

HOLY WEEK THOUGHTS FOR EASTER

Imagine the grief. Jesus' mother and the women who followed Jesus, the disciples and others who had waited through the trial and had seen the punishing procession up that horrible hill, who had seen and heard Jesus nailed to a cross. Jesus: crucified.

Imagine that grief. That Shock. How would you even wrap your mind around the truth of it? How would you function with that numbness of your heart? Their Jesus: dead. Our Jesus: dead.

Imagine those dear devoted women that Sunday: determined to do something to show their love for Jesus, to find some shred of comfort by caring for his body, by cleaning him and anointing him with oils and perfumes, caring for him with this one final act.

But when they got there, in the dim light of dawn, in the place of his burial to their astonishment not just the breath of Jesus, but even the body of Jesus was gone. The tomb was open. The cave was empty. An angel tells them: *He is not here.* The angel asks them: *Why are you looking for the living here in a place of death?*

Year after year I ponder this story.

Cont. on the back...

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY NEWS



April 21, 2019

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.

YOUNG AT HEART – will meet at Red Lobster this Thursday 25th at noon. Please let Sue Morrill, or Bonny Jonson know if you intend to go so, they will know how many seats to book. They have a great time together and the food is always good. All are welcome to come and join in and have good food and a meaningful time socializing.

GROWING TOGETHER – Come and study new ways and reasons to “pray continually” in an adult Sunday school class. 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. Although the course has started you will be welcome.

HOPE FAMILY RETREAT – Our retreat at Cedarkirk will be after Church Sunday and through lunch on Monday May 26-27 (Memorial Day Weekend). Come for just the day or stay overnight. Come for a time with friends, swimming, rocking on the porch or walking in the woods. Pick up the insert for more information.

"God will meet you where you are in order to take you
where He wants you to go."

Tony Evans

Year after year I see again that Easter comes only after the pain and sorrow, the shock and devastation of Good Friday. We would like to jump over that painful Friday to the utter joy of Easter Sunday, of the empty tomb. But I know that if we got Easter without the cross, we would be left to face the many deep sorrows and losses our lives bring us without the Hope of the Risen Christ, the Savior.

Which of us can get through life without disappointment, failure and loss? Which of us has not known darkness and despair? No one. We can't. Life isn't all joy and happiness.

But we have a Lord who knows the darkest of dark, who knows abandonment, betrayal, pain, even death. We have a Lord who knows the power of hell and has come out triumphant on the other side. We have a Lord who calls us by name and leads us into the joy, the hope, the LIFE that God has created us to live. Thanks be to God.

Happy Easter! He is Risen! He is Risen indeed.

Blessings, Pastor Ginny

DAY CAMP - Day Camp, June 3-7: A big thank you to those who are housing and bringing in meals for the counselors for the week of day camp VBS. We are also looking for donations towards snacks for the kids and helpers. We will have 50 people with two different snacks a day. If you are writing a check please put Day Camp /VBS on it and if you are giving cash, please put it in an envelope labeled Day camp /VBS. Thank you.

PARDON OUR DUST! - Last week you read what has been done through the Highland Facility Fund (look on the website under Newsletters). Next, we plan to work on renovations of the sanctuary interior, which is why some of the wallpaper in the hall has been removed. It is likely that this work will be done in July after the week of Day Camp. 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.

OFFICE CLOSED – The office will be closed on Easter Monday.

CHURCH EVENTS COMING UP

Wed.	04/24	05:45 p.m.	WNA
		06:30 p.m.	Adult, children and youth studies
		07:00 p.m.	Bells practice
		07:30 p.m.	Choir practice
Thurs.	04/25	12:00 p.m.	Young at Heart lunch at Red Lobster
Sat.	04/27	03:00 p.m.	Family day at Harbor Splash Park
Sun.	04/28	11:30 a.m.	Session meeting R5 Deacons meeting

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