

THE MESSENGER

A publication of PUMC

Spring 2022

Our mission is to serve God by serving others. Hope is our business!

**Join us for worship
on Palm Sunday,
Maundy Thursday,
and Easter!**

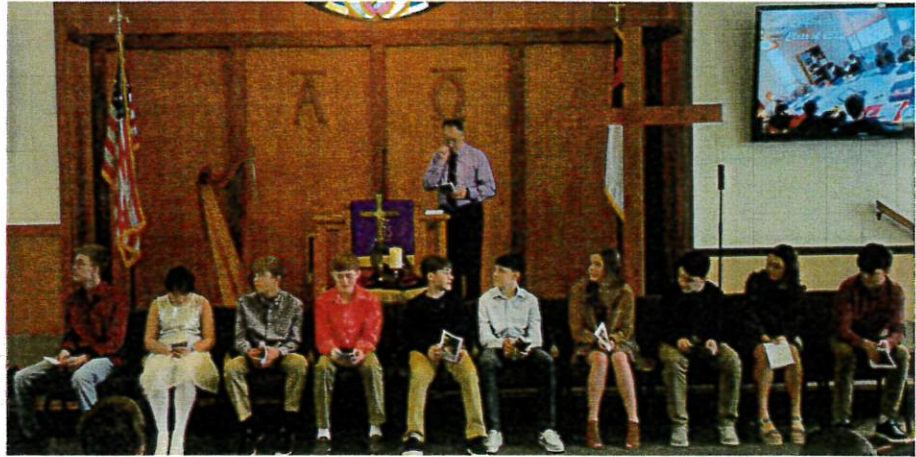
Holy Week and Easter is one of the climactic periods on our faith calendar. Jesus enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to an adoring crowd. On that Thursday, He and the disciples eat together in the Upper Room, which we now commemorate as "Maundy Thursday," sometimes known simply as the "Last Supper."

Late that night and early in the morning, Jesus would be arrested, questioned, beaten, mocked, and finally, at 9 a.m. on what we now call "Good Friday," He would be crucified. He would die on the cross at 3 p.m.

His Resurrection on what we now call "Easter" is the centerpiece of our faith, and so Easter along with Christmas day become the great bookends of the Christian calendar, beginning with Advent and Christmas and concluding with Lent and Easter.

How important is the Resurrection to our faith? The apostle Paul puts it this way in 1st Cor. 15:14, "...if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith."

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Our baptism & confirmation ceremony was held at the second service on April 3. Here, Gary DePatis, our lay leader, introduces our confirmands, from L to R: Ashton Clark, Ember Flickinger, Lane McAnally, Nash Donnan, Bryce Davis, Drew Carter, Lauryn McAnally, Lucas Kinney, Stella Smith, and Will O'Brien.

Ten Students are Confirmed in the Faith *Four are baptized!*

Confirmation is not only a challenging curriculum, it is also a celebration of our faith, a rite of passage, and a call for the Holy Spirit to enter into the hearts of our students.

Our ten, who formed one of PUMC's largest confirmation classes in years, were confirmed on April 3. The ten are Ashton Clark, Bryce Davis, Drew Carter, Ember Flickinger, Lane McAnally, Lauryn McAnally, Lucas Kinney, Nash Donnan, Stella Smith, and Will O'Brien. Ashton, Ember, Lane, and Nash were also baptized.

In the eyes of the church, these ten are now considered adults.

One of the most important parts of the confirmation ceremony is where the congregation takes a vow to continue to nurture the faith of the confirmands: to "surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness" and, of course, to pray for them! It is a powerful part of not

just confirmation but also baptismal ceremonies — the idea of communal responsibility for the faith. It's why, except in rare circumstances, our baptisms are held before the congregation.

"This has been a great class," said Pastor Rick and Cindy, who led the class. "They asked great questions, they were prepared, and they feel the pull of faith in their lives."

Thanks to our Mercy Apartments outreach program, our confirmands also had the opportunity to help load furniture and equip an apartment for a single mom and her son in Springfield.

Finally, we would like to thank all those involved in the April 3 ceremony: Gary & Terri DePatis; Bill Bauser, Jr.; Laura Heubner; Andrea Hart; Jake & Wesley Sampson; Sharon Weaver; Phyllis Bliven; Cody Heubner; Cindy Pierce; Mary Bradford; the Choir; Mary Jane Smith; Liz Carter; and Pastor Rick.

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Easter is the crux of our faith

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So, we will begin our celebration on Palm Sunday, of course. The Women's Bible Fellowship will provide a brunch between the two services — the first service is at 8:30 and the second 10:30. The second service will feature the traditional "palm parade" by our young people. It is a joyous celebration, a joyful parade — for indeed it commemorates the high water mark of Jesus' ministry.

As Jesus enters Jerusalem on that day so long ago, Matthew writes that His supporters "spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road." They shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is He who comes in the name of
the LORD!"
Hosanna in the highest!"

The branches — not necessarily all cut from palm trees, by the way — and the cloaks become a sort of red carpet to honor our LORD and Savior. Palms, it should be noted, were used during Passover and the Feast of the Tabernacles for the construction of booths and had traditionally been used by Greek and Roman armies as symbols of victory. In this case, we can view the palms as a

Our Palm Sunday will feature a palm parade and brunch between the two services. Our Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m. features a traditional foot washing service. We will celebrate Easter itself with a cantata performed by our choir, Holy Communion, and an Easter egg hunt between services.

symbol of victory over death.

A couple of points about Holy Week and Easter week that are often overlooked:

- Jesus' Triumphal Entry was not the only parade into Jerusalem at that time. A portion of the Roman garrison at Caesarea Maritima would have marched into Jerusalem from the north to reinforce the soldiers in Jerusalem during Passover. (See "The Last Week," a book by John Dominic Crossan & Marcus Borg.) It's important to remember that Passover commemorates the freeing of the Israelite slaves in Egypt through the work of Moses. Thousands of Jews would pour into the Holy City for the Passover celebration. As such, it

would have been a flashpoint of trouble since it recalled the freeing of the Israelite people from another oppressor. Thus, the reinforcements from Caesarea Maritima were there to help prevent rioting or an insurrection.

- Maundy Thursday is, of course, the last meal Jesus would eat prior to the crucifixion. Our Savior arose during the midst of the meal and began to wash the feet of the disciples — not prior to the meal was normal, but in the middle to make a point. Jesus was demonstrating to us that we are to be servants. The washing of feet during a ceremonial meal would have normally been performed by servants.
- Finally, if you read the Easter story carefully, you'll recall that resurrected Jesus was at first mistaken for a gardener. (See John 20:15.) This makes sense. After all, one of the two sites where Jesus was believed to have been buried is known as the "Garden Tomb." But there's another, deeper theological reason. Remember that it was in another Garden, the Garden of Eden, where humanity fell headlong into sin. And so, how appropriate is it that it was in another garden, where Jesus, who is called the second Adam in 1st Cor. 15:21-22, would rise again.

Confirmation

(continued from page 1)

So, just how challenging is our confirmation class? We encourage you to see how many of these ten sample confirmation questions you can answer!

1. Which Biblical books did Moses write?

2. Explain who Jesus' father was.

3. When Jesus asks in Matt. 16:15, "Who do you say I am?" what does Peter say in response?

4. What does it mean to be "born again?"

5. What one thing saves us, according to the apostle Paul?

6. What is the "Great Commission?"

7. What is the Trinity?

8. What was the Reformation, and why is it so important?

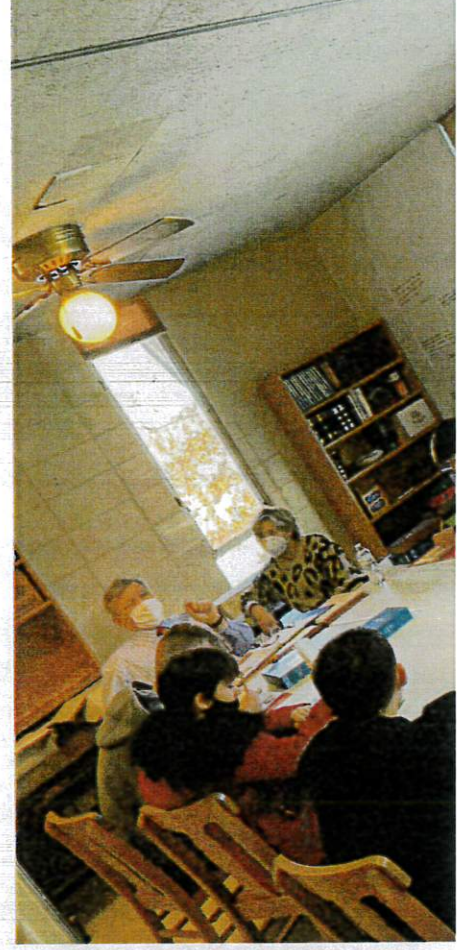
9. What is the Wesleyan quadrilateral?

10. What does the word "laity" mean?

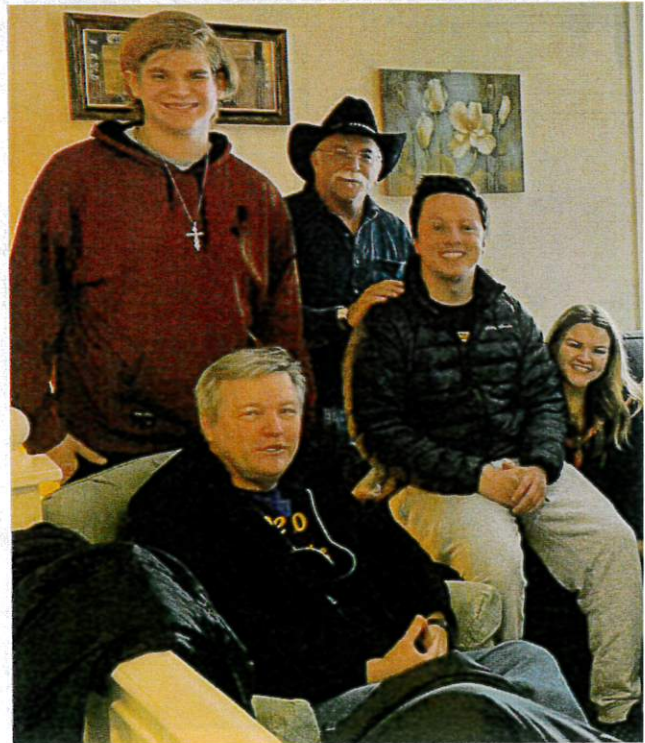
1st PICTURE PAGE!



Top left: Our Sunday School class for our middle group, led by Margaret Ferguson. Top right: Sunday School for our youngest class, led by Heather Karrick. Above: Joe Pokorny leads a devotion at the Men's Community Lenten Breakfast on March 9. Left: Pastor Rick distributes communion on Feb. 6.



Clockwise, from top left: Sam Atterberry carries a dresser upstairs at a Mercy apartment on March 26. This was our 19th apartment that we have equipped and set up for Mercy! Above: Mary Kate Smith and Liz Carter sing in worship on April 3. Top Center: Our confirmation class began on Jan. 9 and met in the upstairs classroom. Top Right: Our confirmands helped load furniture for the Mercy apartment on March 25. Far Right: Mary Bradford and Brooke Heubner set up the kitchen apartment. Right: This is the crew (all 19 of us!) who equipped and set up the Mercy apartment.





EVEN MORE PICTURES!



Top: Jackson Wooldridge is baptized on Jan. 16. L to R, Pastor Rick; Kelsey Wooldridge; big sister Natalie; Jacob's mom, Rozanna; Jacob; and Jacob's dad, Tim. Center left: The Sew and Sews show off pillowcases for our mission campers. L to R Mary Pettit, Marsha Winner, Dana Blair, Rosie Alderman, and Jan DeCourcy. Center right: Paul Johnson, Ed Blair, Jerry Cripe (and Ruby) helped get rack installed in the OCC room. Bottom: Jenna Davis leads the children's message on April 3.



In Sympathy

The families of Sheila Swinehart-Barchak (Margaret Ferguson's mother), Raymond Montgomery, Andrea Jones, Jamie Gilbert, Leta Eyer

In Healing

Jerry Cripe	Doris Fleming	Bonnie Messett	Sarah Heikes	Bob Morgan
Chuck Alderman	Will White	Harvard Keefe	Laura Davis	Debbie Woods
Charlie Applebee	Marcus Sisson	Ray Tusek	Wanda Reents	Levi Vogt
Marissa Richards	Mark Schappaugh	Jan Grosboll Costello		

A friend of Judy Foster

Mike Fawns (friend of J.T. Tobias)

Kevin Woodard (Ann Ozella and Laura Heubner's brother)

Tina Petty (Cindy Pierce's cousin)

William and Jim Mikko (Helene Atkinson's brothers)

Cindy Nowlin (Cindy Pierce's friend)

Jill Johnson (Traci Sampson's cousin)

Ann Turk (friend of Laura Heubner)

Dorothy Trendle (Margaret Leach's sister)

John Fortmeyer (Margaret Ferguson's son)

Liz (co-worker of Steve Reents)

Shilo David Chapman (relative of Diann Bennett's daughter & son in law)

Scott Heikes (Eric Heikes' brother)

Keith Masten (friend of Sharon Weaver)

David & Beth Fixmer (friends of Lou & Polly Myers)

Vicki Goben (Sally Cline's sister in law)

Larry Maher (friend of the Messett family)

Jennifer Hess-Lugo & Mary Steiner (Mary Bradford's niece's)

Ruth Ann Brown (Jo Ann Pickerill's aunt)

Prayer List



Serving Our Country

**from our church

*from the Petersburg area

Emily Morgan... *Nathan Howarth... **Izaak Shaw

**Nathanael Lock **Wynne Shaw

*Sam Pinkowski (Stan and Margaret Leach's grandson)

**Wylie Hodgson (Liz and Ian Carter's son in law)

Missionary

Molly McClellan

Copper Creek Cottages in Lincoln, IL Jo Clutts

Sunny Acres Jim Cline, Larry Shoemaker, Beryl Pokorny

Lewis Memorial Gerrie Pillsbury, Diann Bennett

Springfield Supportive Living Connie Barbee

Countryside Estates Jerry Cripe

Mason City Nursing Home Nancy VanEtten (Chris VanEtten's mother in law)

Sugar Creek in Normal, IL Judy Stancik

Let us remember in prayer the Didenko family, relatives of Mary Bradford who are in Ukraine. Let us remember in prayer the people of Ukraine.

Molly's Ministry Update



I pray you are doing well and staying healthy! As this winter semester comes to a close, I'm excited to celebrate how God is continuing to build His Kingdom here with you.

One goal for our semester was that we would be able to coach students about how to do this well. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be able to! Below is a testimony that a coworker of mine wrote of a student, Philippe, that I've been meeting with virtually to pray for people he's investing in spiritually:

*"Have you ever really committed your life to God?" This is the question Philippe asked a student, *Simon (name changed), on the phone. They had gotten to know each other only over the phone, after this student got referred to Philippe when one of the staff left this summer. So every other week, they would talk on the phone and read through a material called "Begegnung" (= "Encounter"), which explained the gospel in depth. This was now the last part of the material, challenging the reader to make a decision to follow Christ. Even though Simon had been really eager to learn about God and also prayed sometimes, he never really committed his life to God. So they prayed together and he made a clear decision to follow Jesus!! Praise the Lord!"*

Philippe and Simon are planning to continue meeting to read the gospel of Luke together! Would you pray with us that Philippe and Simon would grow in faith together and experience who Jesus is in ways that are life changing?

PRAISES & PRAYER REQUESTS

...FOR SIMON'S DESIRE TO FULLY FOLLOW JESUS! PLEASE PRAY FOR HIS FAITH TO GROW MORE ESTABLISHED, THAT HE WOULD CONNECT TO BELIEVING COMMUNITY AND EXPERIENCE FRUIT OF NEW LIFE IN CHRIST.

...THAT STUDENTS INTERESTED IN A DISCOVERY BIBLE GROUP WOULD ENGAGE WITH THE HEART OF CHRIST IN LIFE CHANGING WAYS!



Your Obedient Servants Mission Camp

Serving Jesus in the Land of Lincoln

2022

Junior High and High School Summer Mission Camps

United Methodist Church of Petersburg, IL

Pastor Rick Pierce 618-363-8369

Questions? More info on Web site: petersburgchurch.com under Ministries

Please call Joe at 217-899-2744 or 217-502-2365 e-mail: JSMHP5@casscomm.com

Facebook page: Your Obedient Servants Mission Camp

MALE FEMALE
 Camper Adult Leader

Camp Sessions (check one) July 10-14 (finished 6th or 7th grades) OR July 17-21 (finished 8-12)

Participant Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

Participant Parent or Guardian Names _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

E-mail address _____

Insurance Information: Name of Insurance Company _____

Phone Number _____ Allergies _____

Liability Release Form:

I, the undersigned that there are inherent risks involved in a mission camp, and I hereby release Your Obedient Servants Ministries, its staff and volunteer workers from any and all liability due to any injury, loss or damage to person or property that may occur during the course of my child's involvement.

Medical Release Form:

I, the undersigned am the parent or legal guardian of the above named participant, and give my consent for him/her to attend the mission camp. In the event that he/she is injured while in attendance and requires the attention of a doctor, I consent to any reasonable medical treatment as deemed necessary by a licensed physician. In case treatment is called for, which a physician refuses to administer without my consent, I hereby authorize a member of Your Obedient Servants Ministries staff to give such consent for me if I cannot be reached by telephone at one of my above listed numbers. I also acknowledge that I will be responsible for the cost of any medical care should the cost of that care not be reimbursed by the health insurance carrier. I affirm that the health insurance information provided on this form is accurate and will be in force at the time of the camp.

Parent Signature _____

Mail application to: Susie Pokorny 5 Andreasen Drive Petersburg, IL 62675