

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*

Strange Things

John 20:19-31



Stange Things, John 20:19-31

Easter B1, April 7, 2024

Theme: Doubt

“Strange Things”

‘Strange’ is a word which can illicit many different emotions – most of them fearsome. But, why would that be, you ask?

Well since ‘strangeness’ implies that things are unfamiliar, there is the feeling that if things are strange, one is about to experience something unusual. Unusual usually means ‘different.’

When things are ‘different’ it usually means something familiar has changed.

This is what Jesus’ disciples experienced at a meeting not long after Jesus’ resurrection. Usually someone does not meet a person known to be dead; that is, a person who had died a terrible death in front of, well, the whole world.

Jesus showed them his wounds. Reading between the lines here, Jesus would have looked quite a sight. Even if he had cleaned up, there would have been not only the wounds on his hands, feet, and side, but also on his head and back. But that’s not all he did. He breathed on them a powerful gift of the Holy Spirit. I can’t even guess what that must have felt like.

Thomas had the most trouble because he was not present the first time Jesus showed himself to his friends. I think he gets a bad rap. I mean, how would anyone react to someone, even a close friend, telling of such an event -- especially a person who is supposed to be dead showing up for a meeting?

Anyway, it was strange to say the least. But change is always a bit scary. We humans are that way about things that are different.

Believe me! There is nothing familiar about what those men experienced not once, but twice.

Most of us wouldn't believe it, even if we had seen it. I know Thomas didn't – that is, until he saw it with his own eyes, and touched Jesus' wounds.

But there was something even scarier than what I just described. What was really scary was the implications of what it meant. To accept the reality of Jesus being resurrected from the dead was strange enough, but what it implied to the disciples and their future – that is a whole other thing.

It meant none of them could really go back to their ordinary lives – even though they tried.

It meant that the teachings they had heard Jesus speak were not in any way hypothetical.

It meant that the healing of lepers was going to continue. It meant that 'fishing for people' really was going to be their stock and trade.

The thing is, the whole 3 years of Jesus' teachings and miracles that the followers of Jesus experienced, is still going on.

Come join us at Warrensburg First Christian Church on this Sunday after Easter as we begin to realize what it really means to accept the resurrection of the Christ.

[The Preaching Festival begins April 14th, 2024!](#)

We are blessed to have 5 ministers in our congregation! Beginning April 14th, we will have guest preachers for the 5 weeks prior to Pentecost. The theme is, "Experiencing the Living God."

- **Sunday, April 14th** is Reverend Elizabeth Cockrell Coleman
- **Sunday, April 21st** is Dr. Roger Coleman
- **Sunday, April 28th** is Reverend Lem Whitmer
- **Sunday, May 5th** is Mark Goodwin
- **Sunday, May 12th** is Pastor Jerry Basye (this Sunday is Mother's Day!)

Mark your calendars, we hope you can be here to enjoy these amazing speakers!

Warrensburg Senior Center needs Volunteer drivers! Routes begin at 10:00 am and take 1 hour to 90 minutes. Mileage reimbursement is available. Work 1 day a month or more, WSC works with your availability. 660-747-2624, 445 E. Gay St. Please consider this worthy opportunity!

Coffee Connection

We need Hosts for Coffee Connection for April 14, 21 & 28!

If you are available for those Sundays 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 Dennis Jones.

Rachel Shane, friend of Amanda Corbett's, who donated a kidney.

Paulette Whitmer's Cousin and Aunt.

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

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

Prayers for Jeff Kramer, Nancy Rogers' work partner. He has had extra health issues come up.

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

Prayers for Kathy's nephews, Eric Mueller and Trevor Browning. Trevor is home but is still recovering.

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**

Sunday Worship Services Attendance:

Palm Sunday, March 24th = 76

Easter Sunday, March 31st = 77

Weekly Calendar

Wednesday April 3

11:00 to 12:00 – Grab ‘N Go Lunch
5:30 - FCC Young Adults, Rob Bell Series
6:00 - Discussion on Jesus’ Parables in the Parlor

Thursday April 4

11:00 to 12:00 – Devotion & Singing at
Warrensburg Manor
5:00 – Harmonayres

Friday April 5

9:00 – Bell Choir Practice

Sunday April 7

9:15 – Children’s Sunday School
9:15 – Traditional Service in the Sanctuary
10:15 – Coffee Connection, CLC Lobby
10:45 – Celebration Service in the CLC

Tuesday April 9

6:30 – Elder’s Meeting

Please keep reading!

A letter from the Russell family:

Dear First Christian Church,

Mom was a proud member of the First Christian Church for seventy-five years. We would like to thank you ALL for your thoughts and prayers.

To the CWF Ladies, the dinner was delicious and very appreciated!

Thanks also to Pastor Lem Whitmer, Gretta Miller, and the audio-visual team for their help with the service.

The Family of Jane Russell