

Easter Earthquakes

I love the various stories of that first Easter. Each teaches us a little more. In the Gospel of Matthew, the women hurry to the tomb and one of my favorite, perplexing lines comes next “there was a great earthquake.” (28:2)

The story of the resurrection is earth shattering news. It’s almost as if to meet Jesus, the risen Christ, the ground beneath us shakes. What we thought we knew, isn’t the full story. Nothing is quite the same. It’s actually even better! God came in the person of Jesus Christ and proves that not even death can separate us from God’s love and grace. Growing up, I never quite understood Easter. It seemed like a moment of clarity for so many of the adults and I wasn’t quite sure what it meant. Often, we think of Easter as a lightning moment of clarity, when in fact, sometimes being followers of Christ brings with it questions, doubts, even fear. Yet Easter, the resurrection, provides a lens for us to see the world in a new way.

Christ’s resurrection signals above and beyond all else that our God is a God of new life and never-ending possibility. The Good News of Christ’s resurrection does not take away our fear or questions -- though sometimes we wish desperately that it would -- but it does offer us courage and hope by grounding us in the promise that God will have the last word. That word is one of light and life, grace and mercy, love and peace.

The story of Easter is not just about a God who caused earthquakes once upon a time. It’s the story of a God who still shakes the earth beneath us even today, and a God who gives us the courage to stand in the midst of all that happens in our life. Easter is about the new life that God promises to each and everyone of us through the person of Jesus Christ.

So, how will that news change you? What new life does God hope to birth in you and through you in the coming year? How will your life be different because we celebrated Easter? May God continue to reveal the risen Christ to you throughout this Easter season.

As I’ve pondered throughout Lent how to prepare for the new life that comes with Easter it’s been a challenge to solely focus on the spiritual. The Hayes family is excited to announce that I’ve had new life growing inside me this entire season. We can’t wait to welcome a new baby into our family in early October!

This Issue

- Easter Worship Series
 - Scholarship Opportunity
 - Girls United! In Christ
 - Graduates
 - Church Directory
 - AUMM Cookout
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We have a God who offers us amazing grace and unconditional love. No matter who we are or what we have done, God is constantly giving us second chances. It is part of the beauty of the Easter story. Even after we as humans crucified Jesus, God overcame death to give us new life and second chances. Easter is a season that reminds us that we always have a second chance with God's love.

- April 1:** Easter | **John 20: 1-18**
- April 8:** Living Water| **John 4: 1-15**
- April 15:** Forgiveness| **Luke 7: 36-50**
- April 22:** New Direction| **John 21: 15-17**
- April 29:** Riches for Good| **Luke 18: 18-23, 19:1-10**

Sympathy to:

Family of Wayne Bartos

**Average Presence in
Worship for March:**

63

**Total Offerings in
March:**

\$17, 339.80

Upcoming Events

4th: **AUM Food Pantry**
8:30 AM

7th: **Urban Survivor**
2 PM—4 PM

8th: **Fellowship Lunch**
following worship

9th: **Threadbenders**
7 PM

10th: **UMW Meeting**
9:30 AM

Trustees Meeting
4 PM

14th: **UMM Meeting**
9 AM

16th: **Grief Support**
1 PM

20th: **Girls United!**
5 PM—Noon

22nd: **Girls United! Sunday**
10:30 AM worship

**Pastor's Bible Study
resumes on
Wednesday, April 11.**

Lunch Bunch

4/3: **David's BBQ***

4/11: **Saljo's**

4/18: **UMW**

4/25: **Catfish Sam's**

***Note: This is a Tuesday
not Wednesday.**

Blessing of the Animals & Plant Giveaway



Do you have a furry family member you'd like to be blessed? Do you enjoy plants or aspire to be a green thumb? Join us on Saturday, May 5 from 9 AM to 11 AM. Pastor Molly will bless animals while we also give away plants to our neighbors and community. This is a great event to invite your friends or neighbors to come check us out. We promise we don't bite!

Jack and Beryl Wolfe Scholarship Fund

This fund was created through a generous donation aimed to support students who are furthering their studies. If you know of a student who is interested in applying, please have them contact the church office to obtain an application. The deadline to apply is May 6 and we hope to present the award in worship on May 20. Thank you to all who made this opportunity possible!

Calling All Graduates

If someone in your family is graduating from high school, college, or trade school, please let the church office or Dora Loughan know so we can honor them!



United Methodist Men Cookout



On May 19, the Arlington United Methodist Men will host a cook out from 5 PM to 7 PM. Feel free to join us for the fun! If you're a baker, they are looking for baked goods to be auctioned off to raise funds for their ministry together. If you're a dessert lover, come get your choice of some scrumptious goodies!

Church Directory

In the coming months, we plan to begin the process of updating our church directory. If you would **NOT** like to be included, please let the church office know. If you receive the newsletter, but have moved on to other places or churches, please let the office or Cathy Florence know that as well.



Save the Date: April 22

Girls United! In Christ 10th anniversary is this year. Please invite all former participants to join us for a celebration.

Current Girls: Our last 2017-2018 weekend is April 20—21.

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Contact Us

Church of the Good Shepherd

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Arlington, TX 76010
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Website:

www.cogsumc.org

or find us on **Facebook**

@cogsumc

Arlington Charities Item of the Month:

Ramen Noodles
Canned Meat

Church of the Good Shepherd UMC
2020 S. Collins Street
Arlington, TX 76010

PLACE
STAMP
HERE