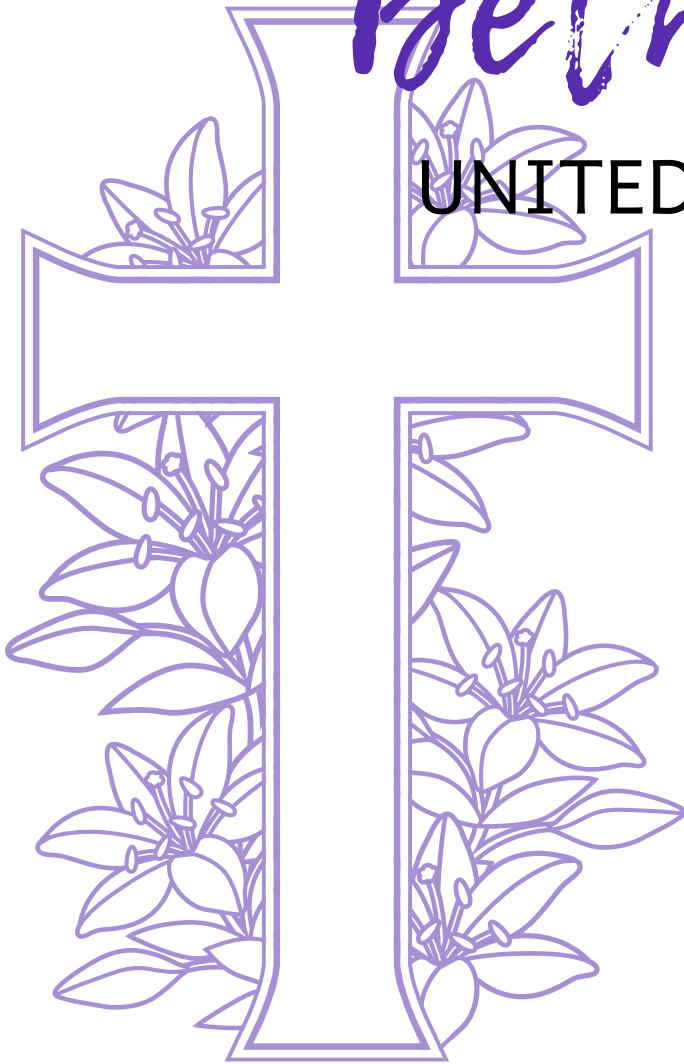


Bethany

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3501 W 1st Ave ◆ Denver, CO ◆ 80219



Easter 2021, a day of resurrection and remembrance as we, at Bethany UMC, begin a new chapter in the life of this church. For over a year we have been hidden away in the cave of COVID wondering if life would ever be the same. For some of us, it never will be, for others of us we emerge back into the life of the church filled with hope and anticipation. Easter Day will be followed by all those days of resurrections that happen without our notice at times, and even when we do notice we may not appreciate the fullness of those moments.

This Easter season, not only will we worship together again (although without food and drinks), but the construction on Sacred Doors also begins again. The seemingly dozens of permits have all be approved, the new pipe will be laid, and the shower room will undergo a beautiful transition. It is truly a glorious time for our church.

However, now the real work begins. As much painting, repairs, cleaning and scrubbing that has occurred, there is still much to do. Your help is needed in whatever capacity you can give - whether cleaning, painting, moving items, or giving money - it will all be deeply appreciated.

Our Holy Communion of Easter morning is not the end of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus, it is just the beginning of our daily resurrections of our life in the church.

Love, Pastor Denise

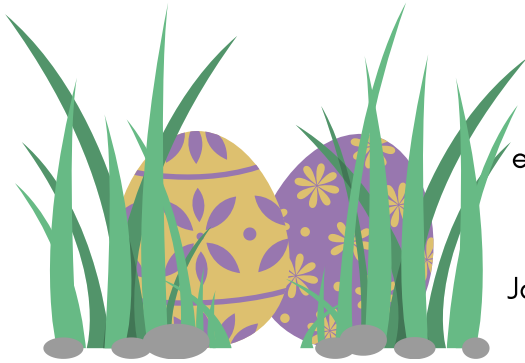
Which came first: Easter or the egg?

The naming of the celebration as "Easter" seems to go back to the name of a pre-Christian goddess in England, Eostre, who was celebrated at beginning of spring. The only reference to this goddess comes from the writings of the Venerable Bede, a British monk who lived in the late seventh and early eighth century. As religious studies scholar Bruce Forbes summarizes:

"Bede wrote that the month in which English Christians were celebrating the resurrection of Jesus had been called Eosturmonath in Old English, referring to a goddess named Eostre. And even though Christians had begun affirming the Christian meaning of the celebration, they continued to use the name of the goddess to designate the season."

Bede was so influential for later Christians that the name stuck; hence Easter remains the name by which the English, Germans and Americans refer to the festival of Jesus' resurrection.

from A UMNS Report by Barbara Dunlap-Berg, April 2011



What is the origin of the Easter-egg hunt?

In England, Germany and some other countries, children rolled eggs down hills on Easter morning to symbolize the rolling away of the stone from Jesus' tomb. British settlers brought this custom to the New World. In 1814, Dolley Madison, the wife of President James Madison, introduced the most famous Easter egg roll, which still takes place annually on the White House south lawn.

How did the Easter Bunny come about?

Ancient Egyptians believed the rabbit was responsible for the new life that abounded in the spring. An old European legend says that the hare, a relative of the rabbit, never closed its eyes. Since it watched the other animals all night long, the hare became a symbol of the moon. The hare was soon connected with Easter because the holiday's date depends upon the full moon.

18th-century German settlers introduced "Oschter Haws" (Easter Hare), the character many children know as the Easter Bunny, to America. Pennsylvania Dutch settlers prepared nests in the barn or garden for Oschter Haws. On Easter eve, the rabbit laid his colored eggs in the nests.



Why do we decorate with Easter Lilies?

Lilies have religious significance from being mentioned both in the Old and New Testaments. Lilies of the valley were mentioned by King Solomon several times and referenced by Christ in the Sermon on the Mount. The lily of the valley symbolizes the Advent of Christ and the purity of the Virgin Mary.

Discovered by a Swedish naturalist named Carl Peter Thunberg in 1777, modern-day lilies originate from the Ryukyu Islands of Japan. English and Bermuda horticulturists began growing their own crops of the lilies. Today over 95% of all bulbs grown for the potted Easter Lily market are produced by just ten farms in a narrow coastal region straddling the California-Oregon border, from Smith River, California up to Brookings, Oregon.



Lectionary Readings

Easter Vigil

- Genesis 1:1-2:4a and Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26
- Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 and Psalm 46
- Genesis 22:1-18 and Psalm 16
- Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 and Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18
- Isaiah 55:1-11 and Isaiah 12:2-6
- Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6 and Psalm 19
- Ezekiel 36:24-28 and Psalm 42, 43
- Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Psalm 143
- Zephaniah 3:14-20 and Psalm 98
- Romans 6:3-11 and Psalm 114
- Mark 16:1-8

Easter

- Isaiah 25:6-9
- Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
- Acts 10:34-43
- John 20:1-18
- Mark 16:1-8

April 11, 2021

- Psalm 133
- John 20:19-31
- Acts 4:32-35
- 1 John 1:1-2:2

April 18, 2021

- Psalm 4
- Luke 24:36b-48
- Acts 3:12-19
- 1 John 3:1-7

April 25, 2021

- Psalm 23
- John 10:11-18
- Acts 4:5-12
- 1 John 3:16-24

Liturgists

April 4, 2021

Eva Staley

April 11, 2021

Kathy Caughran

April 18, 2021

Lataine Shaw

April 25, 2021

Eva Staley



April 2021

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1 2 3

4 5 6 7 8 9 10
11AM Worship
COMMUNION
EASTER
Carson Kaiser
BIRTHDAY

11 12 13 14 15 16 17
11AM Worship
Ernie Morales
BIRTHDAY
Mary Johnson
BIRTHDAY

18 19 20 21 22 23 24
11AM Worship
Leroy Shook
BIRTHDAY

25 26 27 28 29 30
11AM Worship

Gwen Schipper
BIRTHDAY

Gwen turns 90!

April 28 is the 90th birthday of our dear friend Gwen Schipper. Let's make it a very special day by showering her with cards and love!

