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# BEFORE THE EMPTY TOMB

In just a few short days, the empty tomb will have its day in our worship and celebration, and we will remember the risen Christ. But before this, there are many moments to reflect on the suffering and struggle that led to it.

Be reminded that before Christ was lifted up as conqueror of death, he stooped down as the servant to his disciples.

Before he became the bread and wine that nourishes each believer at Communion, he broke bread and passed the cup for the final time before his death.

Before he was celebrated as friend of sinners and all who would follow, he was denied by his closest friend/disciple, and betrayed to the enemy by another.

Before he became the eternal Lord to judge the living and the dead in justice and righteousness, he was illegally detained and convicted without cause or process.

Before he heard the loving prayers eternally from all Christians throughout time, he was deserted by his followers to die alone.

Before he was resurrected as the firstborn of eternal kingdom citizens, he would breathe his last upon a device of torture and murder.

Many of us are walking through challenges and struggles. Some of us have had the hardest weeks, months, or year we've experienced in some time. And in these moments, it can seem as though we are on our own—we are walking this path of suffering with no companions. But if Maundy Thursday or Good Friday teach us anything, it's that even in these spaces, God does not leave us to our own. God suffers right alongside of us. Jesus was on the cross.

May we sit with this truth this week, preparing to be even more full of delight in the Risen Lord. Blessed Holy Week, friends—it is my privilege to serve as your pastor. **-Josh** 

A reminder that we have put together a playlist for your listening and reflection that will guide you through the events of Holy Week. You can access it by scanning this QR code with your phone camera.



## **SUNDAY MORNING**

9:45 AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00 AM - MORNING WORSHIP

### SPECIAL ELEMENTS

Reverend Josh Beeler - Easter Sunday Luke 24: 1-12 Chancel Choir - "Come & See" & "Glorious Savior" Chancel Bells RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



#### CHRISTMAS CHEER BASKETS

April items are canned hams and meats.

#### WOM APRIL PROJECT - DAILY BREAD

Boxes of cereal and individual packs of snack crackers and chips.

#### MEALS ON WHEELS

Monday, April 21 - Audrey & Paul Faulconer



# FELLOWSHIP

#### **WEDNESDAY NIGHT MINISTRIES APRIL 23**

6:30 p.m. Fellowship Dinner - final meal for this semester. Sign up board is in the hallway by the sanctuary. Sloppy Joes, coleslaw & chips. AG option also provided. Sign up by April 21. 7:00 p.m. Quarterly Business Meeting Children's Musical Rehearsal

#### **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

You are invited to attend a birthday party for Barbara Witt! Sunday, April 27 from 2 - 5 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall. Come celebrate with Barbara and her family!

#### PARENT/CHILD DEDICATION

If you wish to participate in the dedication service on Mother's Day, May 11, please contact the church office at 845-5914.

#### **GRADUATION 2025**

If you are graduating from high school or college or know of some who is, please contact the church office so that you may be included in our recognition service.



# CHURCH LIFE

## **DEACONS OF THE WEEK**

J.C. Fore & John Grieser April 20

### **DEACONS SERVING APRIL 20**

John Grieser Beth Freeman Carl LaFerney Donna Massie Angela Sale Irene White

### APRIL 13, 2025 OFFERINGS

(Weekly Budget Needs \$9510.00) Plate Offering.....\$ 22.00 Designated Offering.....\$ 575.00 TOTAL DEPOSIT.....\$ 8,181.00 Find Us Faithful.....\$ 200.00

### USHERS FOR APRIL

John Mann & Claude Mays

#### **THANK YOU**

I know this is late and long overdue but I would like to thank each and everyone who has reached out and shown your love and support for me and my family during Darrell's journey. I have had a hard time confronting my new reality with pen and paper, it makes it real. You all have been the most incredibly loving, thoughtful, kindhearted, and giving people. The support in the form of prayers, visits, cards, gift and love offerings will never be forgotten. I will be forever grateful. Darell was/is well loved and will be missed until we see him again.

I also would like to thank Josh, Catherine. Julie and Eleanor for sharing their special love and leading the service. Darrell would have been pleased. He love MHBC and its people. God bless and thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Wanda Sandifer & Family