

The Hilltopper



May 2022

From Pastor Mike

“Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

As Easter has fallen this year all our May Sundays will be in the Easter Season. I don't know if you have noticed but these Sundays are called, “Sundays of Easter” as opposed to other seasons, such as Lent where we had “Sundays in Lent” or even Epiphany where we had “Sundays after Epiphany.” What's the difference?

Well, for Epiphany we are counting the Sundays as they relate to Who Jesus is. He was revealed as the Christ Child to Simeon on Epiphany and the Sundays after Epiphany helps us know Who He is. The Sundays in Lent are there to help us see the “why” of Jesus coming into our world. Lent is about introspection and repentance so that we might desire the forgiveness and life Jesus earned for us in His suffering, death, and resurrection. But the Lenten season gets a bit heavy, so the Sundays of that Season are not a part of Lent, they simply fall within the bounds of Lent. Sundays are to be a time when we especially hear the good news of Jesus as God's answer to our great need. So those Sundays fall “in” Lent but are not “of” Lent.

But what about Easter? Those Sundays are a bit different. Each of the Sundays focuses on God's great mercy shown in Jesus' resurrection. They even begin to look beyond the Easter event to Jesus' glorious reign as Lord and King of all heaven and earth. As St. Paul assures us in 1st Corinthians 15, because Jesus has been raised from the dead we have hope and assurance that we too shall be raised through faith in Him.

Each Sunday the readings look at Jesus' resurrection and what that means for us. The Sundays continue the great Good News Jesus resurrection on Easter morning. And the season continues including Ascension Day, 40 days after Easter when Jesus ascended before his disciples into heaven, and the Day of Pentecost, 50 days after Easter when the promised Holy Spirit arrived to empower the early Church.

The fact is, all Sundays throughout the Church Year are intended to be “little Easters” in some way. They are to overflow with God's mercy delivered to us in Christ our Lord. We are to hear the Gospel message repeatedly, recounting what Jesus has done to pay for our sins. We are to repentantly come before our Lord each week and receive from Him the good gifts He offers, gifts of forgiveness and life received in Word and Sacrament.

That's what the Sundays of Easter are all about. “He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!” as the old hymn goes. And because He lives, we too shall live. These Sundays are special days, filled with great joy as we confess the reality of the resurrection together.

“Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Mike

Easter Sunday 2022



***Thanks to everyone
for making
Easter Sunday
memorable for
all of us!***



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

(bulletindigest.com/2022/04/29/happy-mothers-day)

In the passage on “the worthy woman,” it is noted, “Her children rise up and bless her” (Proverbs 31:28a). The King James Version expresses the thought this way: “Her children arise up, and call her blessed.”

Mothers are special. In a Peanuts comic strip, Charlie Brown said, “Everyone needs someone to love them, trust them, care for them, support them, laugh and cry with them.” Lucy responded, “That’s a lot of people.” Then Snoopy added, “Or one wonderful mother.” Most of us could rise up and call our mothers blessed.

In Luke 1 we are encouraged to call someone else’s mother blessed. In verse 42 Elizabeth said to a mother-to-be: “Blessed are you among women.” In verse 48 the woman replied, “For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed.” The passage speaks of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

All mothers are blessed, but Mary was especially blessed. Of all the Jewish women living at that time, God chose her to be the mother of His Son. Consider just a few of the many reasons that made Mary so special:

- She was a godly woman (Luke 1:30).
- She believed in God—and His power (Luke 1:31-33).
- She had a humble spirit (Luke 1:38, 48).
- She was submissive to the will of God (Luke 1:38).
- She knew the Scriptures (Luke 1:46-49).
- She was brave and courageous (Luke 2:25-35).
- She was willing to accept responsibility (Luke 2:41-51).
- She expressed confidence in her son (John 2:3-5).
- She was faithful to her task to the end (John 19:25-27).



To all our mothers, thank you for your love, devotion, example, encouragement and unending selflessness. May all our children rise up and call you blessed!



The following are the minutes from the **APRIL** meeting of the Church Council. The minutes are available for you to help the entire church family Stay In The Know about how this group is caring for New Hope UMC!

Church Council Meeting Minutes - April 28, 2022

Present: Kevin Armstrong, Alicia Copeland, Cindy Deavers, Pastor Mike, Bruce Rogers, Cindy Sheets, Jennifer Strother and Dallas VanLear

The meeting was called to order by chairman Dallas VanLear, with devotions and prayer by Bruce Rogers.

The minutes from the March meeting were accepted as distributed.

Finance Report: *(Kevin Armstrong reported)*

- We are 33% through the year and we have received 28% of our planned budget.
- Kevin recommended that we pay 75% of our apportionments for the month.
- We have 1 audit outstanding and then everything will be complete.

Treasurer's Report: *(Cindy Deavers reported)*

- All of our bills have been paid through today. Everything is paid up, except the apportionments for this month. (Which will be paid asap.) The last fuel bill was \$1,200.
- The New Hope Volunteer Fire Department is looking for sponsorship for their upcoming Lawn Party later this summer. Some discussion was had about whether to take out a sponsorship or not. It was suggested that we, as the church, donate \$100. And Bruce will go to the United Methodist Men about donating another \$100, and \$50 will be given personally. Bruce made a motion for the church to give \$100. Kevin seconded the motion and it was passed by all.
- A question was asked about who is in charge of the Cemetery Fund now. Some money got put in the General Fund that was intended for the Cemetery Fund, but that mistake was discovered and it has been taken care of and the money has been moved to the Cemetery Fund. Pastor Mike stated that Teresa Barr is now in charge of the Cemetery Fund and is keeping the records for that.

- Earlier in the meeting, it was recommended after some discussion, not to renew our subscription to CCLI, Christian Copyright Licensing International, which allows us licensing of movies that can be used and played during Worship and/or other onsite church events. The cost of this service is \$256 a year, and we decided that we do not need this service at this time, so it will not be renewed.

Trustees: *(Pastor Mike reported)*

- Their next meeting is in May.

Pastor's Report: *(Pastor Mike reported)*

- Thanked everyone for a wonderful Easter Service, a wonderful Easter Sunrise Service, and breakfast. Thanked the United Methodist Men for the wonderful breakfast. Everything was wonderful from the Scavenger Hunt and everything in between.
- Volunteers for Sunday Worship Service are coming along. We need a few more acolytes, right now we have 2-3 that we can count on. We have plenty of Lay Readers. Could use a few more for the Children's Message. Kim Maugans is taking care of the Ushers. Don't know what to do about the Nursery Workers. We don't necessarily need anyone in there now, but we need to have some people who will be available when we do need people in the nursery.
- When it comes to the disaffiliation of the UMC. The new denomination will begin on May 2nd. We need to be patient and see how it plays out. And we need to wait and see what procedures will be set in place for a possible disaffiliation process, unless we decide to stay with the UMC. Pastor Mike advised us to remain patient, gather information, and pray about the situation..

Spiritual Nurture: *(Jennifer Strother reported)*

- There will be an upcoming Potato Bar to help fundraise for Sandy Wyrick's upcoming surgery. More details will be forthcoming.

Worship: *(Alicia Copeland reported)*

- Handbells and Sanctuary Choir practice will be starting the first week of May. Along with the Wednesday evening practices, there will also be Tuesday afternoon practices offered. So, all who are interested can come to either the Tuesday or Wednesday practice each week. The goal will be to have the Sanctuary Choir sing on the first Sunday of each month, and the remaining Sundays will be filled by the Handbell Choir and Soloists, etc. for Special Music.

United Methodist Men: *(Bruce Rogers reported)*

- The Easter Sunrise Breakfast went well and we had approximately 35 people. It was an excellent meal and had a good flow.
- May 8th is United Methodist's Men Sunday, Kim Maugans will act as the Lay Leader, and John Morse will be delivering the message. And the Men's Choir will be singing with Brian Stout accompanying.

United Methodist Women: *(report from Wanda Harding)*

- On Monday, May 2nd @ 7:00pm - the Circle of Hope meets
- On Tuesday, May 3rd @ 1:30pm - the Sisters of Faith meets
- On Tuesday, May 10th @ 7:00pm - the Circle of Love meets

- The District UMW meeting will be on Thursday, May 12th @ 6:30pm at Mission Central.

- The VA Conference UMW Spiritual Life Retreat *(by Zoom)* is Saturday, May 14th from 9:00am - 12:30pm.

- Saturday, May 14th @ 11:00am is the Ladies Brunch for all ladies and guests. This is a covered dish event.

- The National UMW Assembly is going to be May 20th-22nd in Orlando Florida. It will also be available by Zoom.

- The Kits for Conference can be delivered from May 9th - June 7th to Mt. Tabor UMC. They will be accepting:
 - Cleaning Buckets
 - Hygiene Kits
 - School Kits
 - Canned Items

- Printed copies of the Church Directory are available in the Narthex.

Staff/Parish Relations: *(Pastor Mike reported)*

- The next meeting will be the last week of May.

Lay Leader: *(Jennifer Strother reported)*

- Pleased to see people stepping up to participate in the Worship Service. It's important that we all have a hand in the service.

Communications: *(Cindy Sheets reported)*

- We will be going back to the old format style of the weekly church bulletin starting Sunday, May 1st. If you have any announcements or events to be included in the bulletin, please contact Cindy Sheets.

Dallas ended the meeting by thanking everyone for their time and efforts to make our church a success. Pastor Mike sent us off with prayer. The meeting ended at 7:31pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Cynthia Sheets
Recording Secretary

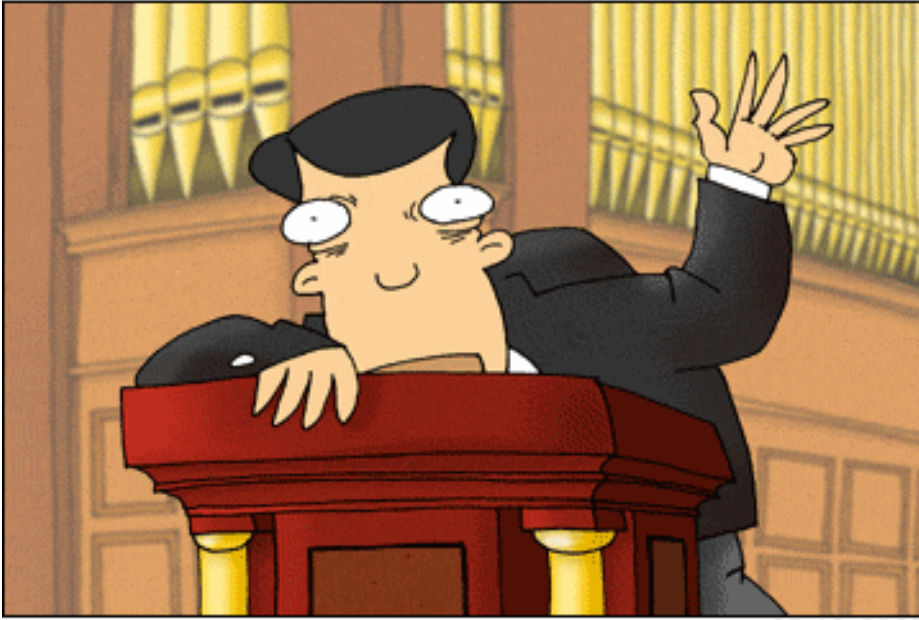


We will resume music ministry rehearsals the first week of May!

Rehearsals will be between 30 minutes and 45 minutes.
Each week, we will prepare the music for upcoming services.

Tuesdays: 1:30pm - Handbells Practice
2:15pm - Sanctuary Choir Practice

Wednesdays: 5:00pm - Children's Choir
5:45pm - Handbells Practice
6:30pm - Sanctuary Choir Practice



05-10-2005

THE TITLE OF THIS WEEK'S SERMON IS "I JUST SPENT ALL WEEK WORKING ON A SERMON AND I GOT NOTHING"

Forgiveness

A Sunday School teacher had just concluded her lesson and wanted to make sure she had made her point. She said, "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?"

There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy spoke up. "Sin," he said.

Just For Laughs

. The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose.

Mosquitoes come close, though.

What kind of car would Jesus drive?

A Christler.



NHUMC – United Methodist Men (UMM)
Minutes from the meeting on April 21, 2022

The meeting was conducted by President Kim Maugans. There were 11 members present. Darryl Deavers, Jeff Hitt, Jarman Fretwell, Kenny Fretwell, Bill Lalla, Kim Maugans, John Morse, Pastor Mike Reaves, Bruce Rogers, Jack Walker and Dallas VanLear.

Devotions were provided by Bill Lalla.
A wonderful meal was served by a combined group of ladies from the Circles.



PROGRAM: There was no program scheduled for the meeting.

MINUTES: The minutes for the last scheduled meeting on March 17, 2022 had been sent to all members for their review. There being no questions, the minutes were approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report was given by Kenny Fretwell. It includes all expenses and revenue since our last meeting. A copy of his report is part of these minutes.

Checking: \$1,523.34 + **Savings:** \$2,224.42 = **Total: \$3,747.76**

OLD BUSINESS: Corey Johnson will continue to develop programs of interest to our members. He has a representative from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) lined up to speak during our May meeting. The Revenue Committee of Jack Walker, Bill Lalla, Darryl Deavers, and Kim Maugans needs to meet again and move forward. Bill Lalla has agreed to coordinate the activities of the Committee. Susan Mehler will represent the UMM and be part of the Committee. The Committee will meet again in the coming weeks.

Clean-up around the parsonage and church looks great. A mission project to help Shirley Western was also completed. Thanks to Darryl Deavers for coordinating these efforts and everyone who participated.

Easter Sunrise Service Breakfast was a huge success. We had 35 people join us for breakfast. Thanks to Dallas VanLear for coordinating the effort and everyone who participated.

UMM Sunday will be May 8 (Mother's Day). John Morse will bring the message; Kim Maugans will be Lay Leader; other UMM members will be involved in the Service. The Men's Chorus (accompanied by Brian Stout) will be part of the program. Flowers have been ordered to be distributed to the ladies on Mother's Day.

Darryl Deavers will check out why the dishwasher heater is not functioning properly and will report to the Trustees.

NEW BUSINESS: The ladies of the church were asked about their interest in having a Ladies Night during May. Based on their feedback, we will not have a Ladies Night in May. We will consider it again in the Fall. After some discussion, a motion (B. Rogers/J. Morse) was made to donate \$200 to support programs for the youth of our church. The motion was passed.

Jack Walker agreed to do an internal audit of the UMM accounts.

There was a discussion about having work nights during the Summer. We can coordinate with the Trustees about projects for the church. It is an opportunity to continue our fellowship during the Summer months. We will discuss this further during our May meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned after a prayer by Pastor Mike Reaves.
Respectfully prepared and submitted by Bruce Rogers, Secretary.

NEXT MEETING: 6:30 PM, Thursday, May 19, 2022.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 - Jarman Fretwell

3 - Francis Stout

5 - Linda Howdyshell


6 - Lindsay Bell
- Kevin McLaren
- Chad Deavers

7 - Jerry Coffman
- Deborah Umidi

8 - Teresa Hester

9 - Keith Stogdale

10 - Melissa Fretwell

12 - Abby Killough
 - Corey & Sandy Johnson

13 - Patrick Gruber

14 - Kimberly Campbell

15 - Cheryl Kutz

16 - Pam VanLear

18 - Nancy Hutchinson
- Laura Shiflett

19 - Michael Shreckhise

22 - Randall Herman


 - Mike & Roxann Canipe


23 - Michaela Craun
- Alden Hough
- Michael Sundeen

 - Debbie & Sam Arnold

26 - Candi Dunlap
- Betty Selmon

27 - Patty Morris
- Jason Pace

28 - Jeremy Kraisser
 - Mark & Robin Craun

 - Jim & Betty Gruber

29 - Samantha Brensinger
- Steve Morris
- David Taylor

30 - Jeff Bosserman

 - Martha & Jarman Fretwell

31 - Carolyn Steele

Kids' Corner - Jesus Is Alive

By: Sharla Guenther



After Jesus died, a man named Joseph (from a place called Arimathea) put Jesus in His tomb that nobody had ever used. The tombs they used then were cut out of rock, almost like a cave, they weren't buried deep in the ground like they are now. Before Joseph left, he and some men rolled a large heavy stone in front of the tomb.

Mary and Mary Magdalene had waited a day to see Jesus because they couldn't go on the Sabbath (which was a day of rest). They made spices and oils as a sign of respect to Jesus and went very early Sunday morning to go see Jesus' body.

As they were just about at the tomb, the earth suddenly shook and an angel came down from heaven. He easily rolled away the stone at the entrance of the tomb and sat on top of it.

The women looked at each other and rubbed their eyes since they couldn't believe what they had seen -- plus it was very early in the morning, and they were still a little sleepy. The angel was so bright -- almost as bright as lightning! His clothes were as white as snow.

There had been guards watching the tomb so no one would steal Jesus' body. When they saw the angel, they fell over and they couldn't move or speak because they were so afraid.

Then the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus who has died. But He isn't here; He has risen just as He said He would! Come and see for yourself, the tomb is empty."

The women were confused. How could this happen? They were sure Jesus had died, and now He was alive? They looked in the tomb and the clothes Jesus had been wrapped in were lying on the ground; the tomb was empty. Then the angel spoke again, "If you want to find Jesus He's on his way to Galilee."

So the women hurried away, They were laughing and crying at the same time. They didn't know what to feel; they had been so sad that Jesus was dead and now they were so excited that He was alive! They just knew they had to find Jesus, and they had to tell the disciples the good news.

As they were running down the path, they turned a corner, and there was Jesus. "Greetings," He said. The ladies fell at His feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my disciples to come to Galilee. That is where they will see me."

The disciples came to Galilee, having heard by this time that Jesus was alive. They were sitting around talking about it when Jesus walked into the room and said to them, "Peace be with you." The disciples immediately stopped talking. Even though they had heard He was alive, they were shocked to see Him standing there with them.

Jesus said to them, "Why do you look at me like you've just seen a ghost? Why don't you believe what you're seeing? Look at the scars in my hands and feet. It is really me! Touch me and see, I am not a ghost but a real person."

The disciple's mouths were open in amazement because they still didn't know what to think. They were so full of joy, and yet it was so impossible. Jesus understood what they were thinking, so He said, "This is what I told you would happen, that everything must happen that has already been written in the Bible."

Jesus had told the disciples when they had the Last Supper together; they took the bread at communion and Jesus said, "this is my body which I have given to you..." but the disciples hadn't understood what it really meant.

Then Jesus told them, "You have seen these things that have happened, so stay in the city and soon I am going to give you what God has promised you: the Holy Spirit.

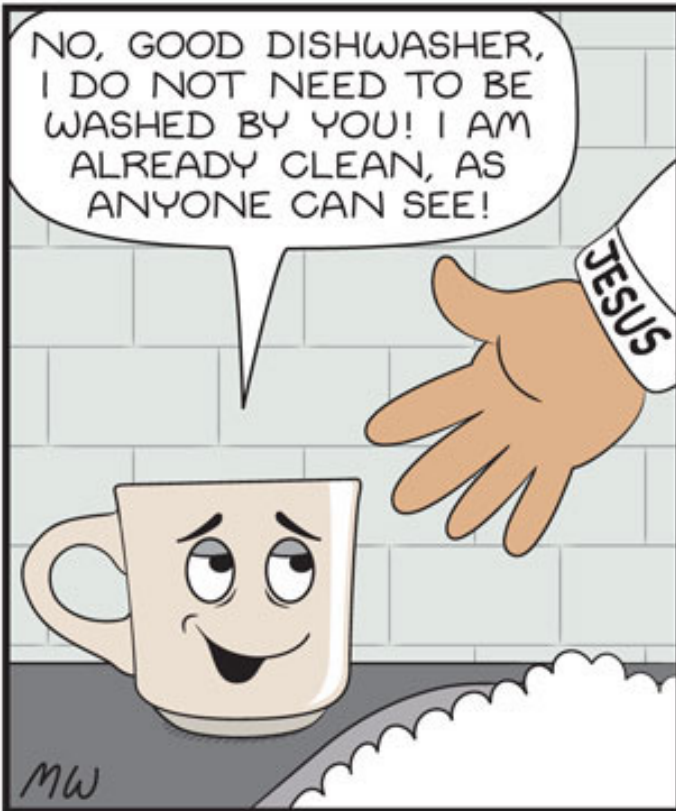
When we become Christians, Jesus automatically gives us the Holy Spirit to live inside of us. The Holy Spirit makes us know when we have done something wrong. We might feel sick to our stomach, or just get a bad feeling but that is the Holy Spirit reminding us that we are doing something wrong, or that we need to stop and say sorry and ask for forgiveness for what we've done.

The story is almost done, but Jesus had one more person to see. His name was Thomas, and he was one of the disciples that wasn't there when Jesus met with them. Thomas had also heard that Jesus was alive, but would not believe until he saw Jesus with his own eyes. A week later when Thomas finally saw Jesus, Jesus said to him, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Stop doubting and believe." But Jesus continued, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; but it is more amazing for those who don't see me, and believe anyway."

It's really neat, but Jesus was actually talking to us when He said this. If you believe in Him, without seeing Him, He will think you're very special! That is exactly what faith is: believing in God even though you can't see Him.

DISHWASHER

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

- MATTHEW 23:25 NIV

If you would like to add an article or announcement to the Hilltopper, please contact us! Call/Text: (540) 280-1860 or NewHopeUMC.Virginia@gmail.com

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