



# FAITHnews

Monthly Newsletter of Eldridge United Methodist Church

## April 2025

### Dear Church Family & Friends,

Do you remember the story of the ten lepers Jesus healed in **Luke 17:11-19**? Here's a quick summary in case your memory is a little foggy:

*As Jesus was traveling to Jerusalem, He passed through Samaria and Galilee. Along the way, ten lepers stood at a distance (as required by Jewish law) and cried out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"*

*Jesus saw them and told them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." As they obeyed and went, they were miraculously healed.*

*However, only one of them—a Samaritan—turned back, praising God loudly. He fell at Jesus' feet and thanked Him.*

*Jesus responded: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"*

*Then He told the man, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."*

I don't know about you, but I don't want to be like the nine lepers who went away rejoicing but never came back to thank Jesus. With that in mind, I want to say from the bottom of my heart: **Thank you!**

In the short time we have been here, you have shown us **great love, support, and generosity**—far beyond what we could have ever expected. You lifted boxes, packed a U-Haul, and even provided for the cleaning of the apartment.

As you know, moving is stressful, but because of all of you, I have been reminded of what it truly means to be part of a **church family**. Family doesn't just help with logistics; **they remind you that you are not alone.**

We are incredibly grateful for each and every one of you. **Thank you** for your generosity, your service, and most of all, your hearts. We are blessed beyond measure to call you our family.

So, like the one leper, I come to **Jesus—and to all of you—to say thank you.**

And like the shirt I received in October during Pastor Appreciation Month says, "*This Pastor has an awesome congregation.*" But in our case, we are **doubly blessed** because we have **two** awesome congregations, and I am so glad that **you** are a part of it!

In Christ, *Pastor Jim*

# LENTEN SEASON & HOLY WEEK

We are nearing the end of the season of **LENT** – with this coming Sunday being the 4th Sunday of the five Sundays of Lent, **Palm Sunday** on April 13<sup>th</sup> and triumphant **Easter** on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Holy Week is just around the corner and much planning is already taking place to make it a time of meaning and spiritual ‘re-awakening’. Our hope is that you will mark the importance of the days to come with your support of and/or attendance at the following activities and events. *For instance:*

1. **EASTER LILY ORDERS:** Now is the time we reserve an Easter Lily in honor or remembrance of family & friends. They will be put out on Easter Sunday morning with a bulletin remembrance of your personal dedication. Then immediately after church that day, you can take your lily/lilies home to enjoy or to share with others in your life with whom you’d like to show your love. Each lily is \$12 and, of course, you may order as many as you like. Order forms are available in the church office (I’ll have a few with me on Sunday morning in McCausland too). Orders must be placed and paid for no later than Wednesday April 9<sup>th</sup>.
2. Many of you like to surprise your kids/grandkids/friends/family with one of our specially curated (ooh, ooh, aren’t we fancy!?) **EASTER BASKETS**. The **SILENT AUCTION** will open on Sunday morning, April 6<sup>th</sup>, continue throughout that week into the hour before church on Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Top bidders will be determined and ‘winners’ can take their baskets home that very morning after worship. Be planning ahead...more details to follow.
3. Holy Week begins with **PALM SUNDAY** (April 13), marking Jesus’ triumphal entrance to Jerusalem but also noting how things quickly change to the climate that takes him through his darkest moments leading to the crucifixion. Worship that morning will begin with the “Parade of Palms” and warm our hearts with much extra beautiful music from our Chancel Choir.
4. There will be **no MAUNDY THURSDAY** service this year. Our hope is that more of you will attend the service on the following night . . .
5. Pastor Jim is planning a very special **GOOD FRIDAY** service here at EUMC on Friday, the 18<sup>th</sup>! As Ash Wednesday was a joint service with McCausland there, this too will be a joint service with the McUMC folks coming *here* this time, at 6pm. In the dim light of evening, the sound of nails, the feeling of wood, the emotion of music, Jesus final and most difficult moments will be commemorated that evening. Please mark that night as a very special moment in your own personal “*Way to the Cross*” this Easter season by planning to attend.
6. And of course...**EASTER SUNDAY!** Easter lilies all over the altar, special choir music, and the beauty of worshipping together in celebration of Christ’s resurrection to save us all from our sins! Plan to stay awhile after worship for some special treats and a wonderful time of fellowship as we gather together in celebration of the most important day in our lives as Christians.

## In Other News...

- **FOOD PANTRY** emphasis for the month of APRIL is Cleaning Supplies.
- Looking ahead to May, do we have any high school or college graduates that should be honored on **GRADUATION SUNDAY** (May 18)? Please turn in those names to the office by May 1.
- Kathy Rhinehart’s **KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY** here on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Kentucky food and drink, fun games, and watching THE race together. Details forthcoming...but mark the date!

- Here are upcoming **APRIL CALENDAR DATES** of importance:
  - \*Mondays / 10am – Quilters Bible Study at Joyce’s house
  - \*Tuesdays / 10am – Bible Study in the Library
  - \*Wednesdays / 9am – YOGA in the sanctuary
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Worship Committee meeting / 1:00pm
  - 6<sup>th</sup> – Communion Sunday; Choir Practice / 4pm  
Easter Basket Silent Auction begins (*ends on Palm Sunday, the 13<sup>th</sup>*)
  - 9<sup>th</sup> – Easter Lily Orders due by noon
  - 10<sup>th</sup> – Administrative Council monthly meeting / 6:30pm
  - 12<sup>th</sup> – Men’s Breakfast Fellowship / 7:00am  
*Possible morning Choir Practice / TBA*
  - 13<sup>th</sup> – PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP** (Basket Raffle concludes)
  - 15<sup>th</sup> – Missions-Outreach meeting / 6pm
  - 18<sup>TH</sup> – GOOD FRIDAY – Joint Service here / 6pm**
  - 19<sup>th</sup> – *Possible* Choir Rehearsal / 9:30am
  - 20<sup>th</sup> – EASTER SUNDAY / Hallelujah, He is Risen!**
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> – United Women of Faith meeting / 3pm
  - 26<sup>th</sup> – CCT Meet & Greet / Read-Thru of “Hairspray” cast / 1-4pm
  - 27<sup>TH</sup>-2<sup>ND</sup> – CJ on vacation / Nancy will be covering the office



## Anniversaries & Birthdays

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Apr 1	Mark Herrin
Apr 2	Dave Wall
Apr 7	Pastor Ron Carlson
Apr 8	Taylor Crain
<b>Apr 9</b>	<b>Ken &amp; Marcia Nestler</b>
Apr 11	Glendena Heiman
Apr 12	Jason Apple
<b>Apr 14</b>	<b>Cliff &amp; Melissa Willey</b>
Apr 18	Sondra Bulazo Samantha Stilson
Apr 23	Linda Tubbs Cory Crain
Apr 29	Mary Miller
Apr 30	Becky Esbaum

APR	Hosts	Liturg.	Kitchen Helper	Piano	TV	Flowers
6*	Abbas	Dan	Orvetta & Janalee	Kathy	CJ	Wright
<i>*COMMUNION: Dan &amp; Becky Esbaum and (Esbaums will find a third someone)</i>						
13(ps)	Stacy & Dee	Trish	Kathy Dawson	Tom L	CJ	?____?
18(GF)	Abbas	-----	-----	Kathy	CJ	-----
20(E)	Doonan	CJ	Christie & Doug	Kathy	Keith	LILLIES
27	Apple	Rheta	Fran(prepare)/Apple	Linda R	Stacy	?____?