



Mossy Creek United Methodist Church

April 5, 2023

MOSSY CREEK MESSENGER

Food for thought from J

“Celebrating” Holy Week can be a tricky thing. I mean, we know, as 21st century students of the Bible that, from the start, the adulation and cries of “Hosanna” Jesus received during his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday would soon turn to shouts for him to be crucified, and his own people would call for a criminal named Barabbas to be released from prison rather than Jesus. So, what is there to celebrate?

We know that even as Jesus shared a last supper with his closest friends, bestowed on them the final lessons they would need to carry on his mission after he was gone, and prepared to submit faithfully to the perfect plan of God, those same friends and disciples would all abandon him, and even deny they knew him at all in the hours ahead. Ultimately, we know that he would be unjustly accused, tortured, and executed in one of the most horrendous ways imaginable – crucifixion. And even though we know Easter morning is coming and with that, our hope of resurrection into eternal life, as we consider the week leading up to that miraculous day – what is there to celebrate?

Well, we can begin by celebrating that we don’t have to be like those first Palm Sunday crowds who turned on Jesus when he failed to meet their expectations of a Messiah. Rather, we can rejoice in our understanding of our radical Messiah and his radical message that greatness in the eyes of God is not defined by how much power we wield or how much worldly success we achieve, but by how we love and serve those around us. On Maundy Thursday, we can celebrate the gift of Holy Communion and the ongoing opportunity Christ himself offers for us to join with him and all the saints around his table to receive God’s grace as we remember his unwavering faithfulness in the face of his impending betrayal. On Good Friday, we can celebrate with awe, the love of Christ in going humbly to the cross, giving up his own life so those who believe in him might not perish but have eternal life. And on Easter Sunday we can come together as a church to proclaim that “HE IS RISEN – HE IS RISEN INDEED!”

I hope you will join our church family this Sunday as we celebrate that Christ the Lord is risen, Hallelujah, Amen.

Remaining Holy Week Events

April 6 th , 6 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Dinner
April 6 th , 7 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Communion Service
April 7 th , 6 p.m.	Good Friday Service
April 9 th , 7 a.m.	Easter Sunrise Service
April 9 th , 8-9:30 a.m.	Food Fellowship (bring your favorite breakfast food to share)
April 9 th , 10 a.m.	Traditional Easter Worship

WORSHIP NEWS

What are You Afraid of?

This week we will read the Easter story from Matthew's gospel and look at that common and natural challenge we all face from time to time – fear. While the miracle of the resurrection does not remove fear from our lives, it should give us the strength to face it and overcome it as we understand better what it means that Christ is Risen. Come celebrate the most important event in the history of the world – the Resurrection of Christ – with your church family at Mossy Creek.

Experiencing God in Art and Music

Join us for a special worship service on April 16th as we explore the presence and nature of God in the beauty of art and music. Several of our talented church members will be presenting examples of their own artistic creations along with testimony about how God speaks to them through their art, and our musicians will lead us in song. Come and experience this fresh expression of worship during our normal worship time at 10 a.m.

Never Miss a Sunday

If you can't worship in person, you can watch our worship services on the Mossy Creek UMC Facebook page. Simply click on the link below to worship live or watch later at your convenience. **Be sure to introduce your Facebook friends to our church and the gospel message by sharing our online worship with them.**

<https://www.facebook.com/mossycreekumc>

CHURCH BUSINESS

Check out our Updated Website

Our Mossycreekumc.org website is being upgraded, complete with a fresh, new look and important updated information about our church. We hope you will take a minute to look over the website and then utilize it as an important resource for keeping up with church activities and events or referring friends and neighbors who might want to know more about our church. You can click on the link below to view:

<http://www.mossycreekumc.org>

DISCIPLESHIP/FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

2023 Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes will begin on Sunday, April 30th. The classes will be held during the Sunday School hour each week and they will run through June 4th, with the actual confirmation being held during our worship on Sunday, June 11th. More details will follow about location and a special road trip. If you or someone you know has a child who would like to participate, please call the church office or speak with J.

Children are our Future...

...but we need volunteers to work with our children on Sunday mornings and throughout the year, as we seek to grow disciples for the future of the church and God's kingdom. If you have a gift for working with and teaching children, don't wait to be asked to use your talent for God's kingdom. Call the office or talk to J to volunteer.

Read the Bible in a Year

Week 36

Day 1	-	2 Chronicles 29-31, 1 Corinthians 8
Day 2	-	2 Kings 18-19, 2 Chronicles 32, Psalm 67, 1 Corinthians 9
Day 3	-	Isaiah 36-37, Psalm 123, 1 Corinthians 10
Day 4	-	2 Kings 20, Isaiah 38-40, Psalm 68, 1 Corinthians 11
Day 5	-	Isaiah 41-44, 1 Corinthians 12

Gifts

Supporting the church with our tithes and offerings is necessary for the life of the church and as an important spiritual practice for growing as a disciple and exercising our faith in God's providence. Fortunately, there are several ways for you to give at Mossy Creek. In addition to weekly offering during worship, contributions can be placed in the box outside the office marked "Sally," they can be mailed to the church at PO Box 557, Cleveland, GA 30528, and they may be made electronically by clicking the "**donate here**" button of the church web site. Thank you for your continuing financial support of our church.

Christian Education Opportunities

Sunday School – 9:00 AM every Sunday

We have classes for children of all ages that focus on providing age appropriate and foundational lessons about the Bible, its main characters, and the fundamental life lessons they hold for us today.

Our Choir Room class is currently reading C. S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity*. We would love to have you join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 A.M in the choir room.

The Fellowship Hall class offers an opportunity for group prayer, fellowship, and spiritual devotion using such resources as the Upper Room. The class welcomes anyone wishing to engage in these important spiritual practices.

The Young at Heart class meets in the room adjacent to the church office and follows the traditional Cokesbury Sunday School curriculum.

Bible Studies and Small Groups

The Tuesday Bible study group is continuing an in-depth study of John's gospel. We meet every Tuesday at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Next week we will be discussing chapter 21. It's never too late to get involved in serious Bible study, and we hope you will consider joining us in studying God's word from John's gospel.

Our United Methodist Women are currently studying Shannon Bream's book, *The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak*. Their next meeting will be on Monday night, April 10th at 6:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

The United Methodist Men meet for breakfast on the second Sunday of each month to share food, fellowship, and a time of spiritual devotion.

Our Ladies Fellowship Group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Their next meeting will be April 19th at 11:30 a.m. at Rib Country

BUILDING UPDATE

New Building Available for Limited Use

Our new building is now available for ***limited*** use by our members. If you would like to reserve the building for an event or activity, please contact the church office to inquire about availability.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Financial Report

General Fund – Through February 2023

- 2023 YTD Receipts	\$39,631.00
- 2023 YTD Expenses	\$39,919.00
- Net income/(loss)	(\$ 288.00)

Building Fund – Through February 2023

- 2023 YTD Receipts	\$ 28,139.00
- YTD Balance	\$ 46,118.00

Recent Attendance

	<u>In-person</u>	<u>Facebook views</u>
April 2, 2023	82	37
Mar. 26, 2023	110	61
Mar. 19, 2023	89	44
Mar. 12, 2023	74	130

April Birthdays

4/2	-	James Nelms
4/6	-	Evy Owens
4/8	-	James Crowe, Sid Crowe
4/12	-	Reid Murphey
4/14	-	Ashley Miller, Josh Adams, Cooper Adam
4/15	-	Donna Fitzpatrick
4/16	-	Jessie Meaders
4/28	-	Brenda Parson, Juanita Lanham
4/29	-	Solomon Dadd
4/30	-	Jeff McAvoy

April Anniversaries

4/4	-	Keith and Christine Horn
4/28	-	CJ and Haley McDonald

NEW PRAYER NEEDS AND CONCERNS

- Elizabeth Kostilnik and Rowan
- Hap Gayheart
- Family of Paul Stonecypher