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# The Flame

of Burns Memorial United Methodist Church

April 2023

On Fire for Christ

Issue Number 207

## From The Pastor

One of the most well-known and beautiful chapters of the Bible is 1 Corinthians 13, known as “the Love Chapter.” (Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy ...) Two chapters past this, is the less well known but hugely important chapter known as “the Resurrection Chapter.” In 1 Corinthians 15, the Apostle Paul lists witnesses to the resurrection (vs. 1-11), then proposes the hypothetical scenario, “what if Christ had not risen?” (vs. 12-19) But then at vs. 20 Paul answers this bleak hypothetical with these words,

**But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

In the rest of the chapter (vs. 21-58), Paul writes about the importance of the resurrection; addressing such questions as: “What kind of body will we have in our resurrection?”

Back to vs. 20. Paul calls Christ “the first fruits.” This is a special phrase for Paul as a Jewish man, and has special significance to Easter Sunday.

The Old Testament commanded the Jews to have three “first fruit” offerings during the year – early spring (barley), early summer (wheat), and early fall (fruits and nuts). The idea being that God provides for his people all through the year. And to cut from the very first of the harvest the of sheaf of barley, or wheat, or cluster of grapes and offer this first fruit to God was an act of faith. The message is that we are thankful for what God has provided and we trust that God will bless the rest of the harvest as well.

The first “first fruit” offering was to be offered on the first day of the week after the sabbath after Passover. Friends, this was the morning Jesus rose from the dead. So, Jesus was literally the “first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.” In Easter we celebrate and are thankful for the resurrection, all the while we know that in his resurrection is the promise that the whole harvest will come in. Jesus even has a parable comparing his people at the end of the age as “wheat gathered into his barn.” (Matthew 13:30) Friends, Jesus’ resurrection is the reason we too have hope. Charles Wesley, who along with his brother John founded the Methodist church, wrote of the resurrection in these words in 1739.

*Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia! Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia! Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!*

Grace & Peace, *Pastor John*



## HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES



### PALM SUNDAY

April 2 10:55 AM

Our children will be doing the parade of palms.



### MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 6 6:00 PM



### GOOD FRIDAY

April 7

Cross Walk 10:00 AM

Stations of the Cross Noon

(At St. Joseph Catholic Church)



### EASTER SUNDAY

April 9

Sunrise Service 7:00 AM

Breakfast 7:45 AM

Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 AM

Morning Worship 10:55 AM

*The Flame* Deadline: April 21st



FELLOWSHIP MEALS: BECAUSE FAMILIES EAT TOGETHER!

The Family Night Supper this month is April 26 at 6 PM. The menu is Fried Chicken, Home Made Macaroni & Cheese, Cabbage, Rolls, Dessert and Beverages. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 4-12, and children 3 and under are free. Please RSVP with the form in the bulletin or call the church office.



We are having a Fellowship Lunch following the Worship Service on Sunday, April 30. The meal is free, with participants asked to bring a side dish to share. The meat for the meal will be provided.

Thank You!

Dear Burns family and Friends,  
Thank you all so much for the prayers, calls and cards during and after my recent surgery. Your kindness meant so much to me. I am so blessed to be a part of such a loving and faith-filled congregation.  
Thank you and blessings, Fredda Jackson



Fifth Sunday Men’s Choir

April is a busy month! We have Holy Week activities and at the end of the month we have a Fifth Sunday! The UMM would like to remind the members of the Fifth Sunday Men’s Choir that it is April 30. Please be here at 10:15 AM to practice for the service. Thanks!

2023 Sweetheart Banquet

The largest dinner we have every year at Burns is the Sweetheart Banquet. On Monday night, February 27, around 85 people enjoyed the outstanding meal – steaks from Lanier’s Market (cut right from the side of beef, never frozen), along with baked potatoes, salad, cherry yum yum (and it was) and rolls. We were also blessed to have wonderful music from the Garden City Quartet. This year our UMM President Burles Johnson honored Mark Jackson as the MAN OF THE YEAR and a special award was given to Carl Adams for his many years of service. Many thanks to all the Methodist Men for putting on this great annual event!



Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH

RESURRECTION

H X J A P P O I N T E D T I M E I U L K  
V E H J W J T K P N T N K T U Q Q T P W  
R X A L E B Z Z T E V Z J B H I R O I K  
N G X V Y R W W N V J V M M G R T M N V  
R W H Y E R U K T M A R Y Z U U G B I F  
E L G C A N L S G B K C J Z A K O A C D  
B U S A I W V W A A P R Q A R P L D O Z  
N Z C K L I Z B I L R R C Q D F I N D V  
S V W E T I P U X H E D Q U S Q J M E F  
J F K F P B L T G O X M E P W C X P M H  
M D Q W N E G E Z Q L O Q N A W B R U J  
Y E S H U A R G E L G W F Z A D T I S H  
J P D P I L A T E G U T M L K E T E M Q  
H M V J Z M G Z W S O R O M A N P S E Z  
D Z D P M D I S C I P L E S V X K T S G  
W Z X G Q L K P N L T M G I D B Q F S U  
D A D A H U S O C U Y L R W O B I K I H  
S F J W F I R S T F R U I T S C L Q A M  
R I J T H O M A S N Y S F P M X L N H Q  
U U N L E A V E N E D B R E A D M Z H G

- PILATE

PRIEST

MARY

GARDEN

THOMAS

GUARDS
- MESSIAH

NICODEMUS

ROMAN

FIRST FRUITS

HEAVEN

JERUSALEM
- GALILEE

TOMB

UNLEAVENED BREAD

DISCIPLES

YESHUA

APPOINTED TIME

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