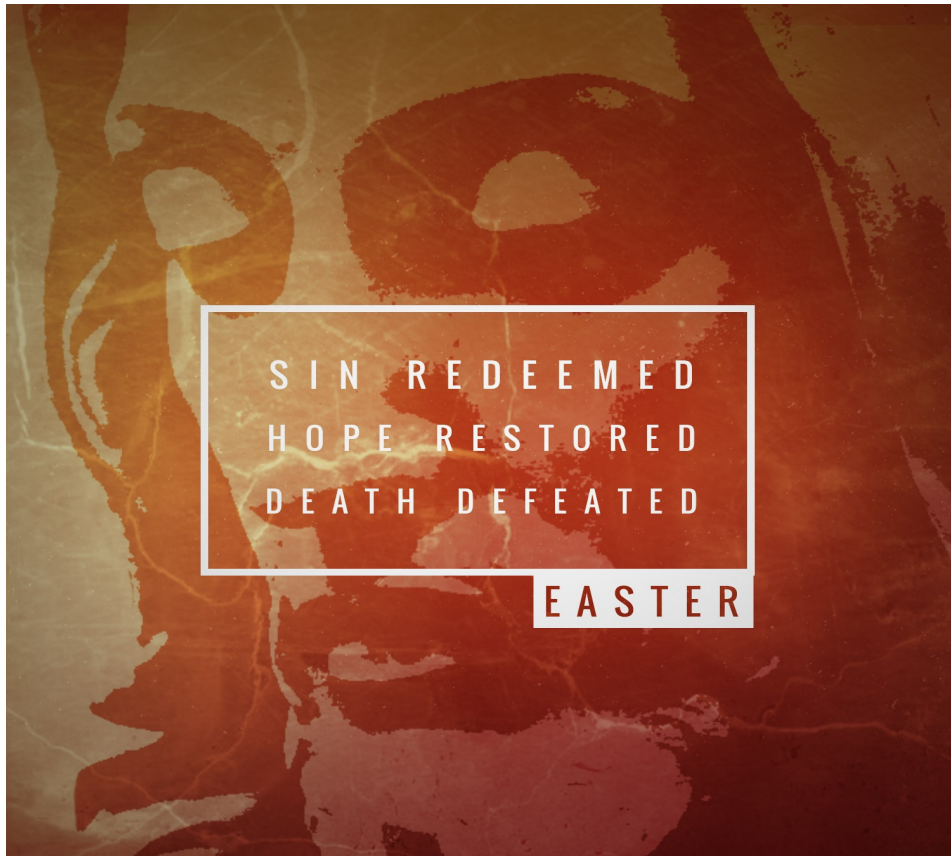


Humline

April 2023

Fasting for Lent



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Beauty for Ashes

by Pastor Jacob Eun

As we entered the season of Lent, we launched a new worship series called, Beauty for Ashes. Lent has been a time for us to pause and consider a foundational tenet of the Christian faith: we are all sinners in need of Jesus.

Our theme verse will be Isaiah 61:3, which writes, “bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.”

So each week during Lent, we looked at stories of women whom Jesus encountered during his ministry. Reading these stories helped us realize how life-saving and liberating his encounters were to these women when they gave their ashes to him. Jesus encountered some women, who brought their ashes to Jesus, ashes meaning problems, issues, and sins. And Jesus took their ashes and traded them for something far more beautiful. Our failures, placed in God’s hands, often lead to our greatest successes. Our most painful experiences become our defining moments by the grace of God, provided that we learn from them. God takes the dark moments, the failures and rejections in our lives, and uses them for our good-if we allow it, if we humble ourselves and consider whether there is anything in us that needs to be changed.

And we were invited to do the same for the journey of Lent. As Easter is approaching, we need There is no forgiveness without repentance. Without forgiveness, there is no new life. There is no resurrection without death. In order for us to fully embrace the joy of Easter, in order for us to make each day of Lent meaningful, we need to give our ashes to God.



April and May Worship Series

On Palm Sunday, we rejoice in Jesus' triumph entry to Jerusalem and into our hearts. We will celebrate as we have pancake breakfast before the 10am service, as we worship together, and as we participate in Easter egg hunts. On Good Friday, let us bring our ashes, issues, problems, sins, conflicts, and mortality before God. Our music ministry has put together a wonderful team of talented, committed musicians and will bless us with a Good Friday musical service of worship. We will share the grace of Jesus' last seven words on the cross. Finally on Easter, let us experience how God trades our ashes for something far more beautiful than we can ever think of. I encourage you to come to our Easter service and celebrate the gift of new life and eternal life in Christ Jesus. You are more than welcome to invite your friends and family.

As we watch the miracle of Spring begin to unfold, as we prepare for the joy of Easter, may God's presence be with you always and in all ways. My prayers and love to you all.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Jacob Eun

Holy Week and Easter

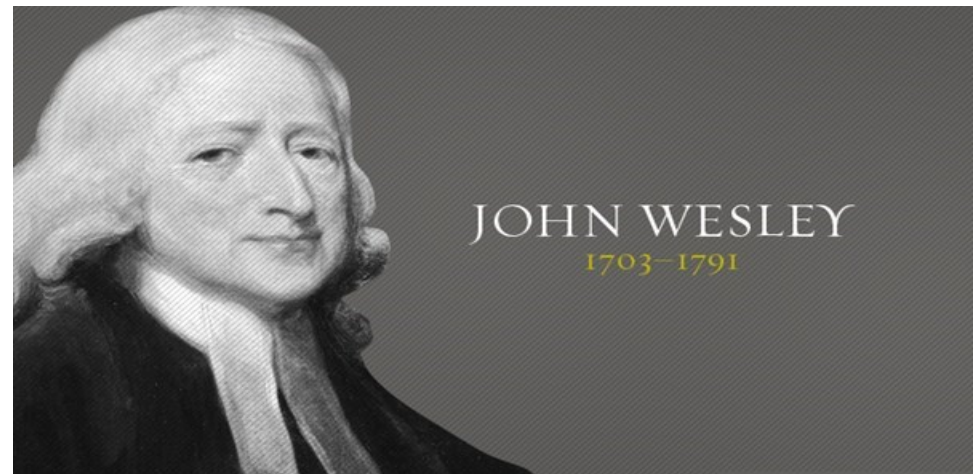
Fri	4.7	Good Friday Musical Service	7pm	HUMC
		Cantata: Song of the Shadows		
Sun	4.9	Easter Sunrise Service	6:15am	Jones Farms
		Easter Service	10:00am	HUMC

April and May Worship Series: We Are Methodists!

If someone were to ask a member of your congregation, "What is a United Methodist," what would you want them to say? Or not say? We usually do not stop to think about what congregants may say as individuals, but when they talk about their church and faith, their conversations can have positive or negative effects.

Throughout the series, we will answer questions like: What is a United Methodist, what do you do at your church services, what does a United Methodist believe, do United Methodists have something like a pope, do you do missionary work? What do you do with financial donations, etc.

4.16	Who We Are	5.7	Methodists Today
4.23	What We Do	5.14	Mother's Day
4.30	How We Do	5.21	Why Are We Still Methodists?
		5.28	Memorial Day



Monday Bible Study

The Torah: The Five Books of Moses

When we try to understand who Jesus was without reference to the Old Testament, it's kind of like watching the Star Wars movies, but skipping the first episode. You can follow what's going on, but you won't really understand the deeper elements of the story. This set of lectures was my effort to condense the first five foundational books of Jesus's bible, because they introduce the Plot conflict and storyline that Jesus believed he was bringing to fulfillment.

4.17 Genesis

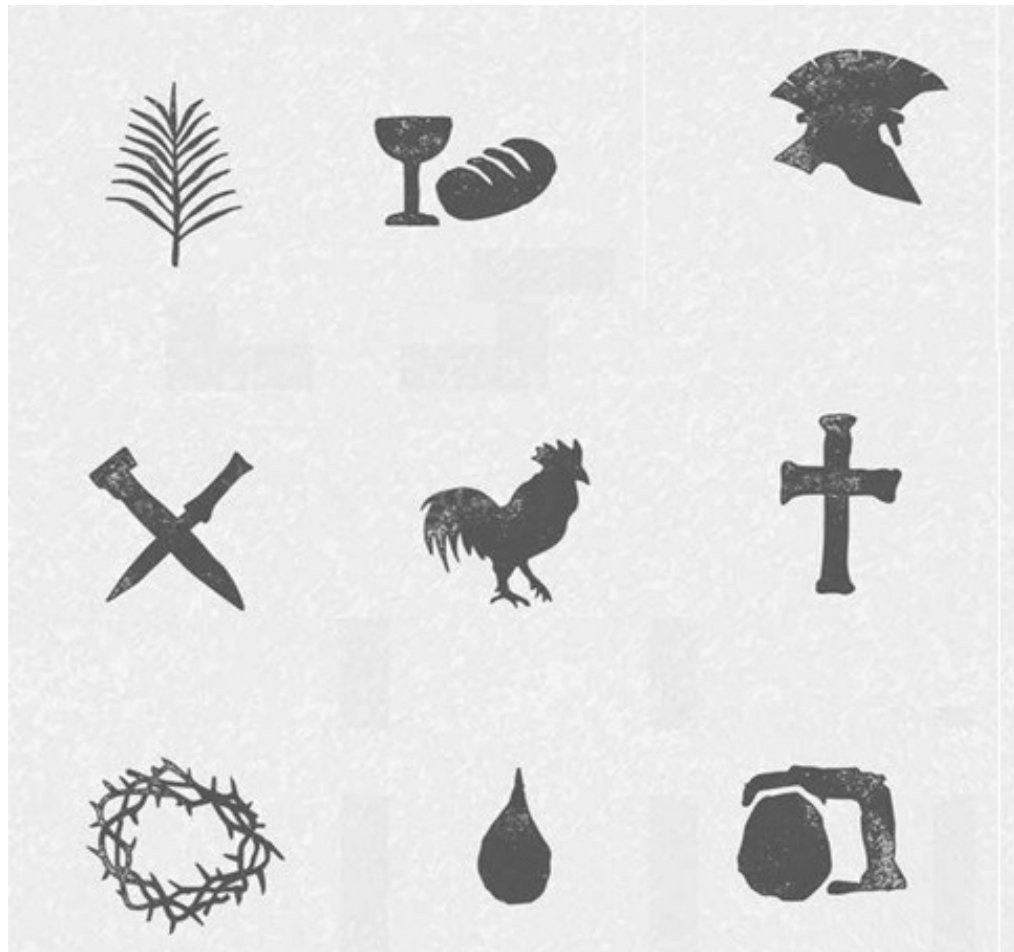
4.24 Exodus

5.1 Leviticus

5.8 Numbers

5.15 Deuteronomy

	תּוֹרָה	
Genesis	בְּרֵאשִׁית	Beresheet
Exodus	שְׁמוֹת	Shemot
Leviticus	וַיִּקְרָא	Vayikra
Numbers	בְּמִדְבָּר	Bemidbar
Deuteronomy	דְּבָרִים	Devarim



Holy Week and Easter Worship Schedules

Huntington United Methodist Church

Palm Sunday	April 2 at 10am
Pancake Breakfast	at 8:30am
Easter Egg Hunt	at 11:15am
Good Friday	April 7 at 7pm
Easter Sunrise Service	April 9 at 6:15am at Jones Farms
Easter Service	April 9 at 10am

Good Friday Musical Service of Worship

Cantata: Song of the Shadows by Joseph M. Martin

This special Good Friday service features the choirs and members of Huntington United Methodist Church, student at Yale School of Music, and our friends.



Instrumentalists	Chaewon Kim	Violin
	Gacun Lee	Cello
	Min Kyung Cho	Double Bass
	Carole Sylvester	Percussion
	Lisa Malin	Flute
	Emily Codere	Clarinet
Narrator	Chris Chapman	

A Journal from the Wesleyan Heritage Tour

Ordinands were asked to write a journal on each assigned day. Mine was the fourth day where we visited two small towns called, Coventry and Stratford-upon-Avon.

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Day 4: Coventry and Stratford-upon-Avon

Jacob Eun

Surveying the root of my faith began from many days prior to the trip; in the bath, on a walk, in a car, and on a plane. I'm glad to have finally experiencing the journey of rediscovering who we are as Methodists. Our journey is titled, The Wesleyan Heritage Tour, and I have pondered upon the meaning of the word, heritage, and another closely related word, history. History is what happened in the past. We have founding dates, founding fathers, founding places, and founding stories. Heritage is not what happened in the past. It is what has survived from the past. It is what we have inherited from the past to enjoy in the present and what we want to preserve and pass onto the future generation. So I ask: "What is the story of our past?" and "What heritage are we preserving for next generations of Methodists?"



We went to Coventry Cathedral on the fourth day of our trip and studied its story of pain and trauma from World War II: bombing of the cathedral and its devastating ruins, disregards of each other's humanity, and remnants of the war atrocity. Darkness was their history but in the midst of despair, ashes were not their heritage. Richard Howard, a priest, wrote controversial words that made him ostracized. His words were simple:

Father forgive. Not “Father forgive THEM” but simply, “Father forgive.” From his words rose a new life. Without repentance, there is no forgiveness. Without forgiveness, no new life. Without new life, no eternal life. His words of repentance for the sins of others and very own was the beginning of a new life in the midst of ashes.



The nails were put together to make a cross as a symbol of forgiveness in the aftermath of conflict. The fallen lumbers were jointed as a symbol of hope and friendship. The new cathedral was built in connection to the destroyed cathedral as a symbol of new home and new life. All of it, in the midst of ashes. Isaiah 61:3 writes, “Bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of



a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.” Our failures, shames, and most painful experiences in the hands of God become our defining moments by the grace of God, provided that we give God our ashes through repentance, if we humble ourselves. Ashes for beauty. Sins for forgiveness. Death for new life. Mortality for eternity.

As we learned from Coventry Cathedral, history and heritage in this sense are very important especially for us, Methodists who have a deep history and rich heritage. When our Bishop invited the ordinands to stand on the tomb of Samuel Wesley (the only place-a small piece of land-that

belonged to John Wesley who was denied to preach at his home church and instead stood on his father’s grave and preached) and when I did, my heart was filled with gratitude and remembered two groups: my family and forerunners of our faith. I will remember my dad when someone tells me that they are closer to God because of my ministry. I will remember my mom when someone tells me how my listening help them feel heard, valued, and healed. I will remember my brother when I am able to share portions of my wealth to help someone in need.



And my gratitude extended to appreciate all forerunners of our faith who planted the land, laid the foundation, raised the pillars, and put the roof; from Samuel and Susanna Wesley, John and Charles Wesley, Francis Asbury, Thomas Coke and George Whitefield, Henry Appenzeller and Horace Underwood, and to our very own Bishop, Thomas Bickerton, who has been navigating a boat called, the United Methodist Church, with all of us in it through a raging storm called, Disaffiliation and Separation. Strangely, in this time of great distress and uncertainty, I have a greater sense of faith and assurance.

When Jesus told his disciples, "Let us go to the other side," a place where they could continue their ministry, they arrived to the other side safely through a raging storm. If God has told us, "Let us go to the other side," where people in need are waiting for us and our ministry, I believe we will go through this storm and get to the other side safely. With the episcopal authority entrusted from God to bishop, with fellowship of all saints, and with communion of all true Methodists, I believe that this will become our proud milestone in our Methodist history and that this will be our Wesleyan heritage that we will pass along to future generations of Methodists. **History and heritage. They justify the uniqueness of our call. I give thanks to God for what God has in store for us in the path of obedience to God's calling for us and faithfulness to the greater Methodist Church.**

I will close my reflection with 1 Corinthians 1:2-3 with minor additions of words. "To the United Methodist Church of God that is in New York and Connecticut, to those who are ordained and sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints and pastors, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Amen.



This is the very desk that John Wesley used when he was a fellow at Oxford University.

Snippets of Our Church





May you rest eternally at your true home in heaven, George Ward

Mark Your Calendar

Weekly Meetings/Events

Mon	Adult Bible Study	7:00pm	HUMC
Wed	Bell Choir	7:00pm	HUMC
Thur	HUMC Choir	7:00pm	HUMC

* Bible Study will resume on April 17th

Monthly Meetings

First Sun	M&E	11:30am	HUMC/Zoom
Third Sun	Ad Council	11:30am	HUMC/Zoom
Third Tue	Finance	7:00pm	HUMC/Zoom
Fourth Tue	SWS Board	7:00pm Zoom	
Fourth Sun	M&O	11:30am	HUMC/Zoom

*if any changes, will be announced

Mark Your Calendar

4.2	Sun	Pancake Breakfast	8:30am	HUMC
		Palm Sunday	10:00am	HUMC/Online
		Easter Egg Hunt	11:15am	HUMC
4.7	Fri	Good Friday	7:00pm	HUMC
4.9	Sun	Easter Sunrise Service	6:15am	Jones Farm
4.9	Sun	Easter Sunday Service	10:00am	HUMC/Online
4.18	Tue	Tax Day		
4.27	Thu	Parish Council	7:00pm	Naugatuck UMC
4.29	Sat	CT District Conference	12:00pm	West Hartford UMC

Happy Birthday (April)

11 Amy Miller

13 Steven Peiffer

14 Timothy Tyler

15 Sandra Smart

26 Donna Graham

29 Adeline Poach

Huntington United Methodist Church

Mailing Address:

338 Walnut Tree Hill Road, Shelton, CT 06484



Happy Anniversary (April)

11 Amy Miller

13 Steven Peiffer

14 Timothy Tyler

15 Sandra Smart

26 Donna Graham

29 Adeline Poach



For any questions, comments, or changes,
please contact us at 203.929.5545
or office@huntingtonumc.com