

CHRIST CHURCH

VOLUME 44 NUMBER 4

From a pastor's desk:

Here we are at the beginning of Holy Week once again. As I read through the account I am struck by the tremendous swing of emotions that the disciples had to have experienced over the next week. It began with the triumphal entrance into Jerusalem. Finally, in their eyes, Jesus is getting the recognition that they had hoped for. It says that "the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen." The streets were lined with admirers. Jesus rides in like a celebrity.

Yet by the end of the week they watch him be betrayed by one of their own, arrested, beaten, mocked, humiliated, then disowned by another and deserted by all. Just when all of their efforts seemed to be paying off, everything fell apart. Finally, Jesus is nailed to a cross where his life ends. From their perspective how would this look and what were they thinking? Did they begin to wonder if anything that Jesus said was true? How could it be when none of it made sense anymore?

Lost, confused, angry, bitter for having given the last 3 years for nothing?! But then it happened. Just as quickly and unexpectedly as his demise, they are again given hope. An empty tomb, Jesus shows himself to Mary Magdalene, and then to the disciples who are locked together, hiding in a room. He's not dead! He's alive! Yes! Now it all does start to make sense. What made the resurrection so much more meaningful was the pain, grief and loss that the disciples had just experienced. Sorrow turned to joy! Hopelessness turned to promise! Questions given answers!

As we approach this Holy Week, take time to experience the pain and loss, knowing that you and I were the cause of it! Don't let this week pass by as just another week. Resurrection Sunday is coming fast. Don't miss the build up to the greatest celebration of all time! I encourage you to each day this week read an account of the Palm Sunday to Easter story from each of the Gospels. Share with us at our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. And come ready to celebrate on Resurrection Sunday!

CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! HALLELUJAH!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday Service -	7pm
Good Friday Service -	12:30pm
Resurrection Sunday Breakfast-	9-9:45am
Resurrection Celebration-	10:15am

There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday, plan to join us for breakfast!



BAIR LAKE MEN'S RETREAT!! - MAY 1-3

WANTED – Christian men to come together for a weekend of spiritual growth through great teaching, lively worship, godly fellowship, and lots of activities! The speaker is Tom Harmon and worship is led by Matt Wagner. The cost for the entire weekend is \$108 which includes all meals, activities, lodging, and sessions. Please sign up on the sheet in the rear entry. Payment and registrations are due back by Sunday April 19th. If you've gone in the past you know how much fun it is! If you haven't gone I hope that you will consider joining us this year!



MEN'S SOFTBALL

Our season begins Friday, April 24th! Our schedule will be out soon and we hope you can make it out to cheer us on!



THURSDAY NIGHT PRAYER

During our Lenten season we did not meet for prayer on Thursday nights. We will resume again after Easter. All are invited! This might be the time to start joining us! God answers prayer! Thursday nights from 6:45pm-7:30pm.



DARKE COUNTY YFC PROJECT

Our friends from Darke County Youth for Christ in Ohio will be coming back to work in the Brightmoor community March 27-31. They will again be working on the homes of people in need doing painting, drywall repair, replacing windows, installing flooring, doing plumbing repairs, and sharing the love of Jesus with residents. Thank you to the Fellowship Ministry who again hosted the entire team of 45-50 people for dinner here at Christ Church on Friday night, as our way of encouraging and supporting their mission trip. It is a blessing to partner with them in ministry!

