



May God be Glorified

I can't wait for the lawn to green up, the trees to bud, flowers to appear in gardens and, the crops of the fields to appear in row after row. After an extended winter it is time for the life of more sun light, April showers, and the miracle of God's creation springing forth with life. For me, new life is another revelation of the glory of God.

This whole Lent season leading up to Easter is about bringing glory to God in the midst of confusion, betrayal, and even death. Jesus says several times in the book of John that His own life was to bring Glory to God.

This whole month of March I have been waiting for warmer temperatures and the landscape of the country to begin its transformation. But no, more snow and cold temps remained. In some ways, this year is a betrayal of last year causing confusion and continued brown death.

As in the seasons of the year our own lives can experience seasons of cold lifelessness. Similar to the dark days of Jesus life we wonder as the disciples may have wondered, "Is there any hope?"

Yes, there is hope and it resides in the glory of God. We get a little over focused sometimes. The primary goal of Jesus was not to die for your sins. Before the cross Jesus forgave the sins of repentant believers so forgiveness in Christ had been established. But as Jesus faced the cross, the primary focus became the glory of God.

God requires payment for sin and the life of Jesus is the redeeming price. God loves us so much that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life, (John 3:16). This verse has more to do with God and Jesus than it does

with us. We are the benefactors of God's glory in Christ Jesus.

The fact that Jesus died that we may have forgiveness of our sins is a glorious side benefit. If Jesus died solely for me then just maybe God should be doing other things for me too. I mean if God went this far for me then why can't He go a little farther and make my life easier. No, God has done his good work for me so I might be empowered to do good works that bring glory to God. These good works or acts of faith imitate Jesus and bring glory to Jesus which brings glory to God.

Does a flower come forth from the ground for my benefit or to reveal the creation glory of God? My answer is to reveal the creation glory of God. The fact that this event brings hope in my life is the side benefit. Likewise, as we live our lives to the glory of God there are many side benefits for others; life is revealed, hope is lifted up, light shines on what was dark, and even in the side benefit God is glorified.

So as you see that first flower of the spring or your lawn green up or that first row of corn, know this; those plants are only responding to the nature of their Creator. Scripture refers to believers as seeds of faith and so likewise we are to come to life with the strength of the Holy Spirit and turn the cold darkness of this world to life through the glory of God. In this act of faith others will see God and believe.

May all we do bring glory to God!

Make it a great day!

Pastor Jay

Notes From Past Bulletins:

60 years ago: 1953

Apr. 5 – The Literary Society will meet at the Lyle Yoder home on Tuesday evening.

Apr. 19 – A group of young people will sing at the Presbyterian Home in Washington on Tuesday evening

Apr. 26 – Morning sermon by Virgle Brenneman.

50 years ago: 1963

Apr. 14 – Wed. evening service – Beginning a new book study “God Builds the Congregational Service” led by L. David Yoder.

Dave Hochstetler, who had his home with the William Logan’s passed away Thursday. Funeral services will be this afternoon at 2:30 at East Union.

Apr. 28 – Mrs. Schmidt wishes to thank all who had apart in the quilt given to her. Those who embroidered blocks and those who quilted. She will always cherish this gift.

40 years ago: 1973

Apr. 1 – Morning program by Hesston College Chamber Choir.

Apr. 8 – Keith Litwiller has asked for his church membership to be transferred to Washington Mennonite Church.

Apr. 13 – Church Council notes: A motion was made and approved that the church will pay Lonnie’s tuition, room & board while he attends Seminary.

30 years ago: 1983

Apr. 10 – Those receiving memberships by baptism this morning are Doug Moberly, Dean Showalter & Clair Yoder.

Apr. 17 – The Church Council accepted a gift of a wireless microphone.

The Church Council discussed the congregational response to the mission statement and log and the expiations of pastor/s at East Union.



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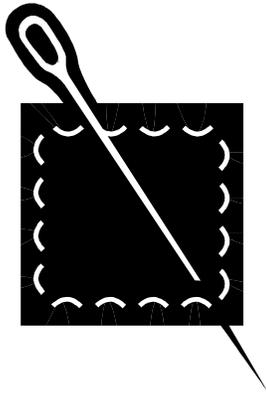
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From Jim Hochstetler

J. Hostys: Quote of the Month

“Your body is God’s temple. Jesus Christ lives there now. Satan comes knocking at the door. Ask Jesus to answer the door. Satan leaves taking temptation with him. God has helped you win again over Satan.”



Mennonite Women meet on Tuesday, April 2, 2013. “Let Justice Roll Down” - Devotional leader: Anna Yoder; Project: Baby kits for MCC includes: size 3-9 months 2 gowns/sleepers, 2 undershirts/onesies(short or long sleeves), 4 cloth diapers(flat-fold preferred), 1 receiving blanket, 4 safety pins(2 inches), 1 large bar soap (leave in wrapper), 1 pair of socks, 1 cap.

Remove packaging material(except soap) and fold into the receiving blanket. Fasten together with the safety pins.

Cash will also be accepted instead of making up the kits.

Sack lunch

Women's Fellowship Banquet is in April 24.

All women are welcome to come spend some time quilting and knotting comforters and fellowship. We have a quilt that needs to be finished for the MCC Sale.

Anxiety often affects our thinking and controls our actions. It can keep us boxed in and unwilling to venture into unknown territory.

SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 21, 2013

One of the outcomes from the Congregational survey last fall was the need for East Union to re-examine our Vision and Mission for the future.

On **April 21, 2013 at 4:00 pm** we will be having a congregational meeting led by David Boshart. He will lead us through a self-examination process and identify what needs to happen to have a vibrant and meaningful church community at East Union.

Some of the things that will be examined will be:

- Our Core Values
- Expected outcomes – Strategies for each of the expected outcomes
- The East Union Mission Statement

Questions that will be asked include:

- What do we care about most?
- What are we most concerned about?
- What are our highest hopes and dreams?

Mark the date on your calendar. Dave will be bringing the message in the worship service that morning. Child care will be provided. All members and attendees are welcome and encouraged to participate in this important event.

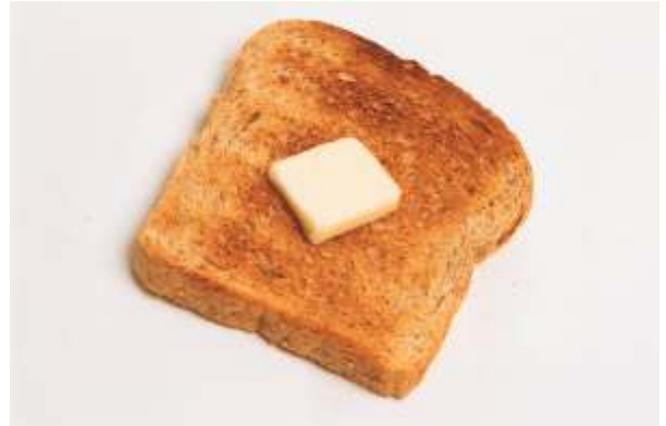


Sacred Harp Singing :

Come celebrate our risen Lord and the promise of heaven in this special service on April 7th! We will be joined by a group of shape note singers from around eastern Iowa who will be performing selections from the Sacred Harp songbook during the service. Sacred Harp singing is a traditional way of singing early American hymns that is very powerful in its raw joy and beauty. During Sunday School, all who are interested from the congregation and community are invited to join the singers either to participate or listen.

Bring food to share for a potluck lunch followed by more singing for all in the afternoon until around 3:00.

Questions? Contact Tammy Yoder at (319) 656-3743 or greenearth@kctc.net



French Toast Benefit Breakfast:

You are invited to a French Toast Breakfast on Saturday, April 20th, to benefit the non-profit group Empowering Haiti. They are in the process of building a medical clinic in a very remote and under-served area close to the coast of northern Haiti. Property has been purchased, plans have been made for the new facility, a temporary structure has been built for immediate use, and a female Haitian doctor has been seeing 40 - 50 patients a day for the last year. We are hoping to raise enough money to put in the new septic field necessary to begin construction on the permanent facility.

The breakfast will be held at Kalona Mennonite Church on April 20th from 6:30AM to 10:30AM. For a free will donation, you can enjoy a yummy breakfast of French toast, sausage, eggs, homemade rolls or coffee cake, fruit, coffee, and juice. Come join us!

Questions? Contact Trent and Tammy Yoder at (319) 656-3743.