

NOWATA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER



Kingdom of Eternal Peace

Written by Pastor Jeffrey Rickman

On a yearly basis, Christians revisit and reenact the days of Jesus' passion and resurrection. This began way before the English-speaking world started talking about a holiday called "Easter." Rather, from the very beginnings of the faith, Christians assembled on Sundays because that was and is the day of our Lord Jesus' resurrection. Every Sunday is like a "little Easter," in that sense. And we rejoice to assemble together in the name of Jesus annually to begin the 50-day season of the Christian Passover (what the non-English-speaking world calls Easter), to celebrate aright the power of Christ over the grave.

"If I feel myself disinclined to pray, then is the time when I need to pray more than ever."

—
- Charles H. Spurgeon

Many people don't realize that this is an unnatural, or supernatural, celebration. The natural order requires suffering, sickness, sorrow, sin, and slaying. Yet our hearts yearn for a realm in which none of these things exist. Even if we cannot imagine it, we hunger for it. And that is what the resurrection of Jesus prefigures: A Kingdom of eternal peace, in which the order of this world has been brought to an end. Our call as Christians is not to become content with the sorrows and sins of this life, but to worship our Lord Jesus who defeated death by walking in his ways, scoffing at satan and his minions.

When Christ rose from the dead, he kicked death in the teeth. We participate in his same power when we live and walk in the Spirit. As Martin Luther phrased it: "Let goods and kindred go. This mortal life, also. The body they may kill. God's truth abideth



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still. His Kingdom is forever!" We can be deprived of anything because the salvation we have in Christ Jesus is a greater treasure than all things. And no one can rob us of him, nor him of us. Nothing can separate us from the love of God! (Rom. 8:31-39)

Every day, every season, is a new opportunity to walk in the light of Christ. The church is Christ's body on earth, commissioned with the holy task of collectively having and living the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:5-11). We can and should mourn the sins and sorrows of the past, but only insofar as it helps us to run into the arms of Christ, for "in the arms of my dear Savior, oh, there are ten thousand charms!" May God's embrace warm you this Holy Week.

Corner of Appreciation

Gwen spent time weeding the church flower beds and planting new flowers in anticipation of Easter.

Karen Wilson and Terry McKee prepared a wonderful potluck meal on March 26.

Mike Staehle spent time servicing the church mower and mowing the church lawns.

Coming Up in April

- April 1
Delaware Methodist Breakfast
7-10am
- April 3
George M.'s birthday
- April 7
Good Friday worship, 7pm
- April 8
Christopher S.'s birthday
- April 9
Easter Sunday
- April 11
Administrative Board
meeting at 6:30pm
- April 13
Karen W.'s birthday
- April 14
Sarah S.'s birthday
- April 24
Mesa H.'s birthday
- April 27
Jim P.'s birthday
- April 28
Johnnie Mac N.'s birthday
- April 30
Potluck after worship
Singing at Nowata Nursing
Home

Happening Every Week

Worship: Sundays at 11am

Women's Prayer Group:
Wednesdays at 10:30am

Office Hours: Monday-Friday
from 9am-12:30pm

Contact Us

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Let's keep feasting on God's word. Join us in the 'Bible Reading Challenge'

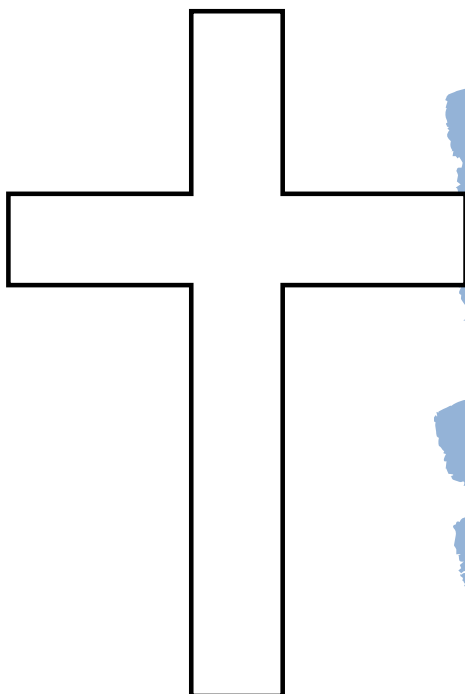
Join us in this essential spiritual discipline. Read what you can, and don't be discouraged if you get behind. There are "catch up days" built in to the plan. It is a blessing to feast on God's word each day!

APRIL 2023

- SAT **1** Jeremiah 13-17, Psalm 49*
- MON **3** Jeremiah 18-22, Psalm 52
- TUE **4** Jeremiah 23-27, Proverbs 23
- WED **5** Jeremiah 28-32, Psalm 53
- THU **6** Jeremiah 33-37, Proverbs 24
- FRI **7** Jeremiah 38-42, Psalm 55
- SAT **8** Jeremiah 43-48, Psalm 56
- MON **10** Jeremiah 49-52, Proverbs 25
- TUE **11** *Catch-Up Day (optional: James 1-5)†*
- WED **12** Lamentations 1-5, Psalm 50*
- THU **13** Ezekiel 1-5, Psalm 60
- FRI **14** Ezekiel 6-10, Proverbs 27
- SAT **15** Ezekiel 11-15, Psalm 61
- MON **17** Ezekiel 16-20, Psalm 62
- TUE **18** Ezekiel 21-25, Proverbs 30
- WED **19** Ezekiel 26-30, Psalm 63
- THU **20** Ezekiel 31-35, Psalm 64
- FRI **21** Ezekiel 36-40, Psalm 65
- SAT **22** Ezekiel 41-45, Psalm 66
- MON **24** Ezekiel 46-48, Psalms 67-70
- TUE **25** *Catch-Up Day (optional: Psalm 119:1-40)†*
- WED **26** Malachi 1-4, Psalms 71 & 73
- THU **27** Daniel 1-5, Psalm 74
- FRI **28** Daniel 6-10, Psalm 75
- SAT **29** Daniel 11-12, Psalms 76-78

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

- The church is hoping to jumpstart a local ministry aimed at helping mothers of young children feed their families healthy and easy meals during the week by coordinating an afternoon of meal preparation and cooking as well as encouragement for one another. If you would like to help fund the first six months of this ministry, contact Pastor Jeffrey.
- A United Methodist community in Nigeria has lost their building to the Nigerian government, and their temporary structure was blown away in a storm. They are raising money to build a pavilion structure in which to worship each week. If you would like to make a donation toward their building, please contact Pastor Jeffrey.
- Compassus, a local hospice provider, has approached us about a volunteer opportunity through their organization. If you would like to volunteer some time to sit and visit with individuals in hospice care, contact Vicky Cantrell.
918-323-6785 or vicky.cantrell@compassus.com



What Do We Believe?

How many persons are there in God?

*There are three persons in one true and living God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are the same in substance, equal in power and glory.
(New City Catechism, Question 3) (2 Cor. 13:14)*

How and why did God create us?

God created us male and female in his own image to know him, love him, live with him, and glorify him. And it is right that we who were created by God should live to his glory.

(New City Catechism, Question 4) (Gen. 1:27)