



OCUM Church Newsletter

April 9, 2020

Dear friends and family of OCUMC:

After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ~ From John 13

The disciples were undoubtedly shocked and amazed when Jesus took up the basin and the towel and began to wash their feet. He was their master! He was their Lord! Foot washing is just not something that masters do. Imagine your surprise if you saw the President of the United States shining someone's shoes. What would you think if you saw the Queen of England giving someone a pedicure?



When he was done, he told them why. "I'm setting an example for you," he said. "You also should do what I have done to you." We call it Maundy Thursday because he "mandated" that we love one another.

The disciples were special. Jesus, however, did not call them from the crowds of farmers and fishermen so that they would enjoy a greater status. Jesus called them to serve, to carry on his ministry of loving people after he departs. And we can almost hear the disciples asking, "What in the world are we going to do?"

I remember a new father of a newborn son at the hospital. This was his first kid. And the nurse put the bundle of joy into this terrified man's arms. He had the look of panic. He asked the nurse, "What in the world am I supposed to do?" And the nurse responded back, "Just love him."

I think that's really Jesus' message to his disciples, too. He's preparing them for a time when he will no longer be with them, and they'll be the ones doing ministry. They'll be the ones standing in front of the crowds of people, staring right into the faces of sinners of all shapes and sizes, all suffering from their own brokenness and longing to be whole people. The disciples without Jesus will have plenty of those "What in the world are we going to

do?" moments. But then they will remember Jesus, with his wash basin and towel. They'll remember his example of how he expects them to treat other people. It's like he's saying, "See? It's simple. I'm sending you out into the world, into those crowds of people from whom I called you. Your job? Just love them."

In these Pandemic times, the question that keeps coming up in my mind is, "What are we supposed to do?" We can't do ministry in the same way right now. There are people who are fine. There are people who are not-so-fine. Or sick. Or laid off. Or hurting. You may find yourself wondering... What in the world are we going to do?

And once again the answer will come. Just love them. Simple as that. That will look differently for different people – but we are a people of service and love. Thanks be to God.

I hope you will join us for our online worship on Sunday as we celebrate Easter!

Pastor Mike

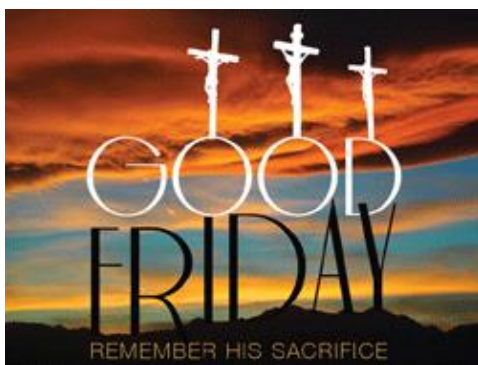




Maundy Thursday

The day before Good Friday is called Maundy Thursday. The word “Maundy” comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means “commandment.” In the gospel of John, Jesus makes this statement during the Last Supper: “I am with you only a little longer. ... I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:33-35, NRSV).

Maundy Thursday should always be a time of sharing with others, showing loving concern for one another, and partaking of Holy Communion. That is what the Lord asked of his disciples and asks of us.



Good Friday

The source of our term for the Friday before Easter, “Good Friday,” is not clear. It may be a corruption of the English phrase “God’s Friday,” according to Professor Laurence Hull Stookey in *Calendar: Christ’s Time for the Church* (p. 96). It is the common name for the day among English- and Dutch-speaking people.

It is a day that proclaims God’s purpose of loving and redeeming the world through the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is a day that is good because God was drawing the world to God’s self in Christ.

As seen in John’s gospel, particularly, God was in control. God was not making the best of a bad situation, but was working out God’s intention for the world — winning salvation for all people.

We call it “good” because we look backward at the crucifixion through the lens of Easter!

easter SUNDAY

Christ Is Risen!



Worship WITH US ONLINE

Join us for an online Easter celebration!

Invite your friends and family by liking us on Facebook
and sharing our Easter events.



"Hope the choir does some
hip-hop for Easter!"

Easter Joy

Joy is prayer. Joy is strength.
Joy is love. Joy is a net of love
by which you can catch souls.
God loves a cheerful giver. One
gives most who gives with joy.
The best way to show our
gratitude to God and people is
to accept everything with joy.

A joyful heart is the inevitable
result of a heart burning with
love. Never let anything so fill
you with sorrow as to make you
forget the joy of the Christ risen.

—Mother Teresa





American Red Cross



SHARE YOUR HEALTH

As coronavirus concerns intensify, we need healthy blood donors more than ever.



Is it safe to give right now?

Donating is a safe process and healthy individuals should schedule a blood or platelet donation to help maintain the nation's blood supply.

Safety at Blood Drives

Red Cross employees implemented added precautions to ensure blood drives and donation centers are safe for donors and staff.



Using Sterile Collection Sets



Spacing Beds 6 Feet Apart Where Possible



Having Hand Sanitizer Available



Using Aseptic Scrubs on Arms



Donor and Staff Temperature Checks Before Entering Drives



Wiping Down Donor-Touched Areas



What if a donor becomes sick after donating?

We provide a call back number donors should call if they become sick with any illnesses days after their donation.

If you're healthy and well, we're urging you to make a blood appointment.

Visit www.RedCrossBlood.org.



Blood Drive

Oregon City United Methodist Church

Tuesday, April 14th
8:00am – 5:00pm

Patients are counting on lifesaving blood throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. If you're healthy & feeling well, please schedule an appointment to donate blood with the American Red Cross in the weeks ahead: rcblood.org/appt



**It takes!
all types!**

GIVING = LIVING