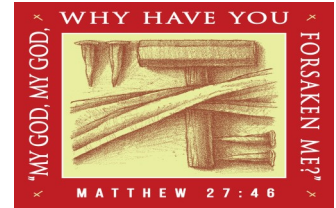




# Newsletter Presbyterian Disciples Church March 2016



Lentenotes1—"Jesus, The Pope, and a Protestant Go into a Bar"--John Swisher, BCC Chaplain

At an educational event sponsored by our regional church group a couple of weeks or so ago, I attended a workshop with the title above. It was led by Bill Tammus, who confessed to being guilty of "committing journalism", actually he's a semi-retired journalist, long time contributor to the Church page in the KC Star. He and his local pastor had just written a book, also with the title above, about inter-faith relationships, particularly between Protestants and Catholics in the era of Pope Francis.

Well, if you know me, and probably most of you do, you know this is right down my alley. I really couldn't be happier than when I'm listening to complementary or not so complimentary religious concepts or ideas from many different perspectives in conversation.

Plus, as you might have already suspected, the title to the workshop and book also sounds like a joke, which is not just down my alley, it's down my alley, going my way, and dropped right in the middle of my cup of tea. So I was looking forward to it, both the workshop and the joke.

But besides guys like me who are always interested in this stuff, why would you any of the rest of you want to follow it?

One answer is that inter-faith stuff is a hot topic these days. It's in the news, on people's minds, and of course fuelling lots of fears in everyone's hearts and souls. The presidential candidates are all weighing in on it. The seasonal focus in our part of the world on Spring and Easter have become occasions for lots of people to wonder about the events of faith, at least Christian faith in the resurrection (at Easter). Lastly, as I am writing these words, the Pope and the Russian Orthodox's Patriarch are scheduled to meet together in Cuba for the first time in history, since the Great Schism of 1054 which split the Church between East (Orthodox) and West (Catholic).

So, it's interesting (at least to the preacher and maybe a few others), it's important (at least it's in the news), but where do we go with it, (at least what do we expect from new developments in inter-faith relations)? I would suggest we go to church (or cathedral, or mosque, or tribal powwow, or wicca coven, or whatever our communities of faith are called) with it. Namely, that we open up opportunities to listen to each other, see what makes each other tick, and let the inter-faith sort of community kind of "wash" over us, much like spring rain. Cause if we can do that we get a big pay-off, not only appreciation of the faiths of others, but new appreciation of our own faith(s) as well.

By the way, the joke is informative here. After Jesus, the Pope, and a Protestant go in the bar, the bartender asks, "What'll it be fellas?" The Protestant looks around for somebody to pay his tab, the Pope goes for his wallet, but Jesus just says, "Just three glasses, please, but keep the pitchers of water coming!!!" The joke reminds us we have everything we need and more, especially when looking out for each other. And also, that what looks like everyday "stuff" (water) can turn into some pretty interesting stuff (wine) with a little help from above.

Bonus Church Chuckle: Which burns longer, long skinny candles or short fat candles? Answer: Neither burns longer, they both burn shorter!!



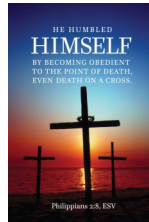
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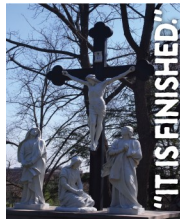
Discovery Room Preschool will participate in their 6th Annual Trike-a-Thon to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Thursday, **March 10th from 9-11:30am** at Wentworth Military Academy Field House. You can make a donation online at <http://trikeathon.stjude.org/zademyers> or contact **Candy Myers at 660-232-0303 or [presdisciples@embarqmail.com](mailto:presdisciples@embarqmail.com)**



The Sounds of the Heart ministry raises funds to purchase automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in public buildings and churches in Lexington. Thanks to all of you who support us in our mission to provide this life-saving equipment! The annual **Sounds of the Heart Concert is Saturday, April 2, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Lexington Middle School.** Featuring Diva and George, whose diversity spreads from classical to pop to Elvis impersonations! We are also proud to present The Fabulous Torques, who specialize in first generation rock 'n roll: Billboard Hits that were on the charts from 1953 to 1964.



The Cancer Assistance Relief ministry (CAR) provides transportation for cancer patients living in the 64067 zip code to their chemo or radiation treatments in Kansas City. Since 1987, CAR has helped more than 300 people and has traveled more than 650,000 miles! If you would like to be an important part of another person's healing and recovery, please call Betty Weddle at 660-909-2868. Volunteer CAR drivers transport patients living in the 64067 zip code and are reimbursed \$25 for mileage.



Lexington Youth Rally will be held Saturday, March 12th from 7-9pm at the Lexington Middle School Gym. There will be free food, free games, and door prizes. This is open to all youth from 7th -12th Grades and will feature Hip Hop Artist Micah Johns. Come Join the FUN!!



It is time to start thinking about Community Vacation Bible School. VBS will be held at the United Methodist Church this year. VBS will be held July 17-20 from 6-8:30pm and the theme is SURF SHACK! The committee all love the t-shirts we have gotten the kids the last couple of years and are going to be trying to fundraise to be able to purchase shirts again this year. Co-Leaders for this year's VBS will be Annie Yates, Lauren Stephenson, and Patty Ellison. The next planning meeting will be Monday, March 14th at 7:00pm. Please let me know if you will be able to assist with VBS this year. Contact Candy Myers with any questions at 660-232-0303 or [presdisciples@embarqmail.com](mailto:presdisciples@embarqmail.com).



Upcoming Community Events

**03-05-2016** Dinner & Dance  
Lexington Moose Lodge  
Dinner 5:30 Dance 7-11pm

**03-08-2016** Live! in Lexington - "Hits & Grins"  
Location: Wentworth Military Academy  
7:30 PM

**03-12-2016** St. Patrick's Day Celebration  
Lexington VFW  
Doors open after parade. American Music Pirate is the DJ from 8-12. No Cover Charge.

**03-12-2016** St. Pats Bash  
The Lex Civic Auditorium  
BEAM & EADS will be hosting a Benefit for the Municipal Auditorium restoration and will feature 6 bands playing several styles of music-- something for everyone! Starts immediately following parade.

**03-12-2016** St. Patrick's Parade 2016  
Downtown Lexington  
2:00 PM

**03-19-2016** VFW Breakfast  
Location: Lexington VFW

**03-25-2016** Elks Annual Good Friday Fish Fry  
Elks Lodge 749  
5-7:00pm Serving catfish, french fries, coleslaw, beans & beer bread. \$8.00 - Carry-Out available.

**03-26-2016** Elks Community Breakfast  
Elks Lodge 749 -- 7-10 am

**03-26-2016** Live! at "The Lex"  
Location: The Lex Civic Auditorium  
The Fabulous Nace Brothers with the Cedar Creek Band. Doors open at 7:00pm Music starts 8:00pm Tickets \$10.00

**03-30-2016** Chamber First Quarter Luncheon  
Location: The Center for Counseling & Training  
Enjoy appetizers Noon - 1:00pm at 109 S. 10th Street. Network with other business owners ad meet new people

Don't Forget to Spring Your Clocks Forward for Daylight Savings Time on Sunday, March 13th.

**Lectionary Readings for March:**

- 06 – Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
- 13 – Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4-14; John 12:1-8
- 20 – Isaiah 50:4-9 ; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14—23:56
- 25 — Isaiah 52:13—53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1—19:42
- 24 — Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31-35
- 27 — Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-18



**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- 10 – Carli Wrisinger
- 14 – Carla Ashinhurst
- 19 – Harriet Cox,  
Mike Kramer
- 21 – Lois Coulter
- 24 – Susan Bryant,  
Doris Bradley
- 25 – Lenny Spencer
- 26 – Lela Bryant
- 27 – Cristhina Starke,  
Chris Christenson
- 30 – Evelyn Morgan



MARCH BIRTHDAYS



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

- 3 – John & Linda Marchetti
- 28 – Greg & Kelly Morgan

**Our Servicemen:**

Nathan Wrisinger, Bobby Maze, Brittany Maze, Bo Maze, Derek Morgan, Eric Morgan, MJ Myers, Mark Brubeck, Aaron Bryant, Ryland Sims, Johnathan Lefholz, Jimmy Register, Christopher Gerald, Phil Garrison

**We Pray for:**  
 Mary Williams, Anne Brubeck, Alma Richter, Betty Swisher, Linda & John Larry Marchetti, Lela Bryant, Doris Bradley, Beryl Myatt, Maria Lappert, Kathy Neil, Beth Maxwell Burk, Robert Smith, Steve & Wilma Sellers, Chris & Stephanie Christenson, Katrina Fulton, Jake Means, Frayetta Street, Keith Charles, Rick Failing, Ronnie Barker, Roy Marchetti, Greg Major, Bill & LaVeda Cross, Bonny Bunner, Disaster Victims, & Future of our church  
 Families of Lois Wood, Nancy Mabe, Ruth Pohle, Roy Gabbard, Delbert Best

Leslie Bell PTO is having their second Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, Thursday, April 7th from 5:30-7pm at the Lexington Middle School. The cost of the dinner is \$5.00 per person with children 2 and under free. Take out is available and tickets can be purchased at the door. Basket Raffles and a Silent Auction will also be available. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00.

Baby Grace will be offering a program at Grace United Methodist Church in Higginsville on Autism Tuesday, March 22nd at 7pm to help understand the disorder and assist children with this disorder. Jennifer Zumalt and volunteers will hold Baby Grace Friday, March 25th from 10:30am where parents can pick up diapers and wipes at Lexington United Methodist Church.



"JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, YOU ALSO ARE TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER."  
 JOHN 13:34, ESV

Al-Anon meetings are held at the United Methodist Church every Saturday at 10am .

Please contact the Personnel Committee of Janice Peterson or Janice Mayfield if you are interested in the Treasurer position for the church. Children's Church or Nursery are also available and you can talk with the Personnel Committee or the Christian Education Committee of Candy Myers or Janice Mayfield.

It's that time of year again to start planning for Church Camp. The available camps can be found online at [www.heartlandcenter.org](http://www.heartlandcenter.org). Please see the office if you have any questions or want information about volunteering.



HOLY WEEK Worship Schedule

Holy Week Services will be held at Trinity United Church of Christ this year leading up to Easter Sunday. They will start on Monday, March 21st. Breakfast will be at 6:30am and devotionals will be held at 7am. Each morning a different Minister will deliver the Devotional.

There are lots of committees that help the church run smoothly, please take some time to think about which committee you would like to be a part of. All of us have talents that can be used to better run our church. The Committees for the church are listed below. If you are interested in signing up for one of these committees, please contact a board member.

- Worship Committee
- Building and Grounds Committee
- Fellowship Committee
- Christian Education Committee
- Mission and Outreach Committee
- Stewardship Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Nominations Committee

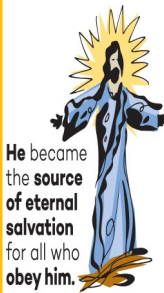
Board Members for 2016 are:  
 Joe Aull, Bob Mitchell, John Morgan, Brenda Meyer, Bonny Bunner, Janice Peterson, Janice Mayfield, Sherry Braden, Candy Myers



HERE'S THE SCOOP

Maundy Thursday Bean and Cornbread Dinner will be held at 6:45pm prior to Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service on Thursday, March 24th at 7:30pm.

To keep connected with the Northwest Area Disciples of Christ, please contact Rev. Bill Rose-Heim at [br\\_h@nwareacc.org](mailto:br_h@nwareacc.org) or (816) 632-2237.



He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.  
 HEBREWS 5:9, NIV

To keep up to date on current events and to see what visitors are seeing when they check out our town on the internet, go to the following websites:  
[www.lexingtonmo.com](http://www.lexingtonmo.com)  
[www.historiclexington.com](http://www.historiclexington.com)  
[www.visitlexingtonmo.com](http://www.visitlexingtonmo.com)  
[www.lafayettecountymmo.com](http://www.lafayettecountymmo.com)

### Easter Joy

Joy is prayer. Joy is strength. Joy is love. Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls. God loves a cheerful giver. One gives most who gives with joy. The best way to show our gratitude to God and people is to accept everything with joy.

A joyful heart is the inevitable result of a heart burning with love. Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of the Christ risen.

—Mother Teresa



### +Christian Symbol+ Ewer and basin

The ewer (a vase-shaped pitcher) and basin, which symbolize cleansing, are related to two biblical events from Holy Week: when Jesus washed his disciples' feet (John 13:1-17), and when Pilate "washed his hands of" Jesus' blood before the crucifixion (Matthew 27:24). Because of the foot-washing, the ewer and basin have become a symbol of service ministry.



### Deliver Us

We sing and say "hosanna" every Palm Sunday but hardly ever in between. So what does that word mean?

That first Palm Sunday, crowds spread their cloaks before Jesus as people had before Jehu to proclaim him king (2 Kings 9:13). They waved palm branches in greeting — a traditional sign of celebration (Leviticus 23:40). And, of course, they shouted, "Hosanna!"

This was an exclamation of "a people in distress [addressing] their king or their god," explains Bible scholar William Barclay. Drawn from Psalm 118:25, hosanna is Aramaic for "save now." By the time of Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, Barclay says, hosanna may have "become to some extent only a cry of welcome and of acclamation, like 'Hail!'; but essentially it is a people's cry for deliverance and for help in the day of their trouble."

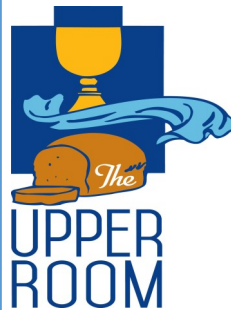
"Hosanna!" is the plea of an oppressed people to the one they recognize as their true king: Jesus, their Savior.

### Vital Community

To monks' vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, St. Benedict added stability, convinced that anyone wanting to grow in Christ must learn to be part of a community. It is, of course, harder to live out Christ's love among people who sometimes annoy us than in isolation. But if love is practiced and no one's around to experience it, is it really love?

In Living the Lord's Prayer (Bethany House), David Timms writes: "[Benedict] knew very well that grace could only flourish when it encountered offense; forgiveness requires conflict; healing emerges from hurt; and strength arises from struggle. Thus, the pathway to true spiritual formation demands long-term engagement with others in community."

When life together gets difficult, we do ourselves no favors by "picking up our toys and leaving"; we'll just encounter new difficulties elsewhere. Rather, by working things out in Christlike love, we grow as followers of Jesus and members of his body.



### Taking Up the Cross

"That's her cross to bear," it's said of someone's hardship or inconvenience. The challenge might be as serious as poverty or as trivial as crabby neighbors. However, when Jesus called people to "take up their cross," he didn't mean it that way. Nor was he referring to anyone imposing suffering on another.

When Jesus said, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24 and parallels), he spoke of a radical new way to engage a society that more often called people to take up swords and fight for self-preservation. He called people to peace, not violence — and from being self-focused to following him.

That is also Jesus' call today. The cross isn't a euphemism that lets us dismiss someone's suffering. We don't appoint someone else to bear it. When we choose the cross, we do so for ourselves in response to Jesus' invitation that, one way or another, ultimately leads through death to new life.

### Life and Death

When some huge, unusual flowers bloomed at botanic gardens in Denver and Chicago, thousands of people waited hours for a peek — and a whiff. The *Amorphophallus titanum*, native to Sumatra, takes up to 20 years to produce a first bloom and then another decade to produce a second. Each blossom lasts just 48 hours and releases an odor similar to rotting flesh (thus the nickname "corpse flower").

Whether it's a massive flower or a human body, nothing on earth lasts. Because of sin, we all reek of death. Only one thing endures: the truth of Scripture and its promises. "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8, ESV).



### Easter Possibilities

The message of Easter is not only that Christ is risen, not only that suffering is not the last word, not only that God gives new life, but this: Nothing is impossible with God.

—The Rev. James Martin, S.J.

### Victory!

The Easter message tells us that our enemies — sin, the curse and death — are beaten. Ultimately they can no longer start mischief. They still behave as though the game were not decided, the battle not fought; we must still reckon with them, but fundamentally we must cease to fear them anymore.

—Karl Barth, Dogmatics in Outline

### The Origin of Easter

It's not certain where the word Easter, which never appears in Scripture, originates. In some places, the day is called Pasch, which comes from "Passover," the festival during which Jesus was crucified. Others call it Resurrection Sunday. Some scholars think the church absorbed the word Easter from pagan roots, because the goddess of spring, Eostre, was celebrated about the same time as Passover. Others suggest the word derives from an old Latin phrase referring to the white robes traditionally worn by people being baptized on the Sunday that celebrates Jesus' resurrection.

*"I am the resurrection and the life."*  
JOHN 11:25



### Said Three Ways

In Scripture, the number three is thought to symbolize completeness — above all, in the Holy Trinity. Dating back centuries, Thursday, Friday and Saturday of Holy Week are, in some Christian practices, called Triduum, or The Three Days.

How appropriate, then, to allow three Christ-followers from different time periods to remind us of the wonder God enacted during those three days:

"God put the wrong on [Christ] who never did anything wrong, so we could be put right with God."

—St. Paul, 2 Corinthians 5:21,

The Message "Through this blessed exchange, in which Christ changes places with us (something the heart can grasp only in faith), and through nothing else, are we freed from sin and death and given his righteousness and life as our own." —Martin Luther

"Nails didn't hold God to a cross. Love did. The sinless one took on the face of a sinner so that we sinners could take on the face of a saint!" —Max Lucado

### The King

Sometimes we speak or shout the truth without realizing just how right we are. That happened during Holy Week, first when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The palm-waving crowd hailed Jesus as their king — though he wasn't the earthly king they wanted.

Days later, during Jesus' trial, Pilate taunted the Pharisees, saying, "Here is your king." Furious, they protested, "We have no king but Caesar." Pilate turned Jesus over to them. But still wanting to needle the insistent persecutors, he wrote a sign reading "The King of the Jews" and had it fastened above Jesus' cross (John 19:19).

Was Jesus a king? Witnesses of the Resurrection thought so. The first Christians were accused of "saying there is another king, Jesus" (Acts 17:7). The writer of Revelation envisions the day when the whole world will understand that the risen Christ isn't only Lord and Savior but also "Lord of lords and King of kings" (Revelation 17:14).

*Follow in Jesus' Steps*



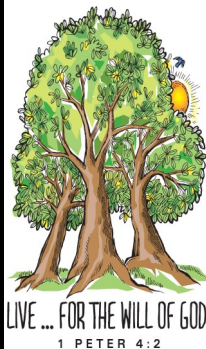
**"I HAVE SEEN THE LORD!"**

### No More Sting

One spring day, a father and son were driving when a bee flew in the window and buzzed around. Because the boy was deathly allergic to bee stings, he panicked. But the calm father reached out and caught the bee in his hand, holding it tight.

After a few moments, the dad reached over, opened his hand and showed his son the stinger, stuck in his palm. "It's okay," the father said. "I took the sting, so the bee can't hurt you."

Likewise, people who know Jesus as their victorious Savior no longer need to fear the sting of death. "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55, ESV).



LIVE... FOR THE WILL OF GOD.  
1 PETER 4:2

### Walking the Faith

As spring buds and temperatures rise, it's fun to get outside and walk. Walking is great for both body and mind. "To solve a problem, walk around," advised St. Jerome. Naturalist Henry David Thoreau agreed, saying, "The moment my legs begin to move, my thoughts begin to flow." Indeed, walking has been linked to improved creativity and reduced anxiety. Some Bible versions translate Ephesians 5:8 "Live as children of light," while others use "walk": "You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light" (NKJV). What a great rendering! Living is something we often do passively and without much thought, while walking is an intentional, active pursuit; we must choose when, where and how we do it.

Now that we're children of light — newly alive springtime people, Easter people! — Jesus urges us to not just live the faith but to walk it. When our faith becomes active, new thoughts flow, anxiety decreases and we make strides in our relationship with Jesus.

—Heidi Mann

### Happy to Help

The International Day of Happiness is observed on March 20 (also the first day of spring this year; coincidence?). Jesus said we'll be happy (or "blessed") when we're meek, merciful, pure and so on (see his Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12). In other words, happiness results from putting others' needs above our own.

Research confirms that helping others boosts people's self-esteem, forges strong friendships, offers a sense of belonging and purpose, decreases stress, increases gratitude and sparks others to "pay it forward." In fact, University of Texas researchers found that the "activism cure" is a great way to overcome bouts of sadness. So get helping — and get happy!



Behold, the Lord GOD helps me; who will declare me guilty?

ISAIAH 50:9, ESV

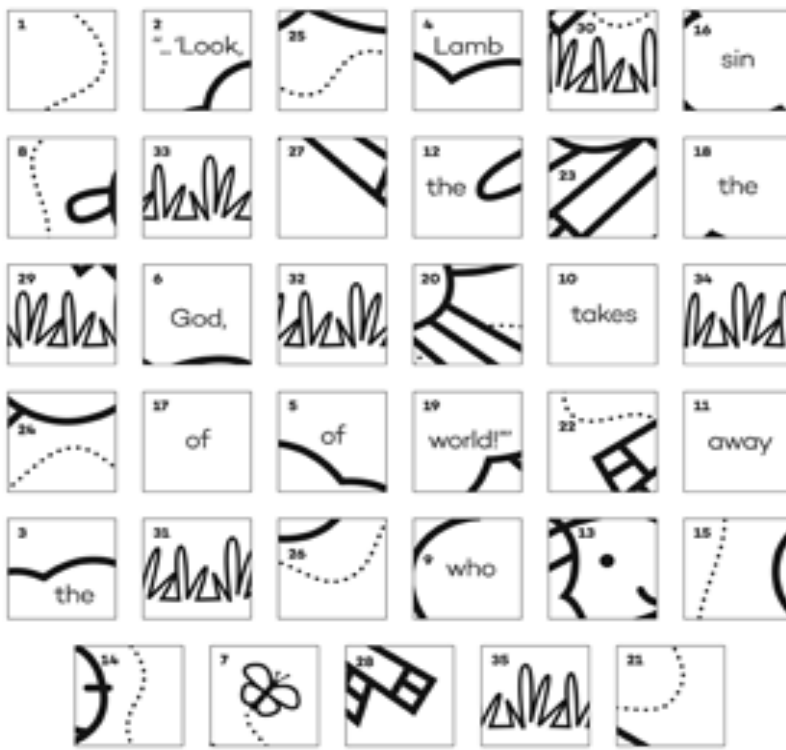


# PUZZLE

## Lamb of God

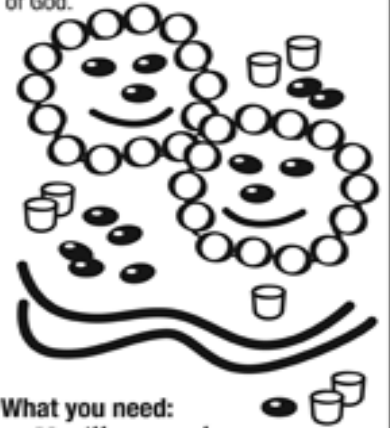
John the Baptist knew Jesus was the Messiah — and offered a special greeting when he saw Jesus.

*Directions: Cut apart the squares and arrange them in a rectangle in numerical order, starting with #1 in the top left and going across to #7. Continue building four more rows of seven squares each, to reveal John 1:29, NIV.*



## LITTLE LAMBS

Make these cute treats as a reminder that Jesus our Savior is also the Lamb of God.

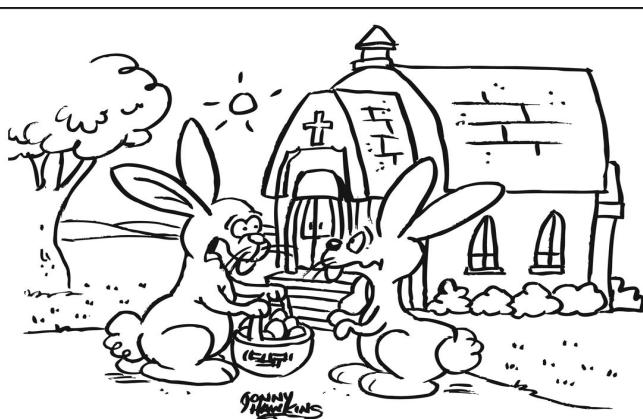


### What you need:

- Vanilla cupcakes
- Vanilla frosting
- Butter knife
- Mini marshmallows
- Jellybeans
- Red licorice

### What you do:

1. Bake and frost the cupcakes.
2. Place marshmallows around the edge of each cupcake.
3. Cut green or blue jellybeans in half and place two on each cupcake as eyes. Cut pink jellybeans in half and place one below each pair of eyes as a nose.
4. Cut thin strips of licorice, and place one on each cupcake as a mouth.
5. Enjoy!



"Here at the church, I only use Resurrection Eggs."

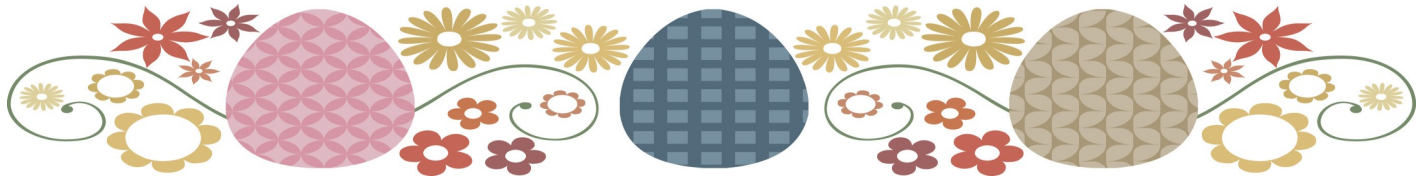


### Bible Quiz

While Jesus was dying on the cross, who mocked him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself"?

- A. Priests
- B. Scribes
- C. Elders
- D. All of the above

Answer: See Matthew 27:41-42.



# MARCH 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10:45 Worship Service and Children's Church Every Sunday		1	2	3	4 World Day of Prayer 9-11 Food Pantry	5
6	7	8	9	10 9-11:30 Discovery Room Preschool Trike-a-Thon-WMA	11 9-11 Food Pantry	12 2pm St. Patrick's Day Parade
13 Daylight Savings Time-Spring Forward 12 Board Meeting	14	15	16 8:30-11:30 60+ Commodities 7pm Choir Practice	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 1-3 Food Pantry	19
20 Palm Sunday	21 6:30am Holy Week Services-	22 6:30am Holy Week Services-	23 6:30am Holy Week Services- 9 FP Home Delivery 7pm Choir Practice	24 6:30am Holy Week Services- 8:30-11:30 Commodities 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service	25 Good Friday 6:30 Holy Week Service 9-11 Food Pantry	26
27 Easter Sunday 10am Choir Practice	28	29	30	31		



Presbyterian Disciples Church  
914 Franklin Ave., PO Box 28  
Lexington, MO 64067  
660-259-2102  
presdisciples@embargmail.com  
Rev. John Swisher

Worship Service 10:45am - 12:00pm  
Childrens Church 11:00am-12:00pm  
All Are Welcome



Minister- Rev. John Swisher  
Organist- Matthew Neil  
Secretary- Candy Myers/Matthew Neil  
Treasurer-Candy Myers (Temp)  
Custodian- MJ Myers  
Children's Church-Candy Myers (Temp)