



Connections

"The making of new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

First UMC Bethany

April 2014

What Does Easter Mean To You?

We will soon celebrate Easter on April 20. Easter is a time of remembering the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We come to worship, maybe even the sunrise service, we flower the cross and hear the beautiful voices from our choir. We may have family dinner plans later in the day and we hope the weather is sunny and warm. Perhaps we got up early so the kids or grandkids could enjoy their Easter baskets or hunt for those special eggs. Easter is a time of church, family and the wonder of the life, death and resurrection of God who walked this earth.

What do you remember about Easter throughout your life? Was Easter a special day? Did you attend church? Did you get together with family or hunt Easter eggs? Did you always have a ham for Easter dinner? Did you get some new clothes for Easter? Maybe it wasn't a special day in your family at all. What do you remember about Easter?

I remember getting all dressed up for Sunday school in a new Easter dress, white patent leather shoes, white lace gloves and of course, a hat. I carried my little white Bible. We got a chocolate cross from our Sunday school teacher and it was delicious! Sometimes I think we visited my grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins who lived an hour or so from us. We would have a wonderful meal and usually play rummy after dinner. You know it's funny, though, I don't remember if we ever prayed at our dinners with my extended family. We never talked about God or Jesus in my family. My cousins went to Sunday school but none of our parents attended. My mom and my aunts had grown up attending a rather strict church and wanted nothing to do with church when they became adults. Yet, they made sure their kids had spiritual education. I am grateful for that...

Each one of us has our own faith journey. Sometimes we grew up in the church, sometimes not. Sometimes we make decisions for our own families because of what we did or did not do as kids and youth. Sometimes we turn away from God because of difficult times in our lives, sometimes we come closer because of difficult times in our lives. Wherever our faith journey has led us one thing we know for sure...God has been with us every step of the way, even when we didn't notice, even when we wanted God to get away from us and leave us alone, even when we turned our backs on God, God never turned God's back on us....

Soon we will celebrate Easter Sunday, what's important to you and your family? What traditions do you want your family to remember? Are there any new traditions to begin that will make a difference in the spiritual life of you and your family? Each Easter Sunday we celebrate resurrection and new life and every day of the year, we have the opportunity to know a new life through Christ Jesus. Blessings to you and yours during this most holy season...

Look to The Future



We looked "to the future" on Sunday, February 26, when several of us gathered to pray, sing and discover God's direction for us as the Body of Christ. From this time of discernment, we feel God has put on our hearts to employ a full time Children's and Youth Ministry Director to guide the spiritual education of our kids and youth. Will you commit to pray for God to show us the way for this "miracle" to happen? We have submitted a grant to the Missouri United Methodist Foundation and prayed over it in church on March 23. Below are pictures of our time together.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 9 JAM 3:30-5:00 pm
- April 13 Palm Sunday
- April 16 Mary Martha Spring Outing 9:00 am
- April 17 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm
- April 18 Good Friday Service 7:00 pm
- April 20 Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 am
- Easter Breakfast 8:00 am
- Easter Egg Hunt 8:45 am
- Easter Worship Service 9:30 am

Congratulations!

Hadley Hunt received a 1st Place TOPS Club Chapter Division Merit Certificate. Way to go, Hadley!

PRAYER CONCERNS

- Family of Bev Brown– Johnny Hammond's Sister
- Family of Roy Slezak-Barb Shelby's brother
- Family of John Phillips –longtime family friend of Nick & Barb Shelby
- Family of Marilyn Easton
- Sue Wells-In North Kansas City Hospital
- Virginia Luther-Health Concerns
- Dee & Marilyn Blanton-Health Concerns
- Jeff Wagner-Continued health concerns



SUNDAY SCHEDULE
 9:30 am *Worship*
 10:40 am *Sunday School*

April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 9:30 Prayer Shawl 7:00 Singles	4	5
6 9:30 Worship 10:40 Sunday School	7	8 9:00 Prayer Team 9:30 Prayer Shawl 5:00 Choir	9 3:30-5:30 Last JAM Until fall	10 9:30 Prayer Shawl 7:00 Singles	11 Catholic Church Fish Fry 5:00-7:00	12
13 Palm Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:40 Sunday School One Great Hour Of Sharing Offering	14	15 9:00 Prayer Team 9:30 Prayer Shawl 5:00 Choir	16 9:00 Mary Martha Spring Outing	17 9:30 Prayer Shawl 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 Singles	18 7:00 Good Friday Service	19
20 Easter Sunday 7:00 Sunrise Service 8:00 Breakfast 8:45 Easter Egg Hunt 9:30 Worship	21	22 9:00 Prayer Team 9:30 Prayer Shawl 5:00 Choir	23	24 9:30 Prayer Shawl 7:00 Singles	25	26
27 9:30 Worship 10:40 Sunday School	28	29 9:00 Prayer Team 9:30 Prayer Shawl 5:00 Choir	30			

Birthdays

April 1 Robert Klein
 April 6 Debbie Cross
 April 14 Joan Windom
 April 15 Adalyn Lenon
 April 16 Dianne Thomas
 April 17 C. L. Fordyce

April 23 Kelsey Butler
 April 23 E. Tom Strade
 April 24 Ella Grace Callaway
 April 25 Marlene Littrell
 April 25 Dr. Jerry Kadolph
 April 26 Marilyn Jamis

April 28 Nora Drummond
 April 28 Tammy Pettijohn
 April 30 David Thomas
 April 30 Jennifer Woodring



The Gift
United Methodist Church
Bethany Missouri

2703 Crestview Road
 Bethany, MO 64424
 660-425-3570

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Holy Week Services

We hope you can join us for our special Holy Week services as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus as he traveled to Jerusalem. We begin our Holy Week services on Palm Sunday, April 13, as we wave palm branches to celebrate Jesus as they did 2,000 years ago. Then on Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m. we remember His last meal on earth and on Good Friday at 7:00 p.m. we remember His death on the cross. Easter Sunday is a day of celebrating His resurrection and we begin with an Easter sunrise service at 7:00 a.m., breakfast at 8:00 a.m., Easter egg hunt at 8:45 a.m. and Easter worship at 9:30 a.m. There will be no Sunday school on Easter. Holy Week is a time of remembering all that God promised us that came true in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

JAM

We will have our last JAM meeting of this school year on April 9. We will meet again in the fall. Please join us at 3:30 pm for lots of fun and fellowship. As many as 55 children have attended this wonderful ministry. Thanks to everyone that has helped make this ministry possible.

Radio Ministry Sponsors

March 2 - Given in memory of Jack Tanner by his children & grandchildren
 March 9-Phill & Janie Martz-In memory of Janie's Dad Cloyd Robertson
 March 16-John & Janice Rose-In memory of her mother
 March 23-Jeff & Cindy Mueller
 March 30-Anna Wyant -In memory of mother, father & sister

ATTENDANCE - SUNDAY SERVICE

March 1-47 March 16-80
 March 9-88 March 23-101
 March 30-

Thank you to all of our radio sponsors throughout the year for being a part of this important ministry! Please contact the office with any special radio ministry Sundays that you would like to sponsor for 2014.