

The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



"I'm sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6, CEB)

Dear Friends in Christ,

According to the calendar, the first day of Spring was Monday, March 20th. The interesting, and sometimes odd, patterns of weather we have seen these past few weeks make it hard to imagine that it is just now Spring, with temps in the seventies and eighties more than once through the Winter season. Nonetheless, it's official: *"Spring has sprung, etc."*

We are now halfway through the Season of Lent; Easter will be here on April 16th. It's a great time to think about the images that are common at this time of year and what we might learn from them.

There are all sorts of "new growth" images associated with Spring. Trees are budding, flowers are coming up, and there is plenty of green and lots of other color to greet us. Spring is the time to enjoy the reappearance of these signs of life after a long, cold winter of brown grass and naked trees.

There is an obvious connection with Easter here. Jesus is raised from the dead much like the new growth of Spring is raised from the dormancy of winter. Easter is the "spring" that blooms after the long, cold "winter" of Lent. These are the kinds of images we have seen in worship for years when we get to the Easter season. We decorate with butterflies to signify the idea of a new kind of life being born out of an older kind of life. We end the Season of Lent with a Service of Darkness and then begin Easter with a Service of Light at sunrise. Our imagery is all about moving from something undesirable to something desirable; moving from darkness into the light; moving from death to resurrection, from sin to redemption.

We can even make a case for the "Easter Egg" being a symbol of new life that is appropriate to the Easter celebration. (I'm not sure how we work the bunny and chocolate into the mix but, oh well.)

We have some flowers in our yard that we've always called surprise lilies. They appear every spring, we never take care

of them, and it's always a surprise when they keep coming back. Sometimes I think that reflects God's work in us. It keeps showing up, we often don't take very good care of it, and then we are surprised when God manages to transform us. That is what Paul promised the Philippians: *God started something good in each one of us and God will finish the job.*

I think the Seasons of Lent and Easter are important for us as followers of Christ because they offer us this incredible opportunity to really think about our faith and our redemption. On Ash Wednesday, we plunge ourselves into a forty-day darkness. We should be looking inward as we sit in the dark. We should be asking ourselves the questions that lead us to better understand how our behavior hurts Jesus whenever we are insensitive to other people. In the dark, we should be able to see the things we do as individuals and as a community that do not serve to feed, tend, clothe, visit, and care for. What policies do we support that are contrary to God's commandments to love? When have we let this world and its agenda dissuade us from God's will? We can spend this dark time of self-examination because we know that there is a surprise waiting for us; God is not going to leave us sitting in the dark.

Our hymnal includes a song called **"Hymn of Promise"** (#707). We sing, *"In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see."* Spring, renewal, re-birth, they all seem to come as a surprise each year. Weather patterns change and we're never quite sure how hard the winter will be or when spring will come. Sometimes we have snow on Easter morning and sometimes we can wear shorts in February. The exact timing of nature is something God alone can see. So it is with the transformation of our lives.

God has planted many seeds in us over the years. We are often surprised when they pop into our consciousness. It is not uncommon for us to ignore them or even actively act against them. But, God continues to surprise us over and over again. The surprise comes when God's work changes us for the better in spite of us. I don't know about you but, I love surprises!

Waiting to be surprised,
Pastor Don

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Sunday, April 2

11:00 a.m.

&

12:00 p.m.

Don't even think about lunch Sunday, April 2nd. The youth have you taken care of! They are providing a spaghetti dinner available after Sunday School and after 2nd service.

In return, you can make a donation to the youth to help cover the cost of youth missions and camps.

It's a win-win afternoon!

See You There!

Dine in/Take Out



UMW NEWS

Thank you to all those who brought food, served, set-up and cleaned up for the Lenten Luncheon. We served about 55. The food was wonder-

ful. There were 25 at the UMW Unit meeting and we learned a lot about the Pearl's Hope program from Brenda Gill. We gave a laundry basket full of laundry soap and a cookbook to them. They were out of laundry soap so they really appreciated the soap. The cookbook will be given to one of the ladies that is graduating from the program. Thank you especially to Leesa Hairgrove for coordinating this event.

The decorations were lovely.

UMW Circle Meetings:

Faith - 3/23 - Rita Randle in charge- Meets in Parlor at 6:30 pm

Priscilla - Meets on 3/28, 7:00 pm at Betty Smith's. Cynthia Edelman co-hostess and Jo Fritts- program.

Ruth-Esther - Meets on 3/23, 1:00 in Fellowship Hall. Chloeen Oney - refreshments, Sylvia Johnson and Judy Bullard - Program.

April 1 - Council Oak UMW District Meeting. Refreshments at 9:30 in Narthex and Program is in the Sanctuary at 10:00. Speaker will share information on Circle of Care and Child Share Program -Foster Care in OK. All are welcome!



Kidzone

We finished our lessons on Jesus gives us directions. Next Sunday we will continue our "Cave Quest" are we learn how Jesus gives us love. We will be doing East-

er baskets for Sand Springs Community Services on April 2nd during Kidzone. Also we will be having our annual "Easter Burrito Breakfast" on April 16th. We want all parents and grandparents to come! Have a great week and see you next Sunday! Miss Debbie & Miss Marty

Needs for Vacation Bible School July 16-July 20

We are need glass baby food jars with lids for a craft project. Also similar sized glass jars with lids will work.

Thanks and you can drop off at the Caleb House

We Need CANDY!!

The Kidzone will be putting together a whole bunch of Easter Baskets for Sand Springs Community Services. They need lots of WRAPPED CANDY. They also need BASKET BAGS— available at



Dollar Tree—2 for \$1. Please bring it to the church on or before Sunday, March 26th. There is a box by the offices to collect candy (and bags).



Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—March 26

Visitors Center & Coffee-Discovery
 Head Usher-8:30-Amanda Honeycutt
 Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David
 Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids
 Teaching: Jami Warkentin
 Counters-Janie Moore & Kent Warkentin

Sunday Volunteers—April 2

Visitors Center & Coffee-TNT
 Head Usher-8:30-Amanda Honeycutt
 Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David
 Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids
 Teaching: Jami Warkentin
 Counters-Diana Pond & Jack Vest

Youth Dinner-March 22-Seniors In Action Youth Dinner-March 29-Priscilla Circle

Please Keep In Prayer



Please remember these in your prayers:

Martha Scudder, Linda Tabberer, Charlene Reeves, Elsie Jones, Sue Shaw, Bob & Cathy Hula, BW Proft, Bill & Clare, Caldwell, Delbert Sloan, Ruth Weaver, Jack & Jewell Brown, Owen Johnston, Tristan Schwartz, Darryl Muse, Mark Hill, Pauline Hanigar, Ruth Weaver, Glenda Paul-Reyna, Barbara McClintock, Angy Krebs-Warden, Montie Box, Albert Kahl's mom & sister in law, Michelle Nelson, Sylvia Johnson, Eldin & Barb's great grandson, Linda Lund, Claire LaPorte, SSUMC & Unspoken Requests

Thank you from Charlene
Charlene wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and support during her illness. She truly appreciates each and every one of you with all of her love.



Here are your **2017 Newsletter weeks. Please remember-articles are due by 11 a.m. on this date. Please, mark your calendars.**

June 26
July 10
July 24
August 7
August 21
September 4?
September 18
October 2
October 16
October 30
November 13
November 27
December 11
January 8, 2018

April 3
 April 17
 May 1
 May 15
 May 29 ?
 June 12



Here is some of your **2017 Youth Dinner Schedule**

March 22-Seniors In Action
 March 29-Priscilla Circle
 April 5-Noah/Searchers
 April 12-Harmony
 April 19-CIA/Pathfinders
 April 26-Faith Circle

Lent



March 21-Dillon Chapel at Woodland Memorial Park
 March 28-First Presbyterian Church
 April 4-St. Patrick's Catholic Church
 April 11-St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday—8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
 Closed 1:40 to 2:40 p.m. (temporarily)

Please remember, push the door bell button before using your key. The front door is unlocked with the key but magnet locked for us to buzz you in. If you use your key, you will not be able to get in as it will actually lock the door. If no one clicks you in, go ahead and use your key.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SAND SPRINGS UMC

Monday, March 20

7:00pm-Boy Scouts-FLC

Tuesday, March 21-No Tracey

9:30am-UMW-FLC

12:00pm-Lenten Devotion/Lunch-Dillon Chapel @ Woodland Park

5:45pm-Y4Y

6:00pm-Cub Scouts-FLC

7:00pm-Praise Team

7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, March 22

7:30am-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café

6:30pm-The Awakening—Youth

7:00pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 23

9:30am-UMW-FLC

1:00pm-Ruth Esther Circle-F. Hall

*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

Friday, March 24

Evening-FLC in use

Saturday, March 25

5:00pm-FLC in use

Sunday, March 26

8:30am-Contemporary Worship

9:45am-Communion Service

10:00am-Sunday School

11:00am-Traditional Worship

Monday, March 27

9:30am-UMW-FLC

5:30pm-4th Monday Community Meal-F. Hall

7:00pm-Boy Scouts-Family Life Center

Tuesday, March 28

12:00pm-Lent Devotion/Luncheon-1st Presbyterian Church

5:45pm-Y4Y-Sanctuary

6:00pm-Cub Scouts-FLC

7:00pm-Praise Team Rehearsal

7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

7:00pm-Priscilla Circle-Betty S.

FLC-Family Life Center

**-Not sponsored by
SSUMC but welcome*

*For more calendar
information, call the
office at 918-245-5955.*

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HAPPY SPRING!