



BEAVER BLESSINGS

April 2023



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

"Welcoming all with God's love, serving all in God's name as we all grow in faith together"

Beaver Memorial United Methodist Church · 42 South 3rd Street · Lewisburg · PA · 17837

www.beavermethodist.org · (570)524-0809



Sunday Morning Worship Services - 10:30 am
New Beginnings Adult Sunday School Class – 9:00 am

From Pastor Sue's Desk:

April is a jam packed month, beginning with April Fool's Day on the 1st, then Palm/Passion Sunday on the 2nd, and Easter on the 9th. So first things first. I hope you find the following as amusing as I did, and it sort of fits an April Fool's theme. The Washington Post's Style Invitational asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are some of the winners:

- Dopeler effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.
- Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.
- Glibido: All talk and no action.
- Hipatitis: Terminal coolness.
- Inoculatte: To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
- Intaxication: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.
- Karmageddon: It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.
- Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

Some of these words aptly describe what is happening in both the political and denominational arenas these days, particularly Dopeler and Glibido, in my humble opinion. As we look to the high Holy Days of the Christian year, let's hope that things get better soon. On Palm/Passion Sunday we begin by celebrating Jesus' being greeted with shouts of "Hosanna" as he entered into Jerusalem, welcoming and excited by his presence. We end with the trial of Jesus before the high priest, Caiaphas, because he challenged Roman authority. Caiaphas would not let Jesus get away with that, so had him taken to the governor, Pilate, and the punishment for this sedition was crucifixion. It may seem a bit premature to read this part of the story prior to Good Friday, but so many people go to church only on Sundays and not to the special midweek services during Holy Week that they miss the whole crucifixion story. To jump from the celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to the celebration of the resurrection without going through the pain of the crucifixion misses the crucial part of the story.

So as we move through the month of April, let us hope and pray that Karmageddon does not happen; that we get our taxes filed on time so we do not become Intoxicated; that no one sprays Girafitti on our building; that we are on time so not in need of Inoculatte; that we aren't the victim of Sarchasm; that we aren't participating in Glibido; that we don't succumb to the Dopeler effect; and that we absolutely have Hipatitis!!!

APRIL FEATURES

➤ A LOOK AT EASTER TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

United Methodists around the world celebrate Christ's Resurrection in many ways. People in a variety of countries were asked to share their traditions and here are some of their stories.

Zimbabwe

It is 3 a.m. on Easter Sunday 1980, and my mother, Mavis Mudambanuki, awakens me by knocking on the door of my room. Leaving my brothers asleep, I get dressed and meet her at the gate outside our home in Chipfatsura village, in Manicaland, Zimbabwe. In the dark, we trudge to Chegore village, seven miles away.

As we approach, my mother breaks into a familiar Easter song: "Christ is risen! Christ is risen! Hallelujah!" She knocks at the door of a home as she sings, and three women and a man join us with rattles and tambourines to augment the music. We go on to the next house, and as we move through the village, the procession grows.

Our party is making a joyful ruckus as we fill the road in Chegore village and head back to Chipfatsura United Methodist Church for a sunrise Easter service. Similar processions and vigils occur in other villages around the country. - Tafadzwa Mudambanuki

The Philippines

In the "Rice Bowl of the Philippines" — Nueva Ecija, about 60 miles north of Manila — Christians celebrate Easter before sunrise. Traditionally, around 4:30 a.m., local churches form clusters to celebrate Easter jointly. The people gather at the river, by the hill, by the rice field, in front of mountains or in the garden. Most walk to an appointed Easter celebration location.

"It gives a lot of significance and meaning when Easter is celebrated outside the church building," said the Rev. Remedios dela Cruz. "It gives a lot of meaning to our faith and fellowship."

Dela Cruz cherishes the memories of Easters celebrated by the river in Sicsican, Matanda Tavera. Easter-egg hunting, breakfast fellowship and group bonding, which included a plunge together into the river, following worship. A fellowship of indigenous United Methodists called Dumagats in Malinaw, Gabaldon, traditionally celebrate Easter by the river as well.

"We go down into the river. Dawn is the time when nothing is heard except the rush of the river," said Pastor Daryll Joe Medina. The Dumagats gather to observe an hour of silence, embracing the promise of new life as they witness the light of the sun.

Deaconess Rachel dela Cruz from the Canaan, Rizal, area believes that sunrise depicts the heralding of a new beginning because it brings new hope. - Gladys Mangiduyos

Germany

In Neuenhain, near Frankfurt, an empty wire mesh cross is placed in the sanctuary before the beginning of the Easter service. The wire mesh symbolizes coldness and aloofness, and the wire represents the pain Jesus Christ endured on the cross. Church members bring flowers.

In the early part of the service, the Easter celebrants place their flowers on the empty wire mesh cross and gradually fill it with flowers. Suddenly, the “cold” cross becomes alive with flowers full of life and conveying a message of hope. This great image sends a reverberating message that Jesus’ death is not the end. He gives us new life with God the Creator. Each flower demonstrates that through Christ’s death, people’s lives are not limited by death.

In the German tradition, the Easter cross reminds people of two truths in their culture. First, people are as diverse as flowers. They have different family backgrounds, and Christ would encourage us to appreciate diversity. Second, people should imagine the cross of Jesus. The flowers on the Easter cross point with all their brightness to Jesus. No one flower makes the cross unique; a plethora of flowers together makes Jesus visible. Similarly, because we are the body of Christ, our individual work pales unless we work collaboratively with other Christians to make a huge impact.

We further the agenda the Lord Jesus puts in our hearts when we live a life of faith and love. We should be billboards through which ordinary seekers discover Jesus by all our actions and witness.
- Cornelia Trick

Hungary

In the Obuda United Methodist tradition, we have an evening worship on Good Friday and share the Lord’s Supper.

At sunrise on Easter, 20 to 30 congregants walk up to an ancient stone cross on a hill rock depicting Calvary’s stations. We worship, read liturgy, stand in a circle, read Bible verses and pray together.

In most cases, when we celebrate Easter, it will be raining or foggy. The Easter event is an energizing one for (people of all ages). Together, we enjoy a prepared breakfast at the church. Easter services follow in the afternoon. - Kristóf Sztupkai

Poland

Traditional Easter celebrations, like Christmas celebrations, are old and elaborate and involve many preparations that are not unique to The United Methodist Church.

The Holy Week observance kicks off with Palm Sunday activities where participants wave branches and twigs to commemorate Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem. After the activities, the branches and the twigs are used for rites and for consecrating women at childbirth and sick domestic animals.

The community tolls church bells from Palm Sunday until Maundy Thursday in observance of Holy Communion. The participants then switch to rattles and clappers as instruments for their music. They light fires at crossroads so wayfarers and poor people can warm themselves during cold weather. They place hot meals at the crossroads so beggars can nourish themselves.

Good Friday marks the start of the vigil at symbolic tombs of Christ, which lasts until Holy Saturday. No animals are killed or bread baked, and the people cover all their mirrors because Good Friday is a special day of mourning. Paska, a special kind of bread, is prepared for Easter Sunday.

On Holy Saturday, services accompanied by processions commemorate the Resurrection. Inside the churches, priests sprinkle holy water on small baskets that believers bring and fill with paska, cakes, eggs, horseradish, sausages, ham, salt, pepper and tiny sugar lambs. The consecration of eggs refers to the egg as an ancient symbol of life. The consecration of horseradish refers to the bitterness of the passion of Jesus that, on the day of Resurrection, changed into joy and sweetness.

Sharing a boiled egg with one's relatives is a national tradition. A piece of egg with salt and pepper, consecrated by clergy, is essential in extending good wishes to others at Easter. Each household member also receives a piece of the consecrated bread. When spread with horseradish, the bread is supposed to protect against throat diseases and other illnesses.

Cakes are important ingredients of Easter breakfast. Gigantic "baby" cakes are made in different flavors — plain vanilla, saffron, almond, chocolate and lemon. "Mazurek" is a flat cake, usually on a pastry or a wafer, covered with a paste of nuts, almonds and cheese, colorfully iced and decorated with jam, nuts and raisins. People also add imaginative decorations, and artistic letters made of cream spell "Hallelujah," reflecting the joy of the Resurrection. - Wojtek Ostrowski

Malawi

Easter celebrations are not identical in all local churches. Each congregation celebrates in a unique way.

Easter revivals are common activities during the Easter weekend. Celebrations include choir performances, hymns and choruses all reflecting Easter. Dramas or skits from the youth groups portray the passion of Christ. A guest preacher or local pastor preaches during the Easter revivals.

Celebrations begin on Palm Sunday. Congregations march in a celebratory procession about five times in a Jericho fashion around the church, singing and dancing. Women ululate and men whistle as everyone carries small palm branches. This commemorates Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Congregations without church buildings mark this event in a different way. They march carrying palm branches around the villages toward their worship place, either under a tree or in a classroom.

Holy Communion is a central part of the Easter celebration. Usually, the service will last three to four hours. Afterward, a meal is provided to all. The Easter celebration unites people from various communities as they break bread together. People depart for their homes around 1 p.m., marking the end of celebrations. - Daniel Kabunduli

Zimbabwe

Easter activities vary from place to place in Zimbabwe, even in The United Methodist Church. In some communities, revivals are held throughout the week.

Maundy Thursday is of particular importance because of Holy Communion, which United Methodists in Zimbabwe believe is full of physical and spiritual benefits for the body of Christ.

Drama and healing sessions are central to Easter events. The missionaries who came to Zimbabwe popularized drama in teaching the Gospel, and I have seen people cry when they see the brutalized Jesus carrying a big cross toward Golgotha. I remember playing Peter's role as a boy, and this has stuck with me in adult life and strengthened my faith.

For many United Methodists in rural areas, this is the time to go to church every morning and evening for Stations of the Cross and prayers. For others, this is a time for reflection on Jesus' life, death and Resurrection.

Jesus said, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself" (John 12:32, NRSV). As Easter people, wherever we are in the global connection, we look to Jesus as the author and finisher of our faith.

Tafadzwa Mudambanuki, Senior Manager, Central Conference Relations, at United Methodist Communications, first wrote this article in 2014 and it was published April 16, 2014 (Interpreter Online/UMNS). The article was updated, with a video added, in March 2022.

BEAVER MINISTRIES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Beacon Free Shop

Great news continues for the Beacon Ministries Free Shop! Beacon was awarded \$4,500 from the Degenstein Foundation. This grant will allow Beacon to continue providing personal hygiene items to our neighbors in need. A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who donated to Beacon Shop. In addition to \$800 in donations, we received a \$1,000 prize giving randomly to a small non-profit!!!

Beacon was approved to participate in Raise the Region 2023 fund raising activities March 8-9. Donations received through Raise the Region have the opportunity to be 'matched' by available funds. We are using this first year to learn how we can be most successful with what Raise the Region has to offer. Next Beacon distribution will be Saturday, April 15, 2023 from 10am to 12noon.

United Youth Group

First Baptist Church of Lewisburg
Presents
**UNITED YOUTH GROUP
TRIVIA NIGHT**
May 5th 2023
Doors open at:
5:30pm
Game starts at:
6:00pm
American Legion
Post 182
in Lewisburg

It is a BYOD event
(Bring Your Own
Dinner). We will
have a Silent
Auction, cash bar
and baked goods
available for sale.

\$20 a seat or
\$150 for a table of 8

Contact Mindy Moore to
reserve your spot.
630-687-0943 or
unitedyouthlbg@gmail.com

Exercise Your Brain

Busy Beaver

Busy Beaver had an exciting month of March! We celebrated Read Across America week with fun activities and lots of Dr. Seuss books! Friday the 3rd we even celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday and enjoyed One Fish, Two Fish cupcakes. We had a good turnout for our fundraiser and profited \$525. The funds will be used towards some of the items we went over in our safety meeting. We also had a walkthrough of the First Baptist Church to ensure that we know where we are going in the event of an emergency.

April looks even more exciting as we prepare for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Wednesday April 5th. The parents help by filling Easter Eggs with little treats and then the children have a hunt on the playground. If it rains, we move the egg hunt to the Hall of all Peoples in the basement. We are already looking ahead to the summer months as we transition our newest group of Kindergarteners out of Busy Beaver. We have 7 total graduates this year. We will celebrate them in the month of August.

Kinderfolk

March didn't quite seem to come in like a lion, but more along the lines of a grouchy house cat. Either way, a gentle exit of a lamb is quite nice. For the month of April, Kinderfolk will be exploring the letters B, N, W, and C. Balloons, bunnies, and colorful Easter projects will fill our short week with the letter B. After our spring break, the children in the AM class will explore the wonders of the northern lights and night skies. Our Pre-K class will use a variety of mediums and textures to create their bird's nests. We will also have a glitter narwhal sighting among our N week. Our W week will be filled with waterlilies, waterfall, wishes, a few wiggle worms, and more wonderful works of art. The month of April will finish off with some adorable chicks, a few hermit crabs, collage cakes, carrots galore, and many more colorfully creative crafts!

We are filling up both our AM and PM classes for the 2023/2024 school year. There are a few spots still available in both classes, and we are very pleased with the interest we have received thus far for next year's enrollment. We have current Kinderfolk families, past Kinderfolk families, and new families from our wonderful community seeking preschool adventures for their children!

Union County Giving Closet

This ministry being housed at First Presbyterian Church, provides new and gently used clothing for children aged newborn through Grade 12, whose families are enrolled in the Eastern Union County Food Bank Program. They are looking for monetary contributions and donations of clothing/shoes/reusable bags/gift cards to local stores and also need volunteers. You can email them at ucgivingcloset@gmail.com or call 570-524-4419.

Join Our Tech Team!

If you would be willing to learn how to use the cameras on Sunday mornings, please let one of the tech team (Nick Persing, Todd Fogle, Deena Eberhart or Tim Taylor) know. They will train you and promise it is not difficult. Help us keep connected with those who are not able to join us in person on Sunday mornings.

Musicians/Vocalists Wanted!

If you would be willing to provide special music on occasion for Sunday worship, please let Pastor Sue or Brooke Persing know. We want to have a nice variety: vocal, instrumental, and combinations of those – we know there is talent among us. We are also looking for additional choir members! Choir rehearsal are held on Thursdays at 7:00PM in the Choir Room on the lower level.

We Have Convenient Methods of Giving!

Mail to Beaver Memorial at 42 S. 3rd St. Lewisburg, 17837
 drop into our Drop Box outside the office door or
 go to our website: www.beavermethodist.org and click on “Giving”.

Thank you!

EVENTS

The Grow and Equip Teams of the Susquehanna Conference are thrilled to offer three learning experiences in 2023 to help pastors and laity grow and be equipped to live into this new reality in which we find ourselves.

The second learning experience of the REFRESH series will be **Refresh Your Community by Seeing with God's Eyes**

Saturday, April 22, 2023, 9:00a-4:00p at The Journey Church, UMC (750 S 29th St, Harrisburg, PA 17111) Deadline to register for the second experience is Saturday, April 15, 2023.

- As we wrestle with our desire to be followers of Jesus who make more followers of Jesus, we must see the possibilities that are right around us.
- Topics will range from welcome and invitation, to recognizing the ways we can connect new people to new ways of following Jesus.
- We are especially pleased to have Michael Beck, from Fresh Expressions US, lead us with his vision for the future!

Part of our time with Michael Beck will be to discuss specifically how to create Fresh Expressions of church in a rural setting as well as in a plethora of other contexts. This event is open to everyone.

LEWISBURG ARTS FESTIVAL

April 29, 2023 10am to 5pm

Lewisburg’s beautiful Market Street provides the backdrop for the area’s premier juried-artist show. Artists’ booths featuring hand-crafted wares will delight your eye, while food vendors offering savory nibbles and tasty treats will tempt your taste buds. Free entertainment and activities for children of all ages will add to the fun.

Beaver Memorial will be hosting the Watering Hole again this year. Nick Persing is coordinating donations for the event, and we will need volunteers to help with all aspects on the day of the event to include setup, serving at the Watering Hole, take down and cleanup.

AT BEAVER MEMORIAL UMC			
Event	Day/Date	Time	Location
New Beginnings Adult Sunday School	Sunday	9:00 AM	Parsonage
NA Meeting	Monday	7:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
NA Meeting	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Fellowship Hall
Leadership Team Meetings	3 rd Tuesday of the month	6:30 PM	Fellowship Hall
AA Meeting	Saturday	7:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
Beacon Shop	3 rd Saturday of the month	10:00 AM	Beaver Memorial UMC
IN THE COMMUNITY			
Event	Day/Date	Time	Location
Pub Theology	3 rd Thursday of the month	6:00 PM	Bull Run Tap House

BMUMC Staff includes:

Position	Individual	Position	Individual
Administrative Assistant	Mindy Moore	Treasurer	Shirley Brough
Custodian	Greyson Leshar	Youth Group Director	Mindy Moore
Choir Director	Brooke Persing	Pianist	Ryan Hill
Busy Beaver Day Care Director	Charlene Reigle	Kinderfolk Preschool Director	Julia Umstead
Video Team	Nick Persing, Todd Fogle, Deena Eberhart, Timothy Taylor		
Leadership Team	Martha Root - croot@bucknell.edu Rev. Sue Jamison - sjamison@susumc.org Ralph Hibbs - rhibbs@windstream.net Patty Johnston - hoodj1973@ptd.net David Deibler-Gorman - dgorman@windstream.net Gabrielle Taylor – taylorfamily@ptd.net Heidi Gilmore – heidicgilmore@gmail.com Kathy McKibben – klmckibben@gmail.com Krystie Byrum – professorprmaven@gmail.com Chuck Root – croot@bucknell.edu Nick Persing – persing191983@gmail.com Travis Curry – traviseccurry@yahoo.com		

- Submit content for the newsletter to tlcinhisservice@yahoo.com by the 18th of the month prior to the newsletter.