

Pastor Peter's message notes from Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020

The Messiah is Here!

But He's Not Who We Think He Is

Here he comes! Jesus is coming! The king has come. But what kind of a king is he?

He didn't drive the Romans out of Judea. He didn't take control and force everyone to do what was right. And yet, he changed the world. He didn't **force** us to change, but we **chose** to change because of his love and self-sacrifice.

What kind of a king is he?

He sounds less like an emperor and more like the suffering servant that Isaiah described in 53:12:

**"... he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors."**

Instead of making us do things, he offered himself to us as a servant. He even offered his life and his body. The crucified God has come to meet us in the depth of our human suffering.

What kind of a king is he?

He's the kind of king who would be among the dead after this virus is over. He would be like the doctors and nurses from Missouri who are risking their lives to travel to New York so that suffering people there don't have to die. He would be there, sharing in the pain of death.

What kind of servants are we called to be in his kingdom?

Maybe if Jesus is the king who walks with us in our pain, we are called by him to walk with others in their pain. We are called to proclaim the good news that Christ is king.

King of the world.

King of our lives.

The king who is with us in our time of need.



Scriptures for the coming week:

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| April 13: | Luke 24:1-12 |
| April 14: | Luke 24:13-27 |
| April 15: | Luke 24:28-35 |
| April 16: | Luke 24:36-43 |
| April 17: | Luke 24:44-49 |
| April 18: | Luke 24:50-53 |

Upcoming Services

- April 10: Good Friday Service at 6:30 p.m. on Facebook
- April 12: Easter Sunday service at 9:30 a.m. on Facebook

Prayer concerns from our church family:

Marsha Gai, Ann Wilson, Aura Tavernner, Judy Murray, Bill Brame, Donna Rosiere, Jaccie Blaszczyk, Linda Riddle, Trudy Quibell, Charlie Baile on the loss of his brother.

Birthdays for the coming week:

April 12: Madison Ilnicky
April 16: Finnean Price, Ed Wirthwein
April 17: Drago Stefan-Dogar

Anniversaries for the coming week:

April 12: David and Carrie Ewing

Church Women Help With Face Mask Shortage

Recently the CDC recommended wearing cloth face coverings in public settings, such as grocery stores, where social distancing is difficult to maintain. Seamstresses in our congregation have been putting their sewing skills to use to make these cloth masks.

Ann Wilson said, "To help the local hospital staff I have been making medical masks. Lots of them! It helps me to have some purpose at this time. And I enjoy being able to help."

Cathy McGraw Culp is also making masks to give to family members and the hospital.

For those of us who might be lacking in sewing skills, here's a link to a video on the CDC website that shows how to quickly make a mask using only rubber bands and items found around the house such as a scarf, hand towel or t-shirt.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>



Stephanie Culp and Selah Kilgore deliver masks to WMMC.

Supplies Donated To Local Agencies

Our church has a history of aiding those outside the Warrensburg community including sponsoring the yearly Jamaica mission trip and helping in disaster relief efforts in cases such as the Joplin tornado in 2011. Stored in the basement of the church are supplies for these missions, which we are now using to help our own community.

According to Steve Mills, coordinator for the Jamaica mission trips, among these materials were coveralls, gloves and face masks. A box of 24 coveralls and two to three boxes each of size small, medium and large gloves have been donated to the Johnson County COVID-19 Task Force. Seven hundred masks were taken to Western Missouri Medical Center.

Stephanie Culp, an RN, and Selah Kilgore, a CNA, delivered the masks to WMMC. Both work in the medical surgical unit. Selah said, "When I heard about the church wanting to donate masks, it gave me a great sense of relief. The hospital is working hard to make sure all units have a good supply of masks each day."

The Offering Plate

To continue supporting the church financially during this time, please use one of the two methods below.

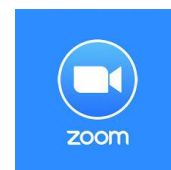
1. Mail your offerings to the church:
First United Methodist Church
141 E. Gay Street
Warrensburg, MO 64093
2. Go on-line and donate through the church's website: <https://www.umcburg.org> .
Click on DONATE in the right-hand side of the top menu and follow the prompt.

Just What Is This Thing Called Zoom?

Suddenly it seems everyone is talking about Zoom, including members of First United Methodist Church. Zoom is an app that can be downloaded from the internet to a cell phone or computer. It allows people to see and talk to each other. Zoom has now become a daily part of many of our church members' lives.

Zoom meetings have been set up for conducting church staff meetings, committee meetings, and small group bible studies. While hesitant at first about using Zoom, once Vicki Ollison, chair of the Care Team, had some instruction and practice, she quickly became more comfortable with it. Last week she had both a church administration committee meeting and a Care Team meeting. Vicki said, "It was a good experience. We could see everybody and listen to everybody. If you're not used to using things like this, it's rather scary. As long as you have help, that's the thing."

Aside from church use, families have been using Zoom to stay in touch. The Veterans Home in Warrensburg has been setting up Zoom meetings for their residents, including Jim Hudson, who was able to visit with his wife Dee and son Greg, who lives in New York City. Dee said, "While frequent phone calls put us in contact with voice, the use of the internet allows us to see the person's face. That makes all the difference. The conversation changes when you are able to view the expression and gestures of a person. It always helps to see somebody. While nothing can replace touch, it's the next best thing."



Students in our congregation have had to adjust to a new way of learning. With schools being closed, all instruction has gone online, and many teachers are using Zoom to connect with their students. Chloe Ridenhour, a senior at Warrensburg High School and nursery director at UMC-Burg, said her Spanish IV class is meeting through Zoom: "I think it works a lot better than trying to email my teacher because I can see her face to face and continue with class as normal. It's especially helpful because it's a foreign language class."

In this time of social distancing, Zoom provides a great resource for keeping in touch with others. Up to 100 people can attend a meeting, so even if you can't see each other in person, you can still plan that big family reunion.