

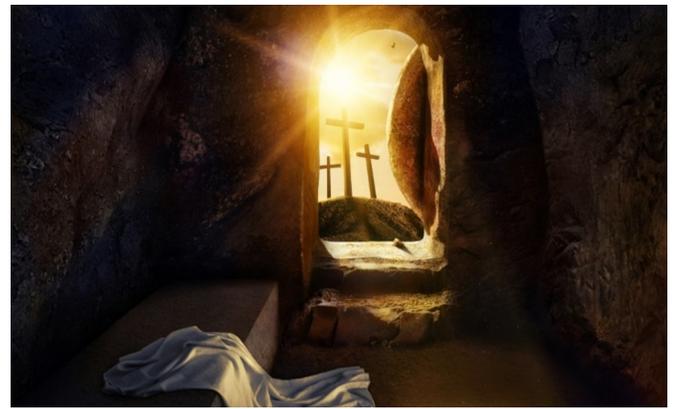
***Luke 24:1-6 (NIV2011)***

*On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. <sup>5</sup> In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee!*

I have been coming to church each Sunday to pray, sing, and remember the family of God that so faithfully meets to worship our God. As I was arriving yesterday, I grew sad. I couldn't imagine Palm Sunday, remembering Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, without a full congregation waving palms.

As much as most of us have been weary lately, imagine the early church. During this Holy Week, lives were turned upside down. One day there is a parade proclaiming a new king, finally hope. Within days their hopes and dreams were lost as they saw their new king whisked away by guards, tried, and crucified.

As you receive this letter, we praise God that we know the rest of the story. We can proclaim this day, “He Is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!” Christ arose victorious from the grave. More than ever, I am aware of the importance of the family of God. While our staff and Calvary leaders work diligently to help us connect, it is not the same as corporate worship. When we are seated next to one another, it is as if we have one



heart beat. We are truly stronger together.

I pray for a resurgence in worship when we are finally able to gather again. There is power in singing together. There is strength and healing in praying together. There is celebration when we, the family of God, are hearing the Word proclaimed and prepared with a benediction to go into all the world and preach the good news.

The world we live in is still broken. We meet folks in our day to day lives that still need a savior. The best news we have is Jesus is not on the cross nor in the tomb. Jesus arose victorious and continues to offer new life.

In well over 50 years of sunrise services, I never ceased to be amazed at the power of Easter morning. The blanket of sadness and despair that often accompanies loss is taken away. The hope of a new day is upon us. Try this moment to imagine (even with allergies) that you can smell the lilies. You can see the grass turning green, the buds on the trees, the joy in the morning.

Easter resurrection is everywhere around us. We are Easter People. We are God's children of promise. We are light in darkness and hope in despair.

Even while apart this week, let us rejoice and give thanks for the gift of our Savior Jesus Christ. When you wake on Easter morning, greet the day with a loud and bold, “He Is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!”

May the peace of Christ be with you.

In Christ,  
Pastor Jeff Fisher

## Calvary's Holy Week

As we approach Easter I want to remind you that we will provide worship opportunities via our Website ([www.calvaryunitedmethodist.org](http://www.calvaryunitedmethodist.org)) and Facebook (CalvaryUnitedMethodistChurch) on Maundy Thursday (with Communion), Good Friday, and Easter Morning.

In receiving communion, I invite you to have a cracker or bread along with juice or wine that we may partake together. While our service will be taped, you may consider watching at our regular worship time to remember others will worship with you.

We are aware that many of our members do not have access to Internet or social media. Please reach out and connect with those who you may know lack these opportunities. Share with them a time of reflection and prayer together. In attempting to connect with every member of Calvary, we are aware many phone numbers have changed. If you have not received a call, please email or call our office that we may have your correct phone number.

### Prayers Regarding Calvary's Finances

**Matthew 6:25 (NIV2011)** “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?”

As much as we try not to worry, times like this make us very anxious, because we are in uncharted waters. We feel especially vulnerable because we cannot clearly grasp how long the current situation may last, or the magnitude of the challenges lying ahead. In short, our faith is being tested. Since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, countless businesses and individuals have been adversely impacted. Calvary is likewise feeling the strain. We are thankful to those of you who have continued making your contributions since worship services have been suspended, however our giving has declined.

During this Holy week, and for at least as long we remain unable to worship on Sunday mornings, we are asking you to make what for some of us may be an extraordinary faith commitment. We are aware that those who have been directly impacted by COVID-19 may be unable to provide support at this time, we understand, and you are in our prayers. We are asking those who are able to keep your pledged giving current, or that you increase your giving to help carry the load for those in our congregation who have been directly impacted by COVID-19 and are unable give at their traditional levels. You can mail your gifts to the church, you can opt to give electronically via auto-debits to your bank account, or you can give online at our Website ([www.calvaryunitedmethodist.org](http://www.calvaryunitedmethodist.org)). If you need assistance with this second option, please call our office at 717-545-0021.

Yes, we are facing very difficult challenges. But together we will get through this. We believe in a God that is good and is always there for us. One of several ways we express our faith is through our gifts and tithes, we trust you will give as you are able.

Jeff Fisher  
Pastor

John Coulson  
Church Council Chair