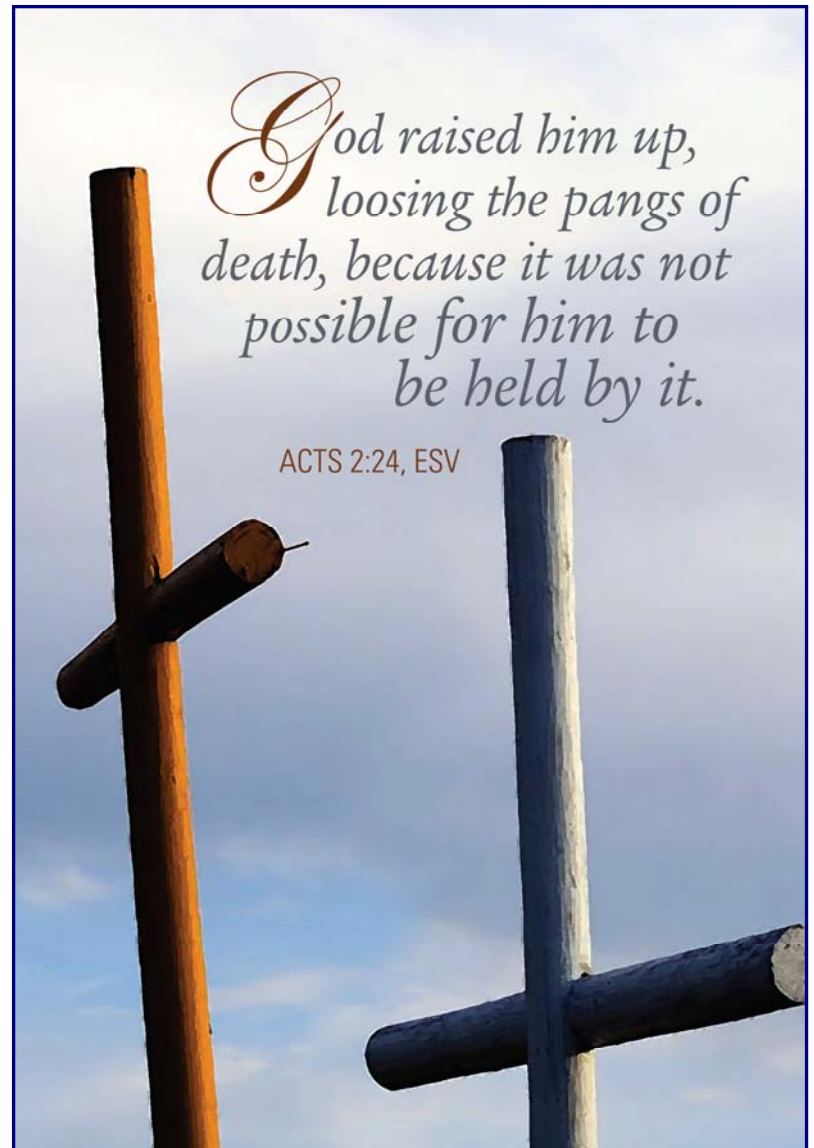
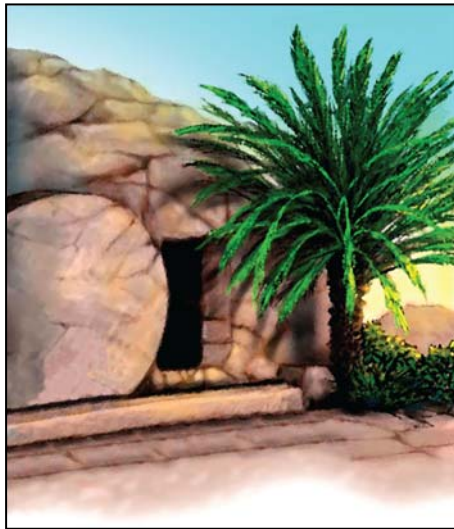


FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS



***To see all people **WORSHIP** God,
CONNECT with His people,
and join His **MISSION** in this world.***

Worship the Lord with Us!

Sunday Worship

Traditional Worship Service: 8:30 am

Sunday School for all ages: 9:40 am

Contemporary Worship Service: 10:45 am

***Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all in-person worship activities
are cancelled until further notice.***

Please visit www.fumccollingswood.org for our online worship experience.

FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS is published by:

The First United Methodist Church

201 Dayton Avenue, Collingswood, NJ 08108

Phone: (856)858-1186 Fax: (856)858-1775

E-mail: info@fumccollingswood.org

Church Staff

Pastor Sam Mountain, Senior Pastor

(pastorsam@fumccollingswood.org)

Shawn Zook, Pastoral Assistant for Outreach and Youth

(shawn@fumccollingswood.org)

Maria Gianfrancesco, Administrative Assistant

(maria@fumccollingswood.org)

Will Walker, Organist

(will@fumccollingswood.org)

Pat Gunning, Children's Program Director

(pat@fumccollingswood.org)

Matt Peace, Connections Pastor

(pastormatt@fumccollingswood.org)



**Tuesday - Thursday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
(Closed for lunch 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm)**

FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS

is online at

www.fumccollingswood.org

and is available via e-mail.

Send an e-mail to

***ewindows@fumccollingswood.org
to subscribe.***

In Windows This Month...

From the Pastor's Heart.....	4
Church Family Letter.....	5
Announcements	7
Sermons and Scriptures	8
VBS 2020	9
Missionary Messages.....	10
Birthdays and Anniversaries.....	11
The Kid's Page.....	12

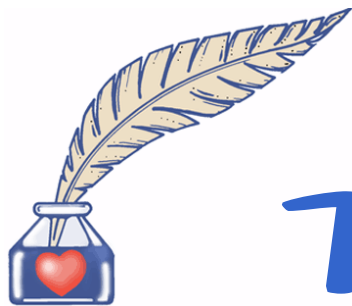


The submission deadline for the *May* issue of Windows is April 10th.

***THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING WINDOWS!***



This month's Windows is only available online due to the COVID-19 outbreak. This edition of Windows is in color to brighten your day.



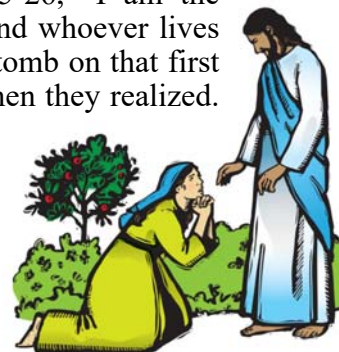
From The Pastor's Heart

Celebrating Easter will be different this year after all we have been through in recent days. Even though this year will be different it's still something we can look forward to and celebrate. We look forward to a special online service and communion service this year as well as encouraging one another along the way.

Looking to the days ahead reminds me of a "Peanuts" story. Lucy and Linus were sitting in front of a television set, when Lucy said to Linus, "Go get me a glass of water." Linus looked surprised, "Why should I do anything for you? You never do anything for me." "On your 75th birthday," Lucy promised, "I will make you a cake." Linus got up, headed to the kitchen and said, "Life is more pleasant when you have something to look forward to."

As we focus on Easter, let's remember what Jesus said in John 11:25-26, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" The women went to the tomb on that first Resurrection morning expecting death and experienced a life changing moment when they realized. "He is not here; He has risen just like He said." At this time of the year it is good to be reminded all over again, how amazing it is what Jesus has done for us!

I am in awe by the life of Jesus and the power of the resurrection. It is still life changing today. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead can raise the dead parts of our lives. Just as Jesus touched the hearts and lives of the women 2000 years ago, Jesus can touch our lives today!



*Early on the
first day of the week ...
Mary Magdalene came to
the tomb and saw that the
stone had been removed
from the tomb.*

John 20:1, NRSV

What is so unbelievable about Easter? From Friday to Sunday, everything had changed. On Sunday, sin surrendered its power and hell was conquered. On Sunday, angels proclaimed the good news and heaven celebrated. On Sunday, the guards were overcome and the stone was rolled away. On Sunday, the women rejoiced and hope was renewed. On Sunday, death was defeated and Jesus was resurrected.

Easter is so unbelievable because Jesus brings life out of death. Jesus brings hope where there was only despair. Jesus defeats the power of sin and hell. Jesus loved you more than life itself. He would rather die than be without you. The only question that remains is: Are you ready to be amazed? Let's make this Easter a special time of reflecting on our amazing Savior no matter where we are this year. I am looking forward and thank the Lord for all that He has done, for His presence, even the challenges we face and for an amazing church family. To God be the glory great things He has done and is doing.

In The Amazing Savior's Love,
Pastor Sam



Greetings First Church Family!

As we continue to journey together in these unusual times, we want you to know you are in our prayers and thoughts. During this extraordinary time where we are all doing our part to safeguard our health and slow the spread of the COVID-19, we also need to be aware that a drop-off of personal fellowship is only one of the challenges that we as a church are facing. To practice social distancing in the attempt of keeping as many people safe as possible we temporarily have suspended all our worship services and meetings in the building along with traditional office hours. However, there are several new ways we will be connecting.

We as a staff have been meeting regularly now virtually. Praying and planning ways to care for you and one another and beyond for Christ for such a time as this. Please check in on our Facebook and website for messages, music and other notes of encouragement from your staff.

We will try to keep things on both of these sites that will guide us in these difficult days. We hope the content will be a blessing in the days ahead. We also will have an opportunity for the church family to sign up for weekly prayer slots. Taken from God's promise "If my people...will pray and seek my face..." God can do amazing things! There other things we are working on that we will be sharing. We also will be sharing things that will be postponed or cancelled for now. We have now officially postponed the Good Friday Breakfast to 2021 with the same speakers!

Now, we will be using new virtual ways on our phones, internet, Facebook, website and emails to reach out and connect with each other. Please note our church phones and email will be checked regularly. You can send mail to the church, including your offerings or requests. Please continue to send in your prayer requests to maria@fumccollingswood.org.

We know right now many are facing financial challenges and have needs that are pressing or will be. So, as a church family we will be praying. We want to walk with you in your journey in the days ahead, so please inform us how we can help and support you during this time. We have a limited stock of extra toilet paper we can provide especially for our senior population or anyone who cannot find it.

Understandably, the financial health of the church is also something to be monitored. Our leadership team has been doing this regularly, and we want to be sure you have the correct and current information. The good news is that church giving increased significantly at the end of 2019, so much so that we were able to fulfill all of our financial obligations and enter 2020 with a small surplus! (Praise the Lord!). Unfortunately, that year-end surge was short-lived, and giving has fallen short of actual expenses for both January and February, resulting in a deficit of just over \$30,000 for those first two month. This is a concern that had emerged even before the many closures we are now seeing.

While we are very thankful for the many people who choose to support the church through automatic online donations, there are still many who prefer to donate in person at the worship services. With the temporary suspension of group events, we can only anticipate that there will be some additional drop-off in giving patterns for March, and possibly into April as well. So, other than simply being aware of current state of church finances, *what can you do?*

First, be in prayer for the health of the church... yes, your brothers and sisters in Christ as individuals (especially those most at-risk), but also for the church as a whole. How critical it is for Christ's church to be strong and vital during times like these that shake the confidence of the world around us.

Second, remember to be intentional in practicing your faithful, personal tithing to financially support the ministry of the church. You can do this by committing to send your tithes and offerings to the church regularly, especially during these times when you will not be personally traveling to the building. If you desire to enroll in online giving, we can assist you in making that process easy to do. You can sign up on our website at www.fumccollingswood.org and go to donations. However, those 'old school' gifts that arrive by mail are also most appreciated!

Third, prayerfully consider how the Lord is leading you to increase your giving to His work through the church. Certainly, we face challenging times. Yet, it is often in these times that we fully recognize how blessed we are to be called His children, and to be part of this church family. That leads us to want to expand that ministry of hope to those around us.

Thank you in advance for remembering to support the church in all these ways! The leadership team will continue to monitor the financial situation and provide you with updates as we have new information. Blessings to you all!

Pastor Sam, Steve Schoch (Council Chair) & Gary McGaurn (Finance Chair)





**STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS
(2020 – 2021 Academic Year)**

All applicants must submit a completed application and written essay.

You may download the PDF form from the FUMC website.
Directions for completion of the application are included.

First-time applicants must submit references.
Repeat applicants do not need references.

All applications and supporting information are due
to the church office no later than Sunday, April 26th.
They may be mailed or e-mailed to
maria@fumccollingswood.org.

TREASURER HELP NEEDED

The church welcomes all applications from members who may be called to serve in this area. This is a critically important opportunity to serve the Lord and His Church through the faithful administration of the finances of the church.

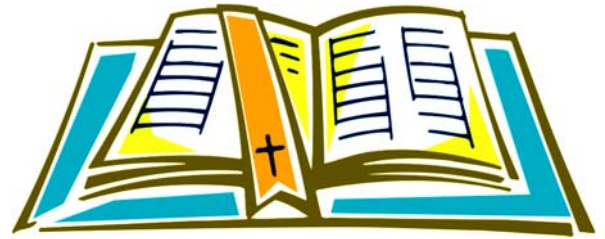


**THE NEXT MEN'S BREAKFAST
WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY,
MAY 16TH AT 8:00 AM.**



**Holy Week services are canceled due to the Coronavirus.
Easter Sunday service info coming soon.
Visit our website or Facebook page for up to date service information.**

UPCOMING SERMONS AND SCRIPTURES



Fix Your Eyes on Jesus Series (On the Way to the Cross)

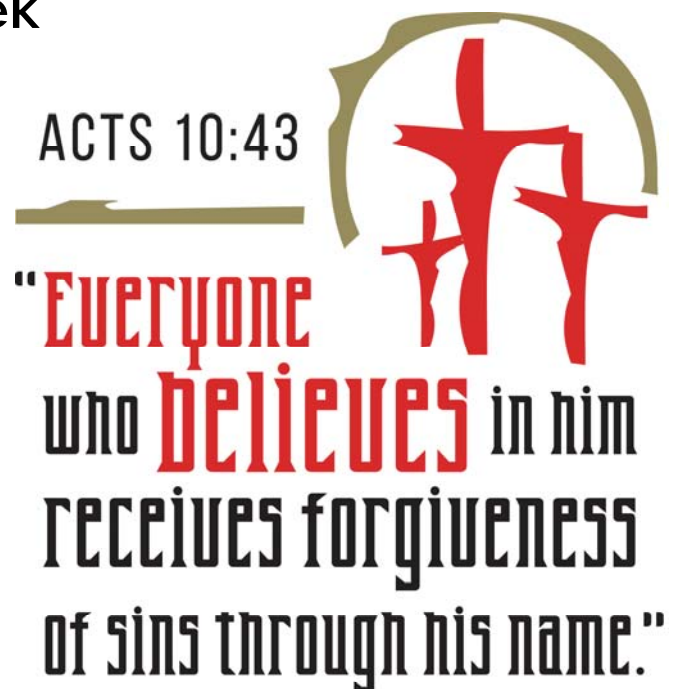
On the way to the cross Jesus had a purpose to touch and change lives. Jesus' purpose was not deterred by the many distractions that came His way. He kept focused, with his disciples, and transformed the people, places and spaces He entered. They were not the same after He passed through. This Lenten season, may we not be the same as we fix our eyes on Jesus. May we allow Him to enter the spaces and places of our lives as He did 2000 years ago.

April 5	Palm Sunday <i>Let's Not Miss It!</i>	Matthew 21:1-11 Luke 19:41-44
April 12	Easter Sunday - Communion <i>Experience All Of It!</i>	John 20:1-10
April 19	<i>Did You feel the Burn?</i>	Luke 24:13-35
April 26	<i>The Jesus Experience</i>	Luke 24:36-53
May 3	Communion <i>Can You Believe it?</i>	John 20:19-31
May 10	Mother's Day	
May 17	<i>It's the Lord!</i>	John 21:1-14
May 24	<i>Something Special</i>	Acts 1:1-11
May 31	Pentecost Sunday	Acts 2

Reflections on Jesus' Last Week

April 5th to April 12th

Sunday	The Triumphal Entry – Hosanna! Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:11
Monday	Clearing the Temple Matthew 21:10-17, Mark 11:15-18
Tuesday	Day of Controversy and Parables Matthew 21:23-24:51, Mark 11:27-13:37, Luke 20:1-21:36
Wednesday	Day of Rest
Thursday	The Lord's Supper (Passover) Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:7-23, John 13:1-30
Friday	Crucifixion Matthew 27:1-66, Mark 15:1-47, Luke 22:66 – 23:56, John 18:28 - 19:37
Sunday	Resurrection - He is Risen! Matthew 28:1-13, Mark 16:1, Luke 24:1-47, John 20: 1-31





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020

- When? July 6 through July 10 - 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
- Where? First United Methodist Church, Collingswood NJ
- Who? Children ages 4 through entering 6th grade
- What? Concrete and Cranes VBS!

As kids explore a world of concrete and cranes, rivets and rebar, bulldozers and backhoes, they will learn to build their faith on Jesus as they uncover the truth that He who began a good work will be faithful to carry it on to completion.

Register at www.fumccollingswood.org



VBS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

It may seem like a long time from now, but VBS is right around the corner!! July 6-10 will be here before we know it! Please pray about how God can use YOU this year as we minister to more than 100 children. Leaders and helpers are needed. Please see Pat Gunning with any questions!

MISSIONARY MESSAGES



Neale and Barbara Goetsch

Share our joy as we relate how sadness has broken forth into song in our dear Chinese sister J's life. You prayed with us for this dear sister who trusted Christ shortly after arriving the States. Her longing that her husband would come to faith was wonderfully answered and they joined with others in establishing a new Chinese fellowship near the USC campus. After several miscarriages, God blessed them with a beautiful son, Daniel. Moving, first to West Virginia and then Oklahoma, when Buddhist in-laws came, their rejection of J and influence over their son resulted threats of physical violence and forced intervention by authorities. Fast-forward a year; J and Daniel are safe and surrounded by a loving Chinese Christian community in another city. The Lord has provided a job and an apartment. But unexpected beauty has risen from the ashes. Both of J's parents who have come from China have recently trusted Christ and been baptized, and the Lord has replaced deep sorrow and bitterness with prayer. She wrote, "It does not always go smooth. My patience and persistence are tested. I am trusting that my parents, son and I will stay safe, and I pray that my husband will be truly saved or repent and be a good father for Daniel." Do continue to pray with us for this precious sister in Christ.

Lowell and Claudia Wertz, Tanzania

Q. Are you going back to Africa again? What are your retirement plans? —Asked by almost everyone!

A. Our hope, for our ministry in Africa, is to continue as long as the Lord provides us with adequate health. We plan to return in June of 2020, after visiting our churches in America. I have felt that you retire from a job. But Joy in the Harvest is so much more than a job to us. What could be more rewarding, more challenging, or bring me more happiness?

One way or another, we know someday the Lord will retire us. We pray for younger missionaries to be called to carry this ministry forward. Next month will be the 40th anniversary of our arrival in Africa! Our first work team in our next term of service is scheduled to arrive in July. We are excited about all the Lord is doing.

Bill and Brenda Antinore, Camden, NJ

Parker Millie Antinore (aka Grandbaby #10) arrived on the scene this past Sunday afternoon. (Feb. 23) Our son Pete and his wife Gillian are the proud parents of this beautiful bundle of joy! God you are just so very good! What a precious gift and evidence of Your love for us. This is their first baby, please keep them in prayer as all we seasoned veterans know...sleep will be elusive.

Bob and Barbara Alber, Texas

Bob and I would appreciate your prayers as each of us has opportunities to take on new job responsibilities this year. Bob will be working with his supervisor this week to develop a new job description and title. Barbara will also be talking with her supervisors about changes in her roles which would allow her to serve both SIL and JAARS more effectively. **More details will be shared as they become available!**

As you might imagine, job transitions at our age will not be easy. But, we have answered Jesus' call to be His laborers of the harvest (Mt. 9:37), so we will trust that God will continue to equip us for the tasks that lie ahead. **Please pray for wisdom for us and our supervisors as we make decisions in the next few months that may include our relocating. Thank you!**





April 2	Heather Chamberlain	April 15	Adrianna Adams Cindy VanPelt
April 4	Lisa Santulli	April 18	Bill Bittle
April 6	Bernard Beals Debbie Cherry Charles (Bud) Shropshire	April 19	Beth Stefano
April 7	Ken Steward, Jr.	April 23	Grace Alkuino
April 9	Gregory McGaurn	April 24	Blessy Alkuino
April 10	Marion Shallcross	April 25	Michael Hoover Asher Walker
April 11	Suzanne Hoover	April 27	Mark Burgoon Mike Tribulas
April 13	Bob Gordon Bert Stevens Will Walker		

If you have not already done so, please give your dates (birth dates and anniversary dates) to the church office in writing or by e-mail: maria@fumccollingswood.org.




April 3	Harry and Linda Remeriz
April 6	Frank and Susan Liberi
April 20	Ken and Margie Underwood
April 23	Doug and Julie Schmitt
April 27	Bayani and Grace Alkuino

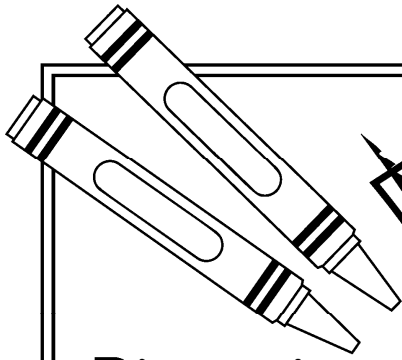
?? ? ?
Bible Quiz
? ?

Three of the Gospels tell that when Jesus was crucified, darkness covered the earth from noon until three in the afternoon. Which Gospel does not mention this event?

A. Matthew
B. Mark
C. Luke
D. John



Answer: D (See Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, and John 19.)



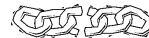
PUZZLE

Picturing the Lord's Supper

Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples as a symbol of the new covenant.



Directions: Use the picture clues to fill in key words from Luke 22:19-20, NIV.



And he took _____, gave _____ and _____ it, and gave



it to them, saying, "This is my _____ given for you; do this in



_____ of me." In the same way, after the supper he



took the cup, saying, "This _____ is the new _____ in my



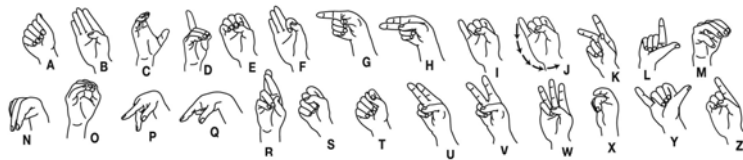
blood, which is _____ out for you."

LUKE 22:19-20, NIV

Answer: bread, thanks, broke, body, remembrance, cup, covenant, poured

Puzzle!

Hands play a key role in the biblical accounts of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Use this sign-language alphabet to retell what happened.

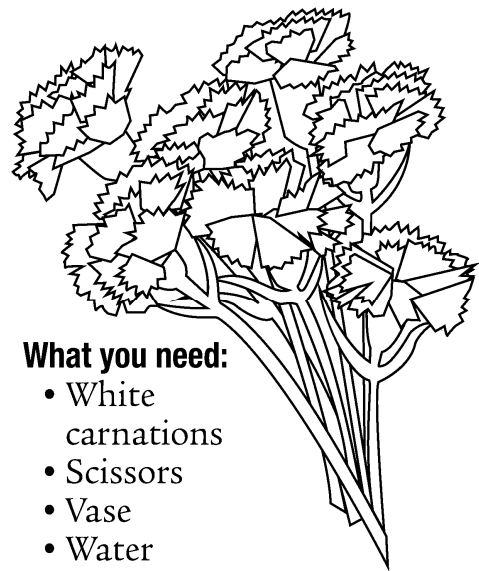


Jesus' _____ were _____
 to the tree. Two criminals were also crucified,
 one on the _____
 and the other on the _____ of Jesus. Jesus
 cried out with a loud voice, "_____,
 into your _____ I commit my spirit."
 (Luke 23:46) Jesus' friends _____
 him from the cross to the tomb. Jesus showed
 _____ his _____ to prove
 he was Christ. Bring your _____ together
 in _____, and thank God for his
 Son, Jesus!

Answer: hands, nailed, right, hand, left, Father, hands,
 carried, Thomas, hands, hands, prayer

Scripture AND NATURE

Conduct a simple experiment to illustrate Easter's meaning.

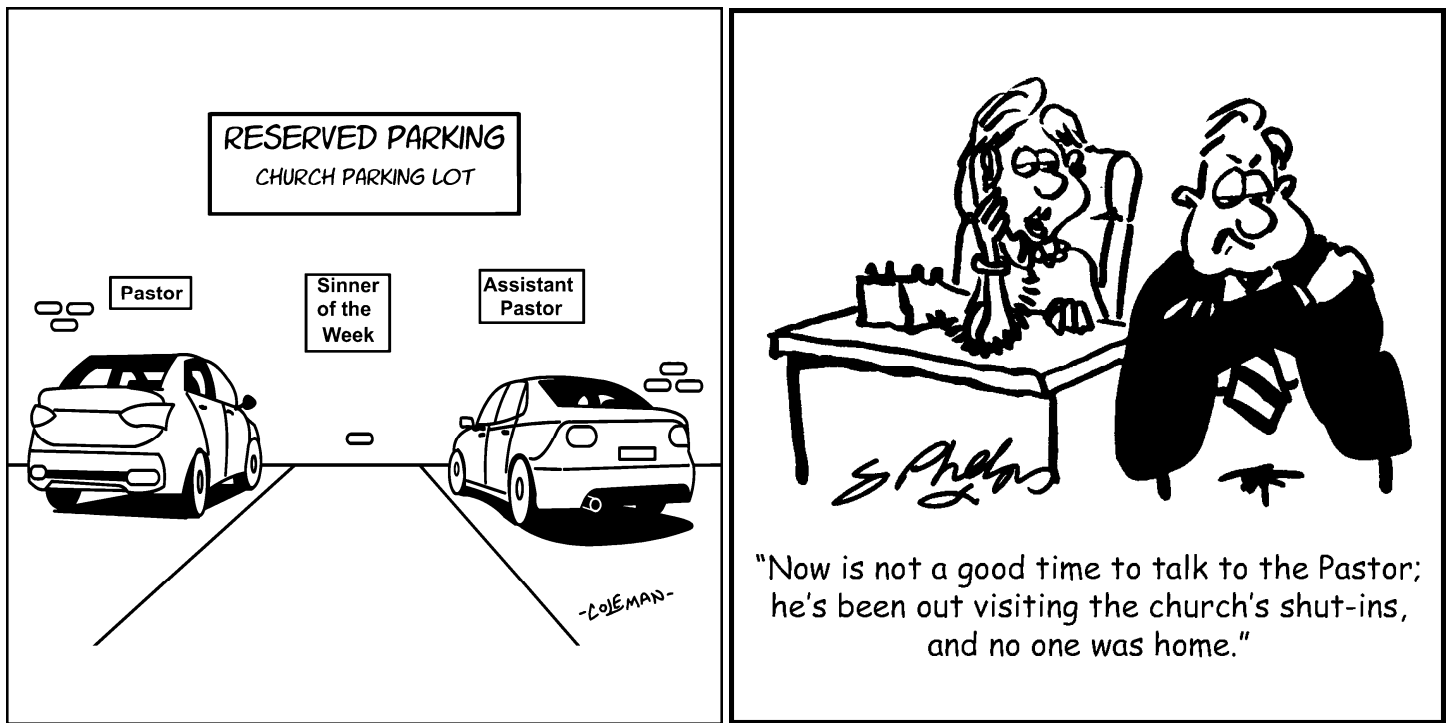


What you need:

- White carnations
- Scissors
- Vase
- Water
- Red food coloring
- Bible

What you do:

1. Cut the carnation stems (at an angle) to about 8 inches long.
2. Fill the vase halfway with water. Add 10 drops of food coloring. (More may be needed to darken the water.)
3. Add the cut flowers and observe what happens to the petals over time.
4. Discuss how this is like Jesus' work on the cross. Read 1 Peter 2:22-24 (NIV) and reflect on what his death means for us.
5. To learn more about this experiment, research capillary action.



EASTER AROUND THE WORLD

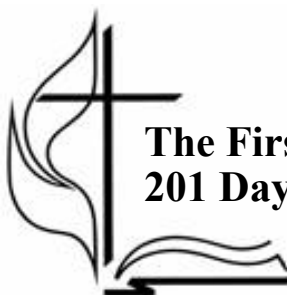
Easter traditions are important, but they vary widely. While Americans dye hardboiled eggs, Kenyans carve soapstone eggs and present them as gifts in banana-fiber boxes. In Bermuda, locals fly homemade kites on Good Friday — a tradition that began when a teacher illustrated Christ's ascension to heaven using a cross-shaped kite.

Ethiopian Christians observe a 56-day fast from meat and all animal products. On Easter, they dress in white to worship in churches decorated with handmade fabric. Then they feast with non-Christians on roast chicken, goat and rice.

In France, church bells are silent between Holy Thursday and Easter to observe Jesus' Passion. According to legend, the bells grow wings and fly to Rome to be blessed, returning on Easter with chocolate and presents. In one town's main square, chefs make a giant omelet with 4,500 eggs to feed 1,000 people!



happy
EASTER



The First United Methodist Church
201 Dayton Avenue, Collingswood, NJ 08108