



BEYOND THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS HE LIVES

OCUM Church NEWSLETTER

April 1, 2021



NORRIS, SARAH	04/04
SALTENBERGER, ANGELA	04/04
FLOREY, RICK	04/09
FINCK, JOSH	04/12
FOURIER, MARVIN	04/13
RICE, ZACH	04/19
PALMER, RILEY	04/20
SHAVER, YOLANDA	04/20
FINCK, COLE	04/21
SUTTON, VIVIAN	04/25
FOGLE, JANA	04/29



Dear friends and family of OCUMC:

I remember a wedding that was in the church, decorated for The Easter week. The happy couple was posing for their photos outside the church after the service. They had all the usual groups in the pictures: bride and groom, bride and bridesmaids, groom and best man, happy couple with her family, happy couple with his family, and all of the groupings you could imagine. A few weeks later, the couple received their book of wedding pictures. There was only one problem: behind the bride and groom in every photo was a church banner that prominently displayed a Bible verse: there, just for the happy couple, were the words of Jesus on the Cross: 'Father, forgive them, for they know NOT what they do.

I have a wedding. Today. On April Fools Day. Not the most popular of days for a wedding. Turns out, this couple met a few years ago, and on a lark on April Fools Day, he popped the question just joking around - and she said YES. They've grown to love each other more over these two years, and now want to say their vows on their third year anniversary of knowing each other. Sometimes the absurd works out!

Easter is an absurd story. Resurrection. New Life. Empty tombs and wounded saviors. But I have seen the absurd in my own walk in life. Family and friends fight off addiction. Coincidences when the universe just lines up. Narrow escapes and stories too fanciful to believe. But sometimes the ridiculousness of life gives grace and mercy and new appreciation of our journey.

Paul said it like this: We are Fools for Christ! (I Cor 4:10). We believe in Jesus. We believe in life after death. We believe in the resurrection. To quote Robert Fulghum, "I believe that imagination is stronger than knowledge. That myth is more potent than history. That dreams are more powerful than facts. That hope always triumphs over experience. That laughter is the only cure for grief. And I believe that love is stronger than death."

It sounds absurd. But then again, I'm a fool for Christ. If God can love even me, there must be a joke in the universe somewhere...and I wouldn't have it any other way. He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

See you in our walk through or at church on Sunday!

Pastor Mike

See you Sunday!

Easter

SERVICE

Short Outdoor Service on the Patio 10 a.m.

Easter Morning

Who will be our next pastor?

The Staff Parish Relations Team is working with our District Superintendent Wendy Woodworth to find our next pastor. Pastor Mike is here through June and our next pastor takes the helm on July 1st. They did not meet this week during Holy Week. This process is held in confidentiality - but we hope that an announcement will be made in the next few weeks. Keep posted, and please keep the team in your prayers (and don't bug them or the pastor for information. The team can't share and Pastor Mike is purposefully kept in the dark).



Maundy Thursday

"This Is My Body..."

This Is My Blood...

...Given for YOU."

Luke 22:4-20



Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 6th
6:30pm on ZOOM



Finance Meeting

Monday, April 19th
11am on ZOOM



Mission Possibilities for YOU

While we are all striving to do our best in difficult times there are those around us who are struggling. Our Mission Team is promoting 2 possibilities which would allow those of us who can to share our resources and help provide for others.

- 1) **Oregon City "lunch lady"** has been providing free lunches each day in front of her house for anyone in need. She is very near a bus stop. She has been doing this since April 2020 as she felt called to do so, but help would be appreciated. This is a very local project that could use our help.

The following donations are needed:

- Bread
- Fruit
- Paper Lunch Sacks
- Chunky Peanut Butter
- Jam (any kind other than grape)
- Chips
- Ziploc bags
- Cookies



2) Love Inc. Ministry Needs:

- Laundry Detergent
- Baby Wipes
- Toasters
- Crockpots
- New Socks
- All Purpose Cleaner
- Diapers 5/6
- Fry Pans
- Heavy Blankets

If you have items for the OC lunch lady or Love Inc. you can drop them off at the church office.

Path To Easter

Our Worship Team did it again!



HOLY WEEK

Sign up for a sanctuary walk-thru during Holy Week to experience vignettes and artwork depicting the week between Palm Sunday and Easter.

We ask that you register in advance; please call the church office at 503-656-3433 to choose your date and time, appointments available in 15 minute increments:

**SIGN UP
TODAY!**

Thursday, April 1st

4:00pm – 6:00pm

Friday, April 2nd

4:00pm – 6:00pm

Saturday, April 3rd

10:00am – Noon



Social distancing and face masks are required