us he may only live for 12 months; later I learned that most live for 9-12 months." Our scout family would appreciate sending prayers for David Jr. and his family. Pictured from left to right: Lynda his den leader, David Jr. & his parents Liz and David.



Food Program

We are now partnering with KFC and Pizza Hut (hope to be partnering with Starbucks again soon), making weekly pickups and delivering to our homebound and others. If you or someone you know needs food, please contact the church office.



Congratulations to the new arrivals!

- **Kayla Reyes** was born on Sunday, March 7th, weighing 7 lbs., 11 oz., and was 19.5" long. Proud parents are Dayron & Liliana Reyes; proud "big sister" is Dayren Reyes.
- **Oscar William Waldbrunn** was born Thursday, March 25th. Proud parents are Jheryd Waldbrunn and Krista Scoggins; Proud grandparents are Heather Zeckner and Scott Majors; Extra proud great grandparents are Claudia and Russ Zeckner!

Thank You

- **The Reyes Family** would like to thank everyone for the baby gifts and gift cards. All of it was very much appreciated.
- **Kay Eskridge** would like to thank everyone for the many expressions of concern and healing in the form of call and cards following her recent surgery.
- **Jeffersontown Area Ministries** thanks everyone for their "spirit of giving" at Christmas. Because of your generosity, JAM was able to provide Christmas for 303 kids in 113 households with food boxes and gift cards.

Christian Love and Sympathy to Family and Friends of . . .

- . . . Opal Huston who died Feb. 11th.
- . . . William "Bill" Simpson who died Feb. 27th.
- . . . Dallas Bennett, who died March 11th.
- . . . McCall Gardner who died on March 19th.

Memorial Donation Received

In Memory of Mary Jo Smart
by Amy Bickett

In Memory of Dallas Bennett
by Jerry & Norma Littlefield,
Bart & JoAnn Magill, Richard Moody,
Rogers and Marilyn Queen,
Gene L. & Christie Snowden

New Addresses

Please make these changes in your church directory.

Bob Duncan-Forest Hills Commons, 9107
Taylorsville Rd, Rm 103, Louisville, KY 40299
Andrea Heaton-12039 Parkside Vista Lane,
Louisville, KY 40299

Birthdays & Anniversaries

(Anniversaries marked with an asterisk)

- 4/6-*Chip & Shannon Bland
- 4/8-*Steve & Sherry Mattingly
- 4/12-Dana Bennett Gardner
- 4/13-Roger Brumback, Billie Chapman
- 4/15-Kailyn Mattingly
- 4/16-*Perry & Sandra Heaton,
Jacob Parker
- 4/18-*Neil & Debbie Bennett
- 4/20-Barry Bennett
- 4/23-Linda Denissen
- 4/25-Louise Hale,
*David & Donica Parker
- 4/26-Rhonda Windhorst
- 4/27-Stella Gholson
- 5/1-Ansul Curry
- 5/3-Ed Walton
- 5/6-Tiffany (Sharber) Collins

Endowment Plaque In The JUMC Gathering Area

Three names have been added to our Endowment Plaque that is on the wall in the Gathering Area: Darrell Hicks, Jim Johnson, and Jim Gatewood. The plaque is on the wall to the left of the double door entry to the sanctuary.

Statistical Report

Date	General Offering	Attendance
2/28/2021	\$6,831.51	34
3/07/2021	\$4,938.00	45
3/14/2021	\$4,350.00	40
3/21/2021	\$4,357.00	52
3/28/2021	\$6,678.67	50

General Offering for March=\$13,645.00

March Designated Offerings: U.M.C.O.R.=\$385;
KY Flood Relief=\$830; ; Computer=\$100

February General Offering=\$17,257.51

February Designated Offerings: COVID Relief-\$350;
KY U.M. Homes-\$70 U.M.C.O.R.-\$75; Computer-\$100;
Have A Heart for Seniors (Wesley Manor)-\$108;
Laundromat Ministry-\$20;

As a Member of Jeffersontown United

Methodist Church, you pledged to faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness. (The U.M. Hymnal, pg 38)

Donations Other Than Tithe-The Tellers request that you please write a separate check for donations to the church other than your tithe (i.e. Capital Fund, COVID-19, Holiday offerings, etc.).

Charitable Donations-The JUMC Administrative Council voted to not distribute/endorse requests for donations to charities outside The United Methodist connection.

Pre-Paying Your Pledge-Tax advantages are available for persons age 70 & ½ and older who are required to make annual withdrawals from their IRA (if you donate money from that account to the church). Several church members have done this in the past. If you'd like more information, call Lee Hart so he can explain the process & tax advantages 502-267-8066 (wk); 502-254-1682 (home).

Continuing Ministries

Jeffersontown Area Ministries--Donations of shelf-stable food, infant & personal care items. Place in the JAM wagon (located in the foyer off the parking lot)

Red Bird-Coca Cola caps/multi-pack end flaps (*inside the end flap*-not the bar code on the outside). Place in the Campbells Soup tin in the Gathering Area by the restrooms.

KY U.M. Homes for Children & Youth-5th Sunday offerings, or donate online at kyumh.org. You can also send them gift cards for their residents.

Lion's Club-Used eyeglasses (place in church office).

Kroger Points-Community Rewards program-choose JUMC as your charity of choice & the church receives 4% of all your purchases. Our most recently quarterly check was \$169.54!

Harvest Food Program-We are now partnering with KFC & Pizza Hut (hopefully with Starbucks again soon), making weekly pickups and deliverieng to our homebound & others. If you or someone you know needs food, please contact the church office.

Mask Ministry-Face masks made by & donated by church members are on the table in the Gathering Area. If you need a mask, feel free to take one (no cost).

Water Step-New or gently used shoes (free of mold or holes). Athletic shoes preferred, but all styles of shoes are accepted. Proceeds from the sale of these shoes fund safe drinking water projects worldwide (which saves thousands of lives each year). Donated shoes also keeps tons of waste out of landfills. The shoe collection box is in the foyer off the parking lot.

Laundromat Ministry- We pay laundry fees for those in need. Please see Dayron Reyes.

Church Staff (Office Hours: M-F, 8 AM-2 PM)

Pastor-Rev. Bob Howell-Cell#502-819-1160; Email: ukyhowell@gmail.com

Assistant to the Pastor-Dayron Reyes-Cell#786-448-8014;

Email: dayronreyes17@yahoo.com

Children's Ministry Coordinator-Kara Mattingly-Cell#270-505-9519

Email: kara.mattingly1208@gmail.com

Pianist-Patsy O'Neal-Cell#502-930-5357; Email: peagreen.sings@gmail.com

Secretary-Teresa Allen-Ph #502-267-1437; Email: churchoffice@jtownumc.org

Nursery Coordinator-Jessica McNeill-Cell#502-314-7415;

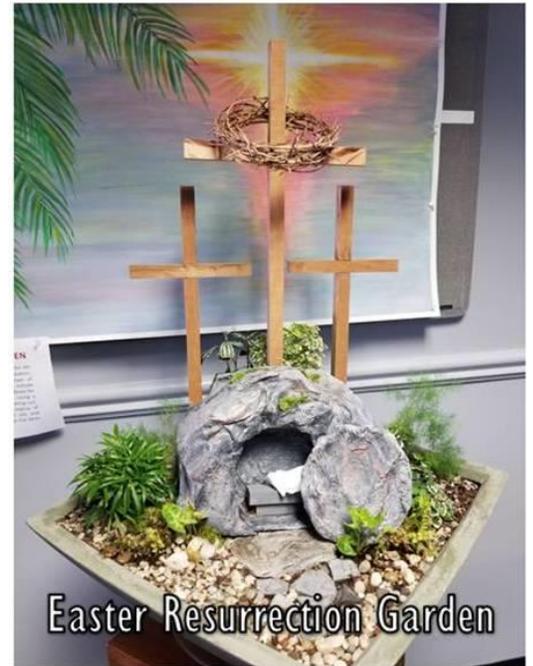
Email: zecknerj1@gmail.com

Child Development Center Director-Jennifer Webster-Ph# 502-261-2867;

Email: jumcdc@gmail.com

Seasonal Décor Lends to Heightened Awareness

Visual enlightenment was created to increase our appreciation for the Lenten and Easter seasons in the way of a chancel altar display and a tomb display in the Gathering Area. These effects were made possible by the talents of three ladies in our church: Rosanne Broome, Mary Lou Falvey and Fran Pullias. We thank them for their hard work year-long keeping the inside of the church looking nice.



Outdoor Décor

We appreciate Caroline Westfall's continued efforts to keep our outdoor decorations of plants and flowers nice for each holiday season! Recently, Caroline was planting flowers in our pots while David was doing yard work around the church. Appreciate both their efforts to make sure the church's appearance is at its best.

Easter Baskets

Our children will be receiving Easter Baskets delivered to their homes. If you know of a family with children that could use a basket, please contact Kara Mattingly or the church office.

