

## Our Mission

*We are an open and welcoming community that God calls and the Holy Spirit empowers us to:*

- *Share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all ages*
- *Explore and express a growing faith*
- *Equip believers for ministries which expand the kingdom of God*



# LIBERATION

**Isaiah 25:1-10**  
**John 20:1-18**

Liberation, Isaiah 25:1-10, John 20:1-18

Easter, March 31, 2024

Theme: New Life

The Gospel of John contains an account of an incident which occurred approximately 1985 years ago. Which means the church has featured this celebration at least that many times.

When I mean 'the church' I mean all Christian churches all over the world. I mean any group gathering in the name of Jesus to remember Jesus' Resurrection.

There are many themes which can be extracted from the event itself. Simply telling the miraculous story as accurately as possible as it is told in the Gospels from four different points of view is enough. It is a beautiful story of amazement and love. The story is at one exciting, loving, strong and frightening.

Old stories are interesting, but what does the event imply for us today? Again, there are several implications one can take from the event. The one I chose to emphasize is this....

Jesus liberates us.

When Jesus was resurrected, I see it as an act of forgiveness. I see Jesus' new life as a sign, a miraculous sign that God forgives humanity for its rather stupid and arrogant act of violence against not only his only son but also against what Jesus represents. Jesus' Resurrection is to say, "I [God] forgive you for your sins against me." It also means, "You can't kill my love for you."

The reason this is important is because it sets a precedence for how we should treat others. I believe it is this precedence alone which frees humanity to excel. The ability to 'move on' past the idea that we need to abide by the 'eye for an eye' principle.

It means there are better ways to get past acts of injustice besides more violence. The principles of forgiveness allow humanity to get past spending limited resources on wars and 'getting even.'

An important thing humans must learn is that God is not saying "it's OK to kill Jesus because I can make the wrong go away." It does say, though, that we can move past the horrible wrong's we humans seem to exact on each other and God. It means that there are other ways to reconcile wrongs beside 'getting even.'

This is liberation.

Come join us at First Christian Church, Warrensburg, Missouri this Easter Sunday as we celebrate a new life without the constraints of violence.

### **CWF Notes from Toni Frandsen & Vicki Granger, Co-Presidents**

Rummage Sale dates are set for August 8-10 and August 16-17. CWF also decided on Saturday, April 27 at 8:00 AM for a THANK YOU breakfast for the Property Committee for all their hard work remodeling, painting, lighting, and putting up shelving in the back rooms of Fellowship Hall! What a transformation! Our next CWF meeting will be Thursday, April 11 at 9:30 AM. A devotion will be given by Deb Cadle, hostesses are Linda Hoover and Janette Howard, and the program will be presented by Vicki Granger. All ladies are welcome!

## Coffee Connection

*We need Hosts for Coffee Connection for April!  
If you are available for any Sunday in April or early May,  
please stop by the bulletin board in the CLC lobby  
and sign up or call the Office! If you have the time, please  
know that you need not pay for items out of pocket.  
A Walmart card will be provided. Thank you!*



### Prayer Concerns and Praises

Prayers for the family of Jane Russell.

Prayers for Sydney Hochsprung (Janice Wolff's granddaughter) and Finn Helms.

Prayers for Mike Haller.

Prayers for Chuck Ludlam, Pat Sterling's Son-in-law.

Prayers for Jeff Kramer, Nancy Rogers' work partner.

Prayers for the family of Marvin Harper, friend of Gary Grigsby.

Prayers for Brenda Dougherty, Kristal's mother, she's back in the hospital.

Prayers for Kathy's nephews, Eric Mueller and Trevor Browning. Trevor recently underwent another surgery.

Prayers for Ann Patterson Scott.

Prayers for Rick Dooley.

Prayers for Melvin's cousin, Erin Rogers.

Prayers for the Basye family.

Prayers for Ed and Bubbles Goodwin, Bill's parents.

Prayers for the Search & Call Committee.

Prayers for our members who are homebound, in an assisted living community and nursing homes.

Praises for Brian & Jimmy Petty, they are doing better!  
Janice Wolff's friends.

### April Birthdays

- 1 – Casey Laws
- 5 - Greg Cobb
- 7 – Roger Coleman
- 8 – Pat Sterling
- 9 – Chuck Owings
- 9 – Nancy Eaton
- 10 – Sharon Cochran
- 10 – David Elliott
- 11 – Vicki Granger
- 12 – Nicholas Etter
- 13 – Ginny Bruch
- 13 – Hanna Stillwell
- 17 – Elizabeth Bell
- 18 – Connie Baldwin
- 19 – Charlie Dennis
- 21 – Janice Wolff
- 21 – Kaitlyn Seigfreid
- 22 - Deke Alkire
- 23 – Martha Smarr
- 25 – Jon Frandsen
- 25 – Brayden Godfrey

### April Anniversaries

- 1 – Casey & Carrie Laws
- 10 – Greg & Shannon Cobb



**First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
101 East Gay Street  
Warrensburg MO 64093**

Church phone: 660-747-6815  
Pastor Lem Whitmer's Cell phone: 816-695-3002  
Website: fccwburg.com  
Office Email: 1stchristianchurchwburg@gmail.com  
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00-2:00

**Two Important dates coming up:**

Maundy Thursday, tomorrow, 3/28 at FUMC. Brunch from 5:00-6:30 pm with Service starting at 6:30. FUMC & FCC Combined Choir & Bell Choir will perform! Also, Easter Sunday, March 31 with Coffee Connection at 10:00 and a Combined Service at 10:45 in the Sanctuary. Lunch in the CLC after Service, see page 5 for info!

**Weekly Calendar**

**Wednesday March 27**

9:00 – CWF working in the Fellowship Hall  
11:00 to 12:00 – Grab ‘N Go Lunch  
2:00 – Funeral Services for Jane Russell  
5:30 - FCC Young Adults, Rob Bell Series  
6:00 - Discussion on Jesus’ Parables in the Parlor

**Maundy Thursday March 28**

11:00 to 12:00 – Devotion & Singing at Warrensburg Manor  
5:00 – 6:30 Breakfast for Dinner, at First United Methodist Church  
6:30 – Maundy Thursday Service

**Friday March 29**

9:00 – Bell Choir Practice  
Good Friday Holiday

**Easter Sunday March 31**

Easter Special Offering, last day  
10:00 – Coffee Connection in the CLC lobby  
10:45 – Combined Service in the Sanctuary  
10:45 – Easter Party in the Nursery, for Infants through 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
Lunch in the CLC following Service. Please RSVP

**Monday April 1**

Office is closed for the Easter Holiday

**Tuesday April 2**

6:30 – Advisory Council

**Please keep reading**

*You're invited to*  
*Family Easter Dinner*



following worship service in the  
**Christian Life Center**

Brenda will provide the meat, drinks and some extras. You are asked to bring sides &/or desserts.

If you're not a 'cooker', you can request dishes and make a donation. I'd be happy to do the cooking for you.

To help get a head count and see what others are bringing, please fill out this [2024 Easter Dinner form](#).

Or you can RSVP to me: 660-909-4220 or [dooley@ucmo.edu](mailto:dooley@ucmo.edu)