



# GIVE POOR THOMAS A BREAK

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APRIL 3, 2016



FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH *of* KENOSHA

April 3, 2016 - 10:30

# Third Sunday of Easter

## Order of Worship to the Glory of God

\*Please rise, in body or spirit

**UMH** = the red United Methodist Hymnal | **TFWS** – the black The Faith We Sing book

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*Quote: "The key to wisdom is this - constant and frequent questioning, for by doubting we are led to question and by questioning we arrive at the truth." - Peter Abelard*

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### Welcome and Announcements

We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship and service.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Joys

We thank God for these blessings.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Concerns

For these persons and all who are in need.

**Hold your people near, O God.**

### Forming the Community

As we gather to worship, we form a unique type of community, focused not on ourselves, but on the Holy One. We need to know one another in order to intentionally form this community of faith. Some have known each other for years, and others do not know anyone present here. By asking three or four people a simple question, we come to know more about them than we knew when we entered this Sanctuary – even the people we have known for many years. Worshiping as a community is quite different from worshiping as a collection of isolated individuals!

Prelude      8:00  
                 10:30

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"  
"I Know that My Redeemer Lives"

arr. Sanborn  
Burkhardt

### \*Call to Worship

In times of great joy

**We give thanks and praise to You, O Christ.**

In times of hardship and trial

**We pray for strength and endurance, O Christ.**

In times of darkness and doubt

**We pray for hope and courage, O Christ.**

In all of life's journey

**We know that Christ is with us.**

**Christ has walked before us, Christ walks with us,  
and Christ will come again. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Praise

"Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain"

UMH 315

Gathering Prayer

**Gracious God, we come to you today with the story fresh, the direction not yet decided, and with there still being many things to fear. Today may we sit with your disciples as they learn your way. May we discover ever more what it is to live this life in you. May we see and understand you joining us in our midst and giving us your peace. Amen.**

Anthem 8:00

"Praising Our Gift of Easter"  
Five for Hymn

arr. James A. Firchow

10:30

"The Angel Rolled the Stone Away"  
Chancel Choir  
Dr. Woodrow Hodges, director

arr. Daniel Meyer

The New Testament Lesson

Acts 5:27-32

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

Ministry with Young Christians

(The congregation sings the chorus of "Jesus Loves Me" (UMH 191) as the children come forward.)

\*Gospel Procession

"Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna"

(Tune: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee")

Christ is risen! Shout hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!  
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder; all creation is amazed.  
In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.  
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.  
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.  
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.  
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

\*The Gospel Lesson

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

\*Gospel Recessional

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.  
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.  
Tell its grim demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"  
God the First and Last is with us. Sing hosanna, everyone!

Sermon

"Give Poor Thomas a Break"

Rev. Tim Berlew

Reception of New Members

UMH 35

Prayer Hymn

"We Walk by Faith"

TFWS 2196

The Church at Prayer

**Risen Christ,  
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:  
open the doors of our hearts,  
that we may seek the good of others  
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,  
to the praise of God the Father. Amen.**

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory 8:00

"Sonata"

Scarlatti

10:30

"Praising Our Gift of Easter"  
Five for Hymn

arr. James A. Firchow

\*Doxology

UMH 95

\*Offertory Prayer

**Thank you, God, for resurrection. We rejoice in Christ as the first fruits of  
all that you make available to us. As you offered Christ to the world, so we  
would offer ourselves. May we, along with our gifts, testify to good news  
of your forgiving love and empowering acceptance. Amen.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

TFWS 2257

Prayer after Communion

**There is nothing that can destroy or contain your life, O God,  
We receive you in the bread and the fruit of the vine,  
but we do not contain you.  
Life - your life - is always slipping through  
the cracks of the world and of our lives, O God,  
We need only to recognize it and respond,  
and in this moment, insofar as we are able, we do. Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn

"Thine Be the Glory"

UMH 308

\*Sending Forth

\*Benediction

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*Postlude

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**piano/organ:** Betty Schripsema

# BEYOND THE OF A DOUBT

I grew up with that phrase. It is often used in crime shows when the jury deliberates. They are called to find the person guilty “beyond the shadow of a doubt”, or the person is acquitted. Of course, that is only the way it works in a TV courtroom. No matter how clear guilt is, there is always just a bit of a shadow. We can only hope for “beyond a reasonable doubt.”

Sometimes, I let my mind wander about things like words or phrases and wonder when they first came into usage. Once again, Google has been my friend. Apparently, the phrase “beyond a doubt” entered common usage around 1300. “Beyond the shadow of a doubt” first enters some news prints in the 1820’s. It then is used by Nathaniel Hawthorne in 1850 in *The Scarlet Letter* – that premier novel about clergy misconduct!

This is the Sunday that we hear about “Doubting

Thomas.” Thomas did amazing things as a disciple of Jesus. It is a pity that one moment of doubt branded him forever. He said that he would not believe if he did not see the nail prints in Jesus’ hands and feet. For many people in our scientific age, the resurrection stands as a stumbling block to faith. Even one of our United Methodist bishops has written of his disbelief in bodily resurrection. It is not that he doesn’t believe in the concept of resurrection, it is just the common belief about it among many Christians is more than he can confess. In his book, *Affirmations of a Dissenter*, Bishop Joseph Sprague writes:

The Essence of God, the eternal Spirit of life that flowed completely in and through Jesus ... abides from everlasting to everlasting. This is the same resurrected Jesus power or Christ Essence that infused the disciples and apostles, called the church into being, makes the wounded whole, forgives sin, reconciles and renews, guides

# SHADOW

history toward justice, drives creation's evolution, and is the foundation of the new age that both is and is to come.

I affirm resurrection, the resurrection of Jesus. God's Essence cannot be killed, buried, or kept from being active in creation and history. God is from everlasting to everlasting.

As we discuss scripture and theology in the church, we need to practice what Brian McLaren calls "a generous orthodoxy." There are people who have many different understandings of some of our core Christian beliefs. There are certainly some that cannot be substantiated through scripture or the tradition of theology. That still leaves a wide variety for interpretation. John Wesley is quoted as saying the following: "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; and in all things, charity." Our denomination is centered more on a commitment

to the basics of Christianity and living a Christian lifestyle than agreeing to a particular set of beliefs. United Methodist people are encouraged to think theologically—to do our own thinking about the details of what we believe about God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Are you one who struggles with faith issues that others seem to believe "beyond the shadow of a doubt?" If so, that is okay. You are one among many. It is in wrestling with our faith that we learn and develop our own theologies.

# THE HIGHLIGHTER

First United Methodist Church

April 3, 2016

## Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

9am-12pm

Mon, Wed, Thu

1pm-3pm

## Contact Information

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### 3rd Annual Women's Day of Fun & Reflection

Sat., April 30

## FAITH FORMATION

will resume next Sunday for children and confirmation

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

New day and time for United Methodist Women planning meeting.

We will meeting on Thursday, April 7th, at 10:00 in the great room.

## BOOK DRIVE

Frank Elementary School is opening a "book store" to allow children to buy books. They are looking for new or gently used books suitable for kids age 3 through grade 6. Cori Hamelink, one of our 6th graders, has taken on the task of coordinating and collecting any donations you have. Today is the last day we will be collecting books. Thank you to everyone who has donated!

## SECOND 50

April 6 - "Advanced Health Care Directive, Part 1"

April 20 - "Advance Health Care Directive, Part 2"

## LAYETTE KITS

Saturday Sisters will be collecting items for the kits in May, BUT if you see any of these items, you can pick them up now and save until then. Some of them are hard to find. Each kit contains cloth diapers, undershirts/onesies, baby wash cloths, sleepers, diaper pins and receiving blankets. All donations to the layette kits will be due on May 29.

## GRIEF SHARE

Your Journey from Mourning to Joy

Beginning Saturday, April 2nd, 10:30AM-Noon, in the Wesley Wing of First United Methodist Church

The care you need; information you can trust. After the funeral when the cards and flowers have stopped coming, most of the people around you return to their normal lives, but your grief continues, and you feel alone.

Often friends and family want to help but don't know how. That's the reason for Grief Share. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and have successfully rebuilt their lives. We understand how you feel because we've been in the same place. We will walk with you on the long path through grief toward healing and hope for the future.

## RECONCILING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Straw Poll. We looked at every ballot, read and discussed every comment, and now we'd like to share the results:

110 total opinion ballots cast

91% affirm (100 ballots)

5% oppose (6 ballots)

4% undecided (4 ballots)

We are very pleased that most of you are open to the idea of adopting the new welcoming statement and joining the almost 750 other congregations in the Reconciling Ministries Network. We're grateful for all the comments we received, both positive and questioning. One of the questions that came up (phrased a couple of different ways) was, "Why do we have to do this? We are a friendly congregation and I don't understand why we have to have this VERY specific statement." Our answer to that is that we need to make it very clear to the community at large that we welcome ALL. WE know that we are friendly and welcoming, but does everyone in Kenosha know that? The LGBTQ community has historically been hurt and excluded by "the church" and because of this, it is not surprising that church attendance in that community is relatively low, even for those who grew up in religious families. But if they knew there was a place here in their own city where they could come and worship God, be a part of a faith community, and be safe and welcomed, wouldn't we want to be that place? We feel it is important to reach out to those who feel "the church" has shunned them in the past.

On April 17 at both services, we will be holding an official vote to adopt this as our church's welcoming statement. Please plan on being present that day in order to cast your vote and make your voice heard. If you have concerns or questions, please stop by our table in the Great Room and talk with us- we'd love to hear from you. Thank you again for all your questions and support. See you on April 17!

## TAI CHI

Mark your calendars! We are celebrating spring In many ways, but one of the happiest for me is meeting on Monday mornings form

HOSPITALITY TEAM FOR

**TODAY**

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT (8:00)**

Scott Tench

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT (10:30)**

Jessica DeBoer

**GREETERS/USHERS (8:00)**

Santhy and Charlie Krass

**USHERS (10:30)**

Pam Herr, Dave Herr, Bruce Kappeler, Ken Abram

**GREETERS (10:30)**

Arlene Olson, June Nelson, Lois Wilson

**WELCOME DESK**

8:00 Ethel Roberts

10:30

HOSPITALITY TEAM FOR

**APRIL 17, 2016**

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT (8:00)**

Judy Tench

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT (10:30)**

KREW

**GREETERS/USHERS (8:00)**

Kathy and Chet Dickow

**USHERS (10:30)**

Bill Milligan, Len Wojciech-  
owicz, Gene Olson, Frank  
Wilson

**GREETERS (10:30)**

Helen Beltoya, Angie Lange

**WELCOME DESK**

8:00 Harriet Wilson

10:30 Marion Pacetti

11:00 to 11:45 for our senior Tai Chi class. Please notice we are starting fifteen minutes late than we did last fall. Our first meeting will be on Monday morning, April 4th. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Pastor Judith

## **YOUTH MISSION TRIP PIZZA FUNDRAISER**

Please support us by buying a fresh pizza from us. You can buy any combination of three pizzas for \$20 and a single for \$7. Money is due at the time of your order. All pizza orders are due on Sunday, April 3 (Sun). Unfortunately, we cannot accept any late orders. The ordering sheet is located in Great Room. Please, sign up to support our mission trip.

**April 3(Sun)-Easter Vacation.  
No Confirmation Class or Youth Group.**

## **VOTE ON TUESDAY, APRIL 5**

One of the most critical ways that individuals can

influence governmental decision-making is through voting. Kenosha residents will be selecting a new mayor, a municipal judge, two school board members, supreme court justice and in some districts, alderpersons and county board supervisors. Plus, all Wisconsin residents will have the chance to cast a Presidential Preference vote. Your vote matters. Exercise your right and civic duty.

## **3RD ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY OF FUN AND REFLECTION**

WELCOMING EVERYONE TO THE TABLE

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30**

9AM - 3PM

\$10 FEE

COME FOR FUN AND REFLECTION.

OPEN TO ALL ADULT WOMEN.

# APRIL

DOWNLOAD CALENDAR INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE AT  
**FIRSTUMCKENOSHA.ORG**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>3</b> 8A EARLY WORSHIP 10:30A LATE WORSHIP	<b>4</b> I I A TAI CHI	<b>5</b> HIGHLIGHTER DEADLINE @ 12P 5:15P RE- SOUNDING JOY REHEARSAL 6P DISCIPLE CLASS-PSALMS 6:30P CHURCH & SOCIETY	<b>6</b> SECOND 50	<b>7</b>  5:30P 5 FOR HYMN 6:15P BOND BELLS 7:15P CHANCEL CHOIR	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> SATURDAY SISTERS 10:30 GRIEFSHARE
<b>10</b> 8A EARLY WORSHIP 9:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30A LATE WORSHIP 5P YOUTH GROUP	<b>11</b> I I A TAI CHI	<b>12</b> HIGHLIGHTER DEADLINE @ 12P 5:15P RE- SOUNDING JOY REHEARSAL 6P DISCIPLE CLASS-PSALMS	<b>13</b> 7P MISSIONS	<b>14</b>  5:30P 5 FOR HYMN 6:15P BOND BELLS 7:15P CHANCEL CHOIR	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10:30 GRIEFSHARE PIZZA MAKING AT WESLEY UMC AT 10A
<b>17</b> 8A EARLY WORSHIP 9:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30A LATE WORSHIP 3P FINE ARTS PRESENTS: FRANK ALMOND, VIOLIN 5P YOUTH GROUP	<b>18</b> I I A TAI CHI	<b>19</b> HIGHLIGHTER DEADLINE @ 12P 5:15P RE- SOUNDING JOY REHEARSAL 6P DISCIPLE CLASS-PSALMS 7P CHURCH COUNCIL	<b>20</b> SECOND 50	<b>21</b>  5:30P 5 FOR HYMN 6:15P BOND BELLS 7:15P CHANCEL CHOIR	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 8A EARLY WORSHIP 9:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30A LATE WORSHIP	<b>25</b> I I A TAI CHI	<b>26</b> HIGHLIGHTER DEADLINE @ 12P 5:15P RE- SOUNDING JOY REHEARSAL 6P DISCIPLE CLASS-PSALMS	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  5:30P 5 FOR HYMN 6:15P BOND BELLS 7:15P CHANCEL CHOIR	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## HAVE SOMETHING FOR THE HIGHLIGHTER?

Submissions are due by noon Tuesdays. Write out an article or calendar item, or call the church office to speak with Shimon, or email him at [shimon@firstumckenosha.com](mailto:shimon@firstumckenosha.com)

## WHAT'S AT THE WELCOME DESK?

### DEVOTIONALS

Upper Room Daily Devotionals and Disciplines are available for purchase.

### EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE

Many varieties of regular, decaf, and flavored coffee, teas and hot cocoa are available. All proceeds benefit the Janecke mission in Bolivia.

### FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Bring your nonperishable food items and deposit them in the collection baskets. Remember the special **SECOND SUNDAY**

**COLLECTION** each month — place your food items on the table on the east wall. The food is donated to the Salvation Army food pantry.

### CHURCH DIRECTORIES

Please call the office with any corrections.

### CAMPBELL SOUP LABELS

The logo and UPC code should be clipped and brought in for submission. Place in container on table by welcome desk.

### GENERAL MILLS BOX TOPS

Place in container on table by welcome desk. Proceeds benefit Brass Elementary School.

### HIGHLIGHTER

In case you miss a Sunday, back issues of the Highlighter (Weekly News) are available.

### SPONSOR A SUNDAY BULLETIN

Would you like to honor someone or celebrate a special occasion? For just \$5.00 you can sponsor a bulletin. Pick up a form at the Welcome Desk.

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## WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Your attendance at worship is important to us. Please fill out the red "Who's who in the Pew" pad, pass it along to your neighbor, return the pad to its starting point, take note of the names of those next to you, and be sure to greet one another after the service. We have a staffed nursery available during worship services.

