

You have come down to...

THE LAKESHORE



*Easter
Sunday*

APRIL 2021

PASTOR'S

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We've finished a good Lenten season. Congregational participation in worship has increased. As in the past our Ash Wednesday and Holy Week worship services were held on Sundays for more congregational involvement. I believe this helps us on the journey through Lent.

Our Family Education series, Theology Thursdays, was well attended. Entitled *Holy Living: A Youth Lenten Study*. The six week series taught us

- *Be holy—God invites us
- *Already holy—God enables us
- *Holy identity—We are set apart *from*
- *Holy belonging—We are set apart *with*
- *Holy purpose—We are set apart *for*
- *Holy Commitment—Invitation to commit to holy living

What made this series so special was that it truly was intergenerational. Our youth learned from the adults and the adults certainly learned from the youth. Please read the paper chain on the Easter tree and see what everyone's thoughts were.

In our culture many if not most consider Christmas the most important day of the Christian year. We must see the significance of Christmas in the light of all that follows, particularly The Resurrection, Easter. Christmas is the first in a series of celebrations. We have Christmas, Epiphany, the Baptism of Jesus the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple or the Purification of Mary, and the Transfiguration. These affirm for us the identity of Jesus as not only fully human but also fully divine. The intervening weeks between these celebrations focus on the remarkable vibrancy of Jesus' teaching and the relationships he

established with his disciples. These events anchor the church's reflection on the meaning of Jesus' life for our understanding of ourselves and of God and of the coming kingdom. Together these celebrations prepare us for the journey toward the cross and the empty tomb.

As the hymn *Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!* says: Yours is the glory, Resurrected One! Endless is the victory you over death have won. Angels clothed in radiance rolled the stone away; conquered is the grave in which your body lay. Yours is the glory, Resurrected One! Endless is the victory you over death have won.

Death is our last enemy to be overcome. Death no longer has power over us. We, Followers of the Way believe that Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and to all in the tombs, bestowing life!

Easter is just the first day. We continue to celebrate up to the Feast of the Ascension, 40 days from the Resurrection. Actually every Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection also known as the Lord's Day.

It is my prayer for all of you that the joy of the Resurrection will seep into your very being.

CHRIST IS RISEN!

CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED

Pastor David



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I hope this finds all doing well. If you have not already received your Covid Vaccine, I hope you will be getting it soon. This will help all of us and maybe we can return to some form of normal activity soon.

This year we will be having regular Easter Sunday services, not the “Drive-thru” type we had to have last year. Looking forward to seeing more in church in the near future. Now that Spring is officially here we can start looking forward to our worship services by the lake. Can't wait to get outdoors during the warmer months.

The Food Pantry is doing well. We have made a few changes to better serve people in need of food. We also are reaching out to former clients of the Reformation Lutheran Food Pantry and introducing our church to them so they know that they can still get food when the need is there. If anyone is interested in helping with the Food Bank, please contact Donna Finch or me. We can always use your help. It is a most worthwhile program. A big thank you goes out to Robbie Finch for his help us organize the stock and lifting boxes, etc.

Also make sure you check out the new Paper Towel Dispensers that were purchased and installed in the Ladies and Men's rooms. A big Thank you goes out Rev David and Mr Peter Herrin for installing them.

See you all in church on Sunday. Happy Easter!

Diana L. Kurzman

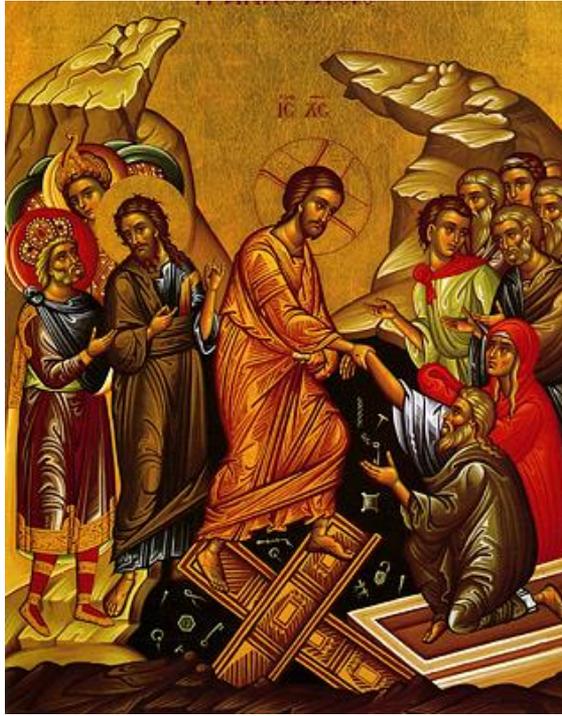


OUR GREATEST FEAST

On the Great and Holy Feast of Easter, Christians celebrate the life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. This feast of feasts is the holiest day in the life of the Church. It is a celebration of the defeat of death, as neither death itself nor the power of the grave could hold Jesus captive. In this victory that came through the Cross, Christ broke the bondage of sin, and offers us restoration, transformation, and eternal life. In John 17.3 we learn this about eternal life: “And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” Eternal life begins here in this world, living in constant communion with the living God.

The glorious and resplendent light emanating from the empty Tomb dispels the darkness of this world. Christ, risen from the dead, destroys the fortress of death. All of our human limitations are shown to be nothing. Death is swallowed up in victory and life is liberated. “For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.” (I Corinthians 15:21-22). Easter is the dawn of the new and unending day. The Resurrection constitutes the most radical and decisive deliverance of humankind. We are spiritual beings having a human experience.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is a fundamental truth of our Christian faith. It is the central experience and essential proclamation of the Christian Way of Life. It confirms the authenticity of Christ's remarkable earthly life and vindicates the truth of his teaching. It seals all his redemptive work: his life, the model of a life well lived; his compelling and unique teaching; his extraordinary works; and his awesome, life-creating death. Christ's Resurrection is a guarantee of our salvation. Together with his Ascension into the heavens it brings to perfection God's union with us for all eternity.



One of the most symbolic icons is of the Resurrection. In the center is Christ pulling Adam and Eve up from their tombs. The gates of the Realm of Death are broken and thrown down. Death, personified in human form is defeated, and bound hand and foot at the bottom of the scene. We recall the joyous words of St. Paul: “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” (1 Corinthians 15:55) - In the background stands some of the departed, so numerous they can not be depicted. Among them in the front of the multitude are some of the righteous dead, though now invigorated by the Resurrection. King David and his son Solomon are seen on the left wearing crowns. Near the center is John the Baptist. On the other side is Abel, the son of Adam and the first man to ever die. He wears a shepherds robe and has a cane. Many Icons of this subject depict large crowds with a few other recognizable prophets.

In our New Century Hymnal Hymn #245, *The Day of Resurrection* is written by John of Damascus in the 8th century. The following is Pastor David's translation. Here are four of the nine verses.

This is the day of the Resurrection, O people let us be enlightened. This Passover is the Passover of the Lord. From death to life Christ our God has brought us, singing a hymn of victory.

Come, let us drink a new drink, not miraculously drawn from a barren rock, but from the fountain of immortality, springing from the tomb of Christ in whom we are strengthened.

Let us arise at the break of dawn and instead of sweet myrrh offer a hymn to the Lord; and we shall see Christ the Sun of Righteousness who causes life to dawn for all.

This is the chosen and holy day, the first of sabbaths, the Queen and Lady, the Feast of Feasts and the Triumph of Triumphs, therefore let us bless Christ for all ages.



THE CHURCH MOUSE

Happy Easter to one and all. What a beautiful time of year knowing that we will soon see green trees, colorful flowers and warmer weather. It is also a time of spring cleaning indoors and outdoors. That is not so much fun.

A big hug goes out to Kelly Kinnaird for bringing in green carnations for St. Patrick's Day. Mine are still looking good and brighten up my day. The cookies Peter brought in are long gone. I shared them with my human relative that I live with. Happy Birthday to Karen Marsh, Sandie Besett, Judy DePasquale, Cheryl Henry and Darlene Tingsley.

Congratulations to Betsy Taylor on the birth of her granddaughter Grace Ellouise McGraw who was born on February 19.

Let Us Pray at this Glorious Easter Season Author Unknown
What better time or more beautiful season,
What greater occasion or more wonderful reason
To kneel down in prayer and thank God above
For Eternal Life-the Gift of His Love.
For in sending His Son to be crucified
He granted man life because His son died.
So at this glad season when there's joy everywhere
Let us meet our Redeemer at The Altar of Prayer.

Words of Wisdom: I haven't cut my hair since the quarantining started. I stepped on a scale for the first time in a while. Who knew that hair weighs so much.

Until next month,
T.C.M.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Flowers

Thank you to all who helped decorate the church for Easter!

Sandie Besett

in Memory of Loved ones & in Honor of friends, family, church

Penny Burgett

Judy DePasquale

In Memory of Husband Alfred

Kim DePasquale

In Honor of our church congregation

Rev David and Peter Herrin

In Memory of family & in Honor of our church family

Helen Karpoff

In Memory of beloved husband Walt

Diana Kurzawa

In Memory of Robert and Maude Hunscher

Karen Marsh

To the Glory of God

Robert Romano

In Memory of Kenny

Betsy Taylor

In Memory Alice & EJ Minck, Zella & Charles Minck, Addie & Brian Crum



Savers FUNDrive

Thanks to our members and the members of BSA Troop 1919 we collected slightly over 1,000 pounds of clothing. The money received will be equitably distributed to a) church general fund b) church food bank c) youth group d)BSA e)GSA. We are able to do this once a quarter. If there is anyone who would like to oversee this one more time this year, please let Pastor David know. The following helped to take it all to Savers: Jason Estvander, Donna Finch, Robby Finch, Terri Gaeta, Pastor David & Peter.



At the church. Robby hauling away!



The trolley at Savers going to be weighed!

Pastor David

Pastor David will be in Arizona for his father's 90th birthday. He's leaving on May 4 and will return on Ascension Day. We'll celebrate the Ascension the following Sunday.

Church Council Meeting

Sunday after worship, April 18. All are welcome. If you want something on the agenda, please let Diana Kurzawa know by April 11.

Theology Thursday—Adults & Youth

Acknowledging and celebrating the Resurrection of Christ is the most important aspect of our faith. Easter is the longest season of the church year, lasting fifty days until Pentecost (which means fifty in Greek). These seven weeks allow us to explore the depth of the meaning of the resurrection. On Thursday April 8,22,29 we'll have a class beginning at 6.30. This is a 3 session class. (It won't be held on the 15th)

Biblical Accounts of the Crucifixion (2 sessions). The Gospels do not present Jesus Christ's story in the exact same way. The slight and sometimes striking variations among them point to differences in their overarching perspectives on Jesus and his importance. The first session of this study explores the four Gospels' descriptions of the crucifixion. The second looks at language that the apostle Paul employs to understand what God accomplishes through Christ's death.

Four Accounts of Jesus' Resurrection (1 session). The account of Jesus' burial and resurrection is found in all four Gospels and mentioned by Paul. While all accounts affirm his resurrection, they differ in various degrees. What do Christians believe about these differences and what do we mean when we affirm that Jesus was raised from the dead?

The following 2 sessions will be held at another time:

Does God Demand Blood? (1 session). In this study for adults, we'll consider images of a vindictive, angry God who demands blood and suffering as the price of redemption and work toward resolving those images with the conviction that God is love.

The Meaning of Salvation (1 session). Have you ever been asked, "Are you saved?" This study explores the theological concept of salvation and looks at two models of Christian salvation: the conversionist and the gradualist.



STILL-SPEAKING DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Integrity

Rev Phiwa Langeni

All of God lives fully in Christ (even when Christ was on earth). And in him you have a full and true life. - Colossians 2:9-10a (ICB)

The word integrity has roots in the word integrate, which generally means to bring parts together into a whole. When we think of the word integrity, we sometimes default to the first definition given by our friends over at Merriam-Webster—“the quality of being honest and fair”—rather than the second definition in the same dictionary—“the state of being complete or whole.”

Living with integrity allows us to experience the peace and joy that emerge with overcoming dividedness in its many forms in our lives. It does not mean living without mistakes or bad decisions or struggles. It isn't easy to live with integrity, especially when we come face-to-face with parts of ourselves that are disappointing or not quite what we'd like.

Over the last few weeks of Lenten listening, I'm convinced that wholeness is God's desire for us. When we're whole, we're able to embrace and share the gifts we're given. Each and every day is an opportunity to actively live into who God continues to create us to be.

We're called to live with integrity, to bring forth all of who we are toward wholeness. So, let's be honest and fair with ourselves and with each other. Let's open up to how God is drawing us toward true integration within and among each self, attending to the divine presence embedded in every part of Creation.

Because to live a full life is to allow God to live fully in us.

Prayer—Deliver us from dividedness, internally and externally. Invite us fully into the beautiful struggle of living with integrity. Amen.

PRAYER CHAIN

The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective

James 5.16

Do not hesitate to call any member on the prayer chain with any request you may have. We are grateful for the opportunity to pray with and for you. God's blessing to you each day.

YOUR PRAYER PARTNERS

Betsy Taylor — 440.667.1533

Suellen Springer — 440.946.0915

Sandie Besett — 440.478.3349



It is both an honor and a privilege to minister in this way. We are here and always willing to add anyone or any need to our prayer list. Please know that all requests are confidential and are kept only within the chain unless the person requests otherwise. Never hesitate to call anyone on the chain with a request. It will always make the full circle. Your Praying People pray.

**APRIL WORSHIP &
SCRIPTURE READINGS
FROM THE LECTIONARY**



April 4—*Easter*

NOW WHAT?

1 Corinthians 15.1-11

Mark 16.1-8

April 11—*Thomas Sunday*

MARKS OF FAITH

1 John 1.1-2.2

John 20.19-31

April 18—*3rd Sunday of Easter*

CHRIST AMONG US

1 John 3.1-7

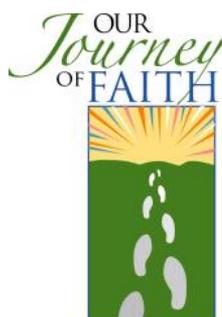
Luke 24.36b-48

April 25 —*4th Sunday of Easter*

ENFOLDED BY LOVE

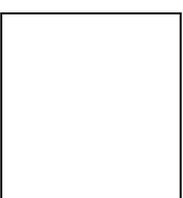
1 John 3.19-24

John 10.11-18

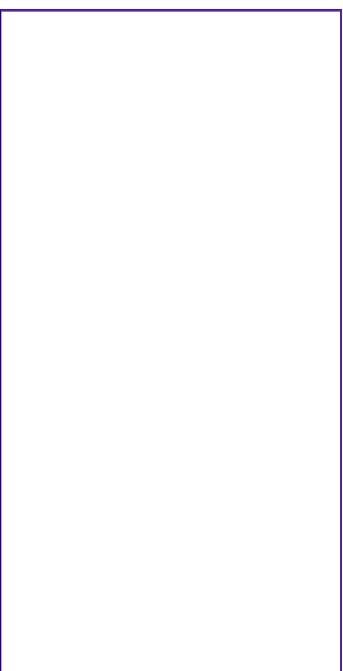


If you would like to have a pastoral visit in your home, or simply need to talk, please call Reverend David at the church office at 440.951.0291 or on his cell at 216.832.3453 or by email at pastorfirstucc@gmail.com. He will be pleased to meet with you.

THE LAKESHORE
First United Church of Christ
36721 Lake Shore Blvd Eastlake Ohio 44095



First Class Mail



**No matter who you are or where you are
in life's journey, you are welcome
and wanted here!
And we mean it!**

