

Easter church service schedules

United Methodist

Easter Sunday service at the Heppner Methodist Church will be held at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend. There will be a community Sunrise service at 7 a.m. at the fairgrounds. Special events are also planned for the following Sunday April 18 at 10:30 a.m.

All Saints Episcopal

The Rev. Bob Crum will celebrate Easter Services at All Saints Episcopal Church on Sunday, April 11 at 10:30 a.m. Gail Crum will provide special music. There will be an Easter vigil service starting at 7 p.m. on Sat. April 10.

United Church of Christ

Easter Sunday begins at Ione United Church of Christ with breakfast at 8:30 a.m. followed by church school for all ages. The children's choir will sing at the 11 a.m. worship service, the sermon will be entitled "Living! Love and Joy".

Son-rise service

A "Son-rise" service is scheduled for Easter morning at 7 a.m. at the fairgrounds in Heppner. Members of all denominations are invited to attend the service, which is being sponsored by the South Morrow County Ministerial Association. Pastor Tim Van Cleave of the Christian Life Center will deliver the meditation and other clergypersons will help lead the service. Special music will be provided by Laurie Marks. The service will conclude by 8 a.m.

Hope-Valby Lutheran

"He is risen. Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified is not here. He has risen from the dead," is the message that will be announced in hymns, scripture reading, prayers and sermons on Easter Sunday at the worship services at Valby and Hope Lutheran churches," said Rev. Stan Hoobing.

Service of Holy Communion at Valby will be at 8 a.m. with an Easter breakfast to follow. An Easter egg hunt for the children will be held during breakfast.

The men of Hope Lutheran church will serve breakfast from 8:30 to 10 a.m. A festive musical service of Holy Communion will follow the breakfast at 11 a.m. Pastor Hoobing will deliver an Easter message at both churches entitled, "The Impossible Dawn". There will be special musical selections by Beth Rafferty, Ben Goodyear, Matt Berretta, Aleida Goodyear, Laurel Webber-Gray and Sharla Erich.

On Thursday, April 8 Valby Lutheran church will hold a special Seder feast at 6:30 p.m. Joseph of Arimethea will be a special guest at the feast and share a message entitled "In a Newly Hewn Tomb". Following the presentation there will be an observance of Holy Communion.

On Good Friday, the congregation of Hope Lutheran Church will gather at 6:30 p.m. for a soup supper with a Liturgy for Good Friday service at 7:30. Joseph of Arimethea will again be present to share his message.

Rejoice in the Miracle of Easter

Alleluia! Christ Is Risen. The Lord Is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

Father Bob Crum, All Saints Episcopal Church

It was the first day of the week; the first day of the new creation; the first day of everlasting light; the day the Lord had made, though it was dark. Though it was dark there came Mary Magdalene, seeking. Certain that the Lord never fails those who seek, she came and sought, but found Him not. Because love is kindled the more by seeking, and because she sought while it was still dark, as soon as the light came she found, but not the object of her quest. "They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and I know not where they have laid Him." Could it be that He who was slain by a death most cruel was now found unworthy of the rich man's grave and taken from it?

Desolation and misery could have no greater depth than this; for she knew not as yet that the tide had turned; that the inundating sea of human malice had been stemmed. She saw the stone rolled away and the empty tomb, but that would not do. She saw the burial linen and the angels, but that would not do. She saw the 'gardener', but that would not do. It was only when Jesus allowed Himself to be known that Mary re-experienced that for which there is no equal; the personal presence of the Lord, who called her by name: "Mary." "Rabboni!" she cried, enveloped in utter joy.

"The absence of the Lord," says Saint Augustine of Hippo, "is not absence; have faith for He, whom you see not, is with you." The history of this great and glorious day does itself supply every form and variety of faith in which He is found by those who seek Him. He was found this day by St. John through faith that needed no sight but only the purity of heart that has the vision of God. He was found by St. Peter, the chief apostle, and chief of penitents. He was found in the midst of the apostolic company, the doors being closed. He was found and known in the breaking of the bread and He was found and first seen by she who first sought Him, early and in the dark. He was first found by the earnestly seeking, mournful sinner, the returning daughter of Eve, for she knew the truth of Jesus and that truth had set her free.

Only A Beginning

Rev. Bob Dowrey, Heppner United Methodist Church

For those who have lived with Jesus through his troubles, who have walked with him in his journey, either physically, as did his disciples, or spiritually, as we do, his sufferings seemed like the beginning of the end.

But not so. At the last supper, Jesus said to his disciples, "Do this in remembrance of me." I tend to think that everything we do in Jesus' name helps bring the past into the present, and stretches out into the future. We become part of the people of God who want to live as Christ would have it and who experience his forgiveness as an experience of strength.

I hope we don't let our spirits and Christian life die after Easter when we should really experience a resurrection. I like the thought that the time from Easter to Pentecost should be thought of as "50 great days." Easter is, or should be, a continuing experience. And we should be known as "The Easter People." And why not? That's the way God wants it to be. If he hadn't wanted it that way, there would have been no resurrection.

Life Before Death

The Rev. Lea Mathieu, Ione United Church of Christ

A dearly loved member of our community has just died as I write this "inspirational message" for Easter. What does Easter mean, in the face of the death of a loved one?

There is a physical death that we all face: the failure of the lungs, the crisis of the heart. It will happen to me, and to you and to everyone we love. Death's results are shock and anger and pain and loneliness, and they all last all too long. But with time, comes healing.

There is also, thank God, a life of the soul that does not end. It continues in the genes of one's children and grandchildren, and in the lives of those we have touched, and in societies we have somehow changed.

And in addition to these corporal changes, there is a life beyond death that is a personal reunion with God. We all, at some point, must say "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

And one message of Easter is that life and love continue strong bravely beyond what we call death.

But more importantly, perhaps, is Easter's message that life itself has no pre-set limits, but is full of surprises and graces and gifts. The Resurrection is not only about life after death; it is also about life in life, about boundless possibilities and the eternity of hope and renewal at all points in time.

One need not wait for death to attain new life: it is here always. Thanks be to God.

Blood is Shed to Save Us

The Rev. Stan Hoobing, Hope-Valby Lutheran Parish

Good Friday and Easter took on special meaning to me after an incident that happened over 15 years ago. I had just come home from conducting a Maundy Thursday Communion Service and was sitting down to read the evening paper. The telephone rang, it was Kadlec Hospital in Richland. They were calling B+ donors to help save a young man's life. Their normal supply was drained and donors were urgently needed.

I rushed to the hospital and was directed at the door to a long hallway. There were several people ahead of me answering questions asked by a Red Cross attendant, filling out forms, or just waiting. It wasn't long, it only seemed so, that my name was called and I was asked questions by the attendant and then was seated by a couple of other people. All this time I wondered what had happened to the person we were donating blood for. Had he been in an accident? at home? in a car? Where? Why? How? The questions were buzzing around in my head, but no answers. Finally a nurse called me to come to the gurney and lay down. She poked around found a vein and told me to squeeze every so often. As I lay there on the gurney my thoughts turn to events of Good Friday a long time ago in Jerusalem, where Jesus the Christ was crucified. And then I understood. Jesus had to die, shed his blood, and rise again to save a sinner. Just as blood was needed from donors to save a person's life, so Jesus the Christ had to suffer an agonizing death like a common criminal on the cross--just once so very long ago, but for all humanity--in order to save us from our sins.

He gave his all on the cross and three days later rose from the dead and bestows to all who believe life everlasting, hope, grace and new beginnings.

Respond to the True Meaning of Easter

Pastor Tim Van Cleave, Christian Life Center

Why do we celebrate Easter? What is the real meaning of this special day of the year? The Bible says in Luke 19:10, "The Son of Man (Jesus) has come to seek and to save that which was lost." Because of sin, people are lost, or separated from fellowship with God. Jesus took the punishment for our sin by dying on the cross. He then rose from the dead to restore us back to fellowship with God. This is the true meaning of Easter. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we can have fellowship with God and eternal life in Heaven.

Many people know these facts, but fail to respond to them. In John 3:3 Jesus says, "Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Merely knowing about Jesus' death and resurrection isn't enough. We must be "born again." We are born again by believing in Jesus, repenting of our sins, and asking Him to forgive us of our sins. We must also accept Jesus as Lord of our lives. We cannot claim to be a Christian and continue to live however we want to. We must be obedient to God's Holy Word.

Being a Christian is not being "religious." Religion is man trying to reach God. Christianity is God reaching out to man through sending His Son Jesus to die for our sins. We also can't earn eternal life in Heaven through living a good life. We must ask Jesus to forgive our sins and then make Him Lord of our lives.

Why not respond to the true meaning of Easter and let Jesus become Lord and Master of your life? Then you can truly celebrate our risen Lord and Saviour during this Easter Season.

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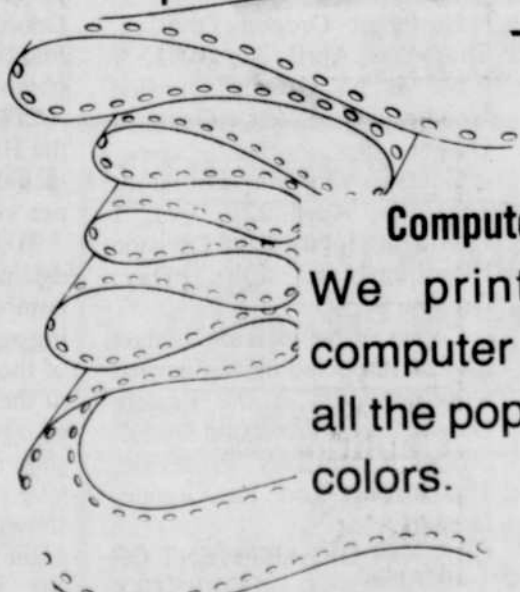
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First Celebration
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Celebration Service

- April 11th 3:00 p.m.
- Every Sunday 3:00 p.m.

(Child Care Provided)

Meeting on Sundays Temporarily at:
Heppner Elementary School
235 E. Stansbury in Heppner
(In Multipurpose Room)

Pastor, Stephen Best
Ministers, All Christians