

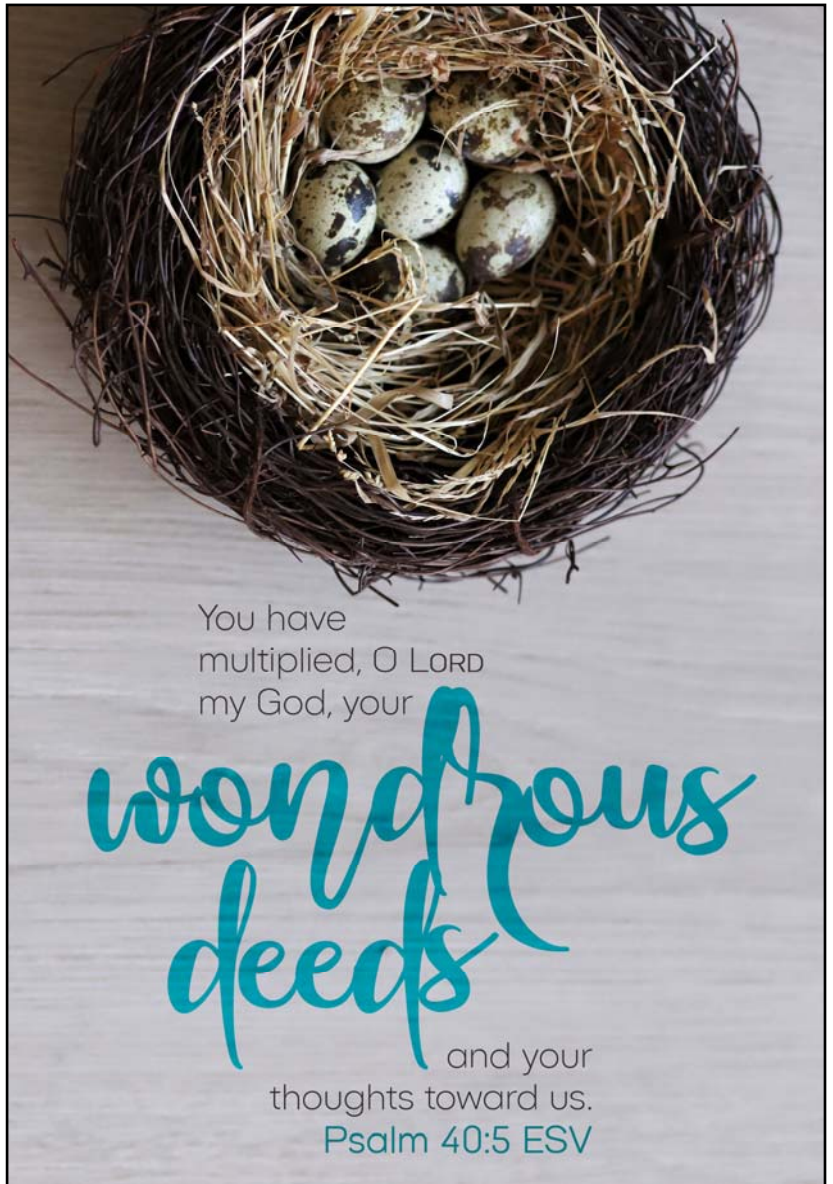


FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS

March 2021



Preparing for Easter



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

Worship the Lord with Us!

Sunday Worship

Live-Streamed Service at 10:00 AM

In-person worship resumes 03/14/21.

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

FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS is published by:

The First United Methodist Church

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**Office closed due to the
COVID-19 pandemic.**

FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS

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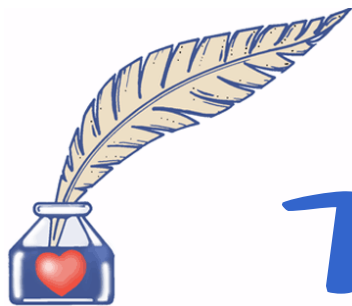


The submission deadline for the *April* issue of Windows is March 26th.

**THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING WINDOWS!**



First Church Windows is only available online and in full-color due to the COVID pandemic.



From The Pastor's Heart



Lent and Easter are a time of reflection and drawing closer to the Lord especially as we have journeyed this pandemic for a year now. I was struck by a simple phrase: *God's love goes the distance*. The more I thought about these words that the creator God, who loves us far more than we could ever imagine or comprehend, would come to earth, die and be resurrected for me, I find myself singing the words to the hymn, "And Can It Be":
Amazing love, how can it be that thou my God would die for me.

That is why on the morning of Jesus' resurrection, we read in Matthew, chapter 28...⁵ *The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' We celebrate the resurrection because it changes everything! ⁸ *So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."**

Imagine... Jesus said before his death to them, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26

Jesus touched Lazarus...he came from death to life. The ladies and the disciples would never forget that experience. Jesus died such a horrific death and now the angel gives them the good news that blew them away and changed their day. Look at how Jesus met them and greeted them. Is this for real? You bet! Game changer, life changer. They came to the tomb to grieve. Jesus walked out of the tomb; the people of God later walked with him! One of my favorite resurrection hymns declares "He Arose."

*Death could not keep its prey, Jesus my Savior.
He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord.
Up from the grave He arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes.
He arose a Victor from the dark domain and he lives forever with His saints to reign
He arose, He arose, Hallelujah, Christ arose!*

The empty tomb says He is risen. The disciples say He is risen. The church of Jesus Christ says He is risen. All creation says He is risen. Jesus has conquered our last enemy. He solved the problem of death forever because He entered the realm of death on our behalf and He came out on the other side holding the keys of death and hell in his hands!

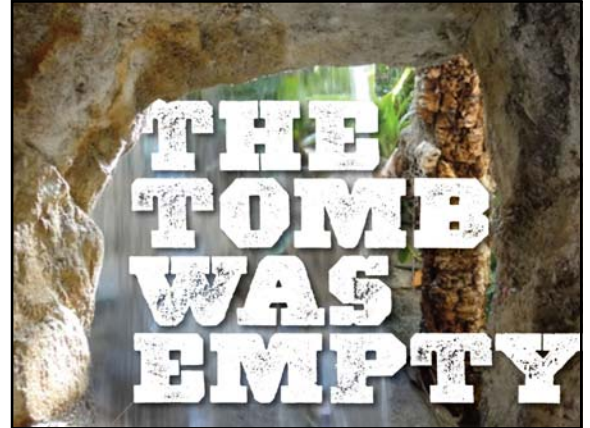
Good news that the tomb is empty. Good news that Jesus rose from the dead.
Good news that the Devil couldn't hold him. Good news that death has lost its sting.
Good news that the grave has lost its victory. Good news that we need not fear death anymore.
Celebrating the resurrection is EVERYTHING!

Sometimes our promises are not always kept, but the good news is Jesus did keep His promise 2000 years ago and does today! Jesus promised that He would forgive us. But the only way we can have any kind of assurance that He's even remotely capable of delivering on that promise is because He rose from the dead, proving that He is God and has the power and position to forgive us. His forgiveness is real. It's freely offered to you and me. But we must decide whether or not will we receive it.

With the resurrection of Jesus, we, who know Him personally, can have hope. We can live with a confidence and an expectation that we are never alone and that once this life is over, we can spend forever in eternity with Him and forever is a long, long time. *God's love goes the distance!*

Looking forward to celebrating Christ's Resurrection with you all!

In Christ's Love and Grace,
Pastor Sam



Looking forward to Holy Week!

We are looking forward to celebrating Holy week together this year. We invite those who feel safe to come to please sign up as soon you can and we will follow protocols for everyone's safety at this time. We are grateful for many of you and your faithfulness to our church family in your prayers, kindness and giving. This has been a difficult season for many including the church so your faithfulness has been deeply appreciated as we seek to share God's love and grace each week even as we have been virtual so much of the time. You are loved and appreciated!

Journey Through Holy Week

Palm Sunday Worship Celebration Service - March 28, 10:00 am.

The Unexpected Jesus (Part 1) is the morning message along with *great music and worship!*

Holy Thursday Service - April 1, 7:00 pm.

Meditating on what Jesus did the night before He went to the cross- ending with Holy Communion

Please make a reservation for this service

Good Friday Men's Breakfast Team will be sharing a Good Friday virtual service that anyone can view throughout the day! This will be a special service you might even want to join in with someone safely to view it together. More information coming soon!

Easter Celebration Worship Service - April 4, 10:00 am.

Join us in the Resurrection Sunday Experience.

The Unexpected Jesus (Part 2) is the morning message along with *great music and worship!*





Joy, Craig, and Claire Evans want to thank all the members of First Church who helped them with meals, cards, prayers, and other kindnesses during Joy's chemo and radiation for a brain tumor. The church showed God's love in so many tangible ways. We have been blessed.

WE ARE
grateful
FOR YOU!



Job Opportunity

We're still actively seeking an Office Manager (aka Church Secretary). If you know of anyone who has moderate computer skills, good organizational skills, and a heart for Jesus, who might be interested in this paid position, please ask them to contact Carol Doron at the email listed below:

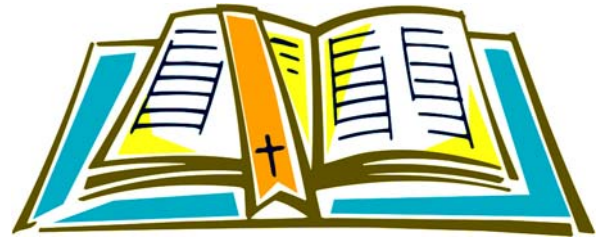
Office Manager for FUMC Collingswood
20 hours/week: Tuesday - Friday, 9:00am - 2:00pm

If interested, please contact Carol Doron at bcdoron@aol.com.



**Daylight Savings
Time Begins
March 14, 2021**

UPCOMING SERMONS AND SCRIPTURES



Sermon Series - Experiencing Jesus

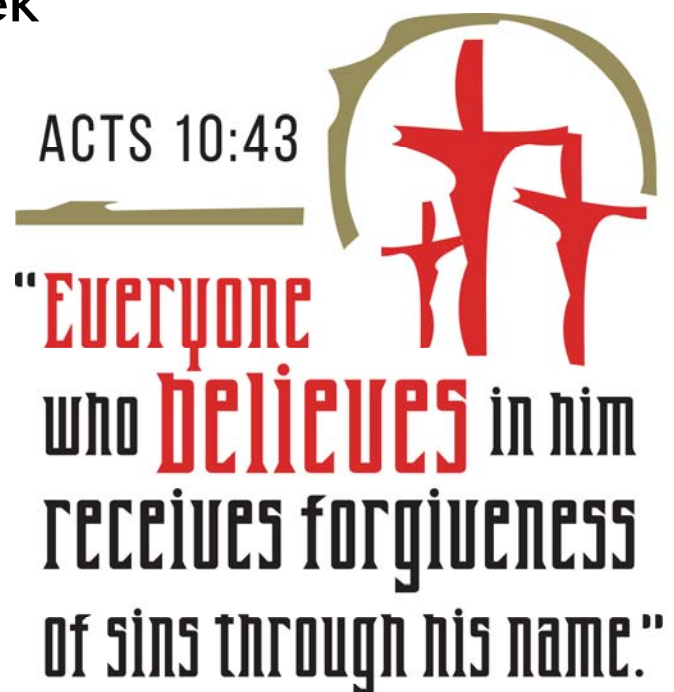
On the way to the cross, Jesus had a purpose... to touch and change lives. His purpose was not deterred by the many distractions that came His way. We know Jesus didn't have to deal with the pandemic of 2020 or even the challenges 2021 may hold in store. However, what we learn from Jesus is how he kept focused, transforming the people, places and spaces He entered. They were not the same after He passed through.

Join us for this sermon series as we take a look at individuals and groups of people from the Bible who fixed their eyes on Jesus, and as a result were transformed! We hope this series will be an encouragement this Lenten season, to fix our eyes on Jesus... and allow Him to enter the spaces and places of our lives just as He did for so many people 2000 years ago.

March 7	<i>Don't Miss It</i>
March 14	<i>It's A Journey</i>
March 21	<i>New Reality In Sight</i>
March 28	<i>The Unexpected Jesus (Part 1)</i>
April 4	<i>The Unexpected Jesus (Part 2)</i>

Reflections on Jesus' Last Week March 28th to April 4th

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



Dear FUMC Family,

Spring is just around the corner...So are IN-PERSON gatherings!

As COVID numbers are dropping and increasing numbers of people are vaccinated, we as a staff believe it is time to start reopening the building again. Our intention is to return to "Phase 1" guidelines (as in November), **beginning with the Sunday morning worship service on March 14** (still 10:00 am). We look forward to seeing you again in person! During this first phase of re-opening we will continue to live-stream the service as well, so if you are not yet comfortable in a public setting, we understand and invite you to join us virtually through the website. The building will also be available - on a scheduled basis - for use by various small groups.



As in November, we want to reconnect for fellowship which we all need. Yet in order to do so in a way that is safe for everyone, manageable by our staff, and done with excellence, things will still be different from what we've known before. However, we confidently believe God always has better things in mind for our future than what we've known in our past. So let's hold onto that hope, and work together to create a meaningful experience for every member of our family, as well as all those God desires to reach through us!

Below are some of the ways we can cooperate to make all of that happen.

Sunday Worship Service

Pre-Registration

Those planning to attend worship are strongly urged to register in advance. You can pre-register online (through our church website at fumccollingswood.org/services), or by phone (856-858-1186). This will take the place of our attendance form and will allow us to do contact tracing should the need arise. It will also help us to manage capacity (the sanctuary cannot exceed 125 persons).

Relevant Procedures for the Worship Service

- The building will only be accessible on Sunday mornings through the 2 sanctuary entrances on Park Ave, including the corner entrance and handicap-accessible ramp.
- Doors will open for check-in at 9:30 am, and the service will begin at 10:00 am.
- Those who enter the church building must wear a mask that covers both mouth and nose during the entire service.
- On entry, all participants will check in at 1 of 2 tables in the narthex, have their temperature taken, and be asked a few essential COVID-related questions. Those showing a fever of 100.4 F or above will not be permitted to enter the worship space.
- After check-in, an usher will guide people to their seat. Everyone will remain seated before and during the service, and no handshaking, hugs, or other physical contact will be permitted.
- The nursery will not be available. All children will remain with their parents during the worship service during Phase I.
- Offerings can be dropped off in a collection box when leaving the sanctuary each week. On communion Sundays, you can pick up a prepackaged, single-serve communion cup at the doorway as you enter the sanctuary.
- The narthex restroom at the back of the sanctuary will be available.

Small Groups

Scheduling

The sanctuary and 2 sides of the parlor will be available for groups to use during Phase 1. These groups must be scheduled in advance in order to maintain capacity and to be sure all used spaces are properly cleaned between each use.

- Small groups of 20 persons or less will be required to use the Parlor
- Small groups greater than 20 persons will be required to use the Sanctuary

Group leaders should contact Pat Gunning to schedule their group (pagunning@yahoo.com or 609-792-4441) and must agree to the procedures below.

Relevant Procedures for Small Groups

- Groups that meet in the sanctuary will enter through the corner or ramp doors on Park Ave, and groups using the parlor will enter through the door on Dayton Ave.
- Those who enter the church building must wear a mask that covers both mouth and nose during the entire gathering.
- Group leaders are responsible to keep attendance for every gathering, including names, phone numbers, and email addresses. These lists will be provided to the church office immediately following any event.
- Temperatures will be taken at each gathering.
- Seating in gatherings should be arranged to keep a 6' distance between members
- All food & drink services provided by the church will be suspended until further notice. People may bring their own food and drink, as long as no food or utensils are shared between those of different households.
- Restrooms will be available. Groups meeting in the parlor will use the restrooms outside of the gym and great room; groups meeting in the sanctuary will use the restroom in the narthex (back of the sanctuary). Masks are to be worn in our restrooms.

Once again, we are so excited about the joint responsibility and privilege that we have as a church family, stepping forward together in this unusual but exciting season. God will continue to guide us and bless us and use us as we move together with our eyes on Him.

With much love,
Pastor Sam, Shawn, Will, and Pat



MISSIONARY MESSAGES



Neale and Barbara Goetch

I wonder if Mary had sleepless nights. The re-living of that surprise visit by the angel—his announcement and her visit with Elizabeth—and then the unfolding drama in Bethlehem—the stable, shepherds, the star and visit from the Magi, along with the hasty midnight flight to Egypt, resettling in Nazareth, and later the frantic “missing child” search—all of these and so much more must have flooded back into her conscious thoughts, and even her dreams, many times. Luke tells us she kept, pondered, and cherished all these things. Her mind was full of them as she reflected on what it all meant [to ponder literally means to weigh], her memory was saturated with all she remembered, and in her heart she cherished every one. How many times during Jesus’ ministry did they surface in her thoughts? What was she thinking that dark day as she stood at the foot of the cross? Simeon’s prophecy? (Luke 2.35) Later, after the resurrection and ascension, those precious sacred scenes must have flooded her soul with inexpressible peace and joy.

Mary’s testimony has been challenging me of late. Every believer can look back at multiplied times when prayers were answered, challenges were met with grace, and the presence of the Lord was especially evident. David, speaking to his own heart and ours, hymned,

*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,
Who forgives... heals... redeems... crowns... satisfies... renews... (Psalm 103)*

While we do not live in the past, remembering all the way the Saviour has led us (Fanny Crosby’s hymn begins “All the Way My Saviour Leads Me,”) fuels our faith to trust Him both for today and tomorrow. Spurgeon comments, “Let your memory treasure up everything about Christ which you have either felt, or known, or believed, and then let your fond affections hold Him fast for evermore.” Some of my happiest moments these days are in the stillness of the midnight—pondering and cherishing.

There are also confusing times when remembering brings calm to our hearts and light to our path. J., a dear sister who trusted Christ when here in Columbia and was part of our English class/Bible study, was overjoyed when her husband also trusted Jesus. However, after they moved to the Midwest, his Buddhist parents came for an extended period, and their influence led to abuse and subsequent separation. Our hearts ache with our sister, but we rejoice that she is continuing to walk with Jesus, even during these dark days. Pray for daily encouragement for J.

What JOY to focus on the One Who forgives... heals... redeems... crowns... satisfies... renews! May we be ever keeping, pondering, and cherishing.





March 3	Matthew C. Schmitt	March 11	Mark Burgoon
March 6	Barbara Hamilton	March 16	Ean Meyers
March 7	Steve Schoch	March 18	Brad Mountain
March 9	Lorraine Rudderow	March 22	MaryEmily Cameron
March 10	Bob Alber Emily Davis Carol Doron	March 26	Bob Holmes Donna Pelligrini
		March 30	Christine 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: office@fumccollingswood.org.



March 30 William & Suzanne Hoover

?? ?
? ??
Bible Quiz

As the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, they longingly remembered some of the foods they'd had in Egypt. Which foods were not mentioned?

- A. carrots and potatoes
- B. onions and garlic
- C. fish and leeks
- D. melons and cucumbers

Answer: A (See Numbers 11:4-6.)



BIRDS IN THE WORD

The Bible mentions many kinds of birds. How many have you seen?

Directions: Unscramble the bird names, using the Bible references and pictures as clues. Then insert the final unscrambled bird name to complete the passage below.



VIDEO

— — — — (Genesis 8:8)



LWO

— — — (Psalm 102:6)



GEELA

— — — — (Isaiah 40:31)



TOKRS

— — — — (Jeremiah 8:7)



APROSWRS

— — — — — — — —

“Are not five — — — — — sold for
two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten
by God. ... Don’t be afraid; you are worth
more than many — — — — —.”

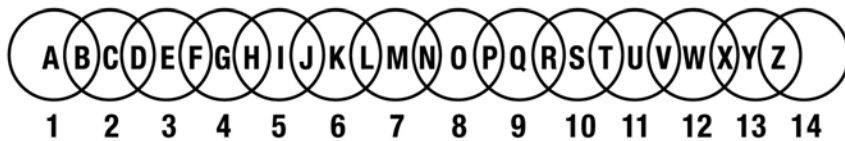
LUKE 12:6-7, NIV

Answer: dove, owl, eagle, stork, sparrows

Puzzle!

Use the code to complete the blanks — and find out how God wants us to treat people.

CODE:



1,2 3 6 5 7,8 2,3 1 7,8 2,3

2 8 7 8,9 1 10 10 5 8 7,8 1 10,11 3

10,11 8 8 7,8 3 1 7,8 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10'

3,4 8 9,10 4 5 11,12 5 7,8 4 3 1 2 4,5

8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10' 5,6 11 10 10,11 1 10

5 7,8 2 4,5 9,10 5 10 10,11 4 8 2,3

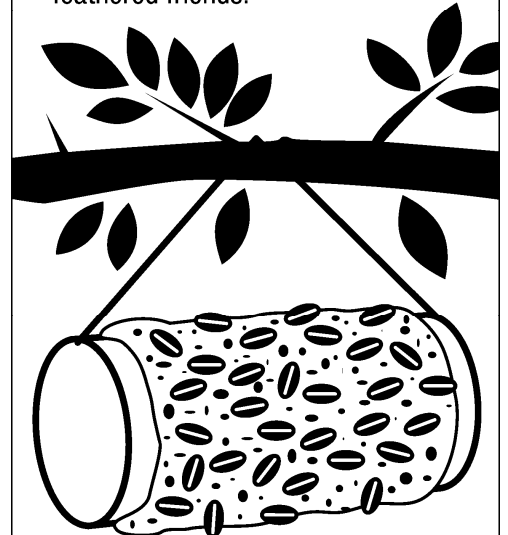
3,4 8 9,10 4 1 11,12 3 13 8 11'

EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV

Answer: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NIV

FOR THE BIRDS

Display this recycled craft to care for feathered friends.

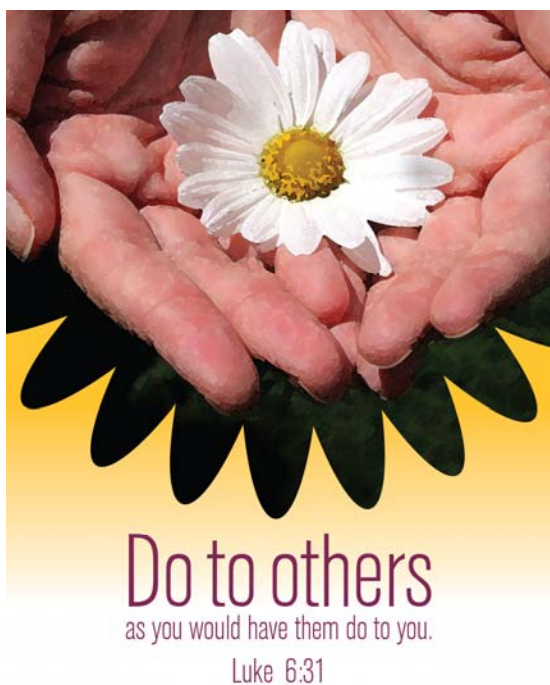
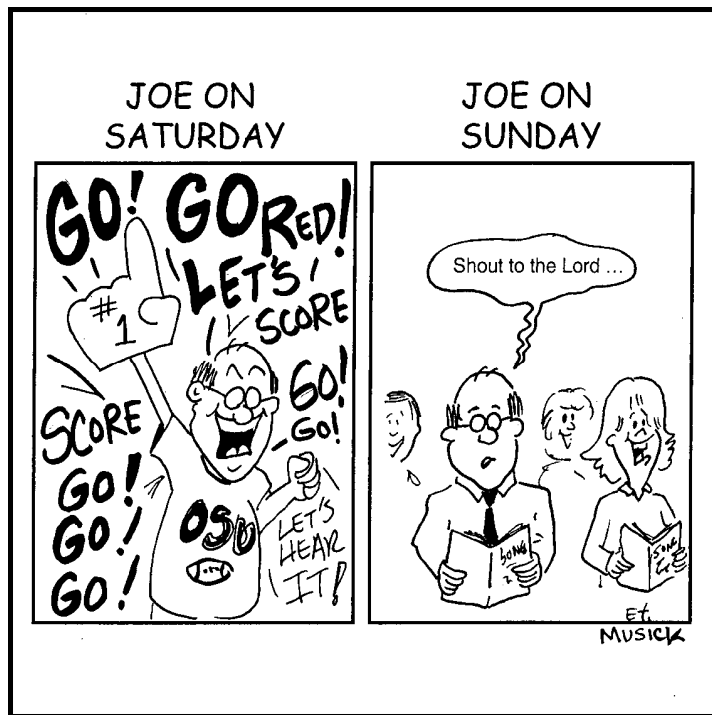
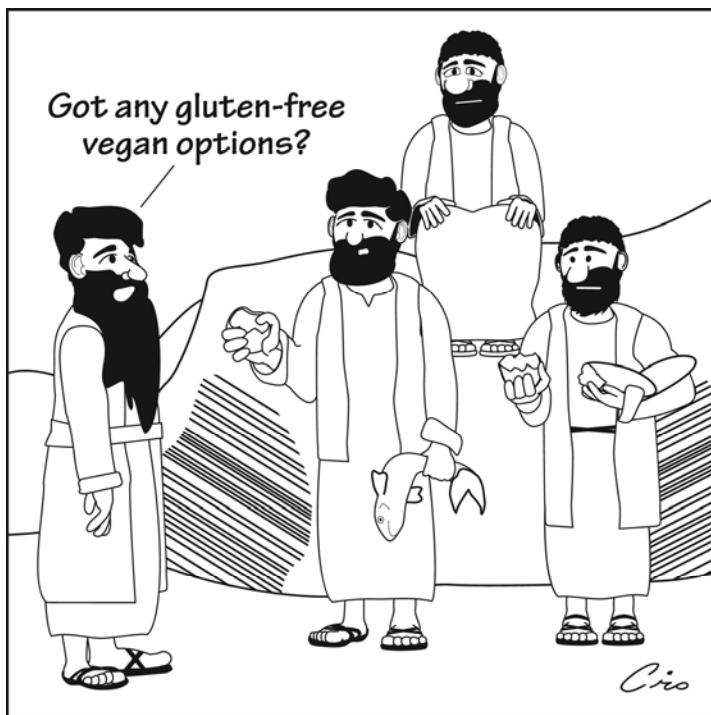


What you need:

- Peanut butter or vegetable shortening
- Plastic knife
- Empty toilet paper tube
- Bird seed
- A plate
- String

What you do:

1. Spread peanut butter or vegetable shortening on the tube, covering the entire outside surface.
2. Pour bird seed on a plate and roll the tube in the seeds.
3. Thread string through the tube and tie it to make a loop.
4. Hang the bird feeder outside. When seeds are eaten, coat the roll again.

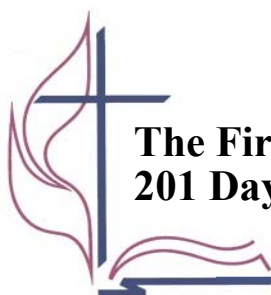


PAYING IT BACK—AND FORWARD

During the pandemic, acts of kindness seemed especially meaningful. Last spring, as Covid-19 hit Native American communities particularly hard, an interesting transatlantic outreach occurred. Donations from Ireland began appearing in a relief fund for Navajo and Hopi families, leading administrators to suspect the account had been hacked. Then they realized a cross-generational payback was underway.

In 1847, Choctaw Tribe members sent \$170 overseas to Ireland to help with Potato Famine relief. That generosity was never forgotten, and by May 2020, people in Ireland had contributed more than \$4 million toward pandemic assistance for relatives of people who'd helped their ancestors. Many donors included an Irish proverb meaning "In each other's shadows the people live."

The concept of paying it forward dates back to a 1784 letter by Benjamin Franklin. It also echoes Jesus' Golden Rule: "Do to others as you would have them do to you." (Luke 6:31) How might you live out this practice today?



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