

JOIN US IN WORSHIP AND PRAISE THIS EASTER SEASON!

 Joint Worship Service	4/02	10:30 AM	S	Joint Worship Service
	4/05	3:00 PM	WH	Everyone is invited to make palm crosses.
	4/09	10:30 AM	S	Palm Sunday --- with Palm Processional
 DOMINGO DE RAMOS	4/09	12:00 PM	S	Hispanic Worship Service
	4/12	6:00 PM	WH	Seder Meal with Mt. Zion UMC, St. Joseph UMC, and Alexander Memorial UMC.
 7 LAST WORDS	4/14	7:30 PM	S	The Hispanic Ministry will lead The Seven Last Words Service
	4/15	TBA	S	Easter Lily Decorating
 Sunrise	4/16	6:45 AM	CT	Sunrise Service
	4/16	7:45 AM	WH	Easter Breakfast
 CELEBRATE EASTER	4/16	10:30 AM	S	English Worship Service
 happy easter	4/16	11:45 AM	CT	Easter Egg Hunt
 JESUS Vive!	4/16	12:00 PM	S	Hispanic Worship Service

A word from Rev. Barry Andrews, Senior Pastor

This winter has been one, I expect, for the record books, at least in Florida. Somehow, we managed to avoid most of the winter season, and have enjoyed one beautiful, mild day and cool, pleasant night after another. With blue skies and mild breezes, we affirm that this is, indeed, a great place to live.

Well, maybe not in hurricane season, and not always during the summer rain, heat, and humidity, but, what's life without a little rain? Seasons don't really define us, but, as we travel through this Lenten season, we're aware that times, and persons, and circumstances, and who knows what else, change. We're approaching Easter Day, and the Easter season, also called Eastertide. Hopefully, we'll have chances to build upon our Lenten disciplines during these days, and new life, celebrated because of the resurrection of Jesus, will define us.



A peculiar, or particular, season here at Faith is our NOMADS season, which lasts now from October through April. We've had an extraordinary time these last 7 months, and much has been accomplished at Christ-Neptune Beach, Ft. Caroline, Swaim Memorial, and Faith Churches. In my several -decades experience with NOMADS, I've hardly encountered a more determined crowd of volunteer workers than we have had this season, and much has been accomplished, tens of thousands of dollars have been saved on projects, and churches have been blessed to have facilities improved, so that we might all be more capable of serving God by serving our neighborhoods. I hope that their sense of volunteerism and energy inspires, and energizes, your volunteer ethic for the coming year. I expect that very little would bring these workers more pleasure and satisfaction than to know their efforts have inspired others to take up their own tools, as it were, to do God's work.

Part of that challenge could be for us all to bring someone with us to Easter services. It'll be a time when folks are likely to think favorably about going to church, and it'll give us a chance to introduce folks to Christ and his church. For many years we've emphasized relational evangelism, but maybe we could invite a few casual friends or acquaintances this year, too. They'll all be impressed to know that you go to such a first-class church (!), and maybe it'll be just the thing to awaken a sense of spirituality in them. Perhaps we'll introduce a new season into the lives of folks who need it, and help them build a new relationship with Christ and his people, here at Faith.



Rummage Sales are coming soon! Our Youth and our Hispanic Ministry will both soon be having Rummage Sales, so decide what you can donate so you can come and buy more stuff! If you have any questions about this great opportunity, please see Youth Director Camille Feaster or anyone from the Hispanic congregation.



The youth group has had an awesome month! Spring break gave the opportunity for a beach day, some Top Golf, and volunteering at the Teacher Supply Depot. We have been working hard to makeover Peeler with new paint and some new art. There is still more work to be done, but the progress is exciting. Come over and take a look soon if you haven't yet!



The two current fundraisers are going well, and we'd love to have you participate! Every Sunday morning at 10AM there will be hot breakfast sandwiches available for \$3, so come prepared. We are also collecting used ink cartridges to recycle and raise money; there is a drop box in the sanctuary entrance or you can bring them to the office. Go to FundingFactory.com to learn more!

Summer is just around the corner, and we're looking forward to our week at Warren Willis Camp and lots of activities around Jacksonville. April will bring our 5th Sunday dinner along with a rummage sale after Easter. The Wednesday night group is going strong, having fun, and looking forward to how God will continue to move!

Thank you for your support!
Camille Feaster
Youth Director



From an alumnus: "I grew up at the Children's Home. If it wasn't for the Home, as well as the house parents and the staff, I wouldn't be where I am today. The Children's Home will always have a piece of my heart."

From this note, you can see what a valuable asset we United Methodists have. Many children have passed through the Home and are living as wonderful citizens today. With the opening and use of the Madison Ranch, we are reaching even more children who need our special services.

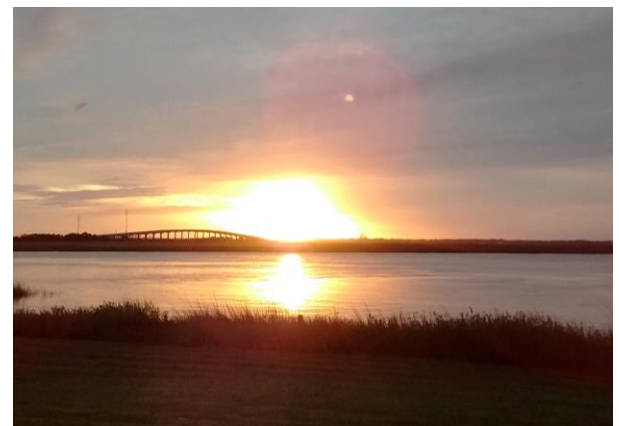
Keep the Children's Homes in your prayers and give as you are able. Our donations from Faith are \$12 per member per year on the fifth Sundays. This year our Fifth Sundays are: April 30th, July 30th, October 29th, and December 31st. Any extra donations are readily used and accepted for special events (like school, camp, Easter, etc.).

Thank you for caring enough to support our Children's Home.

Cynthia Shank
Local Church Representative



United Methodist Women in Northeast Florida
Fully Rely on God!



We were truly blessed this year from the message, singing, and fellowship, and we hope more women will join us next year!

***I bet there is more to Easter than you thought!
Look at the websites below to learn more!***

Why is Easter called “Easter”? Why are people baptized? Why do we wear new clothes?

<http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/ancient-traditions-still-influence-easter>

How did Easter get its name? It was not until the eighth century A.D. that Christians started using the word "Easter" to describe a day set aside to celebrate Jesus' Resurrection. The name originally had been used in reference to a festival honoring Eastre, the Teutonic goddess of light and spring whose symbol, by the way, was an egg.

Why are baptisms often included in services that day? Baptisms have been a part of Easter since at least the second century. In some places, persons would have been baptized early in the morning, naked, and then clothed in a white robe - a parallel to the white-robed martyrs who appear in Revelation, and a sign of both purity and resurrection.

What is the significance of wearing new clothes on Easter Sunday? In years past, new converts wore their white baptismal robes around town for a week to symbolize their new life in Christ. "In subsequent years, those converts would not put the white robe back on but would wear new clothes to symbolize their participation in new life in Christ."

When is Easter celebrated?

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/why-is-easter-on-a-different-day-each-year>

In 325 AD, the Council of Nicea set the date for the celebration of Easter as the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox. For this reason, the date will change each year and can fall anywhere from March 22 to April 25.

What's so special about Easter Sunrise services?

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/easter-sunrise-services-a-celebration-of-resurrection>

The gospel writers tell us that Mary Magdalene and some of Jesus' other female followers went to his tomb early on that Sunday morning to find that Jesus was risen. Since then, coming to worship on Easter Sunday at an hour and place different than we normally do, offers a sense that something unexpected has happened. The first recorded Easter sunrise service was an impromptu gathering in Herrnhut, Germany. Early on Easter morning 1732, a small group of young Moravian men went to the local cemetery for a special time of worship. The next year, the group invited their entire congregation to join them, and a tradition was born.

Things you never knew about The Importance of the Easter Egg:

<http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/the-importance-of-the-egg-children-and-easter>

The egg became associated with Easter somewhere near the 400s and was often a food that was given up at Lent. In some of the early church traditions, people brought their eggs to the church to be blessed before they ate them, as the first joyful food of Easter.

There's something about going to hunt the eggs just as we might go to hunt for Jesus in the tomb. And when we find them it's that joy that the women had when they reached the tomb first and found that Jesus was no longer there.

One of the earlier traditions says the eggs were first painted red because red is a color of joy.

Did you know that Charles Wesley wrote the words to three of our Easter hymns in The United Methodist Hymnal? He wrote *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies* (173) and *Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise* (312). Do you know his most famous Easter Song? Hint: (302).

<http://www.umcmission.org/Find-Resources/Global-Praise-/Charles-Wesley-Hymns/Christ-the-Lord-Is-Risen-Today>

What flower appeared in the Garden of Gethsemane?

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/lent-quiz-why-do-we-use-lilies-as-a-symbol-of-easter>

The Easter Lily commemorates the resurrection of Christ and is believed to appear in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ's suffering.

What in nature is used as a symbol of Easter?

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/lent-quiz-what-in-nature-is-used-as-a-symbol-of-easter>

and <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/lent-quiz-what-in-nature-is-used-as-a-symbol-of-easter>
Lilies, Butterflies, Eggs, Lambs, & A nest with 4 blue speckled eggs sheltered within a hanging basket

Why is the Easter season fifty days long?

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/why-is-the-easter-season-fifty-days-long>

The initial purpose of the 50-day Easter season was to continue the faith formation of new Christians. Today, this extended season gives us time to rejoice and experience what it means when we say Christ is risen. Eastertide begins at sunset on the eve of Easter and ends on Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church (see Acts 2).

Have you ever seen an Easter Totem Pole?

<http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/easter-totem-pole>

From top to bottom, the Easter totem pole depicts:

10. RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION: The trifold hands represent the Trinity of Creator, Savior, and Holy Spirit.
9. RAVEN (Angel): Announces Christ's resurrection.
8. THE EMPTY TOMB: A crack across the bottom signifies an earthquake. The two Marys approach from the side, each with a labret in her lower lip, an ornament worn by ancient women of the Northwest Coast to signify high status in the community.
7. THE CRUCIFIXION: Jesus's crown is made of twisted devil's club stems, a plant native to Alaska. On the left, a set of beaver teeth dice lie atop a cedar-bark blanket, signifying that Jesus's executors gambled for his clothing. On the right, John, Jesus's mother, and Mary Magdalene weep.
6. PILATE: From the left, the mob yells, "Crucify him!" Chief Pilate washes his hands of the crowd's sentence. On the right, Jesus's hands are bound and he is whipped.
5. PETER'S DENIAL / WOLF: The howls of a wolf take the place of the rooster's crow.
4. JUDAS'S BETRAYAL: A necklace of thirty shells replaces the thirty pieces of silver. The arresting party presses in from the right with torches and knives.
3. THE CUP OF SORROWS (Gethsemane): Jesus's hands reach out to take the cup, while beside him his three closest disciples are asleep.
2. THE LAST SUPPER: Smoked salmon and berry juice replace the traditional bread and wine. After the meal, Jesus and his disciples sing a hymn to the accompaniment of a drum (at right).
1. JESUS WASHING THE DISCIPLES' FEET.



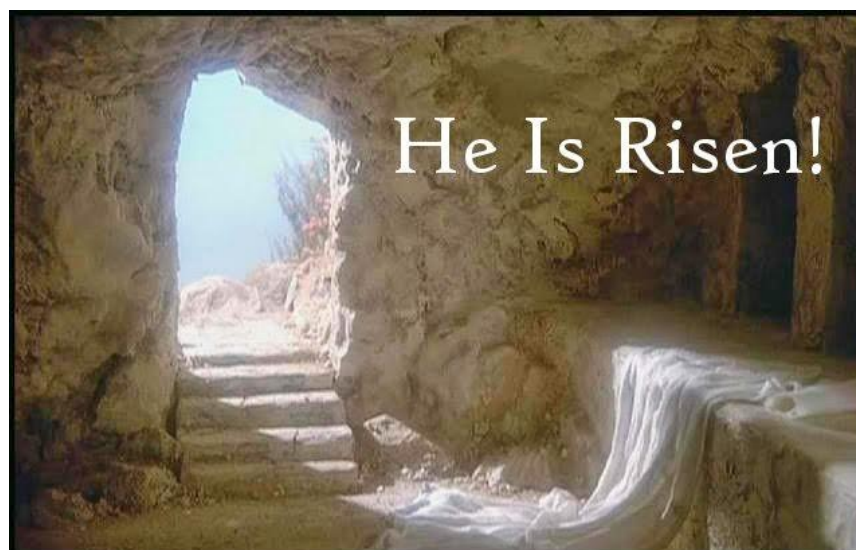
Easter Quiz

The story of the first Easter morning is told in all four of the Gospels but the story varies slightly in each version. Can you match the questions below with the book(s) of the Bible where they appear?

These questions are based on Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-11, Luke 24:1-12, & John 20:1-18 (NIV).
Answers to the Easter Quiz appear on the next page.

- _____ 1. In which books does it say that Mary Magdalene went to the tomb?
- _____ 2. In which book was there a violent earthquake as an angel rolled back the stone?
- _____ 3. How many angels were in the tomb?
- _____ 4. Which book says, "The guards were so afraid of [the angel] that they shook and became like dead men"?
- _____ 5. The angel(s) appear to the women directly in three books, but in which book do the women first run to tell the disciples, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"?
- _____ 6. Which book asks, "Why do you look for the living among the dead"?
- _____ 7. Which book says, "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said"?
- _____ 8. Which book says, "See the place where they laid him"?
- _____ 9. In which book does Mary think Jesus is a gardener until he says her name?
- _____ 10. Which disciples run to the tomb?
- _____ 11. Which books say "[Jesus] is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him"?
- _____ 12. In which books is Jesus our risen Lord?

Favored verses and insights appear in each of the Gospel stories, but together they confirm without a doubt that Jesus is our risen Lord! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!





Faith United Methodist Church



Becoming Disciples to Make Jesus Christ Known in the World

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Last month I included a “test” in the newsletter and am glad to report that two people passed the test. This newsletter is dedicated to Susan Davis and Cindy Robbins, who will soon receive ‘a little something’ in gratitude for their support! Thank you both!

Easter Quiz Answers

1. All of the above (Matthew also mentions “the other Mary”; Mark also mentions “Mary the mother of James, and Salome”; Luke also mentions “Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others”; and John only mentions Mary Magdalene).
2. Matthew (in Mark, Luke, and John, the stone had already been moved).
3. Matthew and Mark only mention one angel, but Luke and John talk about two angels. In Matthew the angel sat on the stone he had rolled away, but in the other three books the angels were inside the tomb.
4. Only Matthew mentions the guards. It goes on to say that chief priests gave the guards large sums of money and told them to say that Jesus’ disciples stole Jesus’ body while they slept;
5. John.
6. Luke.
7. Matthew.
8. Mark.
9. John. Mark and Luke do not mention Jesus speaking to Mary on Easter day. In Matthew the women knew Jesus, and they “clasped his feet and worshiped him.” In John Jesus told Mary, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”
10. According to Luke, only Peter ran to the tomb. According to John, Peter and “the other disciple, the one Jesus loved” ran to the tomb, “but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.” (Did John seriously forget the name of the disciple that Jesus loved???) Matthew does not mention any of the disciples going to the tomb. In Mark, the women “said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.”
11. Matthew and Mark. Luke and John do not mention this.
12. ALL OF THEM!!!!