



News From Holland

Newsletter of Holland First United Methodist Church

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Rev. Chris Hughes, Pastor

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Chris' Corner

¹ *When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³ They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. **Mark 16:1-4 (New Revised Standard Version)***

The three women expected Jesus' tomb to be sealed with a large stone. Instead they were surprised by an open and empty tomb. God often surprises us! Just when we think we understand God's ways, we are greeted with the unexpected.

Remember when Jesus was teaching and some children were brought into the assembly (Luke 18:15-17)? The disciples tried to shoo them away and scolded their parents, but Jesus said "*Let the children come to me. Don't stop them!*" And then used the situation as a teaching moment: "*For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.*"

Or remember the time when Jesus invited himself over to the home of Zacchaeus, the tax collector (Luke 19:1-10)? It was unexpected, and the bible says that all who were there began to grumble and complain about Jesus spending time with a notorious sinner. And yet, because of Jesus' action, heaven welcomed in Zacchaeus, and Jesus told the crowd "*Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.*"

At Easter, we celebrate the surprise of the resurrection! Just when we think all is lost, and that life is over – Jesus shows up and reminds us that life has just begun. This Easter, my prayer for each of us, is that we will find new life, new hope and new direction, no matter our present circumstances! Happy Easter!

Grace & Shalom,

Chris

PS. I hope you will make it to our special Maundy Thursday Service at 1st UMC, Holland on Friday, April 14 at 6pm. We will experience a Passover Seder the way Jesus did with his disciples on the night he was betrayed.

APRIL WORSHIP SERVICES
Bible Readings & Message Titles

Date	Scripture	Sermon
April 2 Communion Day CTLC Collection	Jeremiah 31:31-34	“Change or Die”
April 9 Palm Sunday	Mark 11:1-11 Isaiah 50:4-9	“Grace Under Pressure”
April 16 EASTER SUNDAY	Easter Sunrise Service John 20:1-18 Easter Service Mark 16:1-8	He Is Risen The Mystery of The Tomb en
April 23	John 20:19-31	“The Jesus Rx and The Biology of Belief”
April 30	Luke 24:36-48	“You are My Witnesses”

Administrative Council

Easter is coming. Easter is coming. Easter is such a special holiday. The preparation of buying eggs and candy, buying new Sunday clothes, and finding new recipes for the special family meal make this time of year buzz with excitement. I am sure our level of excitement cannot compare to the grand entry of Jesus into the city on the day known to us as Palm Sunday. The disciples were amazed at the grand entrance. They were imagining what changes were coming with Jesus being the King of the Jews. The people were filled with awe and thanksgiving that finally all that had been written in the good book would finally be answered. New exciting changes were on the horizon and how glorious it would be. How shocked they must all have been by Friday. Sadness, shock, despair, distress, agony, defeat, all emotions shared in the Gospels about the events of that week. How could they all go on? Would they make it? Isn't that how we feel when life kicks us in the stomach? We lose a loved one. Our child or parent gets sick. We are laid off from our job. Someone we really believe in disappoints us in some big way- deceit or betrayal. How can we go on? Will we be able to go on? There were some dark days after Jesus died. But Sunday morning came and the sun shone brightly. Jesus arose. How wondrous was the day!!! No matter how dark your day or days may be, the sun or SON will shine upon you. Have a blessed Easter Season.

UMW News

The UMW met on 23rd in the home of Hilda Eubank. Chris Hughes began a study on “The Children of The Bible”. Please join us for the next meeting on April 19th at 1:00 pm in the home of Bernice Cooper to continue the study.

Judy's News

Adult Sunday School

Our class is growing!!! We still have room for YOU! Larry Norville is sharing the leadership of the classes now and he is wonderful! Our discussions are open and very meaningful. Ask one of the class members! All of us look forward to each Sunday. We have a chair for you too!

Prayer Circle - April 5th

We will meet at 6:00 P.M. with the quilters. Bring your prayer concerns.

Luncheon

In April we will have lunch on the 20th at Dynasty. We had eleven attend in March. The buffet is wonderful and a great variety of Chinese and American. Cost for Seniors is less than \$6.00. Regular is less than \$7.00. Come join us for good food and fellowship.

Cowboy Church - April 30th

This month marks our 2nd Anniversary of Cowboy Church. It should be very special! I have two friends from Bowling who sing coming to sing for you (Clyde and Karen Jones). I know you will make them feel welcome. Start getting the word out. Let's have a big celebration for our 2nd Anniversary

Newest Talent

If you were in church on Sunday, the 26th, you had a treat. Brian played his guitar and sang two songs he had written. Each song has a story behind it which he was willing to share. Wow! I pray he will sing at Cowboy Church. If you didn't know it (I only learned it last week), Brian is a DJ on 1330 AM radio. Maybe this would be a good idea for our Newletters - a feature on a member or family so we all can learn more about them.

Relay for Cancer Walk

The Relay is scheduled for April 28th and 29th at Wildcat Stadium. Jessica Fagner and I both have teams for this and are raising money for this worthwhile event. We both appreciate your support.