



*Palm
Sunday*



Easter Sunday



Sharyn Smith's
Easter bunny made
of bread, spinach dip
and veggies was
quite a sight and
delicious!

*A Glorious
day!*



United Methodist Church of Eagle Valley

☞ Serving Our Congregation and Community ☜

- May**
- (3) **First Friday Luncheon**
(Frost Creek, 1:00)
 - (5) **Education Sunday!**
(During worship)
 - (5) **Native American Ministries**
(special offering)
 - (12) **Mother's Day**
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- (18) **Women's Spring Tea**
(Fellowship hall, noon)
 - (22) **Women's Book Club**
(Spain's house, 6:30)
 - (27) **Memorial Day**
- Thank you for your service
vets!*
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**UMC
of Eagle Valley**
(333 2nd Street)

Worship
(10:00 am - 11:00)

- **Simple Supper**
Monday (6:00-7:00)
- **Food Pantry**

Monday (5:30 - 7:00)
Tuesday (10 - 12)
Thursday (12 - 2)

Pastor's Corner ☜ Pastor Sid Spain

As I write this article the death toll of the Easter bombings in Sri Lanka has risen to 321. Once again we witness the obscene violence of religious extremism. It is no wonder so many people in the world point to religion as the most destructive force in the world. Not only atheists rail against the history of sanctimonious religious brutality, people of conscience from every walk of life are staggered by what self-proclaimed people of faith are capable of doing. If what we see in places like the churches of Sri Lanka, the mosques of New Zealand, or a synagogue in Pittsburgh represents true religion, we should all join our atheist friends and look for something else for the foundation of our lives. Tragically, no religion is historically exempt from judgment for the ways it has, in the name of God, betrayed its essential teachings and violated any sense of decency.

Last month, I listened as the publisher of a Catholic journal spoke of the horrors of religion that has lost its mind and soul. He said, "There are crazy people and there are religious crazy people. Religious crazy people are worse. They believe God is on their side." It beggars comprehension; how can people who speak of the goodness of God vilify and dehumanize any other human being created by God? How can people in this century speak of the love and mercy of God, and wantonly slaughter others including our smallest and most innocent? Who can presume to kill anyone at worship in a house of prayer?

There are two contrary impulses in the religious world of the 21st century. More and more people are opening their minds and hearts to neighbors and strangers of different faiths. They come together to talk and listen, to seek common ground and stand in solidarity against all forms of injustice, discrimination, cruelty and barbarism. Small groups of people, often women, meet in war-torn regions of the world to commiserate, hope, and work to mend deep scars of centuries of conflict. They yearn for a world where tolerance, mutual respect, shared seeking for truth and community are normative—not the exception but the rule for religious faithfulness.

We are not good at participating in this compassionate and intelligent impulse, but we are getting better. The obscenities of division, the politics of fear, anger and hatred have virtually driven us together to work for peace. In our global vilage we can no longer be ignorant of the wide-ranging diversity of goodness.

There is another religious impulse in the world today. There are many professing religious individuals and groups turning inward rather than reaching outward; they are retrenching into narrow theologies and ideologies of exclusivity. Proud of their religious superiority, they know they are right, that they possess a pure, unadulterated knowledge of the truth. They see themselves as defenders of God. They fear being contaminated by false teachings and refuse to risk being vulnerable to other ways of worshiping God. They do not allow the possibility that God moves in grace beyond the walls of their teachings, and they double down on their most rigid traditions.



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Pastor's Corner

No one should be expected to water down her or his beliefs. The truth that has gripped our hearts and imaginations needs to be shared. But no one can be compelled to believe; violence is no way to spread faith. We are called to clarify and communicate our strongest convictions—but always in love. Trusting in God we risk meeting strangers, we risk learning from them, we risk changing our minds, we risk growing in knowledge and wisdom—we risk meeting God in unexpected places.

Indifference and inaction are not options for the genuinely faithful of any religion—certainly not Christian. Each of us is responsible to oppose the agents of hateful religion wherever they are. We are each responsible to witness by what we say and what we do to grace and goodness, decency and humanity, and the unbounded love of the God we know in Christ.



Scriptures for May

- (5) Acts 9:1-6; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19
- (12) Acts 9:36-43; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30
- (19) Acts 11:1-18; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35
- (26) Acts 16:9-15; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29

Thoughts to Ponder

*I have refused to live locked in the orderly house
of reasons and proofs.
The world I live in and believe in is wider than that.
And anyway, what's wrong with **Maybe?**
You wouldn't believe what once or
twice I have seen. I'll just tell you this:
only if there are angels in your head will you
ever, possibly, see one.*
~~Mary Oliver

*Prayer is not just spending time with God . . .
If it ends there, it is fruitless. No, prayer is dynamic.
Authentic prayer changes us—unmasks us.*
~~Teresa of Avila

*I have been driven many times to my knees by
the overwhelming conviction
that I had absolutely no other place to go.*
~~Abraham Lincoln

Lent, Holy Week and Easter

We were blessed in countless ways during the season of reflection, penitence, and prayer. Among the privileges of Lent was the opportunity to celebrate the confirmation of four of our youth, Hailey, Josh, Mariel, and Jillian. On the Wednesday evenings of Lent a few of us studied the Apostles' Creed and ventured into a greater understanding of the nuances and possibilities and experience of prayer. Holy Week services brought us to the Maundy Thursday upper room with Jesus and his disciples, to the foot of the cross on Good Friday, and to the harrowing silence of Holy Saturday. Easter Sunday we basked in the light of a spring day as we rejoiced once again in the promise, hope, and reality of the resurrection. The season is past for this year, but the glow of our gratitude remains.

Education Sunday



It is time, once again, to recognize some of our graduates. We're a little early this year, but the 2019 school calendar is unusual, and some of the people who coordinate this important recognition will be out of town when the school year ends. Following is a list, by grade, of the students we recognize this year.

2nd graders

Clelia Basso, Amelia Bogertman, Everett Emrich, Carson Hooper, Juniper Kenney, Teegan Terbush

5th graders

Audrey Anzalone, Alessia Basso, Mikaela Gifford, Moria Horn, Asher Hustad, Sigmund Johnson, Miles Kipp, Will Packer, Kate Pohl, Tage Terbush

8th Graders

Hailey Gifford, Josh Bissett, Jillian Lee

Senior

Kalista Farmer



5-02. Gracie Bogertman	5-17. Donna Weber
5-08. Zoe Pier	5-18. Tessa Allen
5-09. Pam Albrecht	5-20. Kylee Smith
5-09. Nick Deering	5-20. Mike McWilliam
5-12. Jeanne Mosier	5-27. Dave Kurt
5-14. Laura Anzalone	5-29. Kari Pier
5-14. Caryn Yarger	5-30. Liberty Farmer



Vacation Bible School

At the present time, we have no plans for Vacation Bible School. If anyone is interested in directing this week that has been an important outreach to our children and the community, please discuss this with Pastor Sid. There are support materials available to help us run our own VBS. In other words, any person interested in directing may organize in whatever way they choose. Thanks for your support in all our children's programming.

Summer Children's Church Teacher Needed: Paid position to start on June 2nd. Responsible for simple curriculum, craft and snack for our children ages 3 years old-5th grade during the summer months of June, July, and August. Would consider a shared position of every other week. Contact the office at 328-6598 for details.

Women's Book Club



This month's book club meets on Wednesday evening, May 22, at 6:30 at Robyn Spain's home, 543 McIntire in Eagle. May's book is *The Japanese Lover*, a novel by Isabel Allende. All women are welcome to join the group whether or not they have been able to read or finish the book. Discussion is always lively, there is plenty of laughter, and always enough food and drink to go around. If you are able, please bring a small snack to share.

United Methodist Women



First Friday Luncheon—May 3rd, 1:00

(Frost Creek Restaurant, 1094 Frost Creek Dr, Eagle)

All women of the church are invited to join us for a nice lunch and fellowship. Please RSVP by signing up next to the coffee pot in the fellowship hall. If you need a ride or have questions please contact Robyn Spain, 303-903-8249 or Sandy VanCampen 970-471-2660 .

Women's Spring Tea

Saturday May 18 at 12:00, in the new fellowship hall. Decorate your own table if you wish. Bring an appetizer or dish to share and wear your favorite spring hat. Friends and daughters are encouraged to come. Contact Michelle Friedman 970-376-3205 or Donna Gress 970-328-6921 for questions.