

Tunnel Hill United Methodist Church

The Messenger

Volume 12– Issue 3

March 20, 2018



The Secular and Sacred Origins of Easter

Someone recently asked me what the word “Easter” literally meant and I realized that I didn’t know the exact origin of the word so I decided to research it.

I discovered that the word “Easter” comes from the Old English word “Eostre”. In ancient times, many people believed that “Eostre” was the German pagan goddess of spring. According to legend, every year on the first day of Spring, she held a huge Spring Festival. The pagans believed that animals and children would attend the festival to bring Eostre gifts in celebration the arrival of Spring.

One year, on the day before the festival, a rabbit wanted to give Eostre a gift but he had nothing that would be fit for a goddess. According to the legend, he found an egg in the grass and decided to decorate it and give it to Eostre.

The goddess was so happy with the gift that she asked the rabbit to start delivering decorated eggs to children around the world every year on the eve of the Spring Festival. Children would wake up, find the eggs, and know that Spring had officially arrived. Evidently this is how bunnies and eggs came into the secular celebrations of Easter although chocolates and candies weren’t given until the early 19th century.

Obviously, Christians do not recognize this pagan goddess. However, over time, the word “Eostre” was translated “Easter” and people started to use it to describe both the secular arrival of Spring as well as the resurrection of Jesus Christ since both celebrations take place on the same day.

The earliest written source that references the Christian Easter celebration is a sermon written during the 2nd century by Melito of Sardis. This sermon celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ and pointed to Him as the true Passover or Paschal lamb.

Melito made this connection because John the Baptist referred to Jesus as “*the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world*” (John 1:29) and because Jesus sacrificed His life on the cross at roughly the same time Paschal lambs were being sacrificed for the Passover festival.

It’s interesting to know where the word “Easter” originates but it’s important to note that for Christians, Easter isn’t about pagan goddesses or magical rabbits that deliver eggs. For Christians, it’s all about the resurrection of Jesus and the new life that He alone can give.

That’s the real reason we celebrate Easter. We celebrate because two thousand years ago God’s one and only Son came back to life and walked out of a tomb so that you and I could have the opportunity to live with Him eternally! I hope that you’ll be able to join us at THUMC on Easter Sunday as we celebrate Easter and the Risen Christ!

Grace and Peace,

Jay



PRAYER LIST

Al Nuckolls, Kathyne Middleton, Margaret Doyle, Cathy Griffin, Sis Damron, Mildred Dreschel, Ray Anderson, Barbara Vaughn, Shirley Gribble, Beverly Bates, Norma Griffin, Valerie Cleaver, Vera Nations, *Smokey Lusk & *David Blackwell

THUMC's Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
Brooks Lansing-Jim Lansing's Brother
Sue Broome-Friend of Janice Helton
Terry Corcoran-Erin Middleton's Dad
Agnes Sutton-Kay Henderson's Mother
Kenneth Tatum-Veda Nuckolls' Brother
Linda Corn-friend of Susie Webb
Raya Owens-Friend of Jada Barton
Gabarb Vaughn Summers
Breanne Locklear-Jo Anna Davenport's niece
Gladys & Jasper Rogers-Friends of Gwen Maddox
Marge Fox-Cindy Fehd's mother
Robin Faith-Friend of Dawn LaChapelle
Brantley Dean-Friend of Julie Frisbee
Peggy Cochran-Friend of Amy Roberts
Whitley Brooker-Friend of Lindsey Roberts
Orallia Hernandez-friend of the Middletons
Richard Sharp-Friend of Stephanie Loggins
Jackie Neel – Anne Monk's Sister
Kinslie Marie Flowers-friend of Julie Frisbee
Dolly Hamby-friend of Kay Jernigan
Heather Stiles-friend of Susie Webb
Eddie Mac Sanders-Friend of Kenny Gowin
Ricky Reed-friend of Amy Roberts
Kyler Bass-Friend of Wendy Voiles
Maryann Fowler-Friend of Susie Webb
Glen Dean-Friend of Susie Webb
Agee Martin-Valerie Cleaver's brother
Alyssa Talley
Chet Dreschel
Brecklynn Allgood
Doug Mitchell
Ron Hawkins-Friend of Gwen Maddox
Tina Taylor-Val Cleaver's Sister
Mary Fare-Jo Anna Davenport's Aunt
Carl Hooper-Friend of Amy Roberts
Trish Phillips-Friend of Jeanine Clark
James Breeden-Friend of Butch Middleton
Harold & Virginia Campbell
Charlie Painter-Thelma Harrod's son
Teresa Evans-Friend of Amy Roberts
*Scott Hannah-Friend of Molly Middleton's Father

(*Denotes new additions)

To add/remove a friend or loved one to the Prayer List,
please contact the church office at 706- 673-4022 or
thumc@optilink.us. Thanks!



Wednesday, March 21

5:45 PM Mid Week Meal Served (FH)
6:15-7:30 PM AWANA Clubs for Kids (CB & S)
6:30 PM Adult Bible Study
6:30 PM Oasis Student Ministry

Thursday, March 22

7:00 PM Grief Support Group (THUMC)
7:00 PM Security Team Meeting

HOLY WEEK

Sunday, March 25 – Palm Sunday

9:00 AM Choir Practice (S)
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship

Monday, March 26

6:30 PM Monday Night Bible Study

Tuesday, March 27

5:15 PM Girl Scouts-Cadettes (Ch. Room)
6:30 PM Brownies & Juniors (YR)
6:30 PM Cub Scout meeting (F.H.)
6:30 PM Missions Committee Meeting (FR. CL.)
7:00 PM Boy Scout meeting (F.H.)

Wednesday, March 28

5:45 PM Mid Week Meal Served (FH)
6:15-7:30 PM AWANA Clubs for Kids (CB & S)
6:30 PM Adult Bible Study
6:30 PM Oasis Student Ministry

Thursday, March 29 –Maundy Thursday

7:00 PM Grief Support Group (THUMC)
7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service at Varnell UMC

Friday, March 30th – Good Friday

12:00 PM Good Friday Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, March 31

11:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 1 – EASTER

7:15 AM Sunrise Service (Park)
7:45 AM UMM Community Breakfast (F.H.)
9:00 AM Choir Practice (S)
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship

FH-Fellowship Hall

FC-Friendship Classroom

CB-Church Bldg.

S-Sanctuary

FEL CL-Fellowship Classroom

HOLY WEEK & EASTER ACTIVITIES AT THUMC

PALM SUNDAY

Palm Procession & Worship
Sunday, March 25th – 11am

MAUNDY THURSDAY

“Living Last Supper” Maundy Thursday Service at Varnell UMC
March 29th – 7pm

GOOD FRIDAY

Luncheon & Devotion
March 30th - 12:00 pm (Fellowship Hall)

HOLY SATURDAY

Easter Egg Hunt
March 31st – 11am

EASTER

7:15 AM Sunrise Service (Griffin Park)
7:45 AM Community Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
9:00 AM Choir Practice
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Easter Worship



Have you ever wondered why the Friday before Easter is called Good Friday? If so, you're invited to stop by THUMC's Fellowship Hall on March 30th for a light lunch and a devotion called *“Why is Good Friday so Good?”* Hope to see you there!



EASTER CROSS

On Easter Sunday, we will decorate the cross with live & artificial flowers during the first hymn. Then, during the closing hymn, the cross will be carried outside and placed in front of the church. You're invited to help out by bringing fresh flowers for the cross on Easter Sunday.

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S SUPPER AND SINGING

Saturday, April 7TH / Meal Served 5:00 – 6:45 PM in the Fellowship Hall
Menu: Pork loin, Mashed Potatoes, Green beans, Beverage & Dessert.
Tickets are \$10.00 for adults/\$4.00 for children under 12.
The Gospel Singing will take place in the sanctuary at 7:30pm.
It will feature The Hullenders & Master Peace.

P.O. Box 146
Tunnel Hill, GA 30755
30755

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Tunnel Hill, GA

PAID
Permit No. 5

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



SUNDAY, MARCH 25 – PALM SUNDAY

USHERS: Blake Griffin, Chris Griffin,
David Wood & Larry DeFoor
NURSERY: Sydney LaVelle
OFFERING TEAM: Becky Gowin &
Lee Grimmett
GREETERS: Evelyn & Larry DeFoor

SUNDAY, APRIL 1 – EASTER

USHERS: Ken Gowin, Thomas Blackwell,
Aaron Sewell & Chuck Davidson
NURSERY: Ellen Dreschel
OFFERING TEAM: Brenda Hampton &
Chuck Davidson
GREETERS: Janice Helton & Shelby Silvers

SUNDAY, APRIL 8

USHERS: See Sunday, April 1
NURSERY: Gidget Griffin
OFFERING TEAM: See Sunday, April 1
GREETERS: Judy & Butch Middleton

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Weekly Budget Needed: \$5,094.00

GIVING FOR FEBRUARY 25

GENERAL BUDGET: \$7530.00
DESIGNATED GIVING: \$280.00

GIVING FOR MARCH 4

GENERAL BUDGET: \$7004.73
DESIGNATED GIVING: \$465.00

GIVING FOR MARCH 11

GENERAL BUDGET: \$1743.02
DESIGNATED GIVING: \$759.06

GIVING FOR MARCH 18

GENERAL BUDGET: \$2704.11
DESIGNATED GIVING: \$155

ATTENDANCE FOR FEBRUARY 25

Sunday School - 54
Worship - 141

ATTENDANCE FOR MARCH 4

Sunday School - 79
Worship - 164

ATTENDANCE FOR MARCH 11

Sunday School - 66
Worship - 115

ATTENDANCE FOR MARCH 18

Sunday School - 64
Worship - 128

