



OPEN HEARTS • OPEN MINDS • OPEN DOORS

THE APPLESEED

APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

MINISTRIES AND LEADERSHIP – LEARNING TOGETHER, SERVING TOGETHER

FROM MEMBERSHIP TO DISCIPLESHIP... TO CARING... TO SHARING

“Lord, I lift your name on high... from the cross, to the grave... from the grave to the sky.”

– from Matthew 26:14 to 27:66

Greetings in the peace and grace of our Lord Jesus, who is with us in times of trials and tribulations such as we are in right now. This month we will journey through the account of the last Supper; the arrest of Jesus and his trial and crucifixion; and his burial and triumphant rise. *Alleluia!*

We may feel heavy these days with what we must sacrifice, mourning an easier life. But as believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, we also look forward to joy, personal growth, and new opportunities. It is a gift of our faith. Our faith is based on a significant foundation – the events leading up to Jesus’s death by crucifixion, and his Resurrection. Holy Week starts on Palm/Passion Sunday, with Jesus’s humble entry into Jerusalem, on a donkey, to observe the Passover. As written in the Gospels, the crowd shouted praise and waved palm leaves as Jesus passed. On Holy Monday, some observe the anointing of Jesus at Bethany, the cursing of the fig tree, and the cleansing of the temple. On Holy Tuesday, we recall Jesus’s prediction of his own death (see John 12:20-36). On Holy Wednesday we re-read the story of Judas arranging his betrayal of Jesus with the chief priest; some people call it Spy Wednesday. Maundy/Holy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper, when they shared bread and wine in remembrance of the body and blood which was about to be given for the salvation of everyone. Jesus also washed the disciples’ feet and foretold the events to come, including his betrayal, his death, and his resurrection. Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion and burial of Jesus. Holy Saturday is a solemn vigil... before we celebrate Christ’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday. That is the day the Lord hath made for everyone to rejoice in Him. We gather – this year virtually, rather than physically – to celebrate the Risen Lord.

Even as we shelter in place to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus, Easter 2020 can still be a communal celebration. Instead of worshipping in our sanctuary, we can still be connected via technology to crown our Lord of All with an Easter service from our hearts. It is a good thing if you can make space at home for worship. We can use our imaginations to re-imagine his life in its final days and hours, sharing what this means to each of us, and for all of us, now.

After Jesus was arrested, he was put on trial and found guilty. He was nailed to a cross and wounded. Jesus prayed. He forgave those who condemned and punished him. He prayed until death. When we recount what happened during the last few hours of Jesus’s life it disturbs us; yet the gift of his love towards mankind never changes. Jesus endured suffering to relieve us from the bondage of sin and death. He took upon himself the fulfillment of the promise of salvation for all mankind. Do we deserve this love? If so, we should not be afraid to give ourselves wholeheartedly, without reservation, to our Lord – to give ourselves as a blessing to others who are in need of physical, spiritual, or emotional help. Share scripture with others, sing psalms of joy and hope and the precious memories of God, which lingers and floods the souls of believers. Even in this unprecedented time, there are ways we can help, even to give a sweet minute of prayer or a virtual hug to people who are separated by the darkness of this virus. We may not be able to do everything that we would normally do during Holy Week, but we are still one in spirit, one in faith, and one in God. Stay warm from within, and be happy in the renewal of minds, hearts, and souls on Easter Day.

Happy and blessed month to you all!

My love and prayers to you all at this time. Stay focused on the love of God, which we all share, without limitation.

Shalom,

Pastor Iunisi Tovo

Sebastopol United Methodist Church 500 North Main Street, Sebastopol CA 95472
office phone: (707) 823-7971 email: sebumc@sonic.net website: sebumc.org

· ALL SERVICES AND MEETINGS
ON CHURCH GROUNDS
ARE SUSPENDED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE ·

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

"SOUPER BOWL" – FEBRUARY 2020

Your Mission Team thanks everyone who donated soup during our February "Souper Bowl" for the F.I.S.H. food pantry.

Our total this year was 274 cans of soup!

F.I.S.H. was very pleased to receive the soup – a can of soup is often an entire meal for many seniors who come to their food pantry, nearly 10,000 of whom were served in 2019. F.I.S.H. is committed to providing soup to every household they serve, which last year included more than 27,000 children.

Sebastopol UMC has held this annual soup collection for F.I.S.H. for more than 10 years, and has donated thousands of cans of soup over this period.

F.I.S.H. has been in operation for more than 45 years, and provided free food to more than 73,000 people during 2019, a record number. Thank you for your generosity.

– Dennis Hansen

SATURDAY TABLE

Despite statewide shelter-in-place orders, and the closure of all churches by order of the Bishop, a delicious take-home hot lunch was provided for our neighbors in need on Saturday, March 28.

Christina Beaty and her husband generously provided the lunches, and will continue to do so until the shelter-in-place order is lifted and our team can cook spaghetti lunches in the Epworthian Hall kitchen again.

Thanks to Arthur George for distributing lunches with Christina and friends.

- April Saturday Table is 4/25 •
- May Saturday Table is 5/23 •

Readings for Holy Week

† ----- †

Monday, April 6 – John 12:1-11

Tuesday, April 7 – John 12:20-36

Wednesday, April 8 – John 13:21-32

Thursday, April 9 – John 13:1-17; 31b-35

Friday, April 10 – John 18:1-19; 42

APRIL WORSHIP NEWS

We began online posting of Sunday worship services on March 29.

Pastor Lunisi will continue to conduct online services until the shelter-in-place order is lifted.

Please visit sebumc.org/worship

Kudos to the the
Lenten Study Group
for creating Zoom online meetings
and keeping fellowship going
in this challenging time.

Christ is Risen!
HALLELUJAH!

DAILY READINGS APRIL 2020

Wednesday, April 1, 2020: Psalm 143; Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41; Matthew 22:23-33

Thursday, April 2, 2020: Psalm 31:9-16; 1 Samuel 16:11-13; Philippians 1:1-11

Friday, April 3, 2020: Psalm 31:9-16; Job 13:13-19; Philippians 1:21-30

Saturday, April 4, 2020: Psalm 31:9-16; Lamentations 3:55-66; Mark 10:32-34

Sunday, April 5, 2020: Liturgy of the Palms

Sunday, April 5, 2020: Liturgy of the Passion

Monday, April 6, 2020: Monday of Holy Week

Tuesday, April 7, 2020: Tuesday of Holy Week

Wednesday, April 8, 2020: Wednesday of Holy Week

Thursday, April 9, 2020: Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 10, 2020: Good Friday

Saturday, April 11, 2020: Holy Saturday

Sunday, April 12, 2020: Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 12, 2020: Resurrection of the Lord

Sunday, April 12, 2020: Easter Evening

Monday, April 13, 2020: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21; Colossians 3:5-11

Tuesday, April 14, 2020: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Exodus 15:1-18; Colossians 3:12-17

Wednesday, April 15, 2020: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Joshua 3:1-17; Matthew 28:1-10

Thursday, April 16, 2020: Psalm 16; Song of Solomon 2:8-15; Colossians 4:2-5

Friday, April 17, 2020: Psalm 16; Song of Solomon 5:9-6:3; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Saturday, April 18, 2020: Psalm 16; Song of Solomon 8:6-7; John 20:11-20

Sunday, April 19, 2020: Second Sunday of Easter

Monday, April 20, 2020: Psalm 114; Judges 6:36-40; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Tuesday, April 21, 2020: Psalm 114; Jonah 1:1-17; 1 Corinthians 15:19-28

Wednesday, April 22, 2020: Psalm 114; Jonah 2:1-10; Matthew 12:38-42

Thursday, April 23, 2020: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Isaiah 25:1-5; 1 Peter 1:8b-12

Friday, April 24, 2020: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Isaiah 26:1-4; 1 Peter 1:13-16

Saturday, April 25, 2020: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Isaiah 25:6-9; Luke 14:12-14

Sunday, April 26, 2020: Third Sunday of Easter

Monday, April 27, 2020: Psalm 134; Genesis 18:1-14; 1 Peter 1:23-25

Tuesday, April 28, 2020: Psalm 134; Proverbs 8:32-9:6; 1 Peter 2:1-3

Wednesday, April 29, 2020: Psalm 134; Exodus 24:1-11; John 21:1-14

Thursday, April 30, 2020: Psalm 23; Exodus 2:15b-25; 1 Peter 2:9-12

Friday, May 1, 2020: Psalm 23; Exodus 3:16-22, 4:18-20; 1 Peter 2:13-17

Saturday, May 2, 2020: Psalm 23; Ezekiel 34:1-16; Luke 15:1-7

Sunday, May 3, 2020: Fourth Sunday of Easter



~~ SEE PAGE 2 FOR HOLY WEEK READINGS ~~