

CHRISTIAN CALLER

April 2024

Volume 288



EASTER

Easter is here! Signs of new life are everywhere! Flowers are showing their colors. Leaves are unfolding. Babies are beginning to arrive. Life is stirring all around us.

The new has broken through the darkness.

Can you imagine living through those days following Jesus' crucifixion? What would you have thought? What kind of follower are you? Even Peter, who planned to fight to the death for Him, denied Jesus three times! Jesus' closest followers, the disciples, were left in confusion. How did the multitude of people who were following Jesus react?

Sunday, Pastor Samuel talked about the three types of people who were in the multitude in Jerusalem.

1. The disciples, of course, were the closest to Him. They spent time learning all that He taught. They saw His miracles, heard His parables and believed who He said He was.
2. Then there were the groupees (my word) who came for the entertainment. They heard about the miracles and followed Him to see, and maybe receive something for themselves. They were led by emotions and sang, "Hosanna!" with the crowd. But emotions are fickle, and their commitment shifted. Soon, they were shouting, "Crucify Him!" Jesus' message was choked out by worldly influence.
3. Last are the Pharisees. They had spent three years hardening their hearts toward Jesus. They did not search scripture to see if He was fulfilling prophecy. They felt threatened and only wanted to protect their security in the system they had set up.

Easter morning, after Mary Magdalene announced that Jesus' body had been removed, John and Peter entered the empty tomb. They did not see evidence that grave robbers had invaded but a sign that a

savior had risen. John 20:7 says, “the (facial) cloth was folded by itself.” They would have known the meaning of two Jewish traditions:

1. The facial cloth was placed around the eyes so that if the person was to awaken, they would pull it off. On the family’s return to the tomb, they would know the person was alive. They would then fold it carefully. He is alive!
2. The folded napkin placed on the table by the servant gave instructions to the master that the meal was finished being served. The folded face cloth in the tomb indicated “my assignment is complete!” It is finished!

These two traditional meanings would have told the disciples, I am alive! It is finished!

They were no longer looking for His body but searching for their Lord!

Though the Pharisees worked hard to secure Jesus was crucified, they were not in control. Jesus was not a victim of these faux religious leaders. Jesus willingly chose to endure the torture from men and the separation from His Father, because of His eternal love for each one of us.

Easter is an awakening. A time to commit which type of follower are you?

Blessings,
Nancey

SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

As most of you know Tony Lyman took over as Soup Kitchen manager the first part of February. He enjoys cooking for the patrons and working with the volunteers. He has several ideas to help bring more families back to the Soup Kitchen.

The Soup Kitchen provides more than just food 3 days a week. There is also clothing, blankets, toiletry items, and pet food.

The Soup Kitchen hosted the Greeters, this last Friday morning. Tony provided a wonderful breakfast and had the tables decorated and ready to welcome the Greeters before 8:00. (so he was at the kitchen by 5:30/6:00-and then worked his normal day). Thank you Tony for all you did not only that day but everyday, you are positive influence at the Soup Kitchen.

Tony mentioned at the Greeters meeting that the Soup Kitchen could use the following items: Toilet paper, toiletry items, bread and lunch meat. If you would like to donate these or other items to the Soup Kitchen they accept donations 11-3 Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Or contact either Melissa, Tony or Julie and one of us would be glad to come pick up the items.

COFFEE HOUR:

April 7
April 14
April 21 Myra
April 28 Julie

WORSHIP LEADER:

Myra
Myra
Myra
Myra

If you would like to help with coffee hour please talk to Myra, if you would like to be a worship leader please talk to Julie.



**PRAISE IN 3D
AND
POTLUCK
MAY 5TH**

MARTHA MEETING
April 8
1:00



Birthdays

Judy LeSeur 14

Anniversaries

Richard & Lori Slavenski
April 20



<p>First Christian Church of Lebanon 170 Grant Lebanon OR 97355 541-258-5911 Email: lebanonfcc@comcast.net Website: www.fcclebanon.org</p>	<p>Office Hours</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Monday</td> <td>Donna</td> <td>9:30-12:30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday</td> <td>Julie</td> <td>11:00-2:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>Myra</td> <td>12:00-4:00</td> </tr> </table>	Monday	Donna	9:30-12:30	Wednesday	Julie	11:00-2:00	Friday	Myra	12:00-4:00
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