

# INFORMED & inspired

CONNECTED AT FAYETTEVILLE FIRST UMC

## The Season of Easter: Practicing Resurrection

Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin

What an interesting Easter that was, right? I want to remind you that Easter is more than a day. It is a season. It lasts fifty days until Pentecost. That means the hope of life is eternal and always. It means we get to celebrate even in the midst of pain, isolation, and loneliness. It means the empty tomb (where we would normally think of empty as being bad) is a good thing. It's a God thing.

We may feel we are living in the most important time in history, but through the Resurrection we are reminded that Christ's Resurrection is the most important time because it changed everything.

So how we live as Christians and people of faith becomes the way that we **practice resurrection**. I hope you have had the time to look at the "Practicing Resurrection" video. [If not, click here to take a look.](#) I encourage you to find ways to celebrate even in the midst of uncertainty. It could be reading a devotion; it could be singing a hymn. It could be making masks, donating food and resources, or making a phone call. There are many ways to practice resurrection as we stay connected and serve others.

One way that we as a body, unified through Christ, are able to practice resurrection is through giving and sharing our resources. The Finance and Mission Committees, along with the staff, are looking at ways in which we can support our community in these unprecedented times. You may have heard that one of the cafeteria workers in Fayette County who has been preparing free meals tested positive for COVID-19. That means Fayette County High School has had to stop production of the free lunches for this week while the workers are in isolation and the kitchen is being cleaned. Community members have stepped up to help cover the cost and assist the Fayette County School board.

Our church is making a donation, using portions of the budget that would have been used on EasterPalooza and other funds to get food to kids in our community during this time. The Missions Committee is planning proactive ways to address our community's needs and share what God has given us.

I want to thank you for practicing resurrection by being the church. I want you to be proud of what we as a congregation are doing in our community and in our world. It is making a difference, and I am grateful. So keep practicing resurrection. Send us your pictures, your stories of inspiration. We'd love to share them with the congregation so that while we may be apart, we may find ways to be a part of the body of Christ. Be safe. Be smart. Take care of each other.

*Please share your stories and pictures with Thomas at [tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com](mailto:tmartin@fayettevillefirst.com). Maybe you'll inspire someone else through your simple acts of kindness and care.*



*Carol Kalafut makes paper flowers to help a little cheer "roll" to many seniors.*

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Where's a great place to stay up-to-date and connected? Go to [fayettevillefirst.com](http://fayettevillefirst.com)!

We are actively keeping information current on our web homepage with links to worship, adult opportunities, youth online gatherings, children's connections, and more. See how you can help Fayette Samaritans and others right now (remember ... April is OUR month to ramp up donations). Be sure to scroll down the entire page and click on the arrows in the middle to see lots of options and updates.

We miss being together, so let's stay connected until we meet again.



# inspired . . .



The Cornerstone Class met online and asked everybody to be prepared to share a favorite scripture. It was very uplifting as members went around our virtual table and read a scripture passage—both Old and New Testament. We opened with prayer and at the end asked for prayer requests. We closed with a corporate prayer including the requests and prayers for our church family. We prayed to help us remember the salvation and hope brought to us by the cross and resurrection. — Tom Robinson

*Be sure to check out FaceBook and Tom's response to Danny Beck's Joy Challenge last week.*



### COVID-19 Prayer

*Shared with the Wednesday morning Table Group by Sandra Watson, written on March 28 as part of her gratitude and prayer journal.*

Dear Lord,

As I pray to you during this crisis, help me to keep in mind the positive things that could happen because of COVID-19.

We could appreciate our freedom, our family, our friends, our community much more.....

We could hug, kiss, and touch our loved ones more often....

We could appreciate our teachers, doctors, nurses, hospital personnel, schools, first

responders, waste management workers, grocery store personnel, mailpersons, delivery persons, and all other essential service workers even more....

We could appreciate our world and take better care of this planet....

We could appreciate quiet time, less busyness, and spend more time with You.....

We could let go of hate, blame, political agendas.....

We could help others more....

We could love You more....

We could love our neighbors more just as You taught us....

We could even love ourselves, just as You love us.....

In your holy name, I pray, Amen.