



# The Messenger

## April 2025

### Rector's Message

Each month when I write my newsletter article, I open the file for that same month from the previous year, just to see what was going on at the same time the year before.

It was interesting to look back at April 2024's article and see that I opened with an "Alleluia, Christ is Risen!" denoting that Easter had arrived, while presently sitting here waiting for Easter yet to come in 2025. Falling this year on April 20<sup>th</sup>, it is one of the later times that Easter is celebrated. The latest date Easter can occur is April 25<sup>th</sup>, which last happened in 1943 and will not happen again until 2038, a 95-year span.

Since Easter is so late this year, that means all the deeply moving liturgies of Holy Week, by which we observe and participate in the Paschal mystery, are still to come. Being my seventh Holy Week with you, I find that the stress of Holy Weeks of yore have finally given over to excitement. That excitement is not merely a product of the pageantry of **the** liturgies, rather I believe it really is due to the operative word associated with liturgy (the work of the people), and that word is, *participate*.

A while back I was taken to task for my perceived apathy towards the events of the world (*cynicism* would be the accurate term for what I felt/feel, which is not healthy in its own right, but my disillusionment is between me and my therapist). In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes, "there are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but the same

God who activates all of them in everyone.” I have participated in a couple of marches in my day, wrote an editorial or two, and I once even believed petitions meant something. Anymore, though, there are people better suited for the march thing (I hate chanting, unless it is Anglican or Gregorian), and letters and petitions have proven time and again not to be worth the paper they are printed on.

Nevertheless, one cannot bury their head in the sand and ignore injustice. Martin Luther King, Jr. made that point in his letter from the Birmingham jail. Whenever humankind succumbs to acute intoxication of power, wealth, and the fear of everything (pantophobia, I believe Lucy Van Pelt told Charlie Brown it was called), then we have a moral obligation as followers of Christ to turn up the volume on the Gospel.

However, never ever allow yourself to believe that going to church is not an adequate part of the process. Every Sunday is an act of rebellion against the things that would try to separate us from the love of God and try to disrupt our faithful adherence to Christ’s commandment to love one another. This is what the liturgy was designed to do, and that is why the liturgy is something in which we *participate*. We are not passive observants of a peculiar ritual. We are participating in the work of the kingdom of God, and being strengthened for the tremendous task of sharing Christ with the world once the liturgy is done.

The liturgies of Holy Week take things to a whole new level. We are not just recounting a story through some interesting ritual expression. In the liturgy of Holy Week, we participate in the drama of Jesus’ Passion, facing the betrayal, the ridicule, the abuse, and some of the darkest and most shameful cruelty humankind has devised. We look on that ugliness, and we watch as Jesus destroys it by rising again. With the Resurrection on Easter, we celebrate the hope of new and unending life in Christ, and the profound truth that nothing, not even death itself, can triumph over God’s love. Goodness and justice will always prevail in the end. I hope all of you are able to make it to the special liturgies of Holy Week, and I hope you find them just as powerful and captivating as I do.

These offerings are how we participate in the Paschal mystery and grow more deeply in our faith as followers of the risen Christ. And this participation prepares us for the work of the kingdom of God and the raising of the volume on the Gospel of Jesus Christ to new and lifechanging heights.

Blessings,  
Fr. Brian

## **Easter Schedule**

Palm Sunday, April 13th  
9:00am

Maundy Thursday, April 17th  
6:00pm  
Agapé Meal to follow

Good Friday, April 18th  
12:15pm

Easter Vigil, April 19th  
8:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 20th  
9:00am

## News From Grace's Greens

Several years ago Grace's Vestry voted to purchase Birds and Beans Coffee for our coffee hours and other social events. This was undertaken as part of our commitment to sustainable practices.

Since it has been a few years since this decision, the current Vestry revisited the subject and recently voted to continue purchasing Birds and Beans coffee.

The reasons in favor of this decision are outlined in a brochure developed by the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute. Here are some excerpts from this brochure:

"In the time it takes you to drink your next cup of coffee, acres of tropical forest will be lost. Along with it will go the diversity of birds and other wildlife that depend on it.

"Shade-grown refers to the way coffee traditionally has been farmed...over the past 30 years, more than half of the traditional shade coffee farms in Latin America have been converted to 'sun coffee' farms to increase production. Unfortunately, scientists believe that the conversion from shade to sun coffee contributes to the decline in numbers of many of our birds that migrate to Latin America...shade coffee plantations also provide habitat for myriad insects, orchids, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and others.

"Furthermore, shade trees protect fragile tropical soils from erosion...and suppress weeds, reducing or eliminating the need for chemical herbicides and fertilizers and lowering farming costs.

"Farmers also harvest an assortment of fruits, firewood, lumber, and medicines from the shade trees.

"Shade coffee plantations can support well over 150 species of birds, including orioles, thrushes, warblers, tanagers, parrots, and toucans."

Birds and Beans coffee is USDA organic as well as certified "bird friendly" based on strict criteria developed by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center to evaluate shade coffee farms. An Independent, third party inspector determines whether a farm meets these criteria.

Finally, Birds and Beans certified farms support small farmers and entire local communities with jobs and trade via an economically viable farming model.

However, since the Vestry also has a responsibility to be sure that we are good stewards of the church's resources, it must be acknowledged that Birds and Beans coffee is more expensive. Father Brian did an analysis of prices and determined that purchasing B&B coffee would cost the church about \$100.00 more per year.

So if you feel this is something worthwhile that you'd like to support, please consider putting in an extra dollar or two into the coffee hour basket every couple of months. This would help us defray the extra cost and would be most appreciated.

Thank you,  
Candy Colby

## ***Rummage Sale***

The ECW Rummage Sale will be on Friday May 2 and Saturday May 3, 2025. We will have to be very selective of what donations we can accept:

- NO computers, tv's, electronic games or large heavy exercise equipment.
- All clothing must be freshly laundered with no stains.
- All dishes freshly washed; book, records, CD's, and DVD/s dusted.
- We will except yard tools, nails, step ladders, and hand tools, etc.

All donated items must be cleaned and sanitized and set-up ready. Time for drop off will start Tuesday April 22nd, through no later than Wednesday, April 30, the week of the sale. (During regular church office hours.)

### RUMMAGE SALE HOURS

THURSDAY SET UP 9AM – NOON (or until done)

FRIDAY SALE 8AM – 2PM

SATURDAY SALE 8AM – NOON

SATURDAY CLEAN-UP NOON – 1PM(or until done)

We need volunteers, **both women and men**. If you are able to help, there will be a sign-up sheet in the Undercroft on the bulletin board on Sundays or call Carol Price 815-541-5536.

Thank you.

Carol Price, Connie Burden, Sandy Terpening  
And All ECW

## Grace Community

***Easter Flower Donation*** It is time to place our order with the florist for the flowers that decorate our walls and doors for the Easter season. There is an envelope for your donation included in this Messenger. Envelopes will be also be available in the narthex. Your donation along with any names or intentions to be remembered at the Easter Service can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office.

***Lenten Soup Suppers*** Wednesdays, April 2nd and 9th at 5:15pm.

***ECW First Friday Luncheon*** April 4th at 11:30am. Bring your own lunch, beverages will be provided.

***Make Palm Crosses*** Saturday, April 12th at 9:00am.

***Christian Formation*** Sunday, April 13th after the 9:00am service.

***Maundy Thursday*** April 17th at 6:00pm. Agapé Meal to follow. Sign up sheet for the meal is on the bulletin board outside the kitchen.

***Vestry Meeting*** Sunday, April 27th after the 9:00am service.

***Bible Study*** Sunday, April 27th after the 9:00am service.

***FACC Food Pantry Donation*** for April is rice.

***Deadline*** for the May “Messenger” will be April 18th.

## Server Schedule

### April 6th

**Chaliciest:** Chuck Terpening  
**Lector:** Candy Colby  
**Acolyte:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Stan Crowe & Chuck Breo

### April 13th

**Chaliciest:** Carol Francis  
**Lector:** Gail Hunt  
**Acolytes:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Jeff Francis & Dick Hepner

### April 20th

**Chaliciest:** TBD  
**Lector:** TBD  
**Acolyte:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Stan Crowe & Jon Watson

### April 27th

**Chaliciest:** Chuck Breo  
**Lector:** Marha Furst  
**Acolyte:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Dick Hepner & Jeff Francis

If you are unable to serve on the dates assigned, please make sure you get someone to replace you and notify the church office.

## Signs of Joy

1. Eagerly greeting each new day as a generous gift from God.
2. Frequent expressions of gratitude for the blessings and challenges which come throughout each day.
3. Finding delight in everyday occurrences: things said by a small child, a cat playing with a ball of string, a dog trying to figure out what you're doing, a funny story in the news paper, a joke told by a friend, etc.
4. Discovering the taste of a familiar vegetable prepared in a new way.
5. Visiting with a dear friend or family member instead of letting television create the dialogue or interrupt good fellowship.
6. Eagerly looking forward to the next Sunday when you can join the family of God at worship.

## Treasurer's Report

Below is a comparison of the actual results for February 2025 with the February 2024 results.

	2025	2024	Difference
<b>Total Revenue</b>	92,369	62,547	29,822
Expenses:			
Personnel Costs	30,535	25,790	4,745
Building & Grounds	11,596	7,393	4,203
All Other	4,178	4,075	103
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>46,309</u>	<u>37,258</u>	<u>9,051</u>
Gain (Loss)	46,060	25,289	20,771

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Duane Price, Treasurer  
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6th	Kyle Maize	10th	Karen Moderow
9th	Susan Lafferty	17th	Cainan Becker
	Maxwell Watson	29th	Gail Hunt



3rd	Thomas & Dorothy Nord
	John & Allison Gush
16th	Richard & Marilyn Hepner
17th	Stanley & Frances Crowe

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