

Easter Connection

April 2020



Living in the Tomb!

Has there ever been a year that we've needed the good news of Easter Sunday more? Has there ever been a year that the joy and hope of Easter has seemed so unlikely, so far away? Let's face it, for many of us, the last month has felt more like living in a tomb than rising victoriously with Jesus from the grave. The disappointment of not being able to gather in person to celebrate Easter is just one of many ways that this coronavirus has upended our hopes and plans. In a way, this Easter is more like the original Easter than any before. Why? Because the followers of Jesus also felt like they were walking through the valley of the shadow of death, with Jesus crucified and the disciples hiding away in the upper room, scared for their lives and questioning all their expectations for the future. We think we're experiencing something new, but in truth, Jesus' Good Friday death also created confusion, fear, and doubt which seemed impossible to overcome.

Out of the pain and disorientation of these days, I already see great signs of hope and resurrection. People are reaching out to connect and support each other in the most creative ways imaginable. And you don't have to be creative to pick up the phone and reach out to someone. We all have a basic need for regular human contact, even if it's only on the telephone. Out of the ashes of our pain God is bringing forth new and beautiful things.

We are learning to things in totally new ways - worship live streaming on Facebook, Sunday school and confirmation classes online, and youth gatherings online. Ministry teams are meeting from their homes via video calls, Michelle is answering the church telephone and emails from home, and Patty is finding a way to pay the bills. The church is discovering how to be the church in a time of staying safe at home. It hasn't been easy, but God is doing many wonderful, new things in our midst that will make us a stronger church moving into the future. People are proving to be more resilient than the virus.

Besides health and isolation, another burden we've all been worried about is the economy. Because of that, our Easter offering this year will be used for the general ministries of BUMC. See more about how to continue your offerings on the following page.

We have been living in a dark tomb, but Easter is coming! New Life has already begun to show forth in our world, with plants sprouting and more birdsongs heard in the air. Winter jackets are being put away. None of the disciples would have signed up for their Easter experience if they knew what was coming, but God redeemed their suffering and brought the joy in the birth of the church. My prayer for each one of you, and for our church, is that we may all experience the joyful and loving power of the resurrection to sustain and lift us in these days.

Pastor Bill

9:00 am • Celebration Worship on Facebook Live!
At Buffalo United Methodist Church's Facebook page

