



West Jefferson, OH March 2024

MESSENGER

A Publication of the West Jefferson United Methodist Church

The Lenten Path

by Pastor Ruth Pile

Spring is such a wonderful season, right in the middle of February! Yes, it's been mild except for a couple short bursts of snow. The blossoms are coming out on the confused trees. Plants of all kinds begin to prematurely push their way through the winter's dirt. It does seem too early, but I'm all for it! Bring on the daffodils, tulips, and whatnot!

But what if Spring was never to come. What if, because of some astronomical disaster, we all were caught in the grip of a winter that would not let go, and the earth remained dark, cold, wet, and barren. Oh, that's what it seemed like last weekend! Cold, snow and frost cover the buds of the trees, tulips and daffodils. What would it be like if this is how it stayed for years on end! In a lot of ways that's what our world would be like without Easter.

It would be a Good Friday world where Christ dies and remains dead. In a Good Friday world, darkness wins over light. In a Good Friday world, loveless power defeats the power of love. There is nothing to celebrate. In fact without Easter we can't even call it *Good* Friday. It would definitely be *awful* Friday.

We have to admit the world does seem like that kind of a Friday world in a lot of ways. The powers of evil seem to have conquered. It is a world where greedy grasping brings dividends and where violence is perceived to be the answer to any sort of opposition. It's a world where sex, money and power rule. It is a world where our motivation for living boldly, caring deeply and loving passionately has been wrung out of us. A Friday world is a world of selfishness and self-centeredness.

A Friday world is one where every day is "one of those days". We all have "one of those days" sometimes, don't we? We may not choose to have them sometimes but they do happen.

This month will be a long one. February flew by with it's shortened 28 days and mostly good weather. Except for the two weekend snows that melted in a day or two. But March! March has 31 days that can have every kind of weather Mother Nature has under her hat! Not to mention that March will encompass our Lenten Path with nearly every single day, EXCEPT one! Resurrection Sunday, March 31st! We will be so ready for that day I'm sure! Thank God we are not condemned to a Good Friday world.

I read recently of a church school teacher who tells of an Easter pageant she staged with her class. One little boy said, "I want to be the stone." The teacher asked why. "Because it will feel so good to let Jesus out of the tomb."

That's the Good news. That is the word the world needs to hear. That is the coming of a warm spring after a harsh winter. That's the news of the rolled-away stone! That is the word that people who are depressed need to hear. That is the word we need to hear when we feel that we will never know love again. That is what people need to hear when they have lost their belief in the miraculous so they no longer expect great things from God. We need to hear this word when we are overcome by the hunger, oppression and war around us. We need to hear that word which is our hope, our faith, and the source of our love.

And so, we will continue to travel down this Lenten Path with the hope of the empty tomb in our hearts, already knowing that it is amazing...and true...Jesus is risen from the dead! Thanks be to God! Yes, that means things have changed. But hear the changes: Death is no longer the powerful force it once was. Sin no longer has an unbreakable hold on our lives. Our behaviors are no longer controlled by these two formerly powerful forces of sin and death.

We have many worship opportunities in the next few weeks. Please make time to come worship. Yes, in order to get to the glorious resurrection we must journey through Holy Week, the Last Supper and the Crucifixion. Difficult stuff to be sure. But where would we be without it? Without the Holy Week journey there is no Easter! No Resurrection! Come and participate in the whole of our faith journey this year, then the Celebration!

See you in Church!

Pastor Ruth



FINANCIAL NEWS ; Duane Stokes, Treasurer

General Fund 2023

	DEC	YTD
GF Income	34,043.87	176,706.14
GF Expenses	17,804.60	175,970.84
	16,239.27	735.30



youth MINISTRY Schedule

March 17 6:30-8pm
April 14 6:30-8pm
May 5 6:30-8pm



Thanks for Donating!

Wish—List for 2024:

- Easter erasers
- Easter coloring books
- Easter pencils
- Candy
- Laundry soap pods
- Dryer sheets
- Playing cards

Thank you! SG

Dear Church Community,

We want to start by expressing gratitude for your generosity towards our church. Your contributions have been essential to our ability to continue carrying out our mission and serving the needs of our community.

We also want to take this opportunity to introduce our new e-giving platform, Vanco. This platform provides a secure and user-friendly way to give to our church online, and we are confident that it will make giving more convenient for many members of our congregation.

You can give now at this link:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZK1R>

Whether you choose to give online or in person, your support is vital to the continued success of our church community. We are so grateful for your generosity and commitment to our shared mission.

Thank you again for all that you do.

Blessings!

NEW QR code! Scan to donate

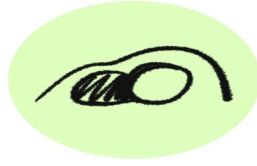


New Baby

Maeleigh Sue Brown was born to her parents Taylor and Jared Brown on February 20, 2024. Congratulations to Mark Maggard on becoming a great-grandfather and to Mike and Amy Maggard on becoming grandparents!



Happy Easter



Palm/Passion Sunday

Good Friday

Easter Sunday



Mar. 24th 10am

Mar. 29th 7pm

Mar. 31st 10am

Sunday 3/10!

Church Directory



This year we would like to put out an updated church directory. If you have any updated addresses, emails and/or phone numbers that you would like to be included, please submit to the church office by the end of March.

Dine to Donate
Los Mariachis &
Sufficient Grace

DINE IN or TAKE OUT

INCLUDES ALCOHOL

March 4, 5, & 6, 2024
11:00 am - Close

Los Mariachis will donate 20% of your total bill excluding tax to Sufficient Grace.

Los Mariachis

289 Lafayette Street, London, OH 43140 - (740) 845-1388

**** MUST HAVE FLYER WITH YOU WHEN YOU WALK IN TO DINE OR PICK UP AND GIVE TO SERVER ****

DISTRIBUTING FLYERS IN OR ON PREMISES IS NOT PERMITTED
(for real - don't ruin it for everyone by trying to sneak flyers to others.)





Liturgist Sign-Up

We are always in need of new volunteers to read the opening prayer and scriptures every Sunday. The sign up to be liturgist is on the bulletin board in the back of the church.

No experience needed! Sign up for Liturgist 😊

Membership



If you are interested in membership here at West Jefferson UMC, please see Pastor Ruth, or call the office. Also, if you are ready for baptism or to have your child baptized, please let us know. It is a blessing to see many new faces and members. Let us know how we can help with this wonderful sacrament of Christ's Church

~Pastor Ruth



Good Friday Service

3/29

7pm

West Jefferson UMC
36 S Center Street
West Jefferson, OH

West Jefferson

Upcoming
Events

MARCH 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2 Food Pantry 10-11a
3 Worship 10a God's Kids 11a Alleluia Ringers 11:15a	4 Sufficient Grace 1p	5 Food Pantry Set-Up 7:30a Shawl Sis 9a	6 Food Pantry 2-3p Al-Anon 12p Choir 7p Boy Scouts 6:30p	7	8	9 Food Pantry 10-11a
10  Worship 10a God's Kids 11a Youth Group 6:30-8p	11 Sufficient Grace 1p	12 Food Pantry Set-Up 7:30a Shawl Sis 9a	13 Food Pantry 2-3p Al-Anon 12p Choir 7p Boy Scouts 6:30p	14	15	16 Community Breakfast 8-10a Food Pantry 10-11a
17  Worship 10a God's Kids 11a Alleluia Ringers 11:15a Youth Mtg 6:30p	18 Sufficient Grace 1p	19 Food Pantry Set-Up 7:30a Shawl Sis 9a	20 Food Pantry 2-3p Al-Anon 12p Choir 7p Boy Scouts 6:30p	21 Girl Scouts Service Unit 6-8p	22	23 Food Pantry 10-11a
24 Palm Sunday Easter Sunday Breakfast on the 5th 31	25 Sufficient Grace 1p Leadership Mtg 6:30p	26 Food Pantry Set-Up 7:30a Shawl Sis 9a	27 Food Pantry 2-3p Al-Anon 12p Choir 7p Boy Scouts 6:30p	28	29 GOOD FRIDAY 7p 	30 Food Pantry 10-11a

West Jefferson

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 <i>Barb Butler</i> <i>Bill Wells</i>
					3 <i>Bob Pearce</i>	4 <i>Pete Berry</i> <i>Don Hay</i> <i>Ben Morgan</i> <i>Will Morgan</i>
10	11	12 <i>Nate Green</i> <i>Robert Harper IV</i> <i>Zoe Stokes</i> <i>Steve & Judy Heminger (A)</i>	13 <i>Maria Kelly</i>	14	15 <i>Dixie Adkins</i> <i>Mike Murry</i>	16
17 <i>Ron & Evelyn Clark (A)</i>	18	19 <i>Sydney Gaus</i> <i>Susan Wamsley</i>	20	21 <i>Hannah Maggard</i>	22	23
24 <i>Jeff Francis</i>	25 <i>Molly Maggied</i> <i>Mike & Valerie Murry (A)</i>	26	27	28	29	30
31						



HAVE A
blessed
EASTER



West Jefferson United Methodist Church

36 South Center Street

West Jefferson OH 43162

614-879-8130

Email: wjumc@att.net

Rev. Ruth Pribe, Pastor

Email: preacherlady@aol.com

Worship 10AM

Sunday School 10AM

YouTube, Facebook, or by CD (audio only)



March

2024

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