BLOUNTSTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- March I -Lent Study
- March 5 -SPRC
- March II -Time Change
- March 12 Worship
   Committee
   Meeting
- March 16 Sister Friends'
   Coffee & Chat
- March 20 First Day of Spring
- March 21 -UM Women

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# Circuit Writer

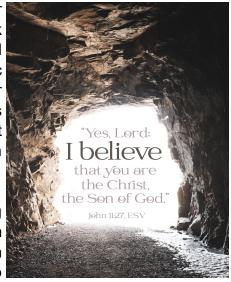
**VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3** 

MARCH 2023

### **Resurrection Faith**

In spring 2020, while Manhattan pastor Timothy Keller was writing a new book about Easter, the world — and his world — stopped. The corona virus pandemic ravaged New York City, and Keller received a stage 4 cancer diagnosis Suddenly the theologian had to confront death head-on and reassess his views on eternal life.

"I realized I only half-believed I was going to die," he tells *The Christian Post.* "In some ways, I also only half-believed in the Resurrection — not Intellectually so

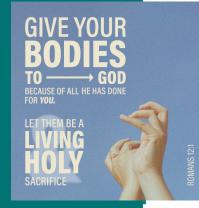


much, but all the way down deep in my heart. I realized I needed to have a greater, a deeper faith in the Resurrection, both intellectually and mentally."

While undergoing cancer treatments, Keller took a deep dive into historical and scriptural evidence for Easter's main event. He also prayed that the Holy Spirit would make the Resurrection, which can seem abstract, real to his heart.

Facing your own mortality puts earthly things into clear perspective, says the pastor, and it's a wake-up call for Jesus' followers to act. "The Resurrection means that God has not at all given up on the world," Keller writes in *Hope in Times of Fear.* "But Beyond that, it gives meaning to suffering and gives hope that through the suffering will come healing. The Resurrection guarantees that this renewal is certain and is also a call for Christian to work now against what is wrong and unjust."

### Lent: A Journey of Spiritual Reflection and Repentance



"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." - Romans 12:1-2.

An Amish boy and his father were visiting a mall and were amazed by two shiny, sliver walls that could move apart and back

together again. The boy asked his father, "What is this, father?" The father responded, "Son, I have never seen anything like this in my life, I don't know what it is."

"And when we

are

transformed,

we are

transformed

for good."

While the boy and his father were watching an older lady in a wheelchair rolled up to the moving walls and pressed a button, The walls opened and the lady rolled between them into a small room. The walls closed and the boy and his father watched the small circles of lights with numbers above the walls light up. They continued to watch the circles as the lights ascended and then descended. The walls opened again, and a beautiful 24-year old woman stepped out. The father said to his son, "Go get your mother."

Only if our transformation could be as easy as that.



2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that when we accept Christ, we become a New Creation. We are transformed. And when we are transformed, we are transformed for good. But that doesn't mean we will not feel the sting of temptation and sin. Transformation involves personal and spiritual struggle. It requires us to confront our sin and recognize our inability to free ourselves from our sinfulness.

Lent is the traditional forty-day observance which represents the amount of time Jesus spent in the wilderness, confronting Satan's temptation, and preparing for begin His ministry. It is a

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## Lent: A Journey of Spiritual Reflections and Repentance

Continued from page 2

time when Christians fast, pray, and prepare for the coming of Easter. It is a time that gives us an opportunity to step back and pause to recognize our humanity and sinful nature. The Lenten season reminds us of our need for a Savior.

As we spend this Lenten season focusing on our relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves in faith, I encourage you to take a moment and reflect on our church and its mission in joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Grace and Peace

Pastor Tyler



What a privilege and opportunity it is to utterly come to the end of one's hope—not only to run out of answers but to run out of questions. To be beyond fighting, to come to that suspended animation where we are so confused and so weak that we can neither fight [nor] run.

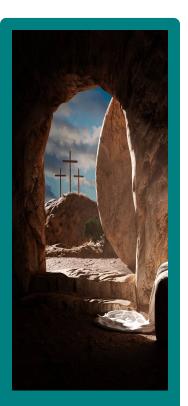
When you come to the end of yourself, you find the beginning of God. And there and nowhere else, you find the answers you seek. You find fulfillment for the longings of your soul.

– Max Anders



### **Christian Symbol**

**SHAMROCK**— St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, "Is this one leaf, or three?" Inevitably, people replied that is was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity.









... let your request be made known to God.

"God doesn't

just give us

grace; he gives

us Jesus, the

Lord of grace."

- Joni Eareckson

Tada

# **Our Caring Ministry**

#### **Short Term Concerns**

Rhett Bozeman
Bonnie Hall
Joyce Little
Joe Rector
Sofia Rodriguez
Joe Schruefer
Mary Schruefer
Willard Smith
Sarah Lynn White
Laura Williams

#### Intercessory

Eric Alford Connie Carpenter Virginia Williams

# Caregivers Persecuted Christians

**Those Battling Cancer** 

lann Kollarik Luke Melvin Karen Pilcher

#### **Our Shut-Ins**

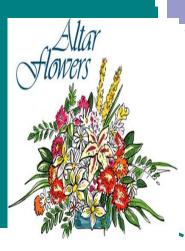
Joe Webb Ann Weiler

#### Our Military Ukraine

Please contact the office with any updates to this list - Thank You!
Requests can be done by emails, phone calls, or prayer card placed in the offering baskets.

"Be more concern with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are."

-John Wooden



### FLOWER CALENDAR

March 05 - Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Register

March 12 - Mr. & Mrs. Laddie Williams

March 19 - Mr. & Mrs. Henry McCrone

March 26 - Miss Stacy Sims

Chancel Choir Youth Wednesdays @ 5:30 pm



Healthy Living Group Thursdays @ 5 P.M.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Communion Pam Hand Offering UM Student Fund	Ushers Glenn Kimbrel Jimmy Cox Standby Bill Jordan		1	2	Montez Golden Porter Smith	Second Sunday of Lent Gail McCaskill
5 Staff, Parish, Relation Committee meeting 12 noon	Roger Williams  Amanda & Perry McGhee	7 GriefShare 5:00 pm	8 Bible Study 10:00 am	9	10	TO CHANGE RE WY VUR WE WE CLOCKS. RR
Worship Committee 12:00 noon Pam Hand	Third Sunday of Lent	GriefShare 5:00 pm  Gary Parrish	15 Bible Study 10:00 am  Peggy & Jimmy Cox		17	18
Fourth Sunday of Lent	<b>20</b>	United Methodist Women 10:00 am GriefShare 5:00 pm	Bible Study 10:00 am	23	Pam & Ronnie Hand	<b>25</b>
Fifth Sunday of Lent	<b>27</b> ♪Wynelle Bateman	GriefShare 5:00 pm  Virginia Williams	29 Bible Study 10:00 am	<b>30 ♥</b> DellAnne & Michael Schruefer	31	



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Glorifying God by loving and leading all people to Christ.

#### PRAY FOR THESE FAMILIES

- Laura & Roger Williams / Virginia & Laddie Williams
- Barbara Wilson / Esther & Joe Alford
- John Averett Family / Dresa Barfield
- Vymelle Bateman / Vicki Bennett Family
- Mary Margaret & Bob Barsch / Connie & Alton Carpenter
- Betty Ann Cayson / Ron Copeland Family
- Finlay Corbin Family / Jimmy Cox Family
- Gina & Tyler Cox / Jessie Doyal
- Ashley & Joe Durden / Kebly Durham
- Debbie & Tommy Edwards / Peck Eldridge
- 11. Gale & Joe Ferguson /

- Dottie & Bob Fleck
- 12. Mary Flowers / Frank Gates
- Montez Golden / Mildred Guilford
- 14. Bonnie Hall / Peggy Hall
- 15. Pam & Ronnie Hand /
  Louise & Sonny Harrison
- 16. Norah Handley / Eileen Hatch
- 17. Brooks Hayes Family / Cheri & Quentin Henderson
- Mark Herndon Family / Jackie & David House
- 19. Owen House /
  Nick Hughes Family
- 20. Laurie James Family / Sandra & Jim Jines
- 21. Kinsey & Seth Jones / Billy Jordan Family

- 22. Becky Kastli /
  Cathy & Glenn Kimbrel
- 23. Jonathan Kimbrel Family / Clay Knight
- 24. Richard Leath / Alva Martin
- 25. Sally & Mike Mayo / Gail & Joe Mike McCaskill
- Marc McCaskill Family / Michael McCaskill Family
- 27. Danita & Glen McClellan / Hentz McClellan Family
- 28. Kyle McClellan Family / Heath McClellan Family
- 29. Helen McCowen / Sharon & Henry McCrone
- 30. Perry McGhee Family / Phyllis & Frank Miller
- 31. Brenda Parrish / Gary Parrish