



Glassboro

First United Methodist Church



Gumwrapper April & May 2021

Dear Church Family,

Easter is coming and, boy, don't we need it! We have lived in the shadow of COVID-19 for over a year and sometimes that shadow has felt more like a grave. It has shrouded us in fear, anxiety, sickness, and death. We need to hear the Easter message again and remember the victory, new life, and eternal hope that is ours through the risen Christ. We need to celebrate it because it's not just a story from a dusty, old book; it is truth and life. How easy it is to forget that when darkness is all around us, to lose heart, to lose the sense of who we are because of Jesus and who He calls us to be. Celebrating Jesus's victory over sin and death opens our eyes to see His presence and inspires us to walk in his light with joy and peace and purpose.

Easter is coming and we have much to celebrate. Praise God for the talented people who have kept us connected in worship, fellowship, and service throughout this year. Praise God that we are able to celebrate in-person again as well as online. Praise God that our safety protocols have proven effective and more of our congregation are getting vaccinated every day. Praise God that we are reopening our 11am traditional service on March 28th to in-person worship. Reservations, masks, and social distancing will still be required just as they are for our in-person 9am contemporary service. Praise God that in-person Sunday school and grow group meetings will resume sometime in April. You can find all the details for our Holy Week and Easter services and more on our website, Facebook page, and in *The Lifeline* e-newsletter. Praise God for this great step forward in our church's life.

Easter is coming. Are you ready for it? I don't just mean are you digging out your best Sunday outfit and hoping it still fits after a year of virtual worship. There is plenty we can do to get in the right frame of heart and mind to celebrate. Work out with some of the spiritual exercises we're exploring in our Lenten sermon series. Get to know more about Jesus in our Lenten Bible studies. Take an active part in our grow groups, programs, and worship to build up our relationships to one another and to Jesus Christ and help us continue our calling to be and make disciples everywhere, whether virtually or side-by-side.

Please consider giving extra toward our ministry as part of your Easter celebration. Your gifts go a long way to help our church create more opportunities for safe and effective worship, discipleship, and outreach, both in-person and online. Use our secure e-giving portal on www.glassboromethodist.org/give or mail your gift to our church office.

I am thrilled that we are moving more and more into light after a year in darkness. I am grateful that God has never left our side but walks with us still. I pray that the risen Christ brings victory, life, and hope to you, our church, and our world this Easter season and beyond.

Yours in Christ, Pastor John



A grand entrance

Decades ago, as English actress Gertrude Lawrence waited behind the curtain for a play to begin, the queen upstaged her by arriving at the royal box to much applause. “What an entrance,” Lawrence remarked, to which her friend, playwright Noel Coward, replied, “What a part!”

Jesus certainly made a grand entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, entering to adoring shouts of “Hosanna!” But worldly glory and fame weren’t his intent. Instead, our Lord knew that His Father had prepared a sacrificial role for Him. Jesus handled the adulation with dignity and poise. The humble yet courageous Son of God knew that danger, despair and death awaited — but that He must endure it all to fulfill prophecy for humanity’s sake.

The pageantry of Palm Sunday is a stark contrast to the role of Suffering Servant that Jesus faced a few short days later. Yet each event during Holy Week represents victory — for Jesus as well as for His beloved children.

Palm Sunday is a glorious day, so let us wave palms and shout, “Hosanna in the highest heaven!” The Savior has come. What an entrance! What a part!

Believing in

Sometimes we get caught up in thinking we need to understand God in order to have faith. But faith is more about trust than knowledge; it’s more about believing in someone than believing information. A child, for instance, doesn’t have to know the precise roads to grandma’s house; he only needs to believe *in* his parents and their ability and desire to get him there safely. Similarly, we need not understand all the intricacies of how God works; we can take a cue from the disciples and let belief *in* the risen Christ transform and empower us.

In the words of Madeleine L’Engle (*The Rock That Is Higher*): “The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid.”

An Easter prayer

From the grave’s depths, Lord Jesus Christ, you emerged, breaking the hold of sin, death and hell, that those who trust in you might share in your righteousness, life and beloved community with God the Father and all God’s children. We bow in awe before your majesty, giving thanks for your grace extended so bountifully to us. By the power of your spirit who lives within us, may we share the astonishing news of your resurrection with others, that they also may know your saving grace. Amen.





Be a caremongerer

At the start of the coronavirus pandemic, a mutual-aid movement dubbed as “caremongering” quickly spread throughout Canada. Within 72 hours, 35 Facebook groups were launched so people could request and offer assistance.

This altruistic effort is essentially the opposite of fearmongering. “We wanted to switch that around and get people to connect on a positive level,” says Mita Hans, who helped set up the first group. The movement, she adds, “spread the opposite of panic in people, brought out community and camaraderie, and allowed us to tackle the needs of those who are at-risk all the time — now more than ever.”

One disabled man in Halifax who received aid through a caremongering group said it felt “like a hug.” That’s intentional, says participant Valentina Harper. “I think it is really showing people there is still hope for humanity.” When the pandemic is history, may we all continue to be caremongerers in our communities.

A shared experience



What comes to mind when you hear the word *Pentecost*? Many people think of a mighty wind, tongues of fire and multiple languages. But Acts 2 begins with another detail that’s just as key: Jesus’ disciples “were all together in one place.” Because they were together physically and spiritually, the early believers didn’t miss the life-changing, world-changing birth of the Church.

The pandemic, while changing our definition of gathering, also highlighted our need for interaction. If Jesus’ first followers hadn’t been assembled on Pentecost, they would’ve missed the outpouring of God’s power and the indescribable joy God had for them. Think about what believers today might miss if we neglect to worship with other friends of Christ. Who would want to miss God’s blessings, promises and joy?

Loving an EGR

During a conversation over coffee, a friend mentioned an “EGR.” I had to interrupt and ask for a definition: Extra Grace Required — in other words, people who can seem tough to love. Often, they’re the most in *need* of love because they’re hurting. Perhaps Jesus was referring to EGRs when he said, “If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much” (Matthew 5:46, NLT).

Truly loving others — even EGRs — might not be as tough as we think. Simple gestures such as smiling, truly listening, sending a note or extending an invitation go a long way toward expressing care and softening hearts.

At times, we all require extra grace. Thankfully, God has an unlimited amount to extend *to* us and then *through* us. Out of joy, we can find ways — even simple ones — to share God’s grace and love with people who need it.

—Janna Firestone



A week of tributes to Mom

To celebrate the special woman in your life, use a quote a day the week before Mother's Day, or honor her with tributes the whole week after. Write one of these (or one of your own) on a card, make a message into a placemat, tape one to the bathroom mirror — get creative! Every day of the week is a good day to celebrate her love and show her yours.

“There is no way to be a perfect mother, and a million ways to be a good one.” —Jill Churchill

“The art of mothering is to teach the art of living to children.” —Elaine Heffner

“When your mother asks, ‘Do you want a piece of advice?’ it’s a mere formality. It doesn’t matter if you answer yes or no. You’re going to get it anyway.” —Erma Bombeck

“The mother’s heart is the child’s schoolroom.” —Henry Ward Beecher

“Mother love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible.” —Marion C. Garrett

“Being a mother is learning about strengths you didn’t know you had.” —Linda Wooten

Memorial Day

Ever-evolving, ever-loved hymn

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save,” often known simply as “The Navy Hymn,” dates back to 1860, when William Whiting wrote it for a student of his about to travel by ship from England to America.

Original verses testified to the protection of God the Father, Christ, the Holy Spirit and the Trinity. In 1940, the U.S. Episcopal Church rewrote the hymn to include travel on land and in the air. Many verses have been written since: for Navy SEALs, submariners, astronauts, military families, ship dedications and more.

The following verse, intended for Memorial Day, may be used with the credit line below:

We thank you, God, for loved ones dear
Who clung to faith beyond their fear,
Who served and paid the highest price
For freedom bought with sacrifice.
May they remind us of your Son
Whose death our final freedom won.
—Heidi L. Mann, 2012



faith and finances

Dear Church Family,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ! We first want to thank you for your continued support of our ministries at Glassboro FUMC. Because of you, we were still able to accomplish so much amid the pandemic. Many programs and outreach opportunities still happened whether in person or virtually like worshiping in a new way, VBS, Kids Night In, Food and Coat drive, Virtual Sunday School and so many others. Again, we THANK YOU for your support.

2021 will be a unique year of bringing back some of our worship components and programs to our church and community, with of course staying safe while doing it. We will continue to find ways to bring hope to a world that so desperately needs it, and we cannot do this without your prayers, gifts and willingness to serve in any way that you can.

The Finance Team is, and will be, working hard at maintaining our budget with new expenses that have come up. One of the areas we are focusing on is our electronic giving. It has come to our attention that as we batch out for the year, sometimes your electronic recurring payments are not forwarding over to the new year. With anticipation that is not user error, we are encouraging everyone that has recurring electronic payments to check and make sure that they are being deducted correctly. We are coming up with new ways to make sure that this will not be a problem for next year.

If you have not signed up for electronic giving and would like to know more about it, you can visit www.glassborobmethodist.org/give or contact our Financial Secretary, Randy Nitowsky, who can answer any questions you may have. Besides giving online, offering will also be collected in the back as you leave worship services, or payments can be mailed directly to the church.

We again cannot begin to thank you enough for your continued support. We are excited for what 2021 will bring, and we know that our church family will continue to rise to the occasion in making our ministries and programs successful and meaningful to our members and community. If you have any questions at all, please contact us directly.

In His Service, Pat Heritage & Brian Mickle- Co-Finance Chairpersons



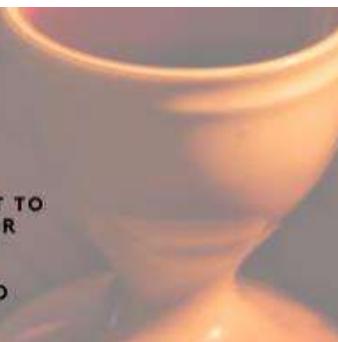
April 3 - Easter Egg Hunt - 9am to 12pm - outside church
April 11 - Youth Group outside Fellowship House - 6:30pm - 8pm



Sunday, March 28, 2021

PALM SUNDAY

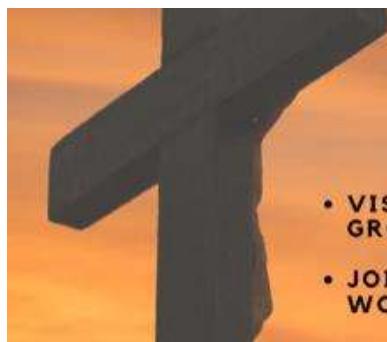
- PICK UP A PRE-BAGGED PALM OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH FROM FRIDAY 3/26-SUNDAY 3/28.
- JOIN US IN PERSON FOR 9 AM WORSHIP OUTSIDE AND 11 AM WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY (RESERVATIONS REQUIRED). PALMS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE SERVICES AS WELL.
SERVICES WILL ALSO BE LIVESTREAMED ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE



Thursday, April 1, 2021

MAUNDY THURSDAY

- MAKE A MEAL FOR SOMEONE WHO COULD USE IT. DELIVER IT TO THEM WITH THE INVITATION PROVIDED IN YOUR LENT KIT FOR OUR LIVESTREAMED MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE.
- GATHER WITH YOUR FAMILY AROUND THE DINNER TABLE AND WORSHIP WITH US ON FACEBOOK AT 5:30 PM.



Friday, April 2, 2021

GOOD FRIDAY

- VISIT OUR STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON CHURCH GROUNDS BEGINNING AT 5 PM.
- JOIN US IN PERSON ON CHURCH GROUNDS FOR A WORSHIP SERVICE AT 7 PM.
ALL COVID-19 PROTOCOLS MUST BE FOLLOWED



Sunday, April 4, 2021

UPDATED EASTER SUNDAY

7 AM: SUNRISE SERVICE - BELL PARK
THIS SERVICE WILL NOT BE LIVESTREAMED

9 AM: "ELEVATE" SERVICE - SANCTUARY
11 AM: TRADITIONAL SERVICE - SANCTUARY
THESE SERVICES WILL ALSO BE LIVESTREAMED



We are blessed currently to have an abundance of Prayer Shawl Ministry items available to be offered to anyone needing to feel the comfort or healing of our Lord. So this is an FYI... This is an outreach ministry and you are all welcomed to request an item to be given. It doesn't matter if they are a member of our church or not, whether or not you know them personally, whether they are sick, hospitalized, had an accident or surgery, going off to college, mission trips, moving away or experiencing a rough time for whatever reason. We have baby blankets, women's triangular shawls and stoles, and lapghans and neck scarves for either gender and various ages. Soon to come will be prayer squares or pocket pals small enough for a person to carry with them. Please contact Angele Cooper @ sacredsigner@gmail.com



Non-perishable food items such as cereal, soup and pasta for the Samaritan Center may be brought to the Samaritan Center at 123A East High Street on Monday or Wednesday from 12 to 3 PM. Items may also be placed in the box in the Narthex. Please contact Dave Walters with any questions, at dnwalters83@gmail.com

NOW, MORE THAN EVER, MEDIA TEAM MEMBERS ARE NEEDED TO CONTINUE OUR LIVESTREAMING PROCESS.

TRAINING IS AVAILABLE.

CONTACT PASTOR JOHN IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

many hands make light work

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR CONTINUING MINISTRY IN THESE CHALLENGING TIMES

Ways to Give

ONLINE
GlassboroMethodist.org/give

DOWNLOAD
 and use GivePlus app for Android or Apple
 (Search 'Glassboro' after opening the app)

MAIL
 to First UMC Glassboro
 60 State St. Glassboro, NJ 08028

First United Methodist Church Glassboro
 Bringing HOPE to a world that so desperately needs it



PUZZLE

EASTER MORNING message

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.

Luke 24:5-6, NIV

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

LUKE 24:5-6, NIV

SUNRISE SURPRISE

The hidden surprise in these sweet rolls hints at the reason behind Easter's joy.

What you need:

- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 10 uncooked frozen rolls, thawed
- 10 large marshmallows
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ cup melted butter
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Grease a round baking dish. Sprinkle pecans on the bottom.
2. Flatten each roll. Place a marshmallow in the center, wrap dough around it and pinch edges together.
3. Combine sugar and cinnamon. Dip each roll into melted butter and coat with cinnamon-sugar. Place in pan, seam side down.
4. Sprinkle brown sugar and remaining butter over rolls. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise 30 minutes.
5. Bake at 350 degrees until golden brown, about 30 minutes. Cool in pan.
6. As you bite into a roll, you'll see the marshmallow has melted, leaving an empty center — just like Jesus' empty tomb!

More churches lately have been resurrecting (pun!) the early-church tradition of celebrating the second Sunday of Easter as Holy Humor Sunday, affirming the season's joy. Need some jokes for April 11? Try these:

- Easter is the only time when it's perfectly safe to put all your eggs in one basket.
- Knock knock. Who's there? Hatch. Hatch who? God bless you!
- What should you do after eating so many Easter treats? Eggs-ercise!
- Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke? It might crack up!



Our Staff

Pastor: Rev. John Inverso, Parsonage Phone 856-243-5488,
pastor@glassboromethodist.org

Director of Children and Family Ministries: Brian Mickle,
bmickle@glassboromethodist.org

Director of Music and Worship Arts: Sarah Mickle, smickle@glassboromethodist.org

Organist: Debbie Macchione

Office Manager: Janet Blohm **Secretary:** Donna Mickle

Gumwrapper Editor: Robin McGuigan, robinchris@comcast.net

Communications Coordinator: Terri Ganderton, glassboroumcnews@gmail.com

Church Contact Information: 60 State Street, Glassboro, NJ 08028 Tel: 856-881-3295

E-mail: glassboromethodist1@comcast.net

Regular Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM Mon-Thurs. 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Fri

McGuigan First UMC Calendar - Holidays in United States						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9am - Elevate 10:15am - Power Hour 10:45am - Refresh 11am - Traditional Worship 12pm - Youth Group work	6:30pm - Sunday School 8pm - NA	7pm - Men of Armor	6:30pm - VBS lead meeting 7pm - Pastor's Bible Study 8pm - AA			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
EASTER SUNDAY	EASTER MONDAY	7pm - Pastor's Bible Study 8pm - AA				
9am - Elevate 10:45am - Refresh 11am - Traditional Worship	6:30pm - Directors meeting 8pm - NA					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9am - Elevate 9:45am - Care Givers 10am - Power Hour Sunday 11am - Traditional Worship 12pm - VBS Volunteer	6pm - Worship Committee 7pm - Finance Team 8pm - NA	10am - UMW 5pm - Mission & Outreach 7pm - Men of Armor	6:30pm - Refresh @ [REDACTED] 7pm - Pastor's Bible Study 8pm - AA			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9am - Elevate 10am - Power Hour Sunday 11am - Traditional Worship 12:15pm - Agape Angels	7pm - Church Council 8pm - NA	7pm - Pastor's Bible Study 8pm - AA				
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
9am - Elevate 10am - Power Hour Sunday 11am - Traditional Worship	10am - History Team 8pm - NA	7pm - Men of Armor	6:30pm - Refresh @ [REDACTED] 7pm - Pastor's Bible Study 8pm - AA			

Robin McGuigan, First UMC Calendar - Holidays in United States

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9am - Elevate 10am - Power Hour Sunday 11am - Traditional Worship	10am - History Team 8pm - NA	7pm - Men of Armor	6:15pm - Refresh @ 7pm - Pastor's Bible Study 8pm - AA	7pm - Men of Armor	6:15pm - Refresh @ 7pm - Pastor's Bible Study 8pm - AA	10am - Women's Grow
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9am - Elevate 10am - Power Hour Sunday 11am - Traditional Worship	6:30pm - Directors meeting 8pm - NA					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Mother's Day	Spm - Worship Committee 7pm - Finance Team 8pm - NA	10am - UMW 6pm - Mission & Outreach 7pm - Men of Armor	6:30pm - Refresh @ 7pm - Pastor's Bible Study 8pm - AA			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9am - Elevate 10am - Power Hour Sunday 11am - Traditional Worship 12:15pm - Agiles Angels	7pm - Church Council 8pm - NA	7pm - Pastor's Bible Study 8pm - AA	7pm - Pastor's Bible Study 8pm - AA	6:30pm - Refresh @ 7pm - Pastor's Bible Study 8pm - AA	6pm - Kids Night Out	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9am - Elevate 10am - Power Hour Sunday 11am - Traditional Worship	10am - History Team 8pm - NA	7pm - Men of Armor	6:30pm - Refresh @ 7pm - Pastor's Bible Study 8pm - AA			
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
9am - Elevate 10am - Power Hour Sunday 11am - Traditional Worship	Memorial Day	7pm - Pastor's Bible Study 8pm - NA	6:30pm - Children & Family	6:30pm - Children & Family	10am - Women's Grow	