



# The Beacon

## April 2025

**The Newsletter of Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church**

**Our Mission: To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ and Share His Love**

As we prepare to celebrate the good news of Jesus's resurrection at Easter, our church has tons of opportunities for Worship and fun in the coming month. I invite you to check out the calendar for many of these wonderful opportunities including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and an Easter egg hunt.

I want to take time in this letter however to talk about a celebration that may be less familiar to many of you. Often times we celebrate Easter on Resurrection Sunday and then act as though the very next day the celebration is over. In fact the Sunday after Resurrection Sunday is often one of the lowest attended services the whole year! The good news doesn't end on Resurrection Sunday, its just beginning!

That's why this year we will be introducing on that second Sunday of Easter (April 27), a worship service known as Holy Humor Sunday. This is a time for laughs and a time to be silly as we come together in Worship. You never know what might happen on Holy Humor Sunday. Come join us in laughing at the devil for Christ has claimed his victory!

Pastor Daniel



**5th Sunday in Lent-April 6**

**John 12: 1-8**

***Costly***

**Passion /Palm Sunday-April 13**

**Luke 19:28-40**

***The Lord Needs It***

**Maundy Thursday- April 17th**

**John 13:1-17, 31b-35**

***Mandatum***

**Easter Sunday-April 20**

**John 20:1-18**

***Who Are You Looking For?***

**2nd Sunday of Easter-Holy Humor Sunday-April 27**

**Hebrews 2:5-18**

***Laughing at the Devil***



## Music Moment

### *Everyone knows the stirring Hallelujah Chorus. Here is the backstory to one of the greatest Easter musical proclamations ever!*

George Frideric Handel's dad wanted him to enter the legal profession. But music captured Handel's heart. Once, accompanying his father to the court of Duke Johann Adolf, Handel wandered into the chapel and started improvising on the organ there. The startled Duke exclaimed, "who is this remarkable child?"

By his 20s, Handel was composing operas, first in Italy and then in England, becoming the talk of Britain and the best paid composer on earth. He opened the Royal Academy of Music. Londoners fought for concert seats and his fame soared around the world.

But the glory soon passed. Audiences dwindled as his music was eventually perceived as outdated. Newer artists eclipsed the aging composer. One project after another failed, resulting in bankruptcy and a depression that brought on a case of palsy that crippled some of his fingers. Frederick the Great wrote that Handel's inspiration had been exhausted.

Handel's troubles, though, actually matured and softened him. As a result, his music became more heartfelt. One morning he received by mail a manuscript of various biblical texts about Christ from Charles Jennens. The opening words from Isaiah 40 moved Handel - *comfort ye, comfort ye my people . . .*

On August 22, 1741, Handel shut the doors of his London home and started composing music for the words. Twenty-three days later, the world had MESSIAH. This new oratorio opened to enormous crowds on March 23, 1743 with Handel leading from the harpsichord. King George II, who was present that night, surprised everyone by leaping to his feet during the Hallelujah Chorus. To this day, no one knows why. From that day on, audiences everywhere have stood in reverence during the stirring words - *Hallelujah! For He shall reign forever and ever.*

Handel's fame was re-kindled, and even after he lost his eyesight, he continued to play the organ during performances of his oratorios until his death in London on April 14, 1759.



- 01 Chris Shipe
- 02 Sharon Vinson
- 05 Hunter Childs
- 08 Vicki Griffith
- 10 Claire Holmes
- 12 Bonnie Echols
- Rev. Heather Wray
- 16 Linda Cook
- 18 Stephanie Moore
- 20 Valerie Brown
- Grayson Sponseller
- 23 Colleen Smith
- 28 Connor Shendow
- 30 Nancy Dowdy

### DMUMC's Care Team is hosting the Annual Easter Egg Hunt!

The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Easter Sunday, April 20th at 9 a.m. This event is for children 2 years old through 5th grade.

**Backpack Buddies needs plastic bags (doubled), Instant Oatmeal packets, Pop Tarts, and juice drinks. Please deposit items in the bin marked Backpack Buddies in the narthex.**



**Springtime, new life, resurrection, hope. God, help us hold onto an Easter focus all season long.**



## Spring Rummage and Craft Show

Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 8am-3pm

The Duncan Methodist Women are now accepting registrations for both rummage and craft vendor spaces. The sidewalk and outdoor spaces for rent are 8 x 8 for **\$5.00**, and inside for **\$10.00**. Participants must supply tables, otherwise a limited number of 8-foot tables are available for an additional **\$5.00** charge. Vendors may set up starting at 7 a.m. with set-up completion done by 8 a.m. We ask that all vendors wait until 3 p.m. to start packing up. Vendor parking is available at the back of church.

Neither DMUMC nor Duncan Methodist Women are responsible for fire, theft, or damage to merchandise. We will be advertising this event and will do everything possible to bring shoppers to this event.

Please return the bottom of the registration form below to reserve your spot. For more information contact Dayna Lawson at [auria01@gmail.com](mailto:auria01@gmail.com) or (703)850-7479.

Make checks payable to: Duncan Methodist Women

Mail form & Payment to: Duncan Methodist Women  
 Attn: Dayna Lawson  
 210 E. Main Street  
 Berryville, VA 22611

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle one: Rummage Craft

If craft what type of product you are selling?

\_\_\_\_\_

Please circle one, we will do our best to give your preference: Indoor Parking Outdoor

Will you need a table provided? Yes or No      Payment amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Business \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to place Easter flowers in the sanctuary in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one for Easter Sunday, complete this form and return it to the church office no later than Monday, April 14th.



# Easter Flowers

If ordering flowers from a florist, please request that they be placed in the church by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 19th. You may take your flowers home on April 20th after the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_


In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Bible Quiz**

From the cross, Jesus prayed words from the book of Psalms. What were they?

- A. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- B. "I thirst!"
- C. "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."
- D. "It is finished!"



Answer: A (See Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34; and Psalm 22:1.)



# Prayers OF THE CHURCH

In the Military	Our Members	Family & Friends
Richard Harris	Linda Burcham	
John Peffer	Cheyenne Fowler	John Allen
Triston Timbrook	Jean Hinson	John Wesley Allen
Jared Tinsman	Jeanne Hudson	Katie Barsi
Jessica Young	Len Lawson	Art Beamer
	Robyn McGrath	Fran Combs
	Cindy Morian	Charles "Larrie" Dillow
Shut-ins	Debra Neises	Wanda Dunn
George Dellinger	Barbara Peffer	Ava Kilmer
*Audrey Hudson	Tim Wilcox	Faith Kinney
*Sam Legard	Debbie Zimmerman	Tim Mansfield
*Alice Mansfield		Toni O'Connor
*Cindy Morin		Donna Patterson
		Lisa Perkins
		Drew Pinilla
		Larry Rosenberry
		Gina Sutherlin
		Easton Tavenner
		Nancy Willingham
	Families Grieving	Pat Wince
*Nursing home or	Family of Darin Owens	
Assisted-living home		

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Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church  
210 E. Main Street, Berryville, VA 22611  
(540) 955-1264 office (540) 955-9055 fax

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### Our Leadership & Staff

Pastor- Rev. Daniel Wray

Administrative Assistant  
Janet Moore

Directors of Programs for  
Children/Youth  
Frank & Stephanie Moore

Director of Music  
John Hudson

Audio Visual  
Claire Luzzi

Sexton-Fiona Glynn

Nursery Attendant  
Lee Campbell

Administrative Council  
Chairperson-Glen Hetzel

Lay Leader-Chris Shipe

Nurture  
Sheryl Reid  
Cindy Morin

Outreach & Missions-Shelia Stephens  
Worship

John Hudson  
Mildred Keating

Congregational Care Team  
Cheyanne Fowler-Leader  
Sheryl Reid Leader

Trudy Gheen  
Beverly Goode

Barbara Lawson  
Ellen Wilcox

Wee Angels Administrator  
Lauren Hawkins Bucher

### Easter Insights

Did you know the word *Easter* never appears in the Bible? It may be a variant of the name Eostre, a pagan fertility goddess who symbolized rebirth and spring. *Eostre* stems from the Proto-Germanic word for *dawn*, which Christians connect to Jesus' victory over darkness.

The ancient tradition of Easter baskets also has ties to Eostre, whose symbol was a rabbit. Christians likely adapted the practice of bringing eggs and seeds as an offering to Eostre. Some Orthodox Christians continue a tradition of having a priest bless baskets of Easter food on Holy Saturday. Items usually hold special symbolism, such as Paska bread, cured meats, colored eggs, salt, horseradish and lamb-shaped butter.