

The Bell Tower

The Newsletter of the

First United Methodist Church of Eureka

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April 2018

GLEANINGS: THOUGHTS FROM AROUND THE EDGES

By Rev. Kenneth Baker

What More Do You Need That You May Believe?

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." ²⁶A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." (John 20:24-27)

We come once more, to one of the Big Two events of the Christian Year – Easter. It is the day we celebrate Jesus' victory over death, on the anniversary of His resurrection. For the disciples who witnessed, firsthand, His return from the grave, it was proof positive that He was (and is) who He said He was – the Son of God – and that He had the power to guarantee all the promises He had made to them. This was the one incontrovertible proof that had no other explanation. But even so, some of the disciples yet doubted, like Thomas, in the passage above.

Therefore, Jesus stayed in the world for a while longer, before He ascended into Heaven, appearing numerous times to the disciples, giving them yet more proof that He was real. He appeared to two disciples who had given up and were heading out of town, He met Thomas in the midst of his doubt, and even sat and ate a meal of fish with some of the disciples (who also had given up on him and returned to their trade), proving He was not just a wandering spirit. Finally, He spoke to Peter who had betrayed Him three times and restored him as one of His disciples. The bottom line was – Jesus met each of those disciples in the midst of their unbelief, and gave them what they needed in order to believe.

It seems these days that we are surrounded by both all sorts of people who either refuse to believe, or who say they haven't enough proof in order to believe. Yet, there are so many evidences of Jesus, both in nature, and in the world we live in. We have but to open our eyes and see Jesus at work – sustaining the world, working in the hearts and hands of people like us, and forgiving us so that we might be restored back to God's favor. The question for us is, "what will it take for us to accept Jesus as real, and in so doing, open up all of eternity for us? Open your bibles, read the gospels, and simply pray that God will open your eyes to see the truth that is right before you. God can and will meet you where you are in your life, if you will let Him. I did, many years ago, and God came through, proving Himself, and that has changed my life. And He can do the same for you.

Be blessed my brothers and sisters,
Pastor Ken

The Mission of the Eureka United Methodist Church is to be a living, breathing, celebrating entity where time, money, and the talents God has given us are freely and joyously given, where serving God through ministry is a way of life.

What's happening at the Main Church On the Main Street in Eureka, Kansas USA?

UMW NEWS

There will be a general UMW meeting on Sunday, April 8, following church service. We'll have coffee and treats in the classroom, please join us.

Pies are needed for the community Blood Mobile Monday, April 9. If you can provide a pie for this please let Leslie Spillman know.

UMW will be serving the Eureka Honors dinner on Wednesday, April 11. Help is still needed for the serving in the evening. Please let Jan Stephens know if you can help.

Morning Circle met at Vintage Park April 19 for their regular meeting. The 12 members enjoyed seeing friends who live there and sharing the brunch and program with them. Nine Vintage Park residents joined the gathering. Plans are to have future meetings with the residents there.

Remember there is a new selection of books from the UMW reading program available for you to borrow. Check the bookshelf in the Family Room.



COMMUNITY LINC

Eureka Dinners

Thurs, Apr 12th & 26th @ UMC

Hamilton Dinner

Wed, Apr 18th @ Hamilton Community Center

Madison Dinner

Tues, Apr 24th @ Madison Community Center

"Ministering the Love of Christ to ALL People."

Meals are provided :

Eureka—Every 2nd & 4th Thursdays

Hamilton—Every 3rd Wednesday

Madison—Every 4th Tuesday

Watch the newspaper, Facebook, or posted signs for times and menus.



FOCUSING ON FOODS

Farm Bureau and K-State Research and Extension will be holding a series of presentations at EUMC on ways we can always make sure we have healthy food options near by.

Tuesdays at 2pm & 7pm:

April 3rd—What is a 'Food Desert'

April 10th—Container Gardening

April 17th—Food Preservation

April 24th—Freezer Meals

Please RSVP to 620-583-7455 by the Friday before each session.

CARDS WELCOME

Imogene McDaniel has returned to Vintage Park following hip surgery. If you would like to send her a card, her address is 1820 E. River, room number is #110, Eureka, KS 67045. Praise God for her recovery!

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT OUR WEBSITE?

www.eureka1stks.org Our new website has a lot of useful information such as: our calendar of events, news about upcoming events and happenings, monthly newsletters, Pastor's blog & past sermons, Upper Room Daily Devotionals, contribution options and links to other important resources.

WEEKLY BELL TOWER (email)

Each Friday you should be receiving an email of the WEEKLY BELL TOWER. This weekly newsletter is being created with the intent of informing you of what is happening during the upcoming week, in Sunday worship, and in the near future. It also has our contact information, the ministers' schedule for Sunday and other news at Eureka UMC. If you do not receive yours, please let Joanie or Pastor Ken know.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

If anyone is interested, we will begin a confirmation class after Spring Break. This class will teach the basics of our faith, and the basics of United Methodism. At the end of the course, we will invite the confirmands into full membership in our church. For more information, call Pastor Ken at the office.

FREE MOVIE

Eureka Area Ministerial Alliance & SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) will be hosting a free movie Wednesday, April 4, 6:30 p.m. at E.J.S.H.S.

Water and popcorn will be available at no charge.

*A washed-up former child star, forced to do community service at a local megachurch, pretends to be a Christian to land the part of Jesus in their annual Passion Play, only to discover that the most important role of his life is far from Hollywood. Contact the church office for more information about the movie.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Folks, this has been a difficult winter for us, financially speaking. We have lost some key supporters this past year through death, and we have had to really struggle lately to keep up on the bills and maintain our ministries in the ways that are important to us all. We have had to borrow from our reserves, twice, and are really praying that this is just a temporary challenge. And for that, we need everyone's help. We are asking all our members first, to pray for our church, for our ministries, for our mission and for our leadership. And second, we are asking everyone to pray for how God would have you give, both regularly and generously. God's promise is if we will be faithful in our giving, He will pour out so much blessing we won't have room for it (read Malachi 3:8-12) Our hope is to live into that blessing as we continue to share the love of God in a myriad of ways, throughout all our community. With your help, we can.

Please remember we need your support – even when you are not here. You can now easily give your offerings electronically by EFT, by phone, and on our website. No need to write checks or carry cash, easier to continue to support the Church even when you're out of town. For more information contact the office.

Sermons for April 2018

“Now What?”

Theme Verse: ³⁰Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” **John 20:30-31**

Series Theme: After the first Sunday, Easter will be over, and many of us will start looking on toward the next big event – graduation, summer vacation, Pentecost, soccer practice... whatever. But let us not forget to continue the Christian journey that takes off right where Jesus left off. This month, we will study a few of the after-resurrection encounters with the Risen Christ, and ask *ourselves*, “what’s next?”

April 1st: EASTER SUNDAY. Sermon: “The Foolishness of the Cross” 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Key Verse: ¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **1 Corinthians 1:18(NIV)**

Theme: Interesting, isn’t it? That April Fools Day, this year, happens to fall on Easter? Of course, the ultimate April Fools joke was played by Jesus when He stepped out, alive, from the grave that once held His dead body. In that vein, we will celebrate Easter, this year, by looking at this Corinthians passage dealing with foolishness.

1st New Testament Lesson: Mark 15:20, 31-32; Matthew 28:1-7

2nd New Testament Lesson: Romans 1:14-17, 20-23

April 8th: Sermon: “More Foolishness” Luke 24:13-35

Key Verse: ²⁵He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! **Luke 24:25(NIV)**

Theme: When Jesus had been arrested, put on trial and crucified, the disciples scattered. They forgot all He had taught them, including the scriptures that testified about Him.

Old Testament Lesson: Ezekiel 34:25-31

New Testament Lesson: Matthew 11:2-5

April 15th: Sermon: “Stop Doubting and Believe” John 20:19-31

Key Verse: ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” **John 20:27(NIV)**

Theme: Yes, even *more* foolishness. How reluctant Thomas was to believe! In spite of many convincing evidences, yet he remained doubtful. Do *you* doubt as well?

Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 7:7-9

New Testament Lesson: 1 Peter 1:8-9

April 22nd: Sermon: “A Big Fish Story” John 21:1-14

Key Verse: ¹²Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. **John 21:12(NIV)**

Theme: Jesus practically had to fill out government forms in order to convince His Disciples He was real. After all He had done, they needed yet one more bit of proof.

Old Testament Lesson: Jonah chapter 2

New Testament Lesson: Matthew 16:1-10

April 29th: Sermon: “How Do You Love Him? Let Me Count the Ways” John 21:15-19

Key Verse: ¹⁶Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?” **John 21:16(NIV)**

Theme: Every one of us, in some way, at some time, turns our back on Jesus, effectively denying Him. Yet, such is His love for us, that He holds out the hand of friendship again and again, and again. There is yet hope for the best and the worst of us.

Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NRSV)

New Testament Lesson: 1 John 4:7-12; 5:1-4

MINISTERS FOR APRIL

GREETERS

Apr 1	Mary Lou Chadderdon	Apr 22	John & Pam Cowley
Apr 8	John & Jan Friday	Apr 29	Stan & Susie Porter
Apr 15	Richard & Cammie Hoover		

USHERS

Apr 1	Cammie Wilson, Matt Wilson, Richard Myer	Apr 22	Debbie Dutton, Miracle Dutton, Vince Groendes
Apr 8	John Cowley, Pam Cowley, Mary Lou Chadderdon	Apr 29	Jim Spillman, Leslie Spillman, Paul Seeley
Apr 15	Cindy Knotts, Jack Knotts, Jan Stephens		

SCRIPTURE READERS

Apr 1	Jan Friday	Apr 22	Bailey Harrison
Apr 8	Harold Garner	Apr 29	Volunteer
Apr 15	Volunteer		

ORGANIST

Apr 1	Robin Himes	Apr 22	Rhonda Boone
Apr 8	Rhonda Boone	Apr 29	Rhonda Boone
Apr 15	Robin Himes		

COFFEE TIME

Apr 1	No Coffee Time	Apr 22	Paul & Jackie Seeley
Apr 8	Jack & Linda Downing, Mary Lou Chadderdon	Apr 29	Harold & Patsy Garner
Apr 15	Jim & Leslie Spillman		

It is always a blessing on Sunday morning to join with others and share the activities of your week.
Lots of planning for future events go on at Coffee Hour.

ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE Looking for a more convenient way to give? Not able to make it to church and wish you were able to help support your church and its missions and ministries? Or, if you are like many of us, simply forgot to bring cash or a check? We've got your answer – Online Giving. Vanco, the same company we have been using for EFTs has provided us with a direct link on our website, that you can connect to, and give your tithes and offerings. Fill in a few bits of information on their secure website, choose checking or credit/debit card, then provide the amount you wish, indicate whether it is a once-at-a-time offering, weekly, monthly, offering, then the amount, and hit the send button. It's that easy! Just go to our website, www.eureka1stks.org click the "Contribute" tab, and get started.

Or you can scan the QR code on the right:

You can also download the smartphone app "GivePlus Church" and use that directly.

For more info, go to:

http://vancopayments.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Vanco_GivePlus_Church_FAQs_for_Donors.pdf



MEXICAN FIESTA

You're Invited!

TICKETS

Adults \$8.00
5-10 \$5.00
4 & under Free

SAT.
APR 21

5:00-7:30 pm

Eureka UMC Fellowship Hall

MENU

Loaded Nachos
Cheese Dip & Chips
Monterrey
Taco Salad
Tacos

APRIL 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 7:00 AM SonRise Service Easter Breakfast 9:30 AM Worship w/ Communion No Fellowship Coffee</p>  <p>EASTER SUNDAY</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:00 PM BSA</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>NO Wesleyan Covenant Group 'The Shack'</p> <p>6:00 PM Choir</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship Fellowship Coffee</p> <p>General UMW Meeting following worship</p>	<p>9</p> <p>1:00-600 PM Community Blood Mobile</p> <p>6:00 PM BSA</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5:30 PM Administrative Council</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1:30 PM Wesleyan Covenant Group 'The Shack'</p> <p>3:00 PM Jail Ministry</p> <p>EJSHS Honors Banquet</p>	<p>12</p> <p>4:30 PM Wesleyan Covenant Group 'The Shack'</p> <p>6:00 PM Community LinC Dinner</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 AM-3:00 PM District UMW Meeting @ Council Grove</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship Fellowship Coffee</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:00 PM BSA</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>1:00 PM Ministerial Alliance @ UMC</p> <p>1:30 PM Wesleyan Covenant Group 'The Shack'</p> <p>6:00 PM Choir</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30 AM UMW Morning Circle</p> <p>4:30 PM Wesleyan Covenant Group 'The Shack'</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Kitchen Reserved for Mexican Fiesta Prep</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:00-7:30 PM Mexican Fiesta</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship Fellowship Coffee</p>	<p>23</p>  <p>6:00 PM BSA</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>1:30 PM Wesleyan Covenant Group 'The Shack'</p> <p>6:00 PM Choir</p>	<p>26</p> <p>4:30 PM Wesleyan Covenant Group 'The Shack'</p> <p>6:00 PM Community LinC Dinner</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship Fellowship Coffee</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:00 PM BSA</p>					

EASTER

CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

April 1st

7:00 a.m. SonRise Service

followed by Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Easter Service with Holy Communion

The First United Methodist Church of Eureka

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Ph: 620-583-5663

www.eureka1stks.org

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Worship—Sundays 9:30



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