

March 30, 2023



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Pastor's Note: This article is being refreshed from a previous year, because frankly, I don't know how to say it any better. I hope you will take a moment to read as part of your Lenten journey.

Traveling to the Cross with Jesus

Every year, worship planners must figure out what the itinerary for Holy Week, those days between Palm Sunday and Easter, will look like in the church. The task is to bring folks from the excitement of Palm Sunday's "Hallelujah!" when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, through the throes of his pain and passion of his last week on earth, to the glorious wonder of Christ's resurrection on Easter morning.

Perhaps believing that people's lives are too busy to come back to church mid-week for another service, many churches try to divide the pre-Easter Sunday between the palm welcome and the agonizing crucifixion, all in 60 minutes (or less). What you end up with, in my opinion, is emotional whiplash. There's just too much theological and emotional significance taking place in such a short time to soak it in and make it part of our soul.

Other churches have been known to just skip the midweek destinations altogether, believing that they're too depressing; better, in our already anxious times, to keep the worship celebrations cheerful and positive. So they leapfrog from happy Sunday to happy Sunday, with just a footnote about the intensity of emotional passion and bloody sacrifice that Jesus offered in those days in between.

Well, friends, there isn't any way to get to the joyous pinnacle of Easter morning if you don't stop a while and experience the rawness of Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion. You have to travel with the disciples and his mother to the foot of the cross and hear the agony of his whispered prayers. You just have to sit with the sin that kept Jesus on that cross in order to experience the giddy rush of freedom offered by the empty tomb.

Oh sure, if you travel directly to Easter morning, you can still enjoy the flowers, sing the old traditional hymns, and wear your new bonnet. But the awesome glory and power of the empty Easter tomb is rooted in that wretched cross. If you don't spend time there first, it will be like watching somebody else's travel slides instead of experiencing the journey for yourself.

So, I invite you to come and experience his last days and hours. Come to our shared Maundy Thursday Service with our brothers and sisters of Unity United Methodist Church, April 2nd. We will share a potluck meal at 6:00PM, and worship at 7:00PM.

Together during worship, we will feast at the Last Supper, experience a washing of hands or feet, and then travel that road to the cross with Jesus.

Hard? Yes. But so important in fully experiencing the pinnacle of our faith, the blessed resurrection of Christ.

In Christ with you,
Pastor Sharon



Maundy Thursday, April 6th
Unity UMC and WUM together for
Dinner and Darkness
6:00PM Potluck in Fellowship Hall
7:00PM Worship with Communion in Sanctuary

This service will be taking the place of our current Thursday Service hosted by The Mountain Service Band. We hope you will return to The Mountain Service after Easter on April 13th at 7:30pm.

Prayer Concerns

Ron & Dianne Wallace; Jean Major; Mark Kremer; Kroenung family; Ellen Hendrickson; Margaret Christensen; Chase Nordlund (Debbie Lund); Linda Kincaid (Marcia Kennon); Margo Petracek; Rick Austin (Linda's son); Emery Vanausdoll (Jo Ann Claywell's great-granddaughter); Douglas Wright (Bev Mesey)

Easter Breakfast on April 9th



This year, the United Women in Faith will be hosting our **traditional Easter morning breakfast on Sunday, April 9th from 9:00AM-10:15AM**. This is a great time for guests to meet our church family. They will need our donations of breakfast casseroles, fruit, juice, and muffins. Sign up on the blue

Connection Card at worship or call the church office at 314/961-4133 to participate.



Order An Easter Plant



For Easter Sunday, 20 hydrangeas *in different colors*, have been ordered to adorn our Chancel Space. If you would like to sponsor a plant in honor or memory of someone, please fill out an envelope found at the doors to the Sanctuary and add your check or cash of \$12.00. Make your check out to Webster United Methodist and write Easter Flower in the memo section. The

envelope can be left on the Secretary's desk in the church office or placed in the Offering Basket during Sunday Worship. Orders are welcome through Sunday, April 2nd. All plants may be taken home after the Easter worship service and make great gifts.

VIM Mission Work Trip Has One Opening

Our Volunteers In Mission Team going to Midwest Mission Sun. Apr. 30th--May 4th has one opening due to a cancellation. If you ---or anyone you know---would like to join us, **please contact Jan McCurley (314-378-5504 or 314-781-3969) as soon as possible.** It is a great experience with all kinds of jobs available whether you prefer sitting or standing. Comfortable lodging, good food, and great company are all part of the package!

Food Collection for LifeWise StL Exceeds Goal!



Our month long food collection for the City Market at LifeWise StL exceeded the goal of 400. **The final total was 608 food items!** *Thank you to all for your generous donations!*

Living Stones Children's Ministry

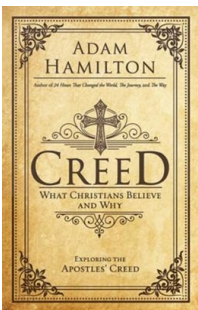
Living Stones program is for **children aged 4 years old to 6th grade** and is held during worship (10:30AM-11:30AM). We have games, stories, snacks, and prayer. If you have any questions, please contact Shae Parsons at directorchildren@websterum.org.



April Wild Wednesday

Join us on April 19th from 5:30-7:00pm as we celebrate spring during this month's Wild Wednesday! Children ages 4-12 are welcome for a night of fun and fellowship. Free dinner is included.

New Study Book for Seekers Class Begins April 16th



On the Sunday after Easter, the Seekers Class will begin a new study. One of Adam Hamilton's recent books, *Creed*, states his belief that many foundational Christian beliefs are contained in The Apostles Creed. He discusses The Holy Spirit, The Forgiveness of Sins, The Resurrection of the Body, as well as other topics that may confuse and confound us as we try to live as Christ would have us live. *All are welcome to join us in this journey.* The Seekers meet in the middle room on the second floor every Sunday at 9:00. For more information, contact Deane Looney, 314-651-4335, dhlkml@aol.com.

WUM Youth Ministry

April 2nd, 5:30—7:30 PM

Supper, Scavenger Hunt, Stuff Eggs for Easter Egg Hunt

Climate Care: How You Can Make a Difference this April



The Webster Groves City Council has passed a resolution in support of a crucial component of a healthy environment: pollinators. Pollinators (bees and other insects, birds) need flowering plants early in spring to provide them with sustenance. *A way to support these pollinators is NOT to mow your grass for the month of April.* The City of Webster Groves is not enforcing the ordinance regarding the height of vegetation in your yard during the month of April. What easier way to support a healthy, diverse environment for the other inhabitants who support us (food

production) with their activity? *No Mow April* is nearly here! Be lazy for the bees! Invite your neighbors to participate! Contact the City of Webster Groves for more information and a yard sign. <https://www.wgparksandrec.com/685/No-Mow-April>

Spring Luncheon

Friday, April 28, 2023, 10:00am

(Lunch served at 11am)

110 N Elm Ave.

Webster Groves, MO 63119

Join Epworth's Auxiliary in celebration and support of Epworth. There will be a book, bake, and boutique sale, plus a silent auction.

Enjoy entertainment and delight in a delicious lunch. Reserve your ticket today for \$20.00 (let us know of any dietary restrictions)

Reserve your ticket by Tue., April 18, 2023

Questions contact

Linda Guth Stangl (314) 753-4292

or linda-guth-stangl@live.com



Food, Friends & Fun



JOIN THE PARTY!

A FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING SHEPHERD'S CENTER

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

4:00 Golf Scramble
6:00-8:00 Buffet & Social
(brisket, sides & dessert)

FAMILY GOLF

& LEARNING CENTER
3717 Tree Court
Industrial Blvd, 63122

RESERVATIONS

Call the Shepherd's Center 314-395-0988 or
online go to shepherdscenter-wk.org

\$30/person

Includes: buffet, social & fun for all

or \$250/foursome

Includes: par 3 9-hole course & buffet

**for more info go to
shepherdscenter-wk.org**

FUN FOR ALL

available for purchase

- cash bar
- indoor golf simulator
- driving mats
- 50/50 & prize raffles