

The Meeting House Times

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ
March, 2008



The Wednesday evening format is similar to last year, with the host church providing a delicious soup supper at 5:30, followed by worship and a program or speaker at 6:30.

The remaining Ecumenical Lenten programs are:

March 5th: Sohib Sultan, Muslim Chaplain
Host: Church of St. Mary, Lakeville

March 12th: Rabbi Steve Fuchs
Host: Church of St. Mary, Lakeville

March 16th

The Palm Sunday procession is one of our favorite



church traditions. We will gather on the green in front of the White Hart at 9:50 with our friends and neighbors from Saint John's Church. At 10:00 we will have a brief prayer, strike up the band, and process down Main Street singing "All Glory, Laud and Honor." Those not parading, please note: worship in the Meeting House will begin at about 10:15.



March 20th - 7:30

The service of Tenebrae marks a significant moment of the Lenten season in the Salisbury Congregational Church. Readings from the gospel recount events leading up to the crucifixion, communion is served, and as candles are extinguished, the church is darkened and participants leave in silence. It is a moving and contemplative ser-

vice that brings special meaning to the resurrection celebrated on Easter Sunday.

Whether you are attending for the first time or returning annually, the Deacons of the church encourage your participation. Please consider inviting a friend as well. We look forward to sharing this memorable service with everyone.

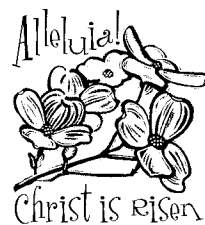
Easter Sunday, March 23rd

You are invited to greet the sun at the Town Grove at 6:55.

Bring the kids, bring your house guests and your neighbors to this informal ecumenical community service. We stand in a semicircle facing the eastern side of the lake, and if there are



no clouds, we watch a glorious sunrise as we pray, sing and celebrate the resurrection at daybreak, as did Mary and the women who were the first witnesses of the empty tomb. After the worship we enjoy coffee, doughnuts and fellowship in the Grove building.



Festive Easter Service at 10:00

The worship begins at 9:45 when our bell choir plays a joyous prelude. The service will feature a sermon by Mr. Taber and music by our Senior Choir, including the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's "Messiah." After the benediction, Al Sly will play the Widor "Toccata," a fitting and inspiring celebration of Christ's resurrection.

Handbell Choir Concert - Wednesday, March 26th at 4:00 in the Community Room at Noble Horizons.



Everyone is welcome to attend.



Friday, March 7th - 2:00
St. John's Church, Salisbury

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of women and men of many faith traditions who come together each year

to observe a common day of prayer on the first Friday in March. Throughout the day, we collectively pray all over the world, beginning with the first sunrise and ending at the last sunset; our prayers follow the sun's path around the globe.

This year the theme is "God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding" to express the awesomeness of His creation and how we can learn from it. As we survey God's work, we are filled with awe at the beauty and diversity, and we begin to understand that we are called to care for all of creation. World Day of Prayer's motto, "Informed prayer leads to prayerful action," affirms that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence. As we observe WDP 2008, millions of God's people are suffering from violence, neglect, poverty, and political injustice. Women and children, especially, are denied basic human rights and are victims of those who would exploit them and abuse them.

We encourage you to begin thinking about actions you can take to further support the 2008 theme, calling us to understand the needs within God's creation - to hear and come to the aid of those who are denied justice, self-determination and opportunity, globally and locally.

We hope you will join us for this day of prayer. All men and women are invited.



Join Us For Supper



There will be a potluck supper on Friday, March 14th at 5:30 for anyone and everyone who would like a casual evening out. Bring a large main dish or salad (either homemade or take-out) to share. Dessert and beverage will be provided.

You don't have to RSVP but you can if you want to: Barbara Collins (435-0051) or Sarah Rydingsword (435-9479). Give us a call if you would like a ride. Bad weather? Check with us before you come. We might be at church - 435-2442.

Associate Pastor Search Committee Survey Results Due March 9th

The Associate Pastor Search Committee has been meeting regularly and compiling our Local Church Profile, the first major step in the search process. The informal survey meetings we have held with members and friends have been informative and productive, and the last one is scheduled for Sunday, March 2nd, at 11:15.



In order to assess our church's needs and present a realistic picture of who and where we are as a Christian community, the committee needs the help of all churchgoers. We mailed everyone a printed survey; please complete all the questions you can as thoroughly as you can and return it to the church office by Sunday, March 9th. We need to compile and analyze the results and move onto the next step.

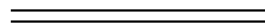
Many thanks for your thoughts and comments!

For the Search Committee, Lee Collins

Betsy Beck, Lee Collins, Jane Elwood,
John Estabrook, Mike Fitting, Kathy Mera,
David Rich, Sarah Rydingsword, Sara Wardell

On Sunday, February 17th, we were happy to welcome into membership:

Rachel Child, Michelle Kinzinger,
Jen Kronholm, Anthony O'Niel,
Robert and Jeanette Weber.



The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected during the service on Palm Sunday. Please give generously to this UCC world-wide effort that is

"Sharing Resources, Changing Lives."

Taber Talk

As a died-in-the-wool Episcopalian, my father-in-law was anxious to attend a traditional Good Friday service. The community service that used to rotate from St. John's to Trinity Church, Lime Rock had gone by the boards, I presume because of lack of attendance. When I learned that there would be a service at the Lutheran church in Cornwall, we made the trip.

Several clergy of diverse persuasions offered brief sermons which I found to be very interesting. A lot of thought and preparation had gone into their reflections on the seven words from the cross. I had wondered if there would be room in that small sanctuary for all who would come and take part in the worship. Silly me. I can't be entirely sure but I would venture to guess that Tom and I were the only worshipers who were not related to the preachers and participants.

It is sad to me that so many people jump from the celebration of Christmas to the celebration of Easter with little, if any, engagement with Christ's passion. I always think of the old saying "No Cross, No Crown." Jesus, God's only Son, died on the cross to redeem us from our sins and to make possible a new relationship with God. Because God was before the big bang and will be forevermore, we can embrace the hope of eternal life in and through Him.

Hymn 163 is not much fun to sing:

"Ah, Holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
That man to judge thee hath in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted.

For me, kind Jesus, was thy incarnation,
Thy mortal sorrow and thy life's oblation;
Thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
For my salvation."

But these hymns and scriptures are, in my view, an important part of the work of Lenten preparation.

It is for this reason that I feel so strongly about our Tenebrae service. It is a time for us to feel the passion. I know that many of you may not be able to attend, so may I suggest reading and reflecting on hymn 179, "O Sacred Head now Wounded," as well as hymn 163. You may also wish to read the passion narrative: Matthew 26:12 to 28:61 and parallel passages in the other gospels.

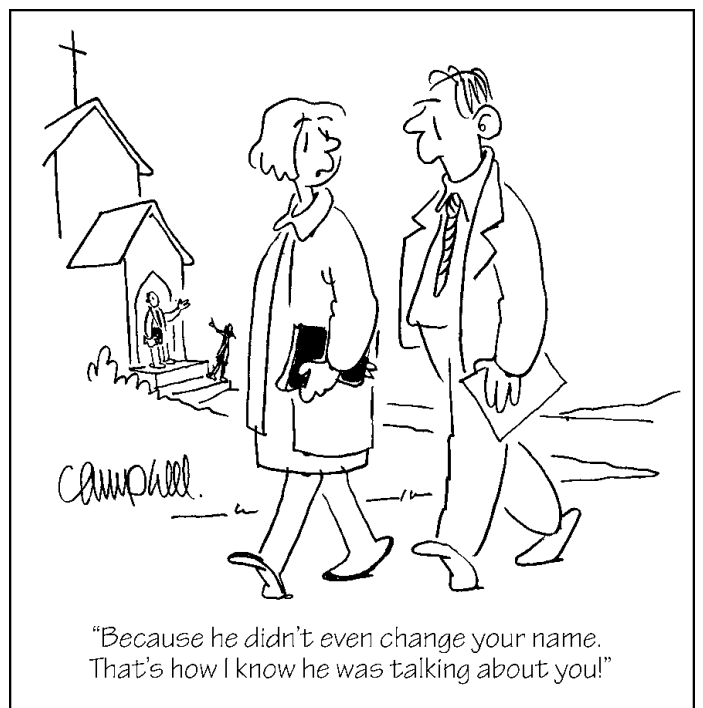
May the Spirit of God help to prepare your heart to celebrate the good news of Christ's victory over death and the grave and help you live in the hope that we may also experience resurrection in this world and the next.

Have a blessed Easter! Dick

Do You Know Someone Who's "Under the Weather?"

If you or someone you know is in or going into the hospital or "laid up" at home, please remember to call the church office (435-2442) or contact Pastor Dick Taber at salisbury.church@sbcglobal.net. New privacy regulations make it more difficult for us to hear about people "through the grapevine." We want to minister to you.

The Crain's are expecting their third child in September. In addition to prayers for a healthy baby, all prayers for a girl are appreciated!





in March

- 4th Desean Taber
- 6th David Helming
- 9th Katrina Martin, George Kellogg
- 10th Dave Heck
- 13th Carrie Babigian, Hawk Blumert
- 14th Matthew Alexander, Lester Lipton,
Mike Ongley, Debra Palmer
- 17th Leanne LaFosse
- 18th Hawk Blumert, Samantha Wilson
- 21st Rebecca Offensend
- 23rd Barbara Branchina, Karin Noyes
- 27th Bill Fox
- 28th Tom Townsend
- 31st Lauren Hanlon, Sarah Zarbock

Special dates

- o Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 2nd
- o World Day of Prayer - Friday, March 7th
- o Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 9th
- o Girl Scout Sunday - March 9th
- o Daylight-Saving Time begins -
Sunday, March 9th
- o Palm Sunday - March 16th
- o Holy Week - March 16th - 22nd
- o First Day of Spring
and Maundy Thursday - March 20th
- o Good Friday - March 21st
- o Easter Sunday - March 23rd

March Calendar (continued)

Friday, the 28th:

- Men's Bible Breakfast - 7:15
- Bible Study - 1:00

- Sunday, the 30th:** Worship and
Church School - 10:00
Youth Fellowship - 5:00 to 7:30

Our March Calendar

- Sunday, the 2nd:** Worship with
Communion - 10:00
Board of Trustees - 11:15
Confirmation class with sponsors - 5:00 to 7:30

- Wednesday, the 5th:** Prayer group - 10:15
Lenten supper and program - St. Mary's - 5:30

Friday, the 7th:

- Men's Bible Breakfast - 7:15
- Bible Study - 12:30
- World Day of Prayer - St. John's - 2:00

- Sunday, the 9th:** Worship and Church School - 10:00
Board of Christian Action - 11:15
Youth Fellowship - 5:00 to 7:30
Search Committee surveys due

- Wednesday, the 12th:** Lenten supper
and program - St. Mary's - 5:30

Friday, the 14th:

- Men's Bible Breakfast - 7:15
- Bible Study - 1:00
- Potluck supper - 5:30

Sunday, the 16th: Palm Sunday

- Parade forms at White Hart green - 9:50
- Worship and Church School - 10:15
- Church Council - 11:30

- Wednesday, the 19th:** Prayer group - 10:15

March 20th: Maundy Thursday

- Service of Tenebrae with Communion - 7:30

Friday, the 21st: Good Friday

- NO Bible study groups

Sunday, the 23rd: Easter Sunday

- Sunrise service - Town Grove - 6:55
- Worship - 10:00 NO Church School
- Crib/Toddler care provided

Wednesday, the 26th:

- Bell Choir concert - Noble Horizons - 4:00

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

This craft is a reminder of God's love for the world and of Jesus' sacrifice for everyone.

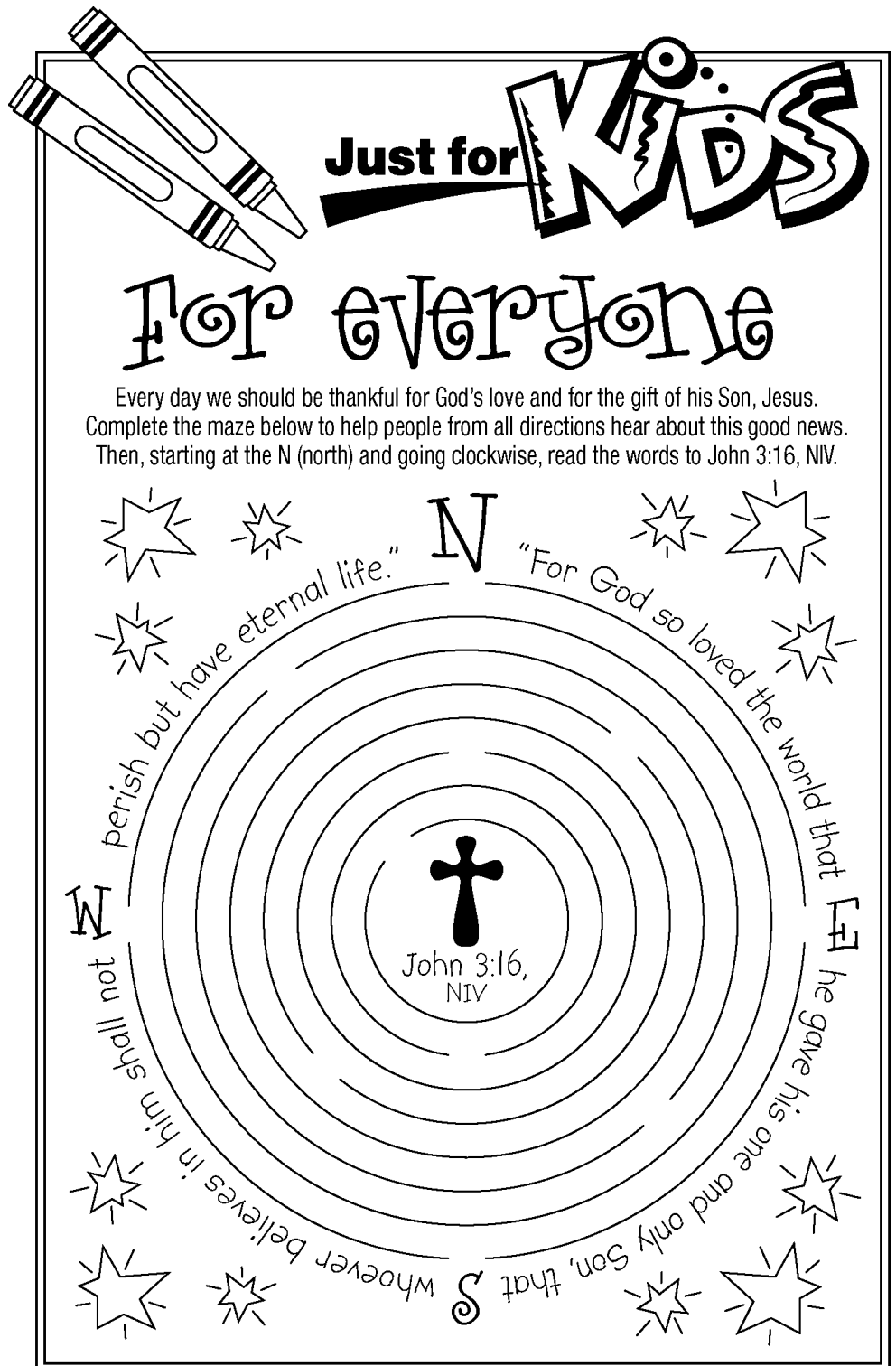
What you need:

- Two pieces of 8 1/2" x 11" white or light-blue construction paper
- Circle shape that fits paper (plastic lid or paper plate)
- Black marker or crayon
- Masking tape
- Shallow box, box lid or old cookie tray
- Blue and green paint
- Two paper plates
- Two marbles
- Two plastic spoons
- Scissors



What you do:

1. On one piece of paper, trace the circle shape.
2. Using two pieces of masking tape, make a cross in the center of your circle.
3. Place your paper inside the box, box lid or cookie tray.
4. Pour blue paint onto one paper plate and green onto the other. Place one marble in each color of paint.
5. Using a spoon, take out one marble at a time and place on your paper.
6. Roll each marble back and forth, around and around, alternating between colors.
7. After your circle looks like the planet Earth with lots of blue and green, cut out the circle.
8. Glue the circle onto another piece of paper.
9. Around the circle, write the words to John 3:16, NIV: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
10. Take off the masking tape and see the cross that's left. Keep your artwork as a reminder of how much God loves you!



WHY GOD MADE MOMS Answers given by 2nd grade school children to the following questions:

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

What kind of little girl was your mom?

1. My Mom has always been my mom and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
3. They say she used to be nice.