

Food for thought from J

April 19, 2020

Let's face it, the concept of the resurrection can be difficult to handle. Even with all the teaching and preaching that has gone on over the last 2000 years, we humans, even Christians celebrating Easter, can still have a little trouble with this concept of someone who was dead, returning to life, and then ascending into Heaven with the body being gone – for good.

This is one reason why books, stories, and theories about how Jesus didn't really die on the cross, and Discovery channel specials about the search for the body of Jesus are so captivating to audiences. Just the other day, I saw a show, while scrolling through television channels, that reported on the quest for the DNA of Jesus and involved looking at artifacts and holy relics claiming to have actually come into contact with Jesus to find these DNA samples. Conspiracy theorists and authors like Dan Brown, who wrote *The Da Vinci Code* and similar books, have become famous by suggesting hypothetical scenarios in which Jesus did not really die on the cross and ascend, but rather went on to live a normal life before ultimately dying in a state of relative obscurity.

But is it just our curiosity and our incredulity over something as fantastic as the resurrection that explains the difficulty many people have accepting the wonderful events of Easter? Author and theologian Tim Keller suggested a more fundamental reservation about the truth of the resurrection when he wrote, "If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said; if he didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead."

What a great insight! The truth of the resurrection means we don't serve a Savior who simply came and lived a good life, taught lots of good lessons, did some miracles, and then died a tragic and unjust death on the cross. No, believing in the resurrection means we serve a risen Savior who came to us from God and as God and who, according to my favorite hymn, is in the world today. What's more, serving that Savior as Christians means we can't linger in the garden looking for his physical body any more than those first witnesses to the empty tomb. Rather, we too are called to go forth as his witnesses to the world and share his gospel of love and the awesome news of Easter. That is, if we are really serious about our celebration of Easter. Well, are we?

LOVE AND SYMPATHY

To Gloria and Louie Willett on the death of her sister, Myrna Yvonne Perry, of Jacksonville, AL on April 5, 2020.

To Sue and Bill Pope on the death of his brother, Joe Pope, of Columbus, GA, on April 9, 2020.

GIFTS OF LOVE

In honor of Wynnton United Methodist Church Staff by Ramona & Andy Andresen

To the Glory of God in honor of my beloved church family by Carolyn Holland

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of **Bob Draughon** by Oz White; Margaret & Don Goodroe; Anne & Larry Spell; Goodwill Sunday School Class; Lynn & Wes Ezzell; Neita & John Denny; Linda & Seth Harp

In memory of **Max McGlamry** by Margaret & Don Goodroe; Oz White; Zane Draughon

In memory of **Mr. & Mrs. Henry Woodliff** by Sheryl & Jim Creek

In memory of **Mary Florence Kirbo** by Linda & Seth Harp

TITHING

You may still support the church by giving online or through mail. The church staff will be going to the Post Office and depositing checks on a regular basis. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 5469, Columbus, GA 31906.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Unified Budget	23,222.40
Endowment Fund	62.50
Easter Offering	1,100.00
Open Door	125.00
Backpacks	25.00
Methodist Home	125.00
Music	100.00
UMCOR	250.00
Wesley Glen	125.00

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

April 19: Acts 7:23-8:1, Deuteronomy 31-32, Job 19

April 20: Acts 8:1-25, Deuteronomy 33-34, Job 20

April 21: Acts 8:26-40, Joshua 1-2, Job 21

April 22: Acts 9:1-25, Joshua 3:1-5:1, Job 22 **April 23:** Acts 9:26-43, Joshua 5.2-6:27, Job 23

April 24: Acts 10:1-33, Joshua 7-8, Job 24

April 25: Acts 10:34-48, Joshua 9-10, Job 25

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 19 Prissy Mudge
- 23 Chip McDaniel
- 24 Diana Boensel, Graham Johnson, Gwen Myers, Carson Powell
- 25 Emily Coats

SUNDAY'S SERMON

Seeing is Believing 2 John 20:24-31 Rev. J Grantham

LOVE OFFERING

Ian Allen will be leaving as our Student Ministries Director at the end of May. He has served in this position since June of 2016. During that time, he also served as Worship Leader in our Link worship service for 2 years. We hope you will help us show our appreciation to Ian by supporting a love offering in his honor. You can contribute to this love offering by mailing a check to the church post office box and designating it as Ian Allen love offering.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, April 19

10-10:30 a.m. Virtual Sunday School

Rev. Paul Coats - Facebook Live

11:00 a.m. Live Streaming Sunday Worship

Rev. J Grantham - Facebook Live

5:00 p.m. Basement Message

Ian Allen - Facebook & Instagram Live

Wednesday, April 22

6:00 p.m. Midweek Check-In

Rev. Kim Evans - Facebook Live

Thursday, April 23

6:00 p.m. Youth Message

Ian Allen - Facebook & Instagram Live

Friday, April 24

11:00 a.m. Phone Conference

Phone number – 669-900-6833

Code - 4745976652#

Wynnton UMC College Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications for the 2020 College Scholarship. All applications must be received in the church office no later than **May 1, 2020**. For any further information, please call the church office at 706-324-2424.

PASTOR ON-CALL

For emergencies April 17-19, Rev. J Grantham 706-681-3258