

The Inman Informer

The Newsletter of Inman United Methodist Church
Fayetteville, GA 30215 April 2020



Journey to Easter

We are well on our way to Easter. In the next weeks, we will encounter two events in the life of Christ that will tempt us to stop our journey, build houses, and live in these events. We might think we have reached the end of the journey – and commonly as Christians, we act as we have through one of these events.

The first event is the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. The Lord will come riding into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey appearing as one of the kings of Rome or some other dignitary would: riding into the town amid shouts of joy and admiration claiming Jesus as our King, with palm branches laid in the path. It would be great to stop and live here, having Jesus as our earthly king, providing all our needs, and giving us relief from the things that cause us pain in this world. If so, Jesus would not be who he came to be, would he? Jesus did not come to build an earthly kingdom, as other kings in this world; he came to change the world. So, we can't rest beside an earthly kingdom no matter what we want.

The second event is a sad one - we will come to the cross of Jesus and be tempted to set up camp and live at the foot of the cross. We will want to rejoice in his taking away of our sins, not a bad place to hang out. We are tempted to see the cross as the be all end all of Jesus' work. While it is a center point for us, we have to remember that forgiveness with nothing else after is pointless. If we are forgiven but just hang out, it does not change anything. As much as we want to stay there as forgiven people, we must go further; we must live beyond the cross.

The last event is the one we celebrate the most and realize the consequences of the least. We come to Easter Sunday to celebrate an empty grave, a grave that has lost its battle to contain the life of humanity. We are not people of the cross but people of the empty tomb. This is where we stake our ground...not Jesus' death, but his resurrection. We often even get this wrong. The resurrection is not only about going to heaven when we die. Resurrection points us to live a life that reflects the life of Jesus, to live boldly, and to be the people of God by living without fear of doing the right thing for others. I am one of the most fearful persons I know. I worry about getting hurt. I worry about having enough money when I retire (I have a long time till that happens). I worry about my family. While it is very human to worry about these things, Jesus has opened the door to a life beyond these things. He has set us free from the temporal world by destroying our last and most fearsome enemy—death. I know this in my heart, but my mind forgets to focus on an empty tomb and sees the Roman soldiers standing around looking for someone to arrest for taking the body. This year I am going to focus on the emptiness of that grave and the way it teaches me how Jesus has overcome all the obstacles right here in this world. I will focus on his call to take up my cross, to embrace the means of my death, to make peace with it, and to come and follow Him regardless of my fear. Heaven is not the goal of our salvation; a changed world that fully relies on God is the goal. Heaven is the prize we receive.



Happy Easter, Pastor Tommy



Finance Committee

During this time of crisis, the Finance Committee is working closely with our Treasurer, Maggie Clarke and providing weekly finance reports and important updates to Rev. Tommy Ross, the Trustees, and the Staff Parish Relations Committee. We have temporarily reduced our estimated expenses to reflect a reduced budget that eliminates unnecessary expenditures at this time but does include staff payroll and related

expenses, utilities/similar operational expenses, basic administrative expenses, and church apportionments.

Given our current situation of online worship services only, passing the offering plate around on Sunday morning is obviously not an option right now. In place of that, however, we have 3 ways you can continue to bless the church with your offering:

Online - Go to our website at www.inmanmethodist.org. We have added a new link on our homepage that says, "CLICK HERE if you would like to submit your offering online."

Mail - You can mail your offering directly to the church.

(Please DO NOT send cash through the mail.)

Bring It To The Church - A secure mailbox that we are checking on a regular basis has been installed next to the office door. Simply stop by and leave your offering there.

We are thankful to everyone for all of their support and generosity during this time. We will be keeping you updated on our financial status through the weekly online service bulletin. Please don't hesitate to contact Linda Wagner at 770-861-0109 or Linda Price at 404-375-7205 if you have any questions. Thank you!

Happy April Fools Day! Don't get fooled today. Keep your eyes on what matters most - the love and hope of Jesus! I Corinthians 4:18 - "We fix our eyes not on what we see, but on the unseen!" We are in unprecedented times, when we can't lead the programs we've planned, we don't see each other on Sundays or Wednesdays, and we don't know what to do. You may have asked yourself, "What do I do now? I'd love to help."

We are still meeting on Wednesday night for Children's Department and Sunday night's for the Youth as we normally do except it is through Zoom. We will post updates on Facebook and the church website as well as send out weekly emails with things you can do as a family and what you need to be prepared for our Zoom meetings. It's a lot easier to get your friends to come when they don't have to leave their homes. I look forward to fellowshiping and learning with you. I miss each of you and your families and I'm praying for you all. See you soon!

Youth, we are still continuing our youth group at home study that is live-streamed on YouTube. You will be sent the link each Wednesday afternoon and the study begins at 8 p.m. Children, be on the lookout for links and fun ideas while we are apart.



Blessings, Dena

Prayer Practices

Lectio Divina: Praying the Scriptures

One of the most central and ancient practices of Christian prayer is Praying the Scriptures (Lectio Divina, or divine reading). When we Pray the Scriptures, we begin by reading a few verses of the Bible. We read unhurriedly so that we can listen for the message God has for us there. We stay alert to connections the Spirit may reveal between the passage and what is going on in our lives. We ask, "What are you saying to me today, Lord? What am I to hear in this story, parable, or prophecy?" Listening in this way requires patience and a willingness to let go of our own agendas and open ourselves to God's shaping.

Once we have heard a word that we know is meant for us, we are naturally drawn to prayer. From listening we move to speaking – perhaps in anguish, confession, or sorrow; perhaps in joy, praise, thanksgiving, or adoration; perhaps in anger, confusion, or hurt; perhaps in quiet confidence, trust, or surrender. Finally, after pouring out our heart to God, we come to rest simply and deeply in that wonderful, loving presence of God. Reading, reflecting, responding, and resting – this is the basic rhythm of divine reading.

Try Praying the Scriptures using these three steps:

- Pick out a portion of scripture (just a few verses is fine) and make some time for quiet. You'll read the verses three times, listening for a different thing each time.
- As you read the scripture this first time, listen for the word or phrase that leaps out at you. What word or phrase calls to you or sticks in your memory? As you hear the word, gently take it into your heart and silently recite or ponder the word during the silence.
- As you read the text this second time, meditate on the word or phrase that speaks to you. Let it interact with your thoughts, your hopes, your memories. Consider how the word or phrase is touching your life today.
- As you read the text this last time, consider how God is calling you forth into doing or being through this scripture. Allow God to use these words to touch you and shape you in your life today. Before you return to your activities, spend a few more moments in prayer and meditation. If you keep a journal, make some notes about this time apart. When you are finished, go in God's peace and love.

Trustees

Like most everything else, the Trustees workday that was scheduled in March had to be "postponed". Once things settle down, we will find another day to get together and work on some things around the church. Right now, we are taking care of routine projects such as cutting the grass and also facilitating more involved projects such as the cleaning and polishing of the pews in the sanctuary and choir loft and the waxing and polishing of the floors in the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen.

The Trustees will continue to monitor the grounds and facilities, take care of basic maintenance and upkeep issues, and work with church leadership to make the best decisions for the church that we can at this time. Until we can be together again, we hope you all continue to stay safe and well.



Updates & Announcements

At a time when the world around is rapidly changing, Christ remains the one constant. We may be worshipping in a completely new and different way right now, but we can still worship "together" through technology.

We held off sending out this edition of the Informer so we could make the best plans for Easter services that we could under the circumstances and those plans changed within a matter of hours. Until further notice, ALL worship services will be available online only and we are working to deliver the best possible worship experience we can through online methods.

Unless otherwise noted, ALL online worship services will be available at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Most of you are already receiving the link to these online worship services, via email and/or SMS text. If you are not getting them, please email membership-care@inmanmethodist.org:



Palm Sunday: We encourage everyone to send us a video or picture of you waving a "palm leaf" that we can add to the worship service video. We sent out samples to you yesterday via email. Please send videos to sound@inmanmethodist.org or to our Facebook page. Check our Facebook or your email for more info.

Holy Week: Pastor Tommy will be posting a brief message each day on our Facebook page. Please watch for these Sunday through Saturday.

Maundy Thursday: Pastor Tommy will be delivering a special message online.

Good Friday: Pastor Tommy will be delivering a special message online.



Holy Week

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m.: We will pre-record and offer an online "sunrise" service that will be available for viewing at 7:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday.



Easter Sunday 11:00 a.m. Service With Communion: We will be offering an online service and include Communion. Viewers are encouraged to have elements you can use to celebrate Communion in the comfort of your own home when you tune in to the service. We understand you may not have "traditional" Communion elements at home and that is fine. PLEASE, stay safe, stay home, and use items you already have on hand.



Decorating of the Cross: We want everyone to stay safe and stay at home and therefore we will not be decorating the cross for Easter this year. We are really going to miss all of the beautiful pictures of you in front of the cross. We would love it if you were able to still do family pictures outside your home in front of flowering trees or bushes. You can share those pictures in email to sound@inmanmethodist.org or on our Facebook page and we will look to include them in the worship service.

FOR ALL ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

we encourage you to continue to send your prayer concerns and praises to be lifted up during the service. Please email them to membership-care@inmanmethodist.org.

ONLINE GREETINGS: We want to see you! We are all missing our church friends and we encourage you to send us a picture or short video of yourself saying hello. Don't like to be on camera? Send us a picture of something that is bringing you joy right now - a favorite pet or perhaps some spring flowers, for example. Please send photos/videos to sound@inmanmethodist.org or to our Facebook page.



ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

Our Prayers

For healing from health concerns

Jayne Akeman
Carlos Allen (Gloria Reid's brother)
Angus Anderson
Sara Ballard
Roger Barnhill
Michael Barb
Ray Barday (Charles Cox)
Liz Beardon (Judy Becco's sister)
Gene Benton (Sandy Mathis)
Glenda Berman (Dixie Berner)
Jack Brannon (Jeff Wedge)
Henry Cawthorn
Darleen Cornelison
Kay Cox
Lane Cox (Lyn Wheeler)
Madge Cox
Karen Glessner (Kay Cox)
Brenda Harp
Nicole Henry
Paula Hicks
John Kozisek
Zena Locke (Jeff Wedge)
Tammy Mardies (Mary Jane Fortner)
Tommy Mask
Karen Millman
Sara Jane Overstreet
Eugene Pritchard
Gloria Reid
Miriam Schmidt
Scott Smith (Melanie Wagner)
Jane St. Amour
Claire Starkey
Roger Starkey
Katy Swanger
Marvin Tidwell
Lee Wagner (Brad Wagner's father)
Luz Webster (Gloria Reid)
Jeff Wedge
Rhonda Wheeler (George & Lynn Wheeler)
Kathey Young

For healing from cancer

Ben Akeman
Roger Allgood
Tim Barnes
Gail Bloomer
David Booth (Martha Kozisek)
Brandon Brown (Claire Starkey)
John Bullard
Tim Casteel (Dena Anderson)
Jackie Clayburn
Nancy Cox (Cox's sister-in-law)
Walter Delia (Martha Kozisek)
Dan Dudley (Pat Pratt)
Mary Lee Giddings
Bill Haleday
Sig Hall (Ed Roehm)
Katie Hart (Arthur & Terrie Hart)
Leigh Hawkins
Daniel Houghton (Martha Kozisek)
JL Houze (Charles Cox)
Burl Hurley
Jean Jones (Nancy Allgood)
Luke Key (Mary Jane Fortner)
Matt Kirkindall
David Lowe (Martha Kozisek)
Agnes McChargue
Kay Robertson (Karen Millman)
Katie Schmidt (Brenda Schachle)
Joey Shelton (Deborah Morris)
Bobby Smith (Tammy Cox)
Ann Talant (Caroline Akeman)
Brent Taylor (Jim & Karen Blue)
Earl Terry (Charles Cox)
George Wheeler
Bobby Williams (Rick Minter)
Louise Woods (Ann Hembree)
Kay Young (Forrest & Sara Ballard)

Other Concerns

For the children/youth programs of Inman
Unspoken prayers of the congregation

The **Informer** is a publication of
Inman United Methodist Church
151 Hills Bridge Road
Fayetteville, GA 30215
(770) 461-2123 www.inmanmethodist.org



United Methodist Women

Thank you to the members of our Church for supporting our mission in providing Easter baskets for the children in DFCS. Unfortunately, at this time, we will not be able to deliver them to DFCS due to the Coronavirus. You can bring your baskets back to the church when we are able to resume our activities at church.

Our next meeting is currently scheduled for May 19th. I found this devotion in "Jesus Calling" that has helped me with all that is going on in our lives today and wanted to share it with you.

I AM TAKING CARE OF YOU.

Trust Me at all times. Trust Me in all circumstances. Trust Me with all your heart. When you are weary and everything seems to be going wrong, you can still utter these four words: "I trust You, Jesus." By doing so, you release matters into My control, and you fall back into the security of My everlasting arms.

Before you arise from your bed in the morning, I have already arranged the events of your day. Every day provides many opportunities for you to learn My ways and grow closer to Me. Signs of My Presence brighten even the dullest day when you have eyes that really see. Search for Me as for hidden treasure. I will be found by you.

Please stay safe my dear friends.

Blessings,

Joni Janssen, President



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Jolynn Stevens, Director of Music

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BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Joanne Minter	04/06
Griffin Lunceford	04/10
Joni Janssen	04/11
Luke Allen	04/12
Aidan Pitts	04/18
Sharon Price	04/18
Jean Allen	04/23
Ed Roehm	04/23
Katy Fowler	04/26

If you see that a birthday is missing, please notify the church office so that we can make the correction in our records.