



Pastor's Peace

April 2023



His Human Side Gives Way to His Divine Side

Go with me for a moment to witness what was perhaps the foggiest night in history. The scene is very simple; you'll recognize it quickly. A grove of twisted olive trees. Ground cluttered with large rocks. A low stone fence. A dark, dark night.

Now, look into the picture. Look closely through the shadowy foliage. See that person? See that solitary figure? What's he doing? Flat on the ground. Face stained with dirt and tears. Fists pounding the hard earth. Eyes wide with a stupor of fear. Hair matted with salty sweat. Is that blood on his forehead?

What a portrait! Jesus is in pain. Jesus is on the stage of fear. Jesus is cloaked, not in sainthood, but in humanity. In less than 24 hours He would be dead. But between the Garden and the Grave ...

Then the soldiers bowed before Jesus and made fun of him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on Jesus. (Matt. 27:26-31) The soldiers' assignment was simple: Take the Nazarene to the hill and kill him. But they had another idea. They wanted to have some fun first. Strong, rested, armed soldiers encircled an exhausted, nearly dead, Galilean craftsman and beat up on him. The scourging was commanded. The crucifixion was ordered. But who would draw pleasure out of spitting on a half-dead man?

Spitting isn't intended to hurt the body—it can't. Spitting is intended to degrade the soul, and it does. What were the soldiers doing? Were they not elevating themselves at the expense of another? They felt big by making Christ look small.

Ever done that? Maybe you've never spit on anyone, but have you gossiped? Slandered? Have you ever raised your hand in anger or rolled your eyes in arrogance? Have you ever blasted your high beams in someone's rearview mirror? Ever made someone feel bad so you would feel good? That's what the soldiers did to Jesus. When you and I do the same, we do it to Jesus too. "I assure you, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!" (Matt. 25:40 NLT). How we treat others is how we treat Jesus.

We don't like to hear that do we. Believe me, I don't like to say it. But we must face the fact that there is something beastly within each and every one of us. Something beastly that makes us do things that surprise even us. Haven't you surprised yourself? Haven't you reflected on an act and wondered, "What got into me?" The answer is quite simply, SIN.

Allow the spit of the soldiers to symbolize the filth in our hearts. And then observe what Jesus does with our mess. He carries it to the cross.

Through the prophet he said, "I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting" (**Isa. 50:6**NIV). Mingled with his blood and sweat was the essence of our sin.

The next time the fog finds you, you might do well to remember Jesus in the garden. The next time you think that no one understands, reread the fourteenth chapter of Mark. The next time your self-pity convinces you that no one cares, pay a visit to Gethsemane. And the next time you wonder if God really perceives the pain that prevails on this dusty planet, listen to him pleading among the twisted trees.

The next time you are called to suffer, pay attention. It may be the closest you'll ever get to God. Watch closely. It could very well be that the hand that extends itself to lead you out of the fog is a pierced one. *"He Chose the Nails"* ~ Max Lucado

Because of Easter, we are saved from the messiness of our lives. Lent is meant for us to reflect on our brokenness. The human condition is our portion. It is what we do in our earthly lives that reflects our faith and trust in a merciful and grace-giving God. Jesus endures all of the humiliation, pain and finally death for our sakes. But before He breathes his last, he asks God to forgive those who have harmed Him. From the cross those words ride on the height of the "jet stream" across thousands of years that we might recognize ourselves there in the midst of the crowd, standing on the dirt, reading the sign above his crowned brow. That message is meant for us to read. It would have been written in our language as well, "Jesus King of the Jews".

Please don't miss that message. It serves us well as Christians. It is the brick and mortar that holds us in the aftermath of that cruel day.

I invite you to come and celebrate Easter morning with us. Jesus will be there. He and I look forward to seeing you. Sunday, April 12, 10:30 a.m.



A Simple Servant,
Pastor Kristie

Prayer Chain Information:

Contact Pastor Kristie

@ 970-520-6359

Happy birtHDay to you!

April Birthdays

- 2: Cindy Smart
Janae Skeels
- 3: Bina Earnhart
- 4: Sandy Underwood
- 7: Jonathon Jones
Shelby Kuntz
- 8: Clay Prall
- 17: Anita Griebel
Cecil Souders
- 18: Gloria Cortez
- 23: Emily Rutherford
- 26: Michelle Anderson
- 30: Ruth Prall
Emory Underwood



Pastor Kristie will be facilitating an
Alzheimer's Support Group.
The 3rd Wednesday in at 2:00pm.



POTTER'S WHEEL MINISTRY

Contemporary Service

The 1st and 3rd Sunday,

5:30 -7:00 p.m.

A meal will be available at 5:30.

A Freewill donation is appreciated.

For more information contact

Pastor Kristie @ 970-520-6359



PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS:

Contact Pastor Kristie
@ 970-520-6359

HEADS UP!

Heads up for all ladies. Wednesday April 19th at 5:30 will be a salad supper for ladies. Bring your salad or come and enjoy salads and a heads up meeting. Questions Call Kathy K. 970-522-2790.



Changing Lives Cancer Support

3rd Tuesday of each
Month @ 6 pm
@ Christ UMC.

Leader Dr. Tom Lininger



Go raibh míle maith agat to all that helped
and all who came to the St. Patrick's potluck
after church on March 19th. Dia Bless
Fellowship Committee

Vending machines have historical roots in ancient Greece! The first known vending machine was designed by the Greek engineer and mathematician Hero of Alexandria around 215 BC. These initial vending machines were situated in Egyptian temples and dispensed holy water in exchange for coins.

In spite of this early revolution, it was not until the early 1880s that the primary commercial coin-operated vending machines were presented for public use. These vending machines dispensed post cards and were found in London. Around the same time, Richard Carlisle, an English publisher and bookshop owner, invented a vending machine that gave out books.

Vending machines made their United States appearance in 1888 when the Thomas Adams Gum Company installed machines on subway platforms in New York City to vend Tutti-Frutti gum. In 1897, the Pulver Manufacturing Company added animated figures to vending machines, which provided extra entertainment for the customer as the figures would move once coins were inserted into the machine.

After these first vending machines were familiarized, others soon followed, vending a wide diversity of products such as cigars, postcards and stamps. In 1902, the Horn & Hardart Baking Company opened a wholly coin-operated Automat restaurant, which stayed in business until 1962.

Gumball Machines

1907 – Round candy-coated gumballs and gumball machines are introduced.

Soda Machines & Soft Drink Machines

Early 1920's – The primary automatic vending machines that gave out soda into cups are devised.

1930s – Chilled bottled soft drink machines are invented, followed by the first Coca-Cola bottle vending machine built by The Vendolator Company in 1937.

1961 – Canned soda machines are announced.

1978 – Soft drink machines that dispense water are introduced.

Snack Machines

1972 – Polyvend presents the first glass front snack machines.

1987 – The first frozen food vending machines are announced.

Cigarette Machines

1926 – William Rowe, an American inventor, discovers the first commercial cigarette vending machine.

Coffee Vending Machines

1946 – The development of coffee vending machines promotes their use for coffee breaks.

1960 – The primary single-cup coffee vending machines come to market.

1988 – Bean-grinders are obtainable in coffee vending machines.

1991 – Coffee vending machines dispense flavored coffees, espresso and capucino.



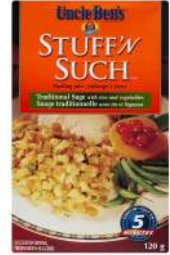
MOUSE



Early Vending Machine

FOOD CART NEWS:~ Are you Hungry? Many people are!!! So the month of April we will be collecting boxes of STUFFDING MIX. So let's share with Deb if we find a bargain, —then she will share with the rest of us.

And keep in mind we have the 'other cart'. This cart is for other food, items for Cooperating Ministries—such as pans, clothing. Tools, gardening supplies, even jewelry. How wonderful to have Dean from Cooperating Ministries, pick up and deliver these items. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL! Church Mouse



Changing Lives Cancer Support

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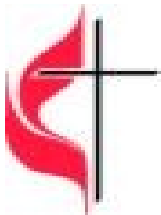


Seder Meal

Sign up on or before April 2nd

April 6th
6:00pm

Sign up sheet on back table



The Messenger

Christ United Methodist Church

Articles for **May 2022** Messenger are **due by April 17**. If you have an article, thank you note, recipe or just something everyone would enjoy reading, submit all items to the church by e-mail, or stop by the church office.

Thank you for your support.

Messenger Editor

(970) 522-2910

E-mail: office.sterlingcumc@gmail.com

In God We Trust!!!



Christ United Methodist
Church – Sterling

Office Hours

Monday - Friday

9:00am - 12:00pm

Closed 12pm- 1pm

1:00pm-3:00pm

Counters

Apr 03: Mary & Judy

Apr 10 Mary & Howard

Apr 17: Roberta & Lila

Apr 24 Lila & Howard

Apr 31:

Christ United Methodist Church

104 South Fourth Street

Sterling, CO 80751

