



Brewerton United Methodist Church Weekly Update, April 30, 2011

Greetings!

Welcome to Eastertide! This 50 day period beginning on Resurrection Sunday and running through Pentecost is considered one long feast. Each Sunday of Eastertide after Easter is considered a part of Easter itself, so tomorrow (May 1st) would be the "Second Sunday of Easter." Simply put, the resurrection of Jesus, overcoming our sins, and the bonds of death and the grave are too amazing and important to try to confine and celebrate in just one day!

This is a wonderful time to celebrate what God did for us - coming to earth, becoming a man (the incarnation), living and teaching among us, and then going to the cross and paying the price necessary to redeem us and restore our broken relationship with our creator. It is also a good time to read about the numerous appearances of Jesus to his disciples, both individually, and in small and large groups (in one instance to 500 people.) As we progress through the season, we remember other important events and stories that tell our narrative as people of God - Jesus's final days on earth, the Ascension of Jesus to heaven (more on this later), and the beginning of the story of the people called "Christians," when the helper promised by Jesus was sent by God - the arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

All in all it is a spiritually refreshing and exciting time as we reexamine the narrative of our roots, our beginnings as the people of God. Combine that with spring time flowers, green grass and budding trees as creation almost seems to sing of God's glory and his love for us and it is hard to find a reason not to love Eastertide! Why not celebrate by bringing a friend to worship with you, and don't forget to bring the kids!

Here are some things that are going on around Church:

- 1) Many thanks to all who participated in our Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday (Christian Seder/ Dinner), Good Friday and Easter Services. Worship requires teamwork and Ann, Kaitlyn, Lois, Joan, the Choir, Scott, Dave and Allison were terrific. The services were well attended and being able to worship with all of you certainly made my Holy Week come alive!
- 2) Our new Child Care Director will be starting work on May 12! Please join me in welcoming Desiree Phillips to our child care program. Desiree is looking forward to the challenge of helping the church make this mission to the Brewerton/Central Square community grow and increase in its effectiveness. Once Desiree is on board full time, she will begin taking some opportunities to get to know the church family that she will be working closely with.

3) The United Methodist Women would like to thank those who donated and bought baked goods as part of the "Bread For The World" Bake Sale. Monies raised are used to support selected missions projects that the UMW participates in.

4) Kudos to Deb Lombard and the entire pantry crew including our ecumenical church partners Calvary Baptist, Disciples of Christ and St. Agnes, and Brewerton Boy Scout troop # 3112 on their successful Easter Dinner drive. Components for over 50 meals were collected, assembled and many delivered so that the Easter celebrations for many of our neighbors could be more enjoyable. And all this work was on top of the normal pantry work that these volunteers put in each and every week. The pantry is open from 10:00 AM to Noon on Tuesdays and from 4:30 to 6:30 PM on Thursdays. To volunteer, donate or for more information please call the pantry number at 676-5528.

5) While we are on the subject of thank you's, a huge thank you goes out to our child care staff. Cindy, Correna and Michelle have really stepped up and allowed the center to survive our current director transition stage. They have worked extra hours, done extra work and worked closely with me to allow the children and their families to continue to enjoy a safe, fun place to spend time, all while maintaining a great attitude and patience with me as I attempt to help them. Thank you, ladies! Great job - we appreciate you!

6) We will be looking at ways in which we can help the families and communities in the southeast who were devastated by the recent round of tornados. Please keep those communities in your prayers and look for upcoming opportunities to bless them.

7) UMW Spring Rummage Sale - Gently used, wearable clothing and unbroken household items in working order may be brought to church starting Sunday, May 8th through Wednesday, May 11th. (Please, NO electronics, Large items, or tires, thanks.) If you would like to volunteer, are not sure about donating a particular item or simply wish to get more information, please call Beth Childress at 676-4370. All funds raised go to support UMW missions projects.

8) Upcoming events:

Monday, May 2 - 6:00 PM Zumba for Missions

Tuesday, May 3 - 7:00 PM United Methodist Women's Meeting (Bring your favorite hat!)

Thursday, May 5 - 6:00 - 8:30 PM Card Making Class (in Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, May 5 - 6:00 - 7:00 PM Choir Practice - new members are always welcome!

Sunday, May 8 - Mother's Day

Friday, May 14 - 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study @ Panera Bread, Cicero

Friday, May 14 - 2:00 - 6:00 PM UMW Spring Rummage Sale

Saturday, May 15 - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM UMW Spring Rummage Sale

9) **Please be in prayer.** Having reported about our new Child Care Director above, please keep the entire child care program - the staff, the kids, their parents, the new director, the finance team, the SPRC, the Child Care Committee, and yes, the Pastor in your prayers. Providing exceptional care for our children while offering them and their parents

opportunities to connect with Christ in meaningful ways is quite a challenge. We know, however, that what God wishes to do, he will get done. Missions always begin and are sustained with dedicated, purposeful prayer and require the support of the entire church. Eventually, all of us have a part to play in supporting, managing, enriching, and helping out with church-wide missions such as Child care and the Food Pantry. How should we pray? First, please pray about whether or not this current mission is one we should continue with. Should this be something our church is involved in? Is it what God wants us to do? Also, pray for all those involved (and for those God may call to get involved) so that they will be able to do their jobs well, represent God well, and reach the children, their families and the community for Christ. Pray also for increase enrollment, energy and health for the staff and wisdom and discernment for those planning for the future. And don't forget to talk to me about what God is telling you about this program!

10) **All bulletin announcements should** go directly to Lois Groginski, our dedicated and excellent bulletin producer/editor. Unless she receives them, they will not make it into the bulletin. Please try to get bulletin items to her by Wednesday for inclusion the following Sunday. Items submitted later than that may not make the bulletin that week.

11) **Have I missed anything?** Feel free to drop me a line with items that should be a part of OUR weekly update. Suggestions, corrections and other (constructive) comments may be emailed to me at Garred98@aol.com. Please have it to me by Sunday morning for inclusion in the next week's update.

See you at Church, and around the Kingdom!

Pastor Roger, Lead Servant, missionary and co-celebrant of God's Mercy