



Grace Upon Grace

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ!

The Gospel of John says that John the Baptist testified about the 'Word who became flesh' saying, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'" The Gospel then says, "from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace..." (from John 1:14-16).

In our Wesleyan tradition, grace is defined as "the undeserved, unmerited, and loving action of God in human existence through the ever-present Holy Spirit" (www.umc.org). The Merriam-Webster Dictionary adds that the purpose of God's "loving action" is our regeneration or sanctification. Putting the two together, I believe grace is God's love at work in us to restore us to the full image of God in which, and for which, we are created. Essentially, while sin harms our relationships with God and with others; it is grace that heals those relationships and allows love to flourish.

United Methodists understand grace to be God's active presence in our lives whether or not we know or respond to it. God's grace is a divine gift that is always available to us, but never forced upon us. While there is only one grace, we understand grace at work in our lives in three distinctive ways. First, there is prevenient grace — the grace that comes before we're aware of God. God extends grace into our unknowing so that we can come to know. I like to think of this as a divine invitation into relationship! Then there is justifying grace — the grace that redeems us and restores our relationship with God. In this grace we're regenerated in new life in Christ and made "just-as-if" we'd never sinned. Finally, there is sanctifying grace — the grace in which we grow and mature as we learn to live and to love more like Christ lived and loved. In the perfection of our love we become fully whole.

We cannot earn or buy grace — but we are expected to accept and respond to it. These forty days of Lent are an appropriate time to reflect on the obstacles (anything that prioritizes people or things higher than God) in our spiritual lives that keep us from the fullness of God's grace. What are the obstacles in your spiritual life? Why not ask God to help you overcome your obstacles so you can live more gracefully.

Grace and Peace to each and everyone of you,

Pastor Steve

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! ~ Romans 6:15

Happy Birthday!

Klishta Alla
Kim Basinger
Ann Bland
Bryan Fulkerson
Peggy Gore
Jan Watson



Happy Easter

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

If you have anything you would like included in the newsletter, please call (my phone number is in the church directory) or email me at jacoxwell@gmail.com no later than the 25th of the month.

CELEBRATE EASTER

Palm Sunday Service

April 10th, 10 a.m.

Rectortown UMC

Good Friday Service

April 15, 6:30 p.m.

Middleburg UMC

Maundy Thursday

April 14th, 6:30 p.m.

Rectortown UMC

Easter Sunrise Service

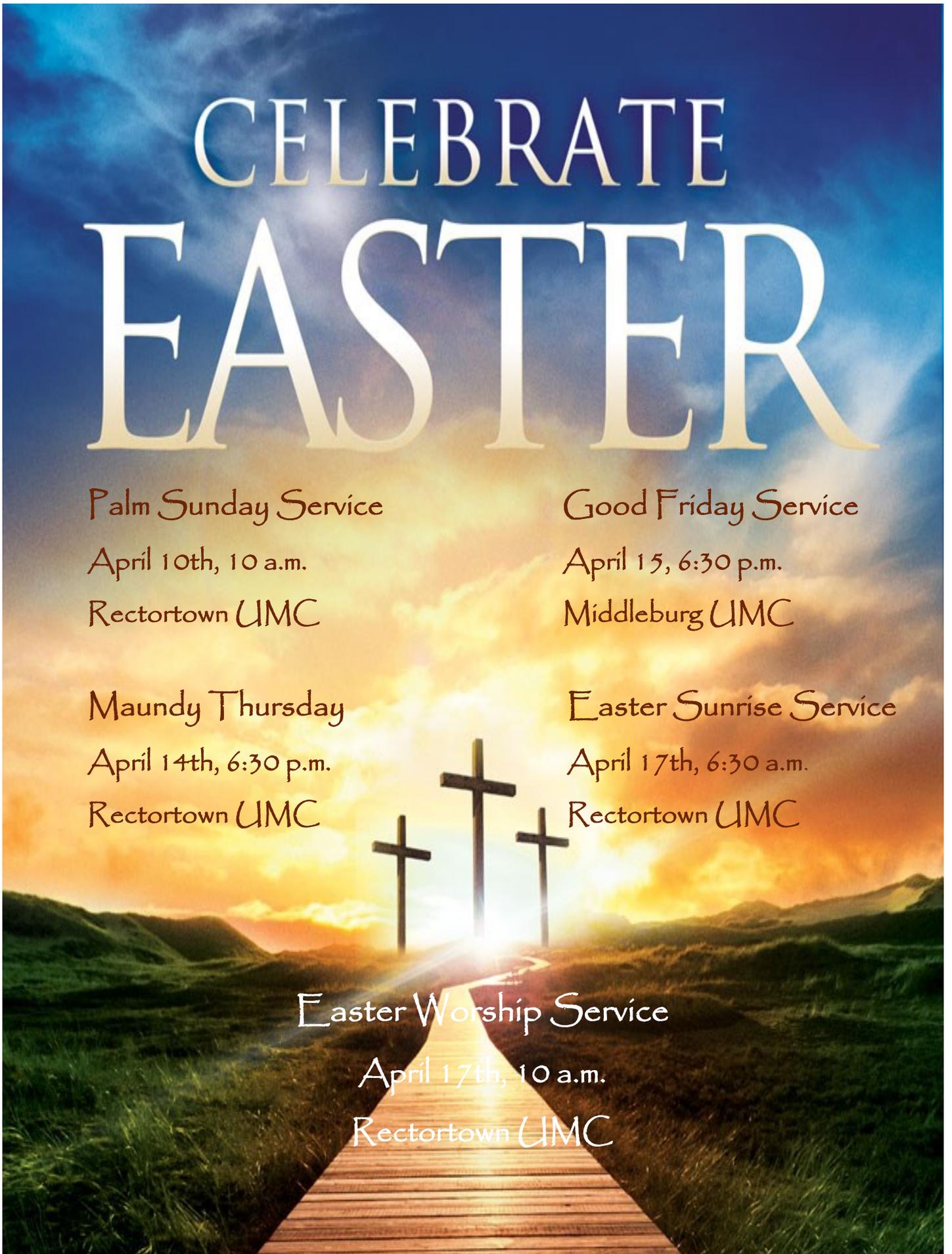
April 17th, 6:30 a.m.

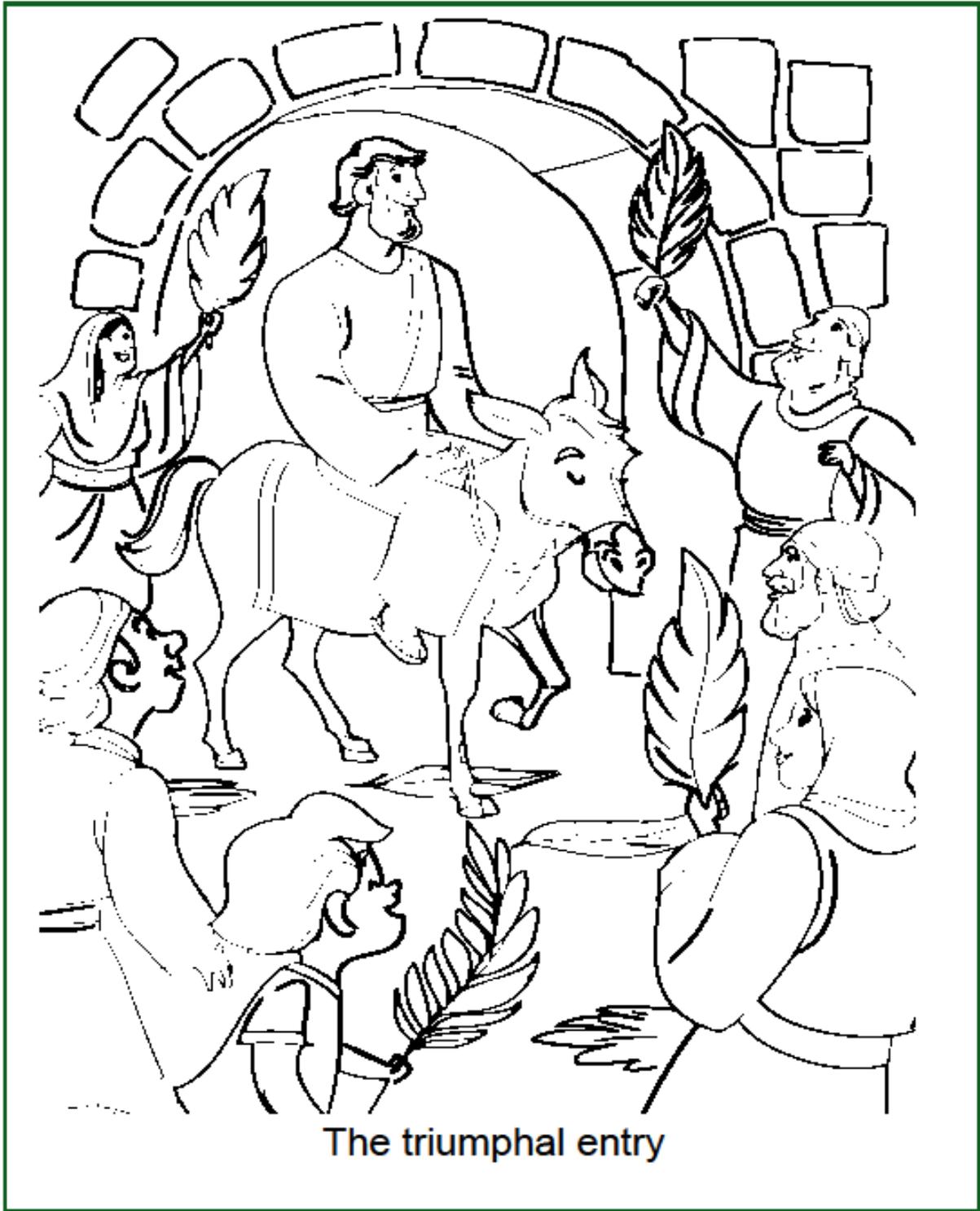
Rectortown UMC

Easter Worship Service

April 17th, 10 a.m.

Rectortown UMC





The triumphal entry

"The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!'" - John 12:12-13

Finance Report

March 2022

All bills were paid to date with the exception of the Virginia conference. Due to our income at this time, we are not meeting our full obligation to the conference, but we are meeting our District askings. Our tithes and offerings for the month of March came to \$4,464.63, which is \$535.37 below our needed amount of \$5,000 per month.

We have been open for in-person services or a year now, but our attendance has not shown a vast improvement. Where we used to to have 52 on average, we are now averaging about 18. Covid has lessened to a large degree, so I am hopeful you will consider returning to our in-person services. We still have ample room for social distancing, and, if you want, you can still wear your mask. Our church can't survive with only 18 people in attendance, especially since some them are kids. Please consider your circumstances and help us raise our attendance back to our former average.

Thank you for your consideration and your current support.

God Bless Each of You,

Reggie



We are delighted to welcome our new secretary Julie.

Julie started Monday, April 4th. Her office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you're in town, please stop by to say hello and introduce yourself, or give her a call at 540-687-6492.

United Methodist Women

March 2022

On March 17, 2022 the UMW held an executive meeting. There was a discussion of a fundraiser for Ukraine with the proceeds to go to UMCOR. All monies made go completely to Ukraine. One idea was having a “Luncheon on the Greens.” Another discussion was helping to support Boulder Crest in Bluemont. These topics are just ideas, and at our regular meeting on **April 29th at 2 p.m. at Debbie Edwards’ home**, we would like to have all members discuss these and other ideas they may have.

For the past 3 years it has been difficult for our church to grow and worship comfortably. We truly would like to see the UMW start to grow again. Hopefully the pandemic is slowly leaving and we can enjoy being together again.

Please come and bring friend and let’s help support our church through missions and fellowship with one another. Let’s have a great discussion together on how we, as a Women’s group, can help the community through our faith in Christ. Drinks and dessert will be furnished.

See you soon,

Debbie Edwards

Secretary



**NOW
OPEN**

Fig Leaf is a no-cost clothing closet serving local serving local children, teens, and adults in need of clothing for work, every day, and special occasions. Donated clothing will be displayed in an environment where those in need can “shop” for what they can use at no cost. For more information, please visit <https://rectortownumc.org/fig-leaf>.

Donate!

Gently worn clothing donations can be made to the parking lot storage building at Rectortown United Methodist Church Tuesdays through Fridays, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm and the first Saturday of the month 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.