

# April Newsletter

## Holy Week 2020 Journey

By: Beth McConnell

We have never experienced Holy Week as we will this year. There will be things we miss, such as Egg Hunts, Palms, Maundy Thursday worship, and the traditional Easter Sunday worship, family dinners, and special treats that aren't available this year. But we don't have to miss the journey. Possibly we will discover some insights and experiences unavailable to us when we are in "normal" times. Here are a few ways you might tailor your Holy Week 2020 Journey.

**Palm Sunday (4/5)** We live in S.C. and should be able to find a palm (palmetto) somewhere! Take a walk and look for palms of all sorts. Notice how they vary in shape and size, but all have the ability to wave with the wind. They were a sign of royal welcome as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. So too might they be a sign of welcome for today? A reminder for us to welcome Jesus into our homes? A reminder to offer hospitality to others who are in need of welcome? (A challenge when social distancing, but there are ways!) It's always nice to feel truly welcomed by others, even during very difficult days. Jesus knew he was going to face trials and pain, but such a welcome must have lifted his spirits and brought him joy. Maybe you cannot go for a walk, but you can find or draw a picture of a palm to enjoy or to color, you can research the Palm and discover its history, or you can close your eyes and imagine palms waving. Allow the welcome of God's Spirit to fill you with hope for this difficult, uncertain journey.

**Maundy Thursday (4/9)** On this day Christians typically celebrate Communion together. We remember the Upper Room and Jesus' last supper with his disciples. Jesus intentionally serves them by washing their feet. He presides over the table and asks them to remember him when he is gone by breaking bread together and sharing the cup. Then after they shared a meal together Jesus tells them that they will all betray him in some way. One among them will betray him that very night. Of course they all beg to differ. Peter in particular declares that he would never do such a thing. But he does. We all do when we are afraid to follow where Jesus goes. Some follow Jesus into hospitals, doctors' offices, and clinics to offer medical care. They are afraid. Others are called to serve the community in pharmacies, grocery stores, banks, waste management, and other essential service positions. They are afraid. Some are called to care for their families in challenging ways, at times without the means to do so. They are afraid. Jesus is leading each of us to a particular place of service these days. Frightening places for many different reasons. And we will not always follow because we are afraid. We remember on Maundy Thursday that Jesus loved his disciples anyway. He had compassion for their fear and he showed them that though they would falter at times, they would still be welcome at the table. Sit at your table today. Remember that when you "break bread" Jesus is with you. You are loved. You are not alone. Do not fear.

**Good Friday (4/9)** If you ride by churches today, you will see that the cross drape has changed from purple to black. Today we remember stories of the Garden of Gethsemane where Judas betrayed Jesus, the trials and persecution Jesus endured, the crown of thorns and the cross being carried to Golgotha, the nails hammered into Jesus' hands and Jesus being hung on the cross, the two criminals on either side of Jesus, the taunts and the gambling soldiers, the piercing of his side, and Jesus' death at which moment it is said that the sky turned black. Maybe today is the day we need to sit with this portion of Jesus' story. The agony is certainly there. But what else might be seen? I invite you to look for the Prince of Peace we welcomed into the world on Christmas Day. The Messiah who chose to love the betrayers—every last one of them—by not using his divine power to harm them. The Light coming into the world that shone even into the darkest hour. In this dark hour of our world, look for the glimmers of light. There you will find Jesus, the Light of the World, still shining the way.

Continued



## Holy Week 2020 continued

**Holy Saturday (4/11)** On this day, we watch and wait as Jesus lies in the tomb. Read the story of his body being taken down from the cross, carried to a tomb, anointed with oil, wrapped in linen, and the stone rolled in place. It truly feels “finished.” Where does that leave us? Waiting. Oh how we are tired of waiting. Waiting brings what-ifs and panic and fear. We are experiencing all of this emotional roller coaster. But underlying everything, is grief. Loss. Today is the day to name your losses. Sit with them. Grieve them. And know that the disciples, Jesus’ mother, those Jesus had healed, cured, and restored to community, plus many others who deep down inside knew they had done the wrong thing, experienced this overwhelming grief too. You are not alone. Make a move toward conquering your fears in this COVID-19 pandemic by making a list of your losses. Grieve. And wait to see what comes next.



**Easter Sunday (4/12)** Jesus is Risen! Jesus is Risen indeed! This is the day to sing and shout. SING!! SHOUT!! Your neighbors should hear your excitement. Your email, phone, text messaging, and whatever ways you are conversing during social distancing should be filled with joy and excitement—even in this time. Christ is Risen and we must celebrate even now. Christians celebrate the Resurrection every day. Even when all is not well because we are Easter People and one day all shall be well. Jesus showed us the way to live during Holy Week. How to recognize eternal life that Sunday morning. It is the face of Christ.

Love. Pure, uncompromised Love. You may not have an Easter Ham this year but what does that matter? Celebrate life in whatever ways you can. You are a beloved child of God, now and forever more.

## Kathwood Stays Connected

There are a variety of ways the Kathwood Family is connecting these days. Stay in-the-know and in-touch!

Monthly Newsletter— via email and mailings to those without email

Weekly email and updates, prayer requests, and devotional thoughts from the pastor

Text messages and phone calls between friends, deacons and their families

Notes and cards

Zoom Gatherings led by group leaders—Adult Choir, Adults in their 30’s/40’s, Youth Group, College & 20’s Group, Children’s Sunday School class, Adult Coed Sunday School class, Leadership Council, Diaconate

Messages left on church office phone

Offerings so the work of the church can continue (mailed to church or sent directly from your bank) and Donations for Cooperative Ministry (mailed to Church Office)

Direct phone calls to ministers

Sunday video worship time

Prayer for one another—the most important connection. You are encouraged to send prayer requests to the church office (via email or by phone voicemail) and a prayer request list will go out each Wednesday to the church family. Please add names of those you have permission to publicize. Share only information you want printed. The prayer list will be restarted each week.

## Stewardship Committee Update

By: Ken Zuercher, Chair

The Church Financial Ministry Plan for 2020 is ambitious. It will take careful stewardship of our resources to keep us on track to that plan. It will take each of us stepping up and doing our part plus a little more. So far through February our expenses and income are both a little behind our budget. With the change of accounting software still in progress, we don't have all the detail, but we looked pretty good through February. The overall shortage looks to be less than budgeted. That's a positive thing.

Then came March and the Tsunami called Covid-19 to wash over our lives. Remember that though we are not meeting here on Sunday, the work and expenses of the Church continue. Consider using the mail, bill pay from your bank, or a transfer to keep up with your regular giving.

Now we do have some investments. Although they are fairly safe and minimize risk, they will be up and down with the market in its current state. We should have a better picture of this when we look at the March results at our April meeting. I have set up a Zoom account and your Stewardship Committee will use that to meet until we can return to normal here at Church.

With the Preschool being down, we pulled the work on the HVAC scheduled for after Easter into March. The hope was that we would then not need to shut down the week after Easter for the installation of the first 2 new air handlers. As I write this that work is close to completed. This means that we will be paying for that work soon. Don't forget to start your contributions to the campaign for the HVAC program.

Stay safe and follow the guidelines. Know that your Stewardship Committee is at work even now. We will ride out this storm together as the generous, compassionate people that make Kathwood a congregation woven with generosity and love.

## Property & Space Update

The first phase of HVAC installation consisting of two new air handlers has been completed. Our preschool hallway and door frames are being painted. The men's upstairs bathroom has received a second coat of paint. And, flowers for front of church will be in place over the next couple of weeks. Thank you to Joanne Willis and her team, and to John Ledell for all of his help!



**For the safety and health of one another Kathwood will not hold any events  
on the church property until further notice.**



One of the ways that we can all stay in touch during these "days of Quarantine" is through Kathwood's Facebook page. It is a great way to keep in touch with our Church and its members. We are frequently updating it to add new information and content so please check it out, "like" it and share it with your friends!



# Prayer List

As part of your covenant to support Kathwood, please pray daily for these members and ministries.

<u>April 5—11</u>	<u>April 12—18</u>	<u>April 19—25</u>	<u>April 26—May 2</u>
<b>Sunday</b> Sandie Love Mission Ministry Team	<b>Sunday</b> Mary Burts Discipleship Min. Team	<b>Sunday</b> Ashley Greenlaw-Moore Social Ministry Team	<b>Sunday</b> Stephanie Blackmon Worship Ministry Team
<b>Monday</b> Andrew Kofkee Preschool Class	<b>Monday</b> Charlie Ballard Youth SS Class	<b>Monday</b> Peggy Chason Young Adult Class	<b>Monday</b> Matt Ballard Elementary Class
<b>Tuesday</b> Hayley Doyle Lois Class	<b>Tuesday</b> Nancy Brown Life App. Class	<b>Tuesday</b> Joyce Hearn Children's Missions	<b>Tuesday</b> Meghan Marriott Diaconate
<b>Wednesday</b> Jacob Joiner Cooperative Ministries	<b>Wednesday</b> Brant Freeman Metanoia	<b>Wednesday</b> Ken Zuercher Koinonia	<b>Wednesday</b> Debra Young Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
<b>Thursday</b> Phillip Page College Students	<b>Thursday</b> Hazel Monteith Homeschooling	<b>Thursday</b> Susan Avery Youth Choir	<b>Thursday</b> Maggie Watts Homebound Members
<b>Friday</b> John Ledell, Custodian US Government	<b>Friday</b> Jessica Roquemore, Bookkeeper Kathwood Finances	<b>Friday</b> Sylvia Greene Preschool Teachers	<b>Friday</b> Valerie Reed, Ministry Asst. New Members
<b>Saturday</b> Diane Smith Tuesday Fitness Class	<b>Saturday</b> Grace Avery Healthcare Workers	<b>Saturday</b> Susie Childress, Director Kathwood Preschool	<b>Saturday</b> Joanne Willis, Chair Property Committee

## Financial Update

Monthly Needs- \$28,104.00

### Offering Received-

March 1	\$ 5,620.00
March 8	11,723.00
March 15	3,245.00
March 22	-
March 29	4,705.00

**YTD Given:** \$ 84,014.12

**YTD Budget:** \$ 84,312.00

Please continue to send in your offerings so the work of the church can continue. You can mail your checks to church or have them sent directly from your bank. **Thank You!**



The white geraniums that were ordered for Easter will be delivered and placed in the sanctuary when we all get back together in our lovely sanctuary.

*What a lovely way to celebrate!!*



# April Birthdays

## Happy Birthday!

- 1 Bob Avery
- 2 Leslie Harvel
- 3 Kevin Krumm
- 5 Sandie Love
- 13 Charlie Ballard
- 14 Nancy Brown
- 19 Ashley Greenlaw
- 20 Peggy Chason
- 24 Sylvia Greene



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## Deacon News

By: John Bradley, Chair

Yesterday, along with a number of you, I participated in an “online” Kathwood Sunday School Class. It was certainly great seeing so many familiar faces and hearing so many familiar voices. It felt like “a little bit of Kathwood on my computer screen.”

Even though we are physically isolated and apart from each other these days, our Church is still present in our lives and hearts. Your Kathwood Deacons are working to maintain our connections in these days of sheltering in place. Hopefully you have heard from your Deacons. I would encourage each of you to reach out to your Deacons with any prayer needs, prayer requests ,or concerns. Your Kathwood Deacons are always there for you, but certainly even more so as we all navigate this unusual time together.

## Leadership Council Update

By: Nancy Brown, Chair

Leadership Council met via email for the March meeting. We reviewed information from the Property committee, Preschool, Stewardship, and Diaconate. We were encouraged that the first phase of the HVAC system was being installed earlier than scheduled. This first phase relates to the preschool area. We want to thank Joanne Willis, who has stripped the walls in the Preschool hallway and is in the process of painting it. Thank you to John Ledell for his help as well! We also want to thank Susie Childress for posting on the Kathwood Preschool web pages fun and educational activities for the families to do with their children. As the Stewardship committee has encouraged us to continue to support Kathwood with our tithes and offerings, we too want to support our church staff and ministries during this time of physical isolation from one another.

We appreciate Tandy McConnell for his willingness to serve, along with Sam Watts, as our Church clerks. It is with much regret that we accepted the resignation of Anne Matthews from Leadership Council. She has provided wisdom and insight into the decisions and discussion and also has been a source of encouragement for the work of the Leadership Council. We would like to thank Anne for her commitment and service. Our April meeting will be Sunday, April 26 via *Zoom*.

Be assured that the Leadership Council is praying for each of you as we continue to journey through Lent and can sing our Hallelujahs on Easter Sunday morning.

# Mission Ministry Update

By: Carolyn Smith, Chair



It is my honor to serve as the Missions chairperson for this year at Kathwood. I have worked with our pastor and would like to communicate our thoughts with you all as to how we can reach out to our community at this unprecedented time.

Historically Kathwood has worked with the Cooperative Ministry (and we currently include them in our annual budget) to support the working poor in our Columbia community. They have let us know some of the ways that they need our support right now, as they anticipate an increased demand from our community. Here is what they feel we can help with:

Food boxes (or bags) to drop off at the clothing center drive-thru. Here is what they need in each box: grits, corned beef hash or beef stew, box of cereal, six cans of vegetables, pasta sauce and noodles, canned chicken and tuna, canned fruit, ramen noodle packs, baked beans, mac-n-cheese, and a pack of dry peas or beans. (or any of these items one can find!)

Volunteers to sit behind glass (with good social distancing) and answer the phone. This help is needed any day from Monday-Friday either in the morning 9:00-1:00, or afternoon 1:00-5:00.

Donate your used car.

Give financially. (Given the encouragement to social distance, this is the most viable option right now)

There are many families that depend on the support of Cooperative Ministries, and now this will be more important than ever. Until our “stay at home” situation is over it may be best for us to donate money to Kathwood designated for Cooperative Ministry food boxes. Even the smallest amount of giving matters. We will get your donations to them in a timely manner.

Kathwood is not only a fellowship of prayer, but of action. Let us show our Christian love for our community, especially in this difficult time.

