



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK. . .

Easter has come. No matter how hard we (OK, I) try to stop it, it always comes around. It is a stressful time for me, and, I suspect, for many of you. I have services to plan and speakers to invite. I feel the pressure to teach and preach the most familiar story in the Bible in a new way each year. Not only do you have family plans to make, kids' and grandkids' Easter festivities to attend, and meals to cook, but you also find ways to stay engaged in ministry. You set up the Sanctuary for Stations of the Cross. You prepare meals, not just for your family, but for church luncheons. You bake bread and help serve communion 3 times in 10 days. You practice and perform Cantatas and special music. You take food to the Wesley Foundation at SHSU.

It. Is. EXHAUSTING.

And, now that the highest of Holy Days in all of Christendom has passed, it would be easy to give into the temptation to sit back, rest, and leave all of this Jesus-y resurrection stuff behind us. It would be easy to leave Jesus behind and not really worry about him again until Christmas.

But, that's not how Jesus works. And that's not how we work as Christians.

You see, Easter isn't just a day. Easter is actually an entire season in the Christian calendar. The Season of Easter or Eastertide, often called The Great Fifty Days, is an entire season of celebration. The resurrection isn't just celebrated for ONE day. It is celebrated for an entire liturgical season. From Easter Sunday until the Day of Pentecost, our focus is on the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Why dedicate an entire season and not just one day to the resurrection? I mean, Jesus was only resurrection one time on one day, right?

We celebrate the resurrection because it is THE MOST DEFINING MOMENT in human history. It is the miracle of the resurrection that sets Jesus apart. It is our belief in the resurrection that sets Christianity apart from other religions. We do not have a death place or a final resting place to which we can journey and pay our respects because THE TOMB WAS EMPTY.

In our church, every Sunday we recite the Apostle's Creed. It states, in part, "I believe...in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord, who was...crucified dead and buried. The third day HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD, ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. I believe in...the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting." We proclaim every single week as an act of worship that we believe that the physical body of Jesus was resurrected from the dead and ascended into heaven. We state that we believe that one day our bodies will be resurrected and the we will join him in everlasting life.

That is a HUGE statement to make. We are saying that we believe that our God and our Savior are so mighty that even death is not the final act. We believe that Jesus was resurrected and that we will be one day, as well.

I would argue that the resurrection is bigger than just one day's celebration. I would argue it deserves even more than 50 Days of liturgical season. I would argue that belief in the resurrection is worthy of our devotion every day of our lives.

In Christ,
Scott



SOAR

Seniors Off and Running
We will resume our regular meetings on Thursday, April 18th.

Meanwhile, thanks to your efforts, the meals for the college students at the Wesley Foundation on the SHSU campus have been a huge success. The kids have been so appreciative with our "home cooked" meals. We will provide one more meal this semester on April 17th. If you would like to help, contact Linda Vick.

YOUTH MINISTRY

UMYF will meet at 5:00 pm on the following dates:

- April 7
- April 21
- May 5
- May 19

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW TO SUPPORT THE WESLEY FOUNDATION AT SHSU



SHSU WESLEY

Potato Fundraiser



Name your own price! Any size donation will be greatly appreciated

SUNDAY MAY 5 | 10:45AM-1PM

HUNTSVILLE FUMC

The baked potato comes with your choices of barbeque pulled pork, green onions, butter, sour cream, and shredded cheese (all in to-go boxes).

Wesley Memorial members can fill out a pre-order form (available in office) by end of day May 1st for delivery to Wesley Memorial that morning.



Your donation helps fund the ministry at SHSU. We provide a place for college students to connect deeply with each other and with God.



CAMP FIRELIGHT. . .

We are gearing up for **Vacation Bible School**. If you would like to volunteer your time, please contact Symantha McCrerey at 936-438-3836. Fun is always had by all! Our Vacation Bible School will be held one day on August 3, 2024 so mark your calendars now.



SAVE A CHILD. SAVE A FAMILY. SAVE A CITY.

A TIME 2 READ. . . is a dedicated literacy program directed at supporting public school students in Huntsville ISD. This program specifically targets second grade students, identified by the school district, who are struggling with reading.

In the program, trained community volunteers tutor these identified students on a regular weekly basis throughout the school year. YOU CAN BE A VOLUNTEER by contacting: Holly McMichael, Executive Director, A Time 2 Read by email: HOLLY@ATIME2READ.org or by calling 936-577-2516.

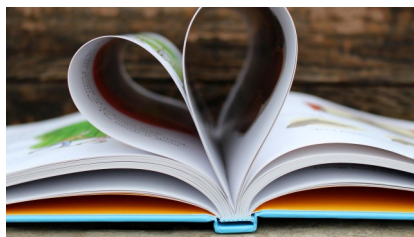
In 2023, Harvard's Center for Education Policy Research and Stanford's Education Opportunity Project released study results from 3,760 districts across the nation regarding reading growth for the COVID period 2019-2022. Huntsville ISD was recognized by the study for earning the highest gains in reading levels in the study group for 3rd-8th graders. The study results indicated that students across the nation lost almost a quarter of a year in reading ability during this period. Huntsville ISD was the only district in the study to show more than a full year's growth. The district recognized A Time 2 Read program as being an instrumental piece in Huntsville ISD receiving this recognition.

Studies suggest that students who read as few as six books over the summer maintain the level of reading skills they achieved during the preceding school year. These studies also indicated that young readers who don't continue to read over the summer, especially those who are reluctant or at-risk, are likely to lose crucial ground. One summer off can mean a whole school year of struggling academic performance. (www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/bridging-summer-reading-gap)

Consequently, A Time 2 Read provides summer backpacks for identified students. The backpacks contain an assortment of the following: ***Magic Tree House*** boxed set, ***Little Critter*** books, ***The Berenstain Bears*** books, ***Pete The Cat*** books, ***100 Words Kids Need to Read by 3rd Grade***, ***Read with Me*** pocket folder, Fry sight word list as well as activity sheets, bookmarks, notepads, pencils, bracelets and crayons.

For just \$35 you can sponsor a student for the summer.

*****YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY*****



Wesley's Communion Rail Offering on April 7th will go towards purchasing summer backpacks for A Time 2 Read.



2024

Communion Rail Offering: A Time 2 Read

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																										
	01  April Fool's day	02 <u>Administrative Council - 6pm</u>	03 <u>Canasta Club—11am</u> <u>Choir—5:30pm</u>	04	05	06																																										
07 <u>Handbells—9:15am</u> <u>Sunday School—10am</u> <u>Worship—11am</u> <u>UMW - 12pm</u> <u>UMYF - 5pm</u>	08	09	11 <u>Canasta Club—11am</u> <u>Choir—5:30pm</u>	11	12	13 BEARKAT SERVICE DAY 																																										
14 <u>Handbells—9:15am</u> <u>Sunday School—10am</u> <u>Worship—11am</u>	15	16	17 <u>Canasta Club—11am</u> <u>Choir—5:30pm</u> <u>Provide Meal for Wesley Foundation</u>	18 <u>SOAR - 11am</u>	19	20																																										
21 <u>Handbells—9:15am</u> <u>Sunday School—10am</u> <u>Worship—11am</u> <u>UMYF—5pm</u>	22	23  <u>NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</u>	24 <u>Canasta Club—11am</u> <u>Choir—5:30pm</u>	25	26	27																																										
28 <u>Handbells—9:15am</u> <u>Sunday School—10am</u> <u>Worship—11am</u>	29	30			MAY 2024																																											
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is the April birthstone. Diamonds are one of the most popular gemstones in the world due to its durability, brilliance, and beauty.

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church

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wesley_finsec@gmail.com

Rev. Scott Moore
revwummc@gmail.com

Office Hours:
Closed Monday
Tue.-Thur. 9:00am-2:00pm
Closed Friday

Sundays
Worship Services:
9:30am Handbell Rehearsal
10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship Service
5:30pm Youth (every other Sunday)

Wednesdays
5:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Monthly Meetings
1st Sunday
12:00pm UMW

1st Tuesday
6:00pm—Administrative Council

3rd Thursday
11:00am SOAR

**Please check with your
group leader each month
for any changes
in the regular schedule.**



*Happy birthday to all of you
born in **APRIL***

Tom Martin	04/03
Tom Gardner	04/05
Peggy Heaton	04/07
Jacque Bickel	04/08
Brian Parker, Jr. (BJ)	04/14
Wayne Lawrence	04/24

Here are **some April Birthday Fun Facts**

for you to enjoy:

April is associated with renewal and rebirth. It is celebrated as a period of new beginning and fresh begins.

April's Birthstone - The diamond is the April birthstone. Diamonds are one of the most popular gemstones in the world due to its durability, brilliance, and beauty.

April's Birth Flower - The primary April birth flower is the **daisy**, and the secondary flower is the **sweet pea**. The daisy stands for innocence, purity, and true love, while the sweet pea is a way to say goodbye, send good wishes, or merely convey a thank you.

Astrology Zodiac Signs of April - Aries (March 21-April 19) and Taurus (April 20-May 20) are the April zodiac signs. The Ram represents Aries, the first astrological sign in the zodiac, and they are often described as confident, passionate, and adventurous. The Bull represents Taurus, the second astrological sign in the zodiac, and are considered as loyal, practical, and patient.

- In the United States, April is National Poetry Month. It's a month-long celebration of poetry and its significance in American culture.
- April 1st is celebrated as April Fools' Day. On this day, individuals conduct practical jokes and pranks on one another, generally with the intention of tricking or fooling the victim. The origins of April Fools' Day are unknown, however it is thought to have begun in Europe during the Middle Ages, when the New Year was celebrated on April 1st. Pranks can range from light jokes to intricate frauds, and they are usually done in good fun.
- April marks the start of Spring and the weather begins to warm up. Trees and flowers begin to bloom, as animals begin to emerge from their sleep.
- Some important historical events that occurred in April include:
 1. April 19, 1775: The American Revolutionary War begins with the Battles of Lexington and Concord.
 2. April 14, 1865: President Abraham Lincoln is assassinated at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C.
 3. April 6, 1896: The first modern Olympic Games are held in Athens, Greece.
 4. April 9, 1942: The United States surrenders the Bataan Peninsula to the Japanese during World War II.
 5. April 12, 1961: Yuri Gagarin becomes the first person to orbit the Earth in space.
 6. April 4, 1968: Civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.
 7. April 26, 1986: The Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster occurs in Ukraine, leading to the worst nuclear accident in history.*These are just a few examples of the many important historical events that have taken place in the month of April*
- April is a popular month for sports. The start of Major League Baseball, the Masters' Golf Tournament, and the Boston Marathon are just some of the major sports events that take place in April.

Even today, many people celebrate the entrance of spring in April by performing rituals such as cleaning and tidying their homes, planting gardens, or partaking in other activities that mark the return of warmth and light.



P.O. Box 87
Huntsville, TX 77342

Sent with love & prayers to:

ARTICLES FOR THE MAY

NEWSLETTER ARE DUE NO LATER THAN

April 23rd

Office Hours:

Tue-Th. 9:00a-2:00p

Closed Monday & Friday

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WesleyUMCHuntsville