

*The Kedron Connection*

**Kedron United Methodist Church**

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**Volume 12**

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**Issue 4**

*From Our Pastor*

Easter always makes me think about atonement theology. Atonement theology is a frustrating topic for me, so for the past few years, I've been trying to understand more about where it comes from—not only its various histories but also why it is that so many find it to be helpful. And, of course, I want to understand why and how it has contributed to cycles of violence and oppression.

Substitutionary atonement theory (that basically says Jesus intentionally took on our sins and paid for them in some way by dying on the cross) has been falling out of favor in mainline circles for quite a while now. I suspect this is in part because in our culture we have very little connection with animal sacrifice and therefore find it a strange metaphor. But most of this shift has to do with the critique that this praise of suffering can lead us to think it is appropriate—even desirable or salvific—to stay in relationships that are abusive or to lord power over others to try to make ourselves feel less vulnerable.

This year one of the books I've been reading about atonement theology is Saving Paradise by Rebecca Ann Parker and Rita Nakashima Brock. The authors noticed that the crucifixion was absent from early Christian art. Guess when crucifixion art started to become popular? During the crusades. When the church wanted to expand its empire, we started using fear of hell, heroism of sacrifice and glorification of violence to motivate people to fight and to dehumanize the "enemy".

I believe it is this very kind of scapegoating and dehumanization that Jesus worked to dissolve—that we are still working to resolve. Celebrating our humanity, facing our fears of intimacy and rejection, and resisting oppression in all its forms is the work of Jesus that we carry on today. We also carry on the work of re-working our theology—and all of the frustration, fear and liberation that can bring.

### **Fellowship Supper**

Our First-Wednesday Fellowship Supper will be April 3. We will eat at 6:30 p.m. Join us for good fellowship and good food.

### **Men's Breakfast**

The monthly First-Saturday Men's Breakfast will be April 6. We will eat at 7:00 a.m. Men, come and be with us.

### **Choir Practice**

We will continue to meet at 9:15 on Sunday mornings. We will meet briefly after Sunday morning worship services.

### **Bible Study**

The Bible Study led by Rev. Travis Perry continues. The group meets at Kedron on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.

### **Bucket Offerings**

In April the offerings placed in the buckets carried by the children at Sunday morning worship will be used to aid a Rutherford County student attending Martin Methodist College in Pulaski, TN.

### **Happy Birthday to:**

Evelyn Lee	April 3
Jimmy Pressley	April 3
Sue Harris	April 9

### **Happy Anniversary to:**

B. L. & Miranda Rhodes	April 24
Josh & Melanie McCollum	April 28

**Luke 24:4-6** spoken by two men in dazzling clothes in Jesus' tomb was the quote in the March newsletter.

### **Handwork Ministry**

The Handwork Ministry meets the third Wednesday of the month to knit and crochet. The April 17 meeting will be at the home of Evelyn Lee at 9:30 a.m. The group will have lunch at the Grapevine Restaurant in Murfreesboro. Please plan to join us if you knit, crochet or want to learn.

### **Administrative Council**

The Administrative Council will meet on Sunday, April 21. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m.

### **Food Bank**

You may bring donations for the Smyrna/LaVergne Food Bank to the church the first and second Sundays of the month and they will be delivered to the Food Bank. The suggested item for April is tuna. However, any non-perishable foods are accepted. The need is great.

### **Rutherford County Laity**

The Rutherford County Laity Fellowship will meet Monday, April 22 at Eagleville UMC at 7:00 p.m.

Thanks to all the Kedron people who worked at the pancake breakfast at Fellowship UMC in March. Thanks also to those who bought tickets.

### **Who Said This?**

"Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, 'The Lord is king!'"  
NRSV (hint, 1 Chronicles)

**Looking Ahead** - Our May fellowship supper will be a fish fry. The next newsletter will have details.

## Take a short walk

Susan took one look at her friend's exhausted expression and cluttered office and said, "What you need is a vacation!"

Her overworked friend asked jokingly, "Vacation? What's that?"

"A vacation," Susan explained, "is what you take if you can no longer take what you've been taking!"

Deadlines rule our lives. We rush ahead, looking at calendars and schedules, hardly daring to breathe lest we miss our deadline. Finally, when we can no longer take what we've been taking, we stop for rest.

In Africa, when people go on a long hike they stop often to rest. "We must stop," they say, "and let our souls catch up." Resolve to give yourself a few minutes a day to let your soul catch up. Rest in God's Word; look out a window. There is sure to be evidence of God's wonderful creation no matter where you are. Take a short walk; smile at a friend, a colleague, or a stranger. You'll be surprised at how much you can get done!

— *More Meditations to Make You Smile*  
by Martha J. Beckman.  
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## April Calendar

Tuesday, April 2:

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Wednesday, April 3:

6:30 p.m. Fellowship Supper

Saturday, April 6:

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

Sunday, April 7:

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:15 a.m. Choir Practice

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Choir Practice

Tuesday, April 9:

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday, April 14:

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:15 a.m. Choir Practice

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Choir Practice

Tuesday, April 16:

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Wednesday, April 17:

9:30 a.m. Handwork Ministry  
at Evelyn Lee's,  
lunch at Grapevine

Sunday, April 21:

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:15 a.m. Choir Practice

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Choir Practice

10:30 a.m. May newsletter  
information due

1:00 p.m. Administrative  
Council meeting

Tuesday, April 23:

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday, April 28:

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:15 a.m. Choir Practice

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

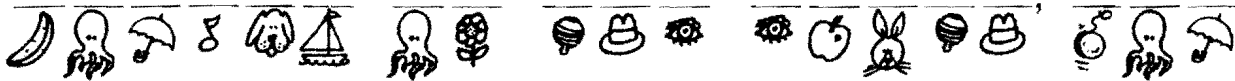
10:30 a.m. Choir Practice

Tuesday, April 30:

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

# What's the Word?

In the spaces provided, fill in the first letter of each picture clue.



Psalm 74:17\*



\*In the northern hemisphere winter has ended and it is spring.  
In the southern hemisphere it is fall and winter will be coming soon.

## Word Find

In this word find, circle the words from the Bible verse above (from Psalm 74:17).

