

Heart

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF DEKALB FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL 2017

Celebrate Easter

"They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus . . . but the men said to them, 'why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!'" ~From Luke 24:2-6

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Palm Sunday, April 9, 10:50 AM

Maundy Thursday, April 13, 6:30 PM

Good Friday, April 14, 6:30 PM

EASTER SUNDAY (APRIL 16)

Sunrise Service, 6:30 AM, Sanctuary

Breakfast & Family Pictures, 9:00 AM, Fellowship Hall

Egg Hunt, 9:30 AM, Church Grounds

Children's Easter Story, 9:45 AM, Pre-K/K Classroom

Worship Celebration, 10:50 AM, Sanctuary

Easter is one of the greatest opportunities in the Christian year to offer invitations to others and to renew our own commitment. Many folks search for a church home during this time of year, and a simple invitation may be all that's needed to encourage them to attend. It is through the church that the greatest message on earth is proclaimed and through which the greatest gift is received. Let us resolve to be involved in this great work of ministry and to extend an invitation to someone who does not attend.

Perspectives

By Rev. Matthew B. Smith

I encountered a question awhile ago that I



will try and state as accurately as I remember. It went something like, "What difference would it make whether Jesus was raised physically or spiritually?" The issue at point is not whether Jesus was raised, that point is affirmed, but

whether His resurrection was physical or spiritual. And to further that point, what difference would it make?

Throughout Scripture there are several references to a spiritual resurrection taking place in the life of the believer (e.g. Romans 6; Ephesians 2:6). In fact, the very theme of being dead to sin and raised to new life in Christ is very common, but that still doesn't answer our original question. Was Jesus raised physically or just spiritually?

I am going to argue that this question does indeed make a difference and briefly explain why a physical resurrection is important to believe. First, we must handle the testimony of Scripture. It's important to note that the gospel accounts differ in the non-essentials,

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On the Death and Resurrection of Christ

It is by the sign of the cross and by faith in Christ that death is trampled underfoot, it is clear that it is Christ Himself and none other Who is the Arch-victor over death and has robbed it of its power

Death there had to be, and death for all, so that the due of all might be paid. Wherefore, the Word, as I said, being Himself incapable of death, assumed a mortal body, that He might offer it as His own in place of all, and suffering for the sake of all through His union with it, 'might bring to nothing him that had the power of death, that is the devil, and might

deliver them who all their lifetime were enslaved by the fear of death.' Have no fear in death, then, now that the common Savior of all has died on our behalf, we who believe in Christ no longer die. If, then, it is by the sign of the cross and by faith in Christ that death is trampled underfoot, it is clear that it is Christ Himself and none other Who is the Arch-victor

over death and has robbed it of its power. Death used to be strong and terrible, but now, since the sojourn of the Savior and the death and resurrection of His body, it is despised; and obviously it is by the very Christ Who mounted on the cross that it has been destroyed and vanquished finally. . . Doubt no longer, then, when you see death mocked and scorned by those who believe in Christ, that by Christ, death was destroyed, and the corruption that goes with it resolved and brought to end.

(From St. Athanasius, 'On the Incarnation')

Proverbs 12:25

"Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up"

"The joyful news that He is risen does not change the contemporary world. Still before us lie work, discipline, sacrifice. But the fact of Easter gives us the spiritual power to do the work, accept the discipline, and make the sacrifice."

~Henry Knox Sherrill

Why Palm Sunday?

With Easter on the near horizon it's easy to overlook Palm Sunday.

Palm Sunday, in much respect, is the crisis of our Lord's ministry. He enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey in fulfillment of the prophecy from Zechariah 9:9. The people cut palm branches (a sign of victory) to wave as they shouted 'Hosanna in the highest.' No white stallion, no pomp and circumstance, just another would be messiah with a rather unimpressive entry. Usually, the focus is on the praise offered by the crowds, however, the intent of the gospels is to focus on Jesus' mission. Jesus could have gone the other direction but instead chose to enter Jerusalem, the inevitable doorway to the cross, so to offer life for you and for me.

Youth Summer Camp

Summer Camp at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center is July 9th—14th. New programs and activities await campers this year. Registration deadline is April 22. Our youth will be preparing a fundraiser lunch and bake sale Sunday, April 30, following morning worship to help defray the cost of camp. Please come and support our youth. For more info please contact Breanna Murphy at dekalbyouth@yahoo.com

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such as who arrived at the tomb first, how many angels, etc. However, in the essentials there is remarkable agreement. All four gospels point to an empty tomb. All four gospels record an encounter with the risen Lord. John's gospel includes the story of Thomas' encounter with the risen Lord and the story of the miraculous catch of fish to be clear that Jesus was raised physically. The apostle Paul makes reference to over 500 people to whom Jesus appeared and most of them were still alive and could testify.

In my opinion, this question transcends deeper into the further reaches of our humanity and God's plan to restore creation to perfection. It doesn't seem right that God would take on flesh only to shed it when He is done with it. If that were the case it would have been much more convenient for God to have bypassed the whole body thing altogether. Therefore, it occurs to me that God took on flesh for a purpose. Not in order to shed it or release people from it, but to heal it. God was not defiled by being in the body; he sanctified the body by being in it.

A physical resurrection of Jesus means that God's new creation is breaking forth. God has begun putting things to right. The creation of the body was no accident or mistake, and a physical resurrection of Jesus proves that God is going to perfect things once again. May we share in the resurrection hope that God brings, knowing that Christ Jesus is the first fruits from the dead, and one day we will follow in His likeness.

Prayer List

For Those Who Mourn

Family & Friends of Jeff Lambert

Nursing Home Residents

Wilma Fowler, Ponderosa
Leroy Newkirk, Ponderosa
Reta Howell, Clarksville
Lynn Rains, Cornerstone
Dr. K.C. & Lucy Hillis, Ponderosa
Mary Clawson, Ponderosa
Kathleen Hopkins, Ponderosa
M. Katherine Cowley, New Boston
Iva Jean Barrett, Ponderosa

For Our Members

Dorothy Sheridan
Tina Calvit
Abbi Capps
Opal Waller
Rod Pruitt
Charles Vanderburg
Bennie & Linda Lann
Bobby Tidwell
Fred Gilliam
Virginia Wray
Don Hodges
DeVeda Foster
Bill Lee
Jim Fowler
Lynn Davies
Pat Coronel
Laverne Cooper

For Our Family & Friends

Maylee Jackson
Chloe Fouse
Al Holcombe
Chris Henderson

Ted Capeheart (heart surgery)
Lynn Barnett (cancer)
Dwight Barnett
Bob & Dulcie Murray
Ralph House
Lynnda Ell & Muriel Watson
Bo Wilson (brain cancer)
Paige Phillips
Tina Petty (cancer)
Jean Phillips
Carrie Megason (cancer)
Jimmy Drennan (colon cancer)
Betty Bartlett (cancer)
Chuck Dandridge
Shirley Neville, Sister of Catherine P.
Russell Willingham (Parkinson's)
Doug Hall, Denver, CO (cancer)
Paul Nichols (cancer)
Slade Phillips
Jessica (Eubanks) Burgin, cancer
Mike Sanders (heart surgery)
Charles McCrary, Kansas City, Missouri, brother of Mike McCrary
Darlene Swader, niece of Boyce Rhea
Tammy Matthews
Diana Melton
Jayme Hammontree (cancer)
Julie Inman Matthews
James Roberts
Riley Danielle Wright
Mel & Linda Swaim
Jackie Ford
Jay & Arlene Bennett, Boyce's niece
Curtis Richison
Ed Spalding (cancer)
Gayle Porter (stroke)
Curtis Whited (cancer) friend of the Sanford's
Melba Grider

Jackie Hazelwood
Sarah Tucker
Nikki Daniels (brain tumor)
Jacie Galloway & baby (1 lb. 8 oz.)
Dwayne Whiteman (cancer)
Earnest & Kay Witmer (cancer)
Cleo Green
Opal Martin, friend of Molly Willey
Shawna Rowen Clayborn (cancer)
Gerald Rust (cancer)
Tommy Dudley (cancer)
Robert & Linda Hickey
Marvelle Pinkham
Barbara Mebane
Lenda Coates
Michael Goodwin (cancer) son of Pat Coronel
Elaine Sparks, cancer
Mary Holiday
Angela Tidwell
Deanna Dellinger
Freddie Proby
Joe Mac Davis
Johnnie Henderson
Caregivers

For Our World & Leaders & Our Servicemen & Women Serving Our Country

Roscoe Schwab, Military
Cody Dickens, Military
Michael Tucker, Military
Michael A. Hunnicutt, Military
Richard Matthews, Military
Lt. Travis Waller, Military
Jeanette Weir, Military, Kuwait

Reader and Scripture

Apr 2 Robby Bates Ezekiel 37:1-14
Apr 9 Becky Buttram Psalm 118:19-26
Apr 16 Kyle Dooley
Apr 23 Janie Matteson
Apr 30 John Booth

Attendance and Giving (March 2017)

Average Sunday School Attendance — 66
Average Worship Attendance — 117
Monthly Income Needed for Budget — \$ 19,136
Income for March — \$15,874

DeKalb Hope Food Pantry Needs

Peanut Butter; Canned Meats; Canned/Dry Soups;
Canned Veggies; Instant Rice; Canned Fruit; Pasta;
Spaghetti Sauce; Oatmeal; Cereal; Ramen Noodles; Chili;
Crackers; Personal Toiletry Items

Ushers

John Garner, Boyce Rhea, Rod Pruitt, Jim Constantine,
Philip Calvit

Children's Sermon

Apr 2— None
Apr 9— Renau Garner
Apr 16—Rev. Matthew Smith
Apr 23—Lea Dooley
Apr 30—n/a

Children's Church

Apr 2 —None
Apr 9 —Troy & Rachel Zeringue
Apr 16—None
Apr 23—Steve & Jennifer Starrett
Apr 30—Micki & Amy Usrey

Communion Servers

May 7—Kyle & Lea Dooley, Sylvia Engle

Thank You

Thank you for your support each year through the Charlie Brown Christmas Tree. We are always amazed at the generosity!
Bowie County Child Welfare Board

Prayer Breakfast Group,
To the 24 members that signed the card and all other that were praying and did not sign:
Thank you for this most precious gift of all, prayer.
Pray without ceasing.
1 Thessalonians 5:17
Keep on praying,
Ommer Bruce

To the Congregation of DeKalb First UMC:
I would like to thank the congregation for Terry being on your prayer list. It is helpful to know that there are those like you who try to make a time like this less painful for friends and family of a fine Christian lady like Terry was.
I thank you again.
Thomas Gross

Dear Tuesday Morning Prayer Group,

I just wanted to say thank you for all the prayers that you have said on my behalf. I also love the cards you have sent me. It was so nice to know that your prayer group has taken the time to pray for someone that you don't even know.

Please continue to pray for me and my family throughout this tough time of chemo and radiation treatment I will be going through. I appreciate everything you all have done for me thus far.
Thank You,
Linda Coates

I would like to express my appreciation to each of you for the prayers and concern during my recent surgery. All of the expressions of concern shown by your phone calls, food, cards and visits were appreciated so much. Also, thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl. Our church is blessed to have a group of ladies who are carrying out a wonderful ministry with their stitching. A big thanks to the Tuesday Morning Prayer Group for the prayers and prayer cards. Our church is truly a "Church with a loving heart".
God Bless Each of You,
Sharon Charlton

It is so good to be back with all of you. Your prayers for healing supported me and brought me through each day. Thank you so much for all those prayers, for the Prayer Breakfast cards each week, for the beautiful Prayer Shawl, your visits, cards and calls.
For all you have done, I am so very grateful.
Fred Gilliam

Tuesday Morning Prayer Group,
Thank you for your faithfulness to pray for Bill and me for the last four and a half years. Your prayers have been a real encouragement and help.
Gratefully,
Jean Smith
Eph. 3:20-21

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers during the loss of my brother. I appreciate you thinking of me and my family at this time with the beautiful plant from the church and white carnation from the UMW. As Paul said in Romans 1:8, First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is proclaimed throughout the whole world.
In God's Love,
Jerry Peek

FUMC Designated Giving Policy

Designated Gifts Disclaimer: The Church Council of First United Methodist Church, DeKalb, TX reserves the right to remove any designations or restrictions on gifts when it is in the best interest of the church to do so. At the point in which a designated gift fulfills its purpose any remaining amount shall be shared with the broader mission of DeKalb First United Methodist Church.

Calendar

Every Sunday

Coffee with the Pastor, Fellowship Hall 9:00 am
Sunday School 9:45 — 10:30 am
Worship 10:50 am

Every Tuesday

Prayer Breakfast, Fellowship Hall — 7:00 am

Every Wednesday

Children's Choir — after school
United Methodist Cubs Fellowship — 5:30 pm
United Methodist Youth Fellowship — 6:30 pm
Chancel Choir — 6:30 pm

Every Thursday

"Piecemakers" Fellowship Hall — 10:00 am — 2:00 pm

Wednesday, April 5

Confirmation Class—5:30 pm
Lenten Dinner—6:00 pm
Pastor's Lenten Bible Study—6:30 pm

Sunday, April 9—Palm Sunday

Children will process with palm branches

Wednesday, April 12

Nursing Home Ministry—Ponderosa—2:00 pm
Confirmation Class—5:30 pm
Lenten Dinner—6:00 pm
Lenten Bible Study—6:30 pm

Thursday, April 13

Maundy Thursday Communion Service—6:30 pm

Friday, April 14

Good Friday Service—6:30 pm

Sunday, April 16

EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Sunrise Service—6:30 am, Sanctuary
Breakfast and Family Pictures—9:00 am, Fellowship Hall
Egg Hunt—9:30 am, Church Grounds
Children's Easter Story—9:45 am, Pre-K/K Classroom
Morning Worship—10:50 am, Sanctuary

Wednesday, April 19

UMCF & UMYF to G-Force in Texarkana

Thursday, April 20

Amazing Grays—5:30 pm

Sunday, April 23

Children's Choir Performance during Morning Worship Service
UMW Meeting following Morning Worship, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 30

Youth Fundraiser—Chicken Spaghetti Lunch—following Morning Worship

DeKalb First United Methodist Church

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