



The Spreading Flame

Ellendale United Methodist Church



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“For Whom The Stone Rolls” - An Easter Reflection

An English clergyman in the 16th & 17th centuries by the name of John Donne wrote some of the most beautiful poems in the English language. One of them rings especially true to what I wanted to say here. He wrote this, maybe you've heard portions of it in other venues:

No man is an island, entire of itself, Every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less—As well as if a promontory were; as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were: Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

Ernest Hemingway wrote a book and the band Metallica wrote a song with the title being what the ending of that poem says – “For whom the bell tolls”. (Maybe we could get the choir to sing that one as an anthem sometime...ha ha!). When Donne wrote about the tolling of the bells he was referring to funeral bells. In saying that “it tolls for thee”, Donne was expressing one of two things, or perhaps both: that when funeral bells were heard it was a reminder that we are all nearer to our own death each day; or he may have been saying what some of us believe to be true as humans – that all

people are socially and spiritually interconnected. That is, when someone dies, a part of all of us dies. It might be seemingly apparent that the bell tolls for the one who is deceased, but make no mistake that it tolls for thee.

I know this is a somber message, and you might be wondering why I would begin an Easter reflection on such a note. It's because in order for us to truly receive the good news of the resurrection, I think the reality of loss and death has to sink in. When that happens, the resurrection is more than just good news. It's so great, so awesome, that we can't fully express how amazing this news is!

Go and read Matthew's account of the resurrection of Jesus – Matthew 28:1-10. I've read this passage every year for years...and it didn't hit me until the umpteenth time that something is true about the stone being rolled away that I hadn't seen for the longest time. Think about this - for whom is the stone rolling away?

It might seem apparent that the stone rolling away is how Jesus could escape the tomb. In fact, if you read the account in Mark, Luke, and John, you might think that were true. But Matthew tells us something that the others don't. Matthew tells

us that the women saw the stone rolled away themselves. Matthew tells us, then, that the stone rolls not for Jesus - he was already out - but for Mary Magdalene, for the other Mary, and also...for you and me. The stone rolls, church, for us that we can see that death does not have the final word, that death has lost its sting, that death cannot contain Life; that we may see that Jesus is alive once again and forevermore!

The bells that tolled, according to John Donne, were a sign to those who heard that we are all mortal and meet the same end known as death; that when one dies a part of all of us dies. The stone that rolled, according to Matthew, was a sign to those who witness it that the end known as death is not, in fact, the end; but that when this One is made alive again, a part of all of us becomes alive again, and that all who believe and trust this Resurrected Lord will know of the same resurrection that Jesus himself experienced nearly 2,000 years ago! Church, that is awesome news! That is Easter! And therefore, I say, it is fine to send for whom the stone rolls. It rolls for thee!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Peace +
Pastor Jeff

CONNECTION YOUTH GROUP NEWS

It's hard to believe that the first quarter of 2018 is already past! It's been a good one for the Ellendale UMC Connection Youth as we introduced two new ministries: The Youth Prayer Ministry and the Bartlett Fire & Disaster Relief Ministry.

We are glad to report that the Prayer Ministry has now grown to 11 participants. We are so blessed to have faithful youth prayer partners.

As for the Fire & Disaster Relief, we stand ready to help those in need, working with the Bartlett Fire Department, when the need arises.

Since it is already April, it's time to start preparing for our senior's graduation. We will also be having an end of school bowling party.

Also, remember that the Memphis Conference offers several summer camps at Lakeshore. It you would like to attend one of these, please see Bro. Matt or Pastor Jeff.

We look forward to an exciting spring and summer in the Ellendale UMC Connection Youth.

GOD IS LOVE, JESUS IS LORD, and YOU ARE LOVED
in the Ellendale UMC Connection Youth.

Matthew Cooper



New Testament

In the next couple of weeks, our kids are learning about what each book in the New Testament talks about as well as learning some key Biblical teaching.

In the Spring we will talk about the UMC and some of our rituals.

Action Kids:

We are starting a brand new class for our 9-12 year olds during our Children's Church time on Sundays. We will be using the Action Bible curriculum. This class will prepare our older kids to make the transition to our youth group. If you would like to help, please let us know! We meet every Sunday, except the 1st when we invite the older kids to join their families for worship.

Lighthouse Kids:

We would love to see more adult leaders at Lighthouse. Please join us on Wednesdays at 5:30pm for dinner!

Lakeshore

If you would like to send your child to a camp this summer or attend it with them, please let us know asap. Some dates fill up quickly and we want to make sure our kids are included. Due to the generosity of our church, the cost of the camp will be covered. For more information on available dates, please visit: Lakeshorecamp.org

Important Dates to remember:

May 16: Last day for Lighthouse Kids

July 16-20: VBS

Acolyte Schedule:

1st Sunday:

Sam and Julianne Rudy

2nd Sunday:

Julianne Taylor and Josh Kuhstoss

3rd Sunday:

Hope and Kendall Hayes

4th Sunday:

Alan Foster and Emma Bruno

5th Sunday:

Elijah Gilliam and Josiah Gray

Children's Church Schedule:

April

1 – No Children's Church
8 – Victor Foster
15 – Heather Summerhill
22 - Robin Bruno
29 – Dennis Foster

May

6 – Angie Taylor
13 – Victor Foster
20 – Heather Summerhill
27 – Robin Bruno

June

3 – Dennis Foster
10 – Angie Taylor
17 – Victor Foster
24 – Heather Summerhill

Action Kids Schedule

1st Sunday : Kids stay in service
2nd Sunday: Matt Cooper
3rd Sunday: *Need a volunteer*
4th Sunday: Tricia Foster

*We are counting on your prayers, and we ask you to please spread the word about all of the great things God is doing with our children here at EUMC.

April 1

Acts 10:34-43
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
 I Corinthians 15:1-11
 John 220:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

April 8

Acts 4:32-35
 Psalm 133
 I John 1:1-2:2
 John 20:19-31

April 15

Acts 3:12-19
 Psalm 4
 I John 3:1-7
 Luke 24:36b-48

April 22

Acts 4:5-12
 Psalm 23
 I John 3:16-24
 John 10:11-18

April 29

Acts 8:26-40
 Psalm 22:25-31
 I John 4:7-21
 John 15:1-8

Schedule**Sundays**

8:45am Worship Service
 9:30-10:00am Meet & Greet
 10:00am Sunday School
 11:00am Worship Service
 4:00 PM Connection Youth

Tuesdays

6:30pm Cub Scouts
 7:00pm Boy Scouts

Wednesdays

10:00am A.C.T.S. Prayer Service
 4:30pm Lego Club
 5:30pm Lighthouse Kids
 5:30pm Bells Practice
 6:30pm Choir Practice

Special Dates for April

April 2 Office Closed
 April 3 Community Service 7:00 PM
 April 8 Confirmation Sunday 10:00 AM
 April 15 Harding Academy Chorus
 April 15 SPPRC Meeting
 April 22 Finance Meeting
 April 28 Happy Birthday Ellendale
 April 29 Council Meeting



YouthVillages
MobilityWorldwide
20/20
Forgiveness House
Kairos

We've just finished another amazing Kairos weekend. Most of the men we met had little family support structure before going to prison, and even less now that they're incarcerated. I can't emphasize enough, how much your Agape gifts meant to men who feel pretty much cast aside by most of the rest of the world. I noticed one of the men putting his meal tickets you paid for into his shirt pocket. He smiled and said, "These are people I'm going to pray for tonight!" And when our team brought in the seemingly endless chain made up of prayer strips with your names, Kenny explained each link in that chain represented a person who had never met them, who had offered to pray for them. They were truly humbled.

As you might expect, the prison is not a place where most men are anxious to serve one another. It was especially good to see inmates who had previously gone through Kairos, returning, to offer encouragement to new participants. They showed, through their actions, a true servant's heart, serving food to these new Kairos brothers, setting up tables and chairs, even cleaning up after the meals.

The men were given the opportunity to come to the microphone to tell what the weekend meant to them. They were asked what they had found when they came to Kairos. Almost to a man, they said "unconditional love". One said he came looking for Jesus, but realized Jesus had never been lost, it was he who had been lost. Another told the group

he saw more love in the past three days than he had in all 54 years of his life.

Throughout the weekend, participants learned that while there are always consequences to choices we make, no one is beyond an everlasting, loving relationship with a forgiving God. By the end of the weekend men who had literally walked past each other in the yard for years, without so much as saying hello to one another, were laughing together, hugging one another, and praying for one another. One remarked how he wished they could sit and talk to one another like this all the time. Fortunately, thanks to your support, they can. Kairos helps them develop tools they can use in the prison to continue in small prayer and share groups.

Thank you all so very much,
 The Kairos Team



Joe & Linda Morris
Mike & Wendy Moses

The next scheduled meeting of the United Methodist Men is April 14 at 8:00 am. All men are urged to attend.

Will Hair, UMM

The next scheduled meeting of the United Methodist Women is Wed., April 4, at 1:00 pm in the Church office conference room.

A big "THANK YOU" to the UMW for their fantastic help with the District Mission Study. 42 women from 16 different churches were there. WOW!! Proud of You!!!

Love,
Cindy



Ellendale

April 28, 2018 6-9 PM

This event will be a game night! Attendees will be dividing among tables by their birth month and will be playing Bible Jeopardy and Birthday Feud. Please bring an appetizer to share and the church will be providing a birthday cake. Our church's birthday is April 15th and we will celebrate that, and all the A congregation's birthdays together.

A full church calendar of the year's fellowship events will be available soon!

<u>To</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>On</u>
Walter Norris		02
Jim Strickland		04
Sherrie Colville		04
Davey Kraehmer		05
Randal Henderson		06
Chuck Geno		07
George Parker		07
Clark Stewart		08
Tully Noe		08
Roger Knight		09
Charles Kohn		09
Hope Arianna Hayes		09
Thomas Jerry Foster		09
Madelyn Avery Moroschak		10
Emma Bruno		11
Wanda Spraggins		11
Jim Overman		12
Kent Moran		13
Mike Moses		16
Martha Sanders		16
Linda Morton		16
Maddie Chapman		18
Meghan Bortka		19
Brian Evans		20
Andrew Gowen		21
Michelle McKean Jenkins		21
Julia Phillips		21
Marie Green		22
Kirk Gibson		23
Glen Alexander		24
James Fly		26
Matthew Bogan		27
Katie Linder		27
Bernie Lewis		27
Ashley Deel		28
Joseph Shearer		29
Jordan Durham		30
Jennifer Anderson		30

<u>To</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>On</u>
Bruce & Jan Smith		04
Travis & Jennifer Fielik		05
Pat & Jesse Barnes		05
Dick & Evelyn Carlson		07
Vicki & Marshall Dabney		07
Kim & Terry Stanford		09
Randy & Melissa Bast		11
Dave & Angie Taylor		16
Charles & Carol Lord		17
Billy & Leslie Noah		18
Kevin & Shelley Gray		20
Randy & Phillis Brown		24
Michael & Jennifer McKeel		25
Bill & Edith Palmer		26
Tully & Frances Noe		30



Ellendale offers a college scholarship as a help and incentive for furthering education.

If you are a graduating high school senior this Scholarship is a onetime offering. All applicants must meet the requirements per the application.

Time frame for applying is April 15 thru May 31 and will be awarded by the end of June.

For application and list of requirements, please contact the church office at 386-0205 or the Pastor.

**Harding Academy Senior High
Chorus at Ellendale UMC**

Sunday, April 15 at 5:00 PM

Come join us and listen to Ellendale's very own Drew Stanford and the Harding Academy Senior High Chorus.

A reception for the chorus hosted by the United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men will follow the performance in the fellowship hall.

Harding Academy has a long-standing tradition of choral excellence that can be seen in all choral ensembles Harding students share their faith through song and strive to be ambassadors for Christ through music. This one hour performance will feature 50+ students, led by Director Brooks Gatlin, as they sing Christian and classical selections. Harding's chorus regularly travels to its senior members' churches to perform for free and invites all members of Ellendale UMC to worship with them.

Volunteer Need – Count Team

Our after church count teams are looking for someone willing to serve as an alternate counter when one of the current counters is unable to attend due to sickness, out of town, or last minute emergency.

Currently, we have two teams of two that alternate months to count the worship offering after church. If you would be interested in serving as an alternate for one of these four, please contact Terry Stanford @901 626-1926 or Pastor Jeff to let them know. Thank you.



The Worship Committee has many members and friends that are always doing a wonderful job decorating for Ellendale!!!

Cindy Foster,
Leader Worship Committee



Bobby Terry by:
Lee & Kay Fisher

Jay Melton by:
Juanita Quick
Fidelis Class
Brenda Jarrell
Tommy & Pam Temple

Frank Eidson by:
Cathy & Jim Barker
Charles & Carol Lord
Sarah Snow
Jerrel & Ginger Reasons
Glen & Janey Alexander
Juanita Quick
Fidelis Class

Jerrilynn Norwood by:
Jim & Shirley Dorsey
Clyde & Linda Johnson

Greta Thompson by:
Clyde & Linda Johnson
Tommy & Pam Temple

Dewey & Wanda Sandage by:
Clyde & Linda Johnson

Clarence Brown by:
Tommy & Pam Temple



Debbie Evans by:
Clyde & Linda Johnson

Bill Palmer by:
Clyde & Linda Johnson

Clyde & Linda Johnson by:
Tommy & Pam Temple



Dalton Parker and his family in the death of his son, Roy Parker.

Shirley Dorsey in the death of her uncle, J.D. Richards

Dennis Foster in the death of his 1st Cousin, Jerri Lynn Norwood

Greta Thompson family in her death

E-mail Prayer Chain
To put a pray request on E-mail send it to:
EUMCprayerlist@googlegroups.com
Prayer Room combination 1-5-2

If you would like to have flowers placed on the altar in honor or in memory of a loved one, please call Anabel Copeland at 373-9130 to place your order. Please pay Anabel Copeland in advance. Also, please call the church office to let us know the date you wish to have Altar Flowers. If you have any question, please call Anabel or Edra in the church office.

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