

ABOUT MARTHA'S STORY – TODAY'S SERMON

In the sermon this morning I will speak, not as Pastor Ginny, but as a young woman of Jesus' time. This young woman as "Martha", so the sermon is called "Martha's Story." But this Martha is not the sister of Mary. This Martha is someone I "created" or, rather, she introduced herself to me.

It was during Lent one year, leading up to Holy Week, when I began to think about the people who knew Jesus, or knew about him, and who took risks to follow him. One of those people was the man who let Jesus and the disciples eat the Passover meal in his upper room. My friend Tom suggested that this was truly dangerous, especially since the authorities already were looking for ways to kill Jesus.

So, I wondered: who else took such risks? Who else does the Bible describe that knowingly helped Jesus, in spite of the danger to themselves or their families? That's how the door opened, and Martha walked through. She looked at me that day and said, *let me tell you about Jesus*. And the sermon was written. I'm not sure I wrote it; I've always felt God let Martha give it to me.

So today you will get to hear Martha's story.

Cont. on the back ...

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY NEWS

April 14, 2019



OUR MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE: is this Thursday, April 18, at 6:30 p.m. The Lord's Last Supper will be remembered as we take communion together. The betrayal of the Lord will be remembered as we "strip" the sanctuary and leave it bare for Good Friday.

GOOD FRIDAY -- Our sanctuary will be open this Friday from 12 noon to 3:00 for private prayer and meditation. These are the hours our Lord hung on the cross, sacrificing himself for our sakes. Come for prayer.

God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that we should not perish but have everlasting life.

SUNRISE SERVICE: On Easter morning you are invited to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ as the day dawns. The service will be held at 6:30 a.m. on the front lawn, by the three white crosses. A continental breakfast will follow in Hambley Hall. Friends, family and visitors are certainly welcome.

THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING – is an offering received every year at Easter. This offering is not just Presbyterian, but multi-denominational. It provides funds that will be used all year long to assist people and communities affected by disasters. We hope you will give generously to the One Great Hour.

LILIES – Remember to place your order for lilies for next Sunday.

"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us"

Augustine

By the way, if you get the Hope newsletter by e-mail and want to listen to Martha's story you will find the audio of the sermon on our website after Monday (www.hopefamily.com).

As we come with Jesus into Jerusalem today, and as we follow him through this Holy Week, I invite you to read the Biblical accounts of what happened that week. Begin with Matthew 21 or Mark 11, or Luke 19, or John 12 and read to the end of each of those gospels; read a little each day and pray through the week with Jesus. Think about what it would have been like if you had been there.

This Triumphal Entry we call Palm Sunday, with crowds waving palms and shouting Hosanna, ends with crowds crying: Crucify Him! There is triumph and shame, delight and horror, sacrifice and victory. Martha invites us to think about what it was like, and to know Jesus in new and fresh ways this year, to see Jesus through her eyes.

Blessings to each and all as we walk this journey with our Lord.

Ginny

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DAY CAMP - Day Camp, June 3-7: We need volunteers to provide dinner for our five Cedarkirk staffers each night during camp. Helpers would need to cook a meal or get a takeout for 5 and bring it to the church. Please see Amy Belden if you're interested.

GROWING TOGETHER – an adult Sunday school class that is delving into new ways and reasons to “pray continually”, has started. The class is a 6-week study at 9:00 a.m. in Room 7 every Sunday. Coffee and small snacks provided! Don't miss out.

PARDON OUR DUST! Here is some of what has been done through the Highland Facility Fund. The flat roof was replaced over the classrooms, kitchen and Hambley Hall. The sanctuary roof has been repaired. Wooden outer window sills in office and classrooms were replaced with concrete and stucco. The new digital sign has been erected. The entire church exterior has been painted. Next, we plan to work on renovations of the sanctuary interior, which is why some of the wallpaper in the hall has been removed. We will keep you informed.

CLOSET -- The closet on the piano end of Hambley Hall has gotten cluttered. If you can help us clean it out we would appreciate it.

CHURCH EVENTS COMING UP

Mon.	04/15	6:00 p.m.	PNC meeting R5
		6:30 p.m.	Admin & Finance
Wed.	04/17	5:45 p.m.	NO WNA
		7:00 p.m.	Bells practice
		7:30 p.m.	Choir practice
Thurs.	04/18	6.30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri.	04/19	12 to 3	Sanctuary open for prayer
Sun.	04/21	6.30 a.m.	Easter Morning Service followed by continental Breakfast
		10:15 a.m.	Easter Sunday service