

Pastor's Pen

Like We Mean It

A prominent retailer is airing a media campaign with the tag line *Easter Like You Mean It*. My first reaction was wait a minute, Easter is **our** word...as in the Christian faith community. I recoiled a bit at the thought of Easter being a verb for shopping and spending and acquiring and ultimately needing bigger barns.

Truth be told, I have been steadily desensitized by the use of cultural markers to sell products. For instance, songs that had meaning at a particular point in my life have become soundtracks for consumerism; think Led Zeppelin's song *Rock and Roll* to sell Cadillacs or Janis Joplin's song *Mercedes Benz* to sell, well, Mercedes Benz. I guess I should have seen that last one coming. Did Bob Dylan really have weight loss and personal fitness (Kaiser Permanente) in mind when he wrote *The Times They are a Changing?* Or selling Volkswagens for that matter?

I guess I have found something to smile about in the irony of several song-product pairings. Nike's use of the Verve's song *Bittersweet Symphony* suggests that no one in the decision making process actually read the lyrics: "Cause it's a bittersweet symphony, this life, trying to make ends meet you're a slave to money, then you die". But I digress.

As we approach Holy Week and the passion narrative, I want to reclaim Easter for the Church, for the messaging of God. I understand there has developed a commercial side around chocolate bunnies, Easter eggs, jelly beans, and new clothes; I remember as a child anticipating an Easter basket. Nevertheless, Easter is the feast day when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It celebrates the good news of God's love for humanity and the power of life, love, peace over death, hate, and violence.

So what might it mean to "Easter like we mean it"? It would look like being present at the Holy Week services in order to hear the full story, Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. It would look like a life transformed by an encounter with the risen Jesus. It would look like a faithful follower of Jesus Christ whose priorities are defined by the example of Christ and the Kingdom of God.

Victory over sin and death, hate and violence has been won through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Serving and sharing have been revealed as eternal while consuming and hoarding have been exposed as perishable. That so much violence exists in this world, that such a cheapening of life is pervasive, that the divide between the haves and the have nots continues to grow, that entertainment venues sell out and church pews remain empty might reflect a world-wide Christian community that fails to "Easter like it means it".

I look forward to seeing you in worship; let's gather together here at Crievewood and fully enter this story of our salvation, and if drawn by faith to believe in the good news that Jesus is Risen, Easter like we mean it.

Peter van Eys

Up-coming Events

Palm Sunday Processional

Children and youth of all ages are invited to meet in the conference room at 10:40 a.m. on Sunday, [April 9](#), to pick up palms and process into the sanctuary during the opening hymn. There is no need to RSVP for this worship service opportunity--just show up!!



Sunday, April 9

Palm Sunday Worship Services

8:15 a.m. *The Gathering*

10:45 a.m. Traditional Worship

Thursday, April 13

Holy Thursday Service,

6:30 p.m. in the CUMC Sanctuary

Friday, April 14

Good Friday Service

6:30 p.m. at South End UMC

Sunday, April 16

Easter

Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m.

Pancake Breakfast starting at 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt at 9:00 a.m.

Traditional Easter Worship at **10:00** a.m.

Holy Week and Easter Sunday

The schedule for Holy Week and Easter is printed above, but have you wondered what's happening between breakfast (served only until 8:30 a.m.) and the traditional service at **10:00 a.m.** (a special time for Easter Sunday)? Join us in the Fellowship Hall for inter-generational Easter activities which include "To the Cross" trivia, a telling of the resurrection story using Resurrection Eggs, spring crafts, word find puzzles, coloring pages, Easter bingo, and the traditional Easter egg hunt for children up to age 10.

Gather on the Fellowship Hall stage steps at 9:00 a.m. for the Easter egg hunt. All activities will end at 9:45 a.m. so everyone can move upstairs for the traditional service. Adult Sunday school classes also have the option to meet from 9:00-9:45 a.m.

30 Hour Famine

The youth will be participating in the 30 Hour Famine on **April 8-9th** this year. They will be fasting, serving in the community, and learning about world hunger. The congregation is invited to join them by fasting, by praying for our youth and for those around the world experiencing hunger, and by donating financially to World Vision.

Missions

Easter Flower Memorials

The Worship Committee is modifying the way we honor our loved ones through the flower offering at Easter. The committee will purchase only plants that people wish to take home on Easter day. A second way to honor a loved one would be to simply give a money donation. All flower gifts honoring loved ones and all monetary gifts will still be printed in the bulletin on Easter in the traditional fashion.

The Easter flower envelopes will be used for BOTH ways of giving. At the top of the envelope there will be a stamped line "Plant Yes No". Please circle "Yes" if you want a plant to take home or "No" if you simply wish to make a monetary donation.

If you want a plant, the cost is \$12 per plant. Any Easter memorial money collected will be applied to the Pastors' Benevolence Fund. The deadline to place an order **either way** and still get it in the Easter bulletin is Palm Sunday.

Project Transformation

This wonderful mission reading program is just around the corner. As you are "Spring Cleaning", consider gathering and donating gently used books for this summer reading. The reading level is kindergarten through fourth grade. Books may be placed on the back cabinet in Fellowship Form Classroom.

Safe Haven

Have you heard people talking about providing supper for residents of Safe Haven, but you're not involved in a Sunday School class that offers this mission project? If you would like to participate, contact Charlotte for details at sswor78861@comcast.net.

Young Adult Mountain Top Mission

The young adults from Crievewood UMC and Glendale UMC have scheduled a mission trip to Mountain Top **July 6-9** this summer. The trip is open to anyone 18 years or older. Contact Steph Dodge at stephdodge@gmail.com or at 615-832-2897 if you are interested in participating.

Plastic Bottle Caps and Lids

Do you know park benches can be made from plastic bottle caps and lids? It takes 400 pounds of plastic caps to make a park bench—that's approximately 14 large black trash bags. Patti McIntrye has two bags filled and is continuing to collect lids. Do you want to help? Collect and place your lids in a decorative paint can in Fellowship Forum classroom which is emptied weekly. Be amazed at what a village can do by keeping 400 pounds of plastic out of the landfills.

Acceptable Caps

Medicine bottle caps	Drink bottle caps
Milk jug caps	Flip-top caps (ketchup, mustard)
Detergent caps	Spray paint caps
Hair spray caps	Ointment tube caps
Toothpaste caps	Deodorant caps

Acceptable Lids

Cottage cheese container lids	Cool Whip Container lids
Mayonnaise jar lids	Coffee can lids
Yogurt lids	Cream Cheese container lids
Peanut butter jar lids	Butter container lids
Ice Cream buckets lids (under 8")	Prescription bottle – labels removed

Activities

Men's Breakfast

The United Methodist Men will meet Saturday, **April 8**, at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast, fellowship, and program which will feature Rev. Rick Vance. Rev. Vance is the United Methodist National Director of Men's Ministries.

VBS Revamped

June 25-28

AGES: 4 years old-100+ years old (child care for children 3 years old and under)

ALL AGES will gather together for four nights of meals together, inter-generational service activities, and fun giving back to the community. More details to follow...

JOY Club

Nashville Metro Police Program on Scams

On **Thursday, April 27**, the Metro Police will present a program on local scams. Please meet at 10:00 a.m. at the church, upstairs in the Builders classroom. Everyone in the congregation is encouraged to attend.

A box lunch may be ordered, but it must be paid for in advance. There are two different selections available, each under \$10. Please see Nancy Rosdeutscher to place your lunch choice; please pay with a check made out to Crievewood UMC.

Shawn Knight Performing at Belmont UMC

On [Monday, May 22](#), Shawn Knight will perform *The Way We Were* from Learner & Lowe at Belmont UMC. The event includes a lunch and runs from 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. JOY Club will car pool to the event. The cost is \$15 per person. JOY Club members should make a reservation with Jean McCurdy and pay with a check made out to Crievewood UMC.

June Trip to Miss. Mary Bobo's

A headcount is needed to determine meal and van seating and reservations. If you plan to participate in this June outing, please let Nancy Rosdeutscher know NOW.

Education

Dorothy Cortner Boone 2017 Scholarship

The Dorothy Cortner Boone scholarship's purpose is to award financial assistance to selected students who (1) demonstrate involvement in and service to his/her school and/or community, (2) are motivated toward educational excellence. Amount of scholarship for 2017 is up to \$2,000.00. The scholarship may be awarded to more than one recipient.

If you have been awarded this scholarship in the past or if you have applied for this scholarship before, you may re-apply. You may receive the scholarship more than once. There is no age requirement.

Any student who is a member of Crievewood United Methodist Church may apply for this scholarship. An application form may be obtained in the church office. Completed applications **MUST** be received in the church office no later than [May 7, 2016](#).

This scholarship is available to part time as well as full time students. We are fortunate to have this scholarship available at our church. Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity!!

New Small Group Format

On [April 23](#), adults will have 5 spiritual growth options. All adults, regulars and those who have not previously attended a small group, are invited to choose the group that best fits their learning style and attend any forum from 9:30-10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

A quarterly study that explores a biblical message and how to apply it to daily life derived from the International Lessons is used by three small groups each meeting in a different room, the Builders, Fellowship Forum, and the New Creation/Hilltop. Teachers rotate.

Adam Hamilton's *Final Words from the Cross*, a small-group study featuring a DVD video is offered in the Wesley classroom. Adam Hamilton, a renowned United Methodist minister, provides fresh insight into Christ's dying hours and final words. Each session includes a story written from the viewpoint of a witness at the cross. Members of the group share in facilitating discussion. NOTE: This group will begin a new series on May 7.

The fifth option is a study of religion as presented in media, using movie clips as a foundation for Biblical discussion. A rotation of facilitators will show clips and lead discussion. This group will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

All classes are open, welcoming spaces for anyone who would like to come see what small group ministry at Crievewood is all about! If you have questions, please contact Leigh Ann Cate.