

Margaret Barnard and Don Daniel build props for Vacation Bible School at the workday on March 25, 2023.



Volume 80 Issue 8

April 9, 2023

From the Pastor...

Easter is here! Cries of “He is risen” echoed by “He is risen indeed” fill our worship. Death has been defeated and the door to eternal life has been opened. We never deny the cross, for it was our instrument of salvation and our call to ministry. At our heart, however, we are Easter people.

For us to live into the hope of Easter requires us to understand who Jesus was, and is, and will be. Jesus showed us God in human form – teaching us how to live. Jesus died in lavish love – redeeming us from sin. Jesus will return – bringing us to glory and fulfilling the Kingdom.

To understand Easter requires us to understand Jesus. Of course, we learn by reading the scriptures and experiencing Jesus in our lives. Did you know, however, that Jesus also defined himself? The Book of John has a series of seven “I Am” statements, where Jesus identifies various aspects of himself.

GETTING TO KNOW JESUS THE “I AM” STATEMENTS OF CHRIST

April 9, 2023

“I Am the Resurrection and the Life!”

John 11:25-26

April 16, 2023

“I Am the Light of the World”

John 8:12

April 23, 2023

“I Am the Gate”

John 10:1-10

April 30, 2023

“I Am the Good Shepherd”

John 10:11-18

May 7, 2023

“I Am the Vine”

John 15:1-8

May 14, 2023

“I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life”

John 14:1-6

The “I Am” statements are especially revealing, because they harken back to God’s self-disclosure to Moses. When Moses stood before the burning bush, he asked God who shall I say sent me? God replied, “I AM WHO I AM.” God was saying to Moses, I Am more than you can comprehend and I Am with you.

When Jesus used this same phrase seven times, he revealed more of God’s nature to us than Moses could ever know. On Easter, we celebrate the greatest of these revelations – “I AM the Resurrection and the Life!” On each Sunday after Easter (Eastertide), we will look at the other six “I Am” statements of Jesus.

I’m entitling this Easter sermon series, “Getting to Know Jesus”. Easter is a spectacular Sunday, but Jesus resurrection deserves more than one day of our attention. I hope you will join us each week of Eastertide and learn more about who Jesus revealed himself to be.

Schedule

Sunday, April 9

Easter Sunday

9:00 a.m. Breakfast - FLC

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream

Monday, April 10

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, April 12

No Wednesday Evening Activities

Thursday, April 13

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, April 16

Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream

Monday, April 17

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, April 19

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

5:15 p.m. Family Night Meal

6:00 p.m. Preschool Choir, Children's Choir,
& Missions

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, April 20

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Saturday, April 22

8:30 a.m. Operation Inasmuch &

Mission Trip Yard Sale

Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister
Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
Rev. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Youth
Mrs. Elizabeth Kilby.....Minister of Young Families & Missions
Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....Accompanist / Music Assistant

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon - Thur, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Fri
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A Message From Minister of Young Families & Missions Elizabeth Kilby

Happy Easter. I haven't really taken time to process the Easter season as much as in previous years but, this week our children were gifted resurrection eggs by a sweet friend who made a bunch of them for her church children and included us in it. These were different than the eggs I had seen in the past. Just reading through the scriptures within the eggs knowing that she took the time to cut, place, and prepare each egg along with gathering many egg cartons from friends and family brought so much meaning and reflection to this holiday that I had not focused on previously. It reminded me of Jesus, that we are not forgotten even when we are busy, overwhelmed, overworked, sick, hurting, or grieving. That he is with us in the little, simple, and beautiful things that are around us all the time. I think this applies to Operation Inasmuch projects as well. Many projects this year are item driven - meaning that the items may seem insignificant but to those who receive them they will be welcomed warmly. It makes me think of an Easter version of Operation Christmas Child, where we are able to pack things for those knowing not who will receive them but God will bless both the gift and the giver. Looking forward to this wonderful day coming up on April 22, the yard sale supporting the Kentucky mission trip team, and the opportunities we have to serve and love those around our community and beyond.

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of March 26 & April 2, 2023

	3/26	4/2
Live Stream Views.	34	32
In-Person.	153	169
Sunday School.	74	86

Financial Statistics

	March	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	75,343.00	511,394.00
Budget Receipts	71,401.00	478,493.00
Goals Not Yet Met	(3,942.00)	(32,901.00)
Eddie Steele Fund	3,276.00	3,296.00
Designated	6,431.00	38,733.00

Do You Not Understand Yet? - A Holy Week Reflection by Rickey Letson, www.cbfblog.org

The book *Sons & Soldiers* by Bruce Henderson tells the story of several Jewish young men who immigrated to the United States in the late 1930s and early 1940s. These sons of Germany ultimately became United States soldiers fighting against their homeland in World War II. In the military, they all served as interrogators of prisoners of war as they leveraged their knowledge of the language and culture of their native country to extract crucial information.

In preparation for this remarkable role, their training took place at Camp Ritchie in rural Maryland. The soldiers became known as Ritchie Boys and served with distinction on the battlefields of the European theater.

One of the interesting things about life at Camp Ritchie was the initial reaction of the local community to these soldiers in the early days of their training. Hearing soldiers in the woods near their home speaking German led numerous Camp Ritchie neighbors to the logical conclusion that the Nazis had invaded and that the war was now being fought on their own doorstep. In other words, they mistook these new American soldiers as the enemy.

Remembering this scene from *Sons & Soldiers* reminds me of how easy it is for us to mistake a friend as an enemy or to misunderstand someone's motives.

The Lenten season introduces this same challenge through the story of the misunderstanding of Jesus as described by the Gospels. The Jewish leaders saw Jesus as delusional and as a threat due to his claim to be the son of God. The Romans worried that Jesus wanted to usurp their authority and institute his own kingship. Jesus' followers struggled with the idea of messiahship believing that Jesus had come to establish some type of earthly reign.

Many of these misconceptions were a result of attempting to understand Jesus without knowing him and due to a desire to always view Jesus through the lenses already created regarding their ideas of a Messiah. Few took the time to truly get to know Jesus by listening fully to what he had to say or through being willing to allow him to reshape their understanding.

At the conclusion of Mark 8, Jesus invites the disciples into an attempt to understand the meaning of the feeding of the 4,000. As their conversation concludes, Jesus asks a haunting question in verse 21 that serves as a good question for all the Gospels when he says, "do you not yet understand?"

What about us? Do we take the time to truly get to know others? Do we allow others to speak on their own terms rather than viewing them only via predetermined lenses? Are we open to seeing things differently? Can we admit when we are wrong about God or others? What does it look like for us to fully see and understand the movement of God or recognize in the other a friend and not a foe? How can we fully understand?

Rickey Letson serves as Congregational Stewardship Officer for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.





Announcements

Wednesday Evening Menus

April 19
BBQ

No reservation is needed.
Cost is \$5.00/adult and \$4.00/child.

Kentucky Mission Trip July 7-14, 2023

If you are interested in going on the mission trip to Kentucky this summer, please see Elizabeth Kilby by April 15. The mission team will be doing a variety of tasks such as painting, mudding, installing insulation, putting up sheet rock, cleaning, picking up items, organizing clothing closet/thrift store, and more.

Mission Trip Yard Sale Saturday, April 22, 2023

This yard sale will raise funds for the mission trip to Kentucky, Please bring you donations to the church Saturday, April 15 - Friday, April 21. Please have your donations to the church by 12:00 p.m. on Friday, April 21.

Operation Inasmuch Materials

Our Operation Inasmuch projects include assembling birthday bags and hygiene bags for our mission partners. We are collecting donations for these bags: full size shampoo, full size conditioner, full size body soap, toothpaste, box cake mix, cake icing, pack of 8 birthday cups, pack of birthday napkins, pack of birthday plates, individual snacks, granola bars, protein bars, and individual chips.

Community Serving Opportunities

Each one is looking for volunteers, sponsors, and attendees.

- Boys and Girls Club Pancake Day, April 20, 6:00 am- 7:00 p.m., Statesville Civic Center
- Pregnancy Resource Center Annual Life Banquet May 4, 7:00 -9:00 p.m., Statesville Civic Center
- The Longest Table- United Way, May 23, 5:00 p.m., Statesville High School

UPCOMING EVENTS

Easter Sunday

Breakfast - 9:00 a.m.
Service - 10:00 a.m.

Operation Inasmuch

Saturday, April 22

Mission Trip Yard Sale

Saturday, April 22

Church Directory Photos

April 25-29

Mother's Day

May 14

Passport Kids Camp

June 14-17

Look Up Lodge

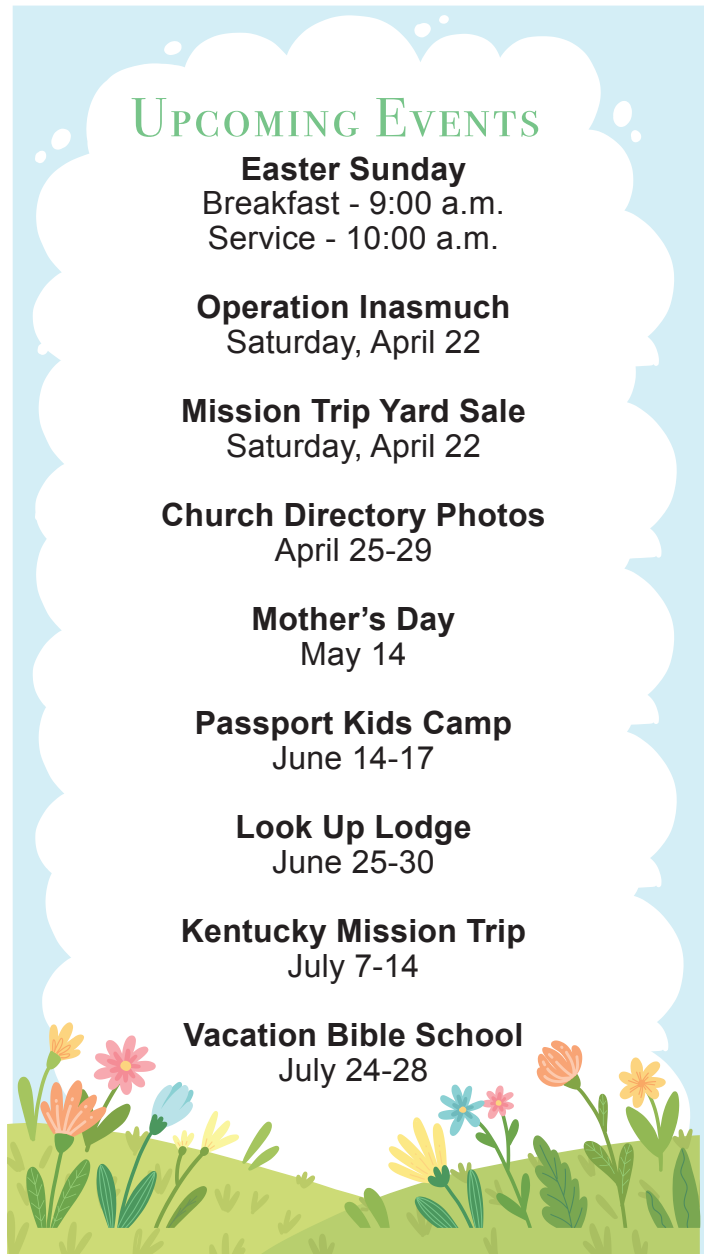
June 25-30

Kentucky Mission Trip

July 7-14

Vacation Bible School

July 24-28



For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

Song of Solomon 2:11-12