

# THE MESSENGER

Welcome to Market Street Methodist Church

APRIL 2026

## *Easter People: Living The Resurrection Life*

Easter is the radiant center of our faith—the day when the darkness of the tomb gave way to the unstoppable **light of Christ's resurrection. As Free Methodists, we celebrate not only that Jesus rose then, but that His** resurrection power is at work now, transforming lives, renewing communities, and calling us into holy love.

On that first Easter morning, the women came to the tomb expecting to tend to death. Instead, they encountered the God who overturns every expectation. The stone was rolled away. The grave clothes were empty. And the risen Christ spoke their names with tenderness and purpose.

This is the heart of the gospel: *Jesus is alive, and because He lives, everything can be made new.* Easter is not merely a historical event—it is the ongoing work of God breaking into our world with hope stronger than despair, mercy deeper than sin, and life more powerful than death.

The Methodist movement was born out of a longing for freedom—freedom from sin, freedom from oppression, and freedom to worship. **Easter proclaims that such freedom is not wishful thinking but God's gift to us through Christ.**

- \* **Freedom from sin:** The cross breaks the chains that bind us.
- \* **Freedom for holy living:** **The Spirit empowers us to reflect Christ's character.**
- \* **Freedom for others:** **We join God's mission to lift the oppressed, welcome the stranger, and embody justice rooted in love.**

**The resurrection is God's declaration that no darkness**—personal or societal—gets the final word.

The early church gathered as a people shaped by resurrection hope. They shared meals, resources, prayers, and lives. In the same spirit, Free Methodists commit to being a community where every person is valued, **where holiness is pursued together, and where Christ's love is made visible in practical acts of compassion.**

Easter invites us to renew that calling. To be a church where hope is practiced, not just preached. Where forgiveness flows freely. Where the lonely find belonging. Where the risen Christ is encountered in worship, fellowship, and service.

**To be “Easter people” means we carry resurrection hope into ordinary days:**

- \* We choose joy even when circumstances are heavy.
- \* We practice forgiveness even when it is costly.
- \* We serve generously because Christ has served us.
- \* We look for signs of new life—in our families, our neighborhoods, and our world.

**Easter is not a single Sunday; it is a way of life. It is the Spirit whispering, “See, I am making all things new.**

May the risen Christ meet you in unexpected places.

May His peace guard your heart.

May His joy strengthen your steps.

And may His resurrection power fill our church with renewed love, renewed mission, and renewed hope.

*Christ is risen! He is risen indeed.*



A preacher in a rural community heard that a man in his parish had announced that he would no longer attend church services because he had decided he could commune with God just as easily in his fields and garden, among his trees.

One autumn evening the preacher called on his reluctant parishioner, and for a while the two men sat before the blazing fire saying little or nothing and not a word about church attendance. The man waited uneasily for the preacher to broach the subject. The preacher was aware that he would be expected to rebuke the man.

Finally, the preacher picked up the tongs, lifted a single glowing coal from the fire and set it down on the hearth, and silently waited until the coal quickly ceased burning while the other coals in the fire continued to burn brightly. "You see what happens?" said the preacher.

The man was silent and then spoke softly, "You need say no more. I'll be at church next Sunday."

As we begin to study the Book of Joshua, we'll see how God highlights his covenant faithfulness in providing the land that He has promised. Community is such an important part of what the Israelites need to learn and it's what we do each week at Market Street Methodist. The emphasis is on WE. You or I can't do it alone. Christianity is a very personal decision but is not lived in isolation. Your Church family needs you. Keep your ember glowing.

See you Sunday!

~Lane

## BIBLE EXPLORERS

We have nearly finished the book of Genesis and have also visited Bethlehem and Jerusalem! Our numbers have grown, and we will begin splitting into smaller groups at times. As we grow, the need for volunteers increases. Please see Becky if you can offer one Sunday per month or even every two months.

A huge note of appreciation to those already on board. As we have grown, the oftentimes chaos has been challenging for some. But our volunteers have not wavered, and we iron it out together week by week.

We are forming a Bible Explorers advisory group which will meet every other month. This group will serve to determine policies, routines, and events. Our first meeting will be on April 19, immediately after worship. All are welcome. Some of the best ideas so far have come from people with neither young children nor teaching experience.

On April 26, we will be celebrating Passover in Egypt. We will need a few plates of small pieces of lamb (cooked, please!). See Becky if you can make this happen.

On a personal level, I (Becky) continue to feel so Blessed by the interest, involvement and appreciation shown by our congregation. It takes a village to raise a child, but it takes a church like ours to raise a child of God.

An *Easter Community Sunrise Service*

will be on *APRIL 5TH* at 6:30 am.

*All are Welcome after the Service for Breakfast and Fellowship in our Social Hall.*

There will be no Potluck Luncheon on Easter Sunday.

We welcome you to

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

every **Monday** afternoon  
at **2:00 p.m.** in the Social Hall

**We hope you will come and join us!**

There will be a

## Church Council Meeting

on *April 6th* at 1:00 PM,

in the Social Hall. All are welcome to attend!

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Vicky Chandler	April 4
Lane Hurley	April 5
Beau Chandler	April 14
Mary Massey	April 21
Doug Young	April 23
Tom Young	April 19

## COSTUME PARTY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 22

On Wednesday, April 22nd, at 2:00 pm, Becky Bell will be hosting a "Costume Party." Our closets, boxes and bins of costumes need sorting, ironing, and repair. Please let Becky know if you can help. This project needs a lot of volunteers including some armed with ironing boards or sewing machines. Your help is greatly appreciated!

**NAME TAGS** are located on the table in front of the Social Hall. Please remember to **RETURN YOUR TAG** after the service. Thank you!