



# The Epistle of St. Paul's

April 2022

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## From The Pastor's Desk...

Each of the last two Aprils have found us in uncharted waters. In 2020, I wrote for *The Epistle* as we approached our first Easter on Zoom due to this thing called Covid-19. Last year, we marked our second Easter apart with no end in sight from the pandemic which had dominated nearly every aspect of our society and our life as a faith community.

Now, in 2022, we will have something which I have longed for since first being appointed to St. Paul's: Easter, live and in person! I hope that you will make the celebration of Easter a cause for inviting your friends, family, and neighbors to join our community for a time of unbridled joy.

But it is more than just our coming together, more than another Easter with choirs, flowers, and chocolate. Easter is a central feature of Methodism. Charles Wesley, who wrote many hymns around the theme of resurrection, offered the early Methodists the opportunity to immerse themselves (and us, too) in the continual act of affirming the life-giving act of Jesus in our world.

In the words of Paul Wesley Chilcote, "Death seems to be a final word in the life of every human being. *Seems to be*, I say, a final word, because it isn't," he continues. "The final word is life, not death. The final word is resurrection. The final word is eternal life with God who loves us." (Chilcote, Paul Wesley. *The Song Forever New: Lent and Easter with Charles Wesley*. New York: Morehouse, 2009)

This is what Easter is for me. The songs of the choir and the hymns fade as soon as we leave the sanctuary, the flowers die, the chocolate gets eaten. But the resurrection stays with us. The resurrection, the call to all of creation to enter life, goes on and on and is to be observed and celebrated every day.

Easter. This is a fantastic opportunity for each of us to share the gospel long after the decorations are put away. Just think about it: instead of settling in for the long time until we gear up for Christmas, how would it look if this year we continue to talk about Jesus, continue to invite other people to enter the life-giving relationship with God, continue to live amid a people alive in the Spirit?

Easter. We are called to be an Easter people; to be an Easter people means to wake our way in this life with the One who leads on the path to the life-giver. Come, let us come together and join in the celebration of Easter, an Easter that never ends.

Every blessing,

Pastor Charles

## Maundy Thursday at St. Paul's UMC

For the first time in two years, we will gather in person for the observance of Maundy Thursday at St. Paul's on April 14 at 6:30 pm. Please join us as we remember the institution of the Lord's Supper and our common life together as we await the celebration of the Resurrection on Easter morning.

### Prayers for Holy Week from the Book of Common Prayer

**Palm Sunday:** Almighty and ever-living God, in Your tender love for the human race You sent Your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon Him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of His great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of His suffering, and also share in His resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Monday in Holy Week:** Almighty God, whose dear Son went not up to joy but first He suffered pain, and entered not into glory before He was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Tuesday in Holy Week:** O God, by the passion of Your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life: Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of Your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Wednesday in Holy Week:** Lord God, whose blessed Son our Savior gave His body to be whipped and His face to be spit upon: Give us grace to accept joyfully the sufferings of the present time, confident of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Maundy Thursday:** Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before He suffered, instituted the Sacrament of His Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Good Friday:** Almighty God, we pray You graciously to behold this Your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Holy Saturday:** O God, Creator of heaven and earth: Grant that, as the crucified body of Your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with Him the coming of the third day, and rise with Him to newness of life; who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Sunday fellowship time resumes on April 3 following worship. Volunteers are needed for the upcoming weeks.**

**Ladies Lunch Bunch** will meet Thursday, April 7, at 11:45 a.m., at the Parma Trattoria & Mozzarella Bar, 1132 W. Dillon Road, Louisville (Village Shops at Colony Square). Please R.S.V.P. to Belinda Alkula by April 5 (Belinda.Alkula@gmail.com or 303-916-2349).

### **United Methodist Women is Now...United Women in Faith**

We have a new name to better reflect how we answer our calling today. It's an exhilarating time, as we commit to greater inclusivity, action, and impact. We remain women of passion and power, united by God's love in our mission to help women, children, and youth.

In 1869, our legacy began with eight bold women who were determined to change the world for the better. Today, we are 800,000 members strong. What a remarkable history!

- Two wives of missionaries made a plea to eight women in Boston about the spiritual and physical needs of poor women in India. They could not be treated by male doctors. Schooling for girls was almost non-existent. Help was desperately needed.
- In what would become a legacy of "showing up and getting things done," the attendees were moved to action. They quickly called another meeting of more women. They wrote a constitution. And in short order, they organized the Methodist Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (WFMS). By November 1869, the newly-formed organization raised funds and sent educator Isabella Thoburn and Dr. Clara Swain to India. Ms. Thoburn began a school with just six young girls that went on to become Isabella Thoburn College, Asia's first women's college. Dr. Swain's medical work resulted in the first women's hospital in Asia. Both institutions continue to serve the people of India today.

In the 152 years since we began, our organization has had more than 25 names, each reflecting varying states of the church, society, and women's lived experiences. We have been "Ladies," "Woman's" and then "Women's" societies, associations, guilds, circles. Now we are again taking a new name to better reflect how we answer our calling to faith and action today. We have rebranded our name to "United Women in Faith" (UWF). "This is an exciting time for our organization!" said Harriett Jane Olson, CEO of United Women in Faith. "Looking back, we see ... (how our) faith in God and commitment to women, children, and youth ... have been expressed in different ways at different times, always calling women into action that changed the world. Now we are again opening up new opportunities to continue to make that happen."

Along with the new name, there will be new and innovative programs and opportunities for women's spiritual growth, soul care, leadership development, and service and advocacy. We are committed to inclusivity, action, and impact as women of passion and power, united in our mission to help women, children, and youth around the world.

Our name may have changed, but our core values and our purpose have not changed.

#### **Key Points to Know Now:**

United Methodist Women is still our legal name.

We are still the only official women's organization of The United Methodist Church.

The traditional structure of local, district, and conference levels remain the same.

Never doubt that we faithful members are the lifeblood of this organization!

The changes allow for new ways to join our organization beyond engaging in traditional programming.

The hope is to engage with women who have not felt there was a place for them in UMW.

## April Birthdays

4-3 Rebecca Glancy  
4-3 Bob Muckle (elder)  
4-3 Judy Waller  
4-3 Caroline Wayland  
4-10 Gerald Browning  
4-15 Larry Esposito  
4-19 John Courier  
4-20 Ariel Crowley  
4-22 Jodi Bullock  
4-22 Sandra Jordan  
4-26 Christine Pulaski  
4-27 Josephine Glancy  
4-29 Benjamin Himes



## APRIL PREACHING SCHEDULE

### **April 3 / Communion**

*"Using your nard"*

Philippians 3:4b-14 , John 12:1-8

### **April 10 / Palm Sunday**

*"Adjusting our attitude"*

Luke 19:28-40, Philippians 2:5-11

### **April 17 / Easter Sunday**

*"Truth or consequences"*

Acts 10:34-43, Luke 24:1-12

### **April 23**

*"What would you have said?"*

Revelation 1:4-8, John 20:19-31

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