



## St. Georges United Methodist Church

*Worship. Grow. Serve. Share.*

### From the Pastor's Desk

**April 2021**

Luke 22:61 states, "the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter." Often times we overlook portions of scripture that give us great insight and perspective on the character of God. In this particular portion of scripture, for a split second after Peter denied knowing Jesus, Jesus looked directly at Peter and made eye contact. It was in this moment that Jesus spoke to Peter in ways that words cannot.

Not for a moment, do I believe that Jesus gave Peter a stare of conviction or a look of condemnation. Instead, I believe that Jesus looked deeply into Peter's eyes to re-establish their relationship. Peter was spiritually vulnerable and needed the reassurance of a loving God. Denying Jesus could arguably be considered Peter's greatest failure. Yet, it was also a great opportunity for Jesus to demonstrate grace and mercy. By forgiving Peter, Jesus laid the foundation of Christianity.



I don't know what mistakes you have made in your life or what sinful memories continue to resurface from the archives of your mind. But, what I do know is that Jesus is willing and able to release you from that "Cage of Guilt." God has not given up on any of us. It's just not a part of His nature.

2 Corinthians 5:21 states, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." In reality, the unmerited grace of God is very difficult for us to comprehend. However, Peter's impulsive behavior led to several moments when the grace of God was put on full display. One of those moments took place just a few hours before Peter denied Jesus.



When the religious mob came to arrest Jesus, Peter stood in Jesus' defense. During the skirmish, Peter pulled out a knife and cut off the ear of a man named Malchus. Worst-case scenario, Peter would have served serious jail time for using a deadly weapon in an attempted murder. Yet, we tend to overlook the significance of Jesus reversing the irreversible by reattaching the man's ear.

In one act of amazing grace, Jesus does more than just heal Malchus. Jesus destroys all the evidence against Peter. And, when you really think about it, Jesus has done the same for us. Through Jesus crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus destroyed all the evidence against us, too. In the words of Mark Batterson it was almost as if Jesus said, "You give Me all of your sin. I'll give you all of My righteousness. And, we'll call it even." The spiritual transaction of righteousness that took place on the cross is available to all that believe upon the Name of Jesus.

**Our Challenge:** Imagine the tender eyes of Jesus gazing into your soul with a look of forgiveness. All we must do is ask and we shall receive.

**Let us pray:** Lord, I thank you for your grace and mercy. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Happy Easter,  
Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Rudy



### Donna Goes Walk About....

If you go "walk about" around the church on Sunday morning these days you'll see lots more people than in many months. The last couple Sunday we've had 50 to 55 in attendance including in-sanctuary attendees and those joining us live on Zoom. It is so good to see many in our church family worshipping together again and we look forward to the day when we can all feel comfortable being together again. Even in the midst of this pandemic we have added to our church family! A big welcome to Angela and Noel Williamson and also Don and Claudia Winward. Also, after a year of videos on Facebook geared toward our kids, it was terrific to have Mr. Steve do the children's message in church on March 28<sup>th</sup> after more than year of waiting. Hearing the kids in the sanctuary is a wonderful thing. The Boy Scouts are beginning to get back together, too! As you'll see a little later in this newsletter, they have begun the project of clearing off the



property on the east side of the parking lot. We sure appreciate their help. Things are still not quite back to normal yet but we sure are trying. Many of the congregation are reporting about their first and or second vaccination shot and we are thrilled with the comfort that brings them.

That's all for now. Happy Easter everyone! Stay well and I'll see you soon!

**Donna**



## Food Pantry

The food pantry has moved back outside. The cabinet in front of the church has been restocked with a variety of foods and is open to anyone at any time. If you know of anyone that may be in need of food, please let them know it is there. Our supplies are plentiful at this time but we are always in need of 100% fruit juices. Anyone wishing to donate may leave the items on the tables in the social hall. Thanks to all who have contributed.



## Friendship Star Quilters



This month the quilters will be meeting a week later than usual since spring break is the first week of April. We will meet on Tuesday, April 13 from 9:30 am to 12 noon. Since we have all been busy making quilt tops during the lock down, we now have lots of quilts to layer and finish. It would be helpful if you could bring your sewing machine. Since more and more of us are getting vaccinated we will consider going a full day in May.

## Community Garden

The community garden is starting to take shape. The ground has been worked up and soil sample have been sent to the University of Delaware for evaluation. Those who have expressed interest in having a section have been meeting on Tuesday nights at 7 in the church. There is still time to join in, just come to the meetings on Tuesdays to learn more or contact T.C. Foltz at 302-834-9444. Planting will be starting soon.



“For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. Mark 12:40

## Missions Update

Although the challenges of Winter are behind us (I hope) there are still many things that we can do to help those who are struggling. First and foremost is to pray for them.

I received a request from the Sunday Breakfast Mission (S.B.M.) for "Operation Care Ware". There is an ongoing need for NEW undergarments for those who are hurting and homeless. There is a need for underwear, T-shirts, bras, shower shoes (flip flops) and socks. These are needed for children, women and men-of all shapes and sizes. Imagine how it would feel not to be able to have clean underwear or socks.



Please place any contributions in the black box in the social hall.

My heart is always warmed by the kindness, generosity and love that is shared thru our church family at St. Georges.

Matthew 25:40- "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers (sisters) of mine, you did for me."

Blessings to all,  
Carole Jaques  
Mission/Outreach Chair

## Troop 123 & Ship 123 Update



Scouts Jason and Paul recently earned the welding merit badge.

Troop 123 has taken on the task of clearing the newly acquired property at the rear of the church. There's lots more work to do but they got a great start!



“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” – 1 Peter 1:3



## Happy Birthday

to...

April 4.....Carol McGlothlin

April 5.....David Moore

April 13.....Sue Tobin

April 20.....Matthew Carrico

## Happy Anniversary to...

April 1.....Jim & Sue Gestwicki

“For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

- Mark 12:40

## Office Hours & Contact Information

If you have a prayer request that you would like sent along on the prayer chain, please contact Rudy

White by phone at 302-832-2211, by email at [pastor@stgeorgesumc.com](mailto:pastor@stgeorgesumc.com), or use the prayer wall at

[www.stgeorgesumc.com/prayerwall](http://www.stgeorgesumc.com/prayerwall)

Church office: 302-832-2211

Phone: 302-632-8065 (texting ok)

Email: [office@stgeorgesumc.com](mailto:office@stgeorgesumc.com)

Office hours: M-Thurs 9 to 2

*There are so many pieces in the St. Georges UMC puzzle. Here are few of the faces that you don't always see doing the work of the church.*

*(Thanks to Heidi for the pics!)*



Above is Ed Dorn serving as host of The Zoom meeting on Sunday morning.



When the service is over and everyone else has gone home, you'll find Heidi McEvoy and Jack Harmon taking care of counting the offering.



Jack Harmon has been a faithful servant at St Georges UMC and is currently serving as our Finance Chair.



Taking part in the service as Liturgist is another way that many folks serve. Here's Lay Leader Jim Gestwicki taking his



Sometimes before and sometimes after, you'll find Kim Tobin at the church office desk, keeping the books.



During the pandemic, there is always someone on hand Sunday morning to take everyone's temp as they enter the church. Here, Jack Harmon is taking his turn



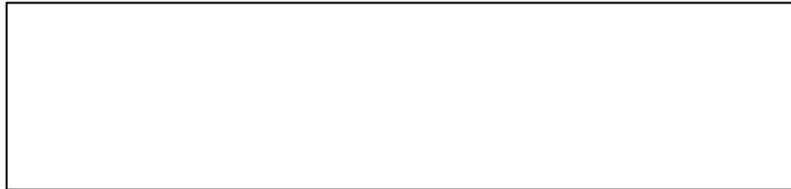
Most Sundays, you will find Donna and Kent at the back of the sanctuary manning the Audio/visual control board. Donna handles the microphones, playing the music for hymns and leading the singing. Kent has the massive job of providing the video feed to downstairs, managing the Zoom meeting, and making sure the service slides are working properly at the front of the sanctuary.



# He Is Risen



St. Georges United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 145  
St. Georges, DE 19733



## Dates to Remember

April 4.....Easter Sunrise Service 6:30am  
April 4.....Easter Sunday Service 10am  
April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29...Game Night via Zoom 6:30pm



Traditional worship service every Sunday @ 10 am  
Sunday School every Sunday morning at 9 am  
Visit our website at [www.stgeorgesumc.com](http://www.stgeorgesumc.com)  
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