

FOCUS ON *FAITH*



Volume 51, Number 4
2021



A P R I L

10:15 am—WORSHIP

Join us for worship each Sunday at 10:15 am

You'll find us on [YouTube](#)
or call 855-883-5992 to listen.

LEAD PASTOR: Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Stevenson
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST: Dennis J. Duda

Faith United Church of Christ

5992 Route 378

Center Valley, PA 18034

610-282-3939

faithchurchcv@gmail.com

www.faithchurchucc.org

We are an Open & Affirming Congregation



No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

*United with Christ,
we are committed
to sharing the
transformative love
of God's
grace and peace
through service
to our neighbors.*

2021 Consistory

Officers:

President: Becky Hite

Vice President: Mike Ford

Secretary: Mary Ellen Long

Elders:

Mike Ford

Jerry Trexler

Becky Hite

Kim Ritter

Deacons:

Tom Berghold

Mary Ellen Long

Brenda Hovis

Ken Koehnlein

Tracy Adams

Justin Koser

Matt Long

Joan Hassler

Church Treasurer: Deb Herstine

Liaisons:

Christian Ed: Mike Ford

Fellowship/Outreach: Matt Long

Enduring /Mem. Gifts: Mary Ellen Long

Property: Ken Koehnlein

Staff Relations: Joan Hassler

Worship: Kim Ritter

Budget/Finance: Jerry Trexler

Mission: Tracy Adams

Youth Group: Becky Hite

Day Care: Pastor Bruce

Fundraising: Brenda Hovis

Choir: Tom Berghold



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Every holiday has its traditions. Birthdays have cakes. Christmas has trees, poinsettias, and many types of decorations. Easter has baskets, eggs, chocolate, and ... lilies.

If never been a big fan of the Easter Lily. True, they are quite pretty but I find their aroma too strong, strong enough that they trigger my allergies! Give me a tulip over a lily any day of the week!

However, just as there are meanings behind all holiday symbols, so are there meanings behind the Easter Lily. Easter is upon us and so why not pause to learn the symbolism behind the Easter Lily?

There are several theories about Christian symbolism surrounding the Easter Lily. Sometimes the lily is referred to as "white-robed apostles of hope." Their color (white) is a reminder of the purity of Christ. There are many paintings, in which the angel Gabriel is depicted as handing Mary white lilies, which symbolizes her purity as well. The trumpet shape of the Easter lily represents a trumpet sounding the message that Jesus has risen.

The nature in which lilies grow is symbolic of the resurrection as well. From ugly bulbs that are underground for three years (Get it? Will rise on the third day?) or longer, they become beautiful flowers. This process is reminiscent of Jesus's brutal death and holy resurrection. Thus, lilies represent rebirth and hope, just as the resurrection does in the Christian faith.

Lilies are also mentioned several times in the Bible. Some think that it was white lilies that sprouted in the Garden of Eden as Eve's remorseful tears fell to the ground. There are also theories that Easter lilies grew where Jesus's tears and blood fell from the cross, and lilies were supposedly found in the Garden of Gethsemane after the

crucifixion, tying them even closer to the Easter holiday.

In Matthew 6:25-29, Jesus says, "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 important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?"

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all of his splendor was dressed like one of these."

And so as Easter Lilies are pretty if we ponder more than their appearance they remind us of something much deeper.

Have a Blessed and Safe Easter,



Maundy Thursday Live Stream Service

April 1—7:30 pm

Maundy is the English form of the Latin word meaning *commandment*. Jesus' new commandment to "love one another even as I have loved you" is the focus of Maundy Thursday.



FOR THE KIDS!
Drive –By Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 3rd
1-2 pm

On **Saturday, April 3**, we will have a “Drive-by Easter Egg Hunt” for our youth. Drive by the side of the church, under the car port, meet your Sunday School teachers, and receive some Easter treats!



E A S T E R

Sunday



Morning Outdoor
Vespers Service
9-9:30 am

in front of the sanctuary
weather permitting

Music by Darin Jellison &
John Barone.

Our traditional
Worship Service will
be live streamed at
10:15 am.

Communion will
be served.

Please prepare your elements
prior to worship so
you can take part
during the service.



We are thrilled to let you know that **Faith UCC plans to reopen for in person worship service** in Mid April! There were many different committee meetings and sharing of ideas to get to this exciting decision!

In the coming weeks you will see a few things:

- 1) **A survey about reopening:** So we can best prepare for a return to worship. (Click [HERE](#) to complete the survey.) Those of you who do not use the computer will find a printed survey and a self-addressed stamped envelope included with your newsletter. Please complete the survey and mail at your earliest convenience.)
- 2) **Our Faith UCC reopening plan:** The church will look different and we want to provide those details prior to worship. (See opening plan on next 3 pages.)
- 3) **Faith UCC Covid Screening form:** We will need to utilize an on-line screening/registration form for each church service attended. (Congregants may also call the church and leave a message to make a worship reservation by 4pm the Wednesday prior to the Sunday service they wish to attend.)

Stay tuned for more details on our first service back!

-The Consistory

Puzzle Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6 NIV



FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHURCH REOPENING PLAN

POLICY CONSIDERATION

Our congregants and visitors embrace worship as an essential part of life. Gathering for worship is at the heart of what it means to be a community of faith. We establish this plan in preparation to reconvene for in-person worship, while still working to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

SUNDAY WORSHIP PLANS

1. **MAXIMUM CAPACITY**— A maximum capacity for the sanctuary has been established using recommended calculation methods. Only 75 people, which will include church staff and worship leaders will be allowed into the narthex and sanctuary. Calculation for capacity is used to ensure proper social distancing.
2. **RESERVATION SYSTEM**—A reservation system will be utilized to cap maximum attendance at each worship service.
 1. An on-line reservation system will be used and sent out each Wednesday am. <https://forms.gle/FXPwasE4sMxrcTcK7>
 2. Congregants may also call the church and leave a message to make a worship reservation by 4pm the Wednesday prior to Sunday service they wish to attend.
 3. Once maximum capacity is reached, attendees have the following options to participate in worship.
 - Through live streaming via youtube at home - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoS4wr4xIyVDTvOakhPAEow>
 - Watching at a later date/time via facebook/youtube/church website
 - Listen over the phone with live phone streaming 1-855-883-5992 (toll free)

3. PRIOR TO RE-OPENING—All worship materials, hymnals, bibles, pew pads, pencils, envelopes, etc. must be removed from the pews

-All materials in the narthex, crayons, coloring books, etc., must be removed -Any bulletin board material must be in a plastic sleeve so it is able to be cleaned.

-Coffee Station must be cleared

-Only the center aisle will be used, outside aisle doors of narthex will remain closed.

-Sanctuary pews must be divided in a checkerboard pattern to create and maintain social distancing

4. UPON ARRIVAL FOR WORSHIP SERVICES—Doors to the church will remain closed and locked until 15 minutes prior to each worship. Masks are required when entering the church, if you do not have one Faith UCC will provide a mask for you. Two hand sanitizing stations are available in the narthex.

1. Gathering outside the church is discouraged.

2. Anyone gathering outside the church is expected to wear masks and social distance.

3. Side Entrance will be used.

4. Congregants will be seated in the sanctuary by an Usher, once seated, Congregants are asked to remain in place throughout the service.

5. There will be no gathering in the church narthex or aisles.

6. Restrooms are available and are single use only.

5. DURING WORSHIP SERVICES

1. Masks are always required .

2. Congregants are asked to remain in place, and not move about the sanctuary.

3. Congregants are to refrain from engaging in handshakes, hugs, or other physical contact with others at the worship service.

4. There will be no shared worship materials.
 - i. Technology will replace paper for bulletins and other written material.
 - ii. Projection of prayers and texts on screens will be used.
5. Congregational singing will be suspended.
6. There will be no use of communal items, such as offering plates, elements plates, etc.
7. Stationary baskets will be placed at the entrance to the sanctuary for offerings.
8. The Pastor will not greet congregants at the door prior to or after the service.
9. Windows will be open for airflow so please dress accordingly.

6. POST WORSHIP SERVICES

1. Head usher will conduct the dismissal, controlling the number of people exiting at one time.
2. Every effort will be made to control the “cross flow of foot traffic” when leaving
3. Social distancing is expected during entering or exiting the building.
4. Exit will be the front doors.

7. SANITATION AND HYGIENE

1. Hand sanitizer stations will be readily available throughout the building.
2. Since we will not have multiple services the sanctuary and narthex will be closed and locked for 3 days to give the virus time to die. The regular cleaning from the Sexton will be sufficient.

This concludes the plan for Phase 1 – Worship Services.

Other phases of re-opening will be announced in the future as needed.

Betty Lou's Pantry Hygiene Kits have been Distributed



Water is life. Water is love. Let love flow.

March & April are **One Great Hour of Sharing** Month.
To learn more about OGHS visit <https://www.ucc.org/oghs/>

Join us on Sunday, April 11th for a OGHS Mission Moment!

For those of you who give online through Tithe.ly—there is a designation for OGHS. For those mailing in donations, please designate your offering OGHS.

How Did You Do With the 40 Days—40 Items Challenge?



Kim Ritter has
3 bags ready
to go to
Purple Heart
and
Animals in Distress!



Bonnie Stenroos
has also been busy
gathering items
to donate
to
Salvation Army!

Thank you both for taking part in the **40 Days—40 Items Challenge!** We are still accepting pictures for next months newsletter—deadline is April 10th.

Within Our Church Family

Andrew and Ashley Sosnowsky welcomed a baby girl, **Zina Faye**, on October 29, 2020. **Zina was baptized** on Sunday, March 21, 2021. *God's blessings to all!*



“The very first Easter taught us this:

that life never ends and love never dies.”

—Kate McGahan



FROM THE TREASURER— FEBRUARY FINANCIALS

	FEBRUARY
Receipts	\$15,511.11
In from Savings	\$10,000.00
Disbursements	\$21,265.88
	\$4,245.23

	Weekly Offering
2/7	\$ 1,425
2/14	\$ 2,175
2/21	\$ 1,192
2/28	\$ 2,270
tithe.ly	\$ 2,752
Total	\$ 9,814

Special Offering

OCWM - \$30
 Blankets - \$1,250
 Haiti - \$510
 Joyful Noise - \$55

Out of Ordinary Expenses -
 Snow Plowing \$2,225

Watch our Live Stream Service each Sunday morning at
 10:15 am **on YouTube** -

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/
 UCoS4wr4xIyVDTvOakhPAEow/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoS4wr4xIyVDTvOakhPAEow/videos)

*Our telephone system to listen to the services is currently out
 of commission. We will keep you posted when the issues
 are solved.*



From the Secretary:

The **deadline** for **May Newsletter** articles and information is **April 10th**. Please email to faithchurchcv@gmail.com or place them in the Secretary's mailbox in the conference room or on her desk.



CURRENT NEEDS AT BETTY LOU'S PANTRY

The pantry is well stocked but could use

SPAGHETTI SAUCE

MEAL HELPERS

(Chicken/Tuna/Hamburger Helper)

Drop your donations at Center Valley or Coopersburg Post Offices or the Library. Donations can also be dropped off on Wednesday mornings between 9-10 am at BLP. Thank you for your continued support.

If you are in need or know of someone in the area who is, please call **610-282-2838** and leave a message, or email **bettylouspantry18036@gmail.com**

2021 Lawn Crew Schedule - We need your help!
continued on next page...

04/19/2021	Tim Hovis	484-223-9476
04/26/2021	Brian Bross	484-223-5171
05/03/2021	Russ Shelly	610-360-4469
	Tony DiSanto	610-653-3403
05/10/2021	Terry Muth	484-894-4669
	Glen Gunkle	610-838-1266
05/17/2021	Scott Christman	610-428-1182
	NEED VOLUNTEER	
05/24/2021	Steve Sosnowsky	610-248-9306
	NEED VOLUNTEER	
05/31/2021	Kevin Long	610-751-4653
	Tony DiSanto	610-653-3403

06/07/2021	Dwayne Schantz	610-797-4994
	Bob Shelly	610-965-7999
06/14/2021	Tim Hovis	484-223-9476
06/21/2021	Steve Sosnowsky	610-248-9306
	NEED VOLUNTEER	
06/28/2021	NEED VOLUNTEERS	
07/05/2021	Brett Dill	610-850-2679
	Jack Maginn	610-533-3044
07/12/2021	Chuck Talboo	610-282-1552
	Randy Hughes	610-967-5061
07/19/2021	Kevin Long	610-751-4653
	NEED VOLUNTEER	
07/26/2021	Scott Christman	610-428-1182
	NEED VOLUNTEER	
08/02/2021	Brett Dill	610-850-2679
	Jack Maginn	610-533-3044
08/09/2021	Tom Hovis	610-282-3450
	NEED VOLUNTEER	
08/16/2021	Terry Muth	484-894-4669
	Glenn Gunkle	610-838-1266
08/23/2021	Tom Herstine	610-797-7129
	NEED VOLUNTEER	
08/30/2021	Tim Hovis	484-223-9476
09/06/2021	Dwayne Schantz	610-797-4994
	Roger Erney	610-797-7227
09/13/2021	Bruce Torrence	610-282-4081
	Wes Koser	610-841-7077
09/20/2021	NEED VOLUNTEERS	
09/27/2021	Brian Bross	484-223-5171
10/04/2021	Tim Hovis	484-223-9476

For MANY, MANY years our dedicated lawn crew members have kept the property looking great! They continue to do so and we thank them. BUT—it's time to get some additional help. If you can fill in one of the NEED VOLUNTEER spots, please contact Tim Hovis @ 484-223-9476.

Believing in

Sometimes we get caught up in thinking we need to understand God in order to have faith. But faith is more about trust than knowledge; it's more about believing in someone than believing information. A child, for instance, doesn't have to know the precise roads to Grandma's house; he only needs to believe *in* his parents and their ability and desire to get him there safely. Similarly, we need not understand all the intricacies of how God works; we can take a cue from the disciples and let belief *in* the risen Christ transform and empower us.



In the words of Madeleine L'Engle (*The Rock That Is Higher*): "The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and

then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid."



APRIL BIBLE READINGS

April 1

Zech. 9:9–12

1 Tim. 6:12–16 *or*

Zech. 12:9–11, 13:1,
7–9

Luke 19:41–48

April 2

Lam. 1:1–2, 6–12

2 Cor. 1:1–7

Mark 11:12–25

April 3

Lam. 1:17–22

2 Cor. 1:8–22

Mark 11:27–33

April 4

Lam. 2:1–9

2 Cor. 1:23—2:11

Mark 12:1–11

April 5

Lam. 2:10–18

1 Cor. 10:14–17,
11:27–32

Mark 14:12–25

April 6

Lam. 3:1–9, 19–33

1 Peter 1:10–20

John 13:36–38 *or*

John 19:38–42

April 7

Lam. 3:37–58

Heb. 4:1–16

Rom. 8:1–11

April 8

Exod. 12:1–14

John 1:1–18 *or* Isa.
51:9–11

Luke 24:13–35 *or*

John 20:19–23

April 9

Exod. 12:14–27

1 Cor. 15:1–11

Mark 16:1–8

April 10

Exod. 12:28–39

1 Cor. 15:12–28

Mark 16:9–20

April 11

Exod. 12:40–51

1 Cor. 15:(29) 30–41

Matt. 28:1–16

April 12

Exod. 13:3–10

1 Cor. 15:41–50

Matt. 28:16–20

April 13

Exod. 13:1–2, 11–16

1 Cor. 15:51–58

Luke 24:1–12

April 14

Exod. 13:17—14:4

2 Cor. 4:16—5:10

Mark 12:18–27

April 15

Exod. 14:5–22

1 John 1:1–7

John 14:1–7

April 16

Exod. 14:21–31

1 Peter 1:1–12

John 14:(1–7) 8–17

April 17

Exod. 15:1–21

1 Peter 1:13–25

John 14:18–31

April 18

Exod. 15:22—16:10

1 Peter 2:1–10

John 15:1–11

April 19

Exod. 16:10–22

1 Peter 2:11—3:12

John 15:12–27

April 20

Exod. 16:23–36

1 Peter 3:13—4:6

John 16:1–15

April 21
Exod. 17:1–16
1 Peter 4:7–19
John 16:16–33

April 22
Exod. 18:1–12
1 John 2:7–17
Mark 16:9–20

April 23
Exod. 18:13–27
1 Peter 5:1–14
Matt. (1:1–17) 3:1–6

April 24
Exod. 19:1–16
Col. 1:1–14
Matt. 3:7–1

April 25
Exod. 19:16–25
Col. 1:15–23
Matt. 3:13–17

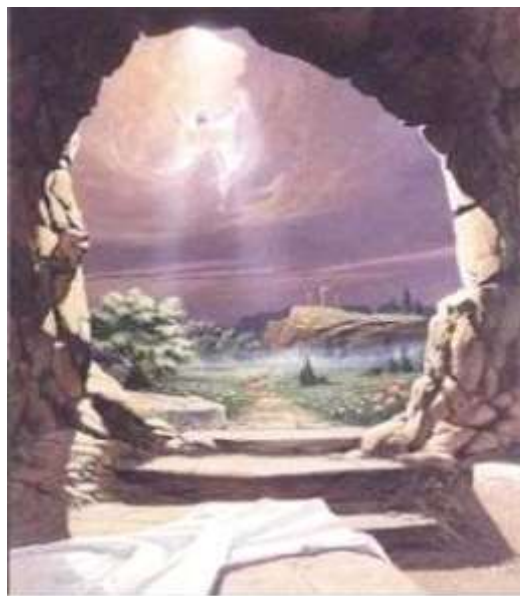
April 26
Exod. 20:1–21
Col. 1:24—2:7
Matt. 4:1–11

April 27
Exod. 24:1–18
Col. 2:8–23
Matt. 4:12–17

April 28
Exod. 25:1–22
Col. 3:1–17
Matt. 4:18–25

April 29
Exod. 28:1–4, 30–38
1 John 2:18–29
Mark 6:30–44

April 30
Exod. 32:1–20
Col. 3:18—4:6 (7–18)
Matt. 5:1–10



He
Arose!



SUNRISE SURPRISE

The hidden surprise in these sweet rolls hints at the reason behind Easter's joy.

What you need:

- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 10 uncooked frozen rolls, thawed
- 10 large marshmallows
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ cup melted butter
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- Adult help

What you do:

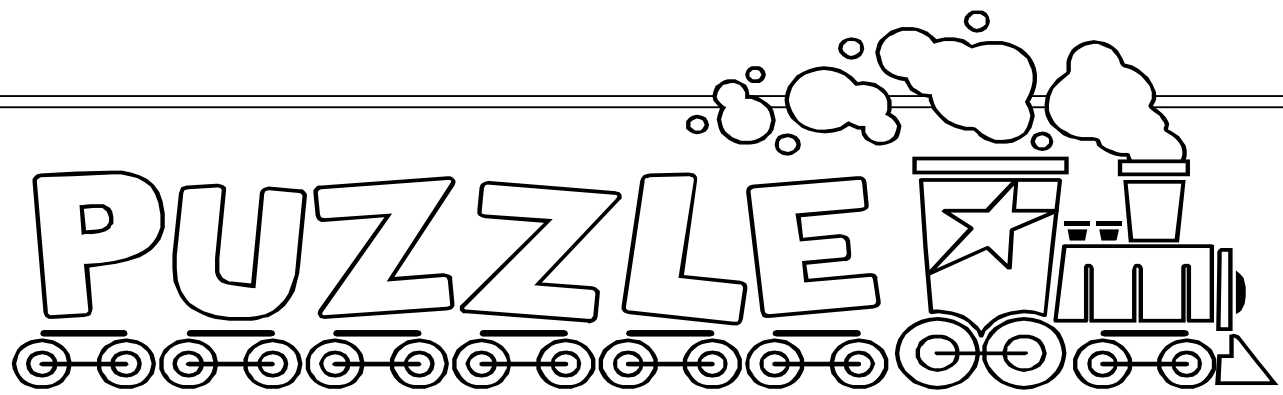
1. Grease a round baking dish. Sprinkle pecans on the bottom.
2. Flatten each roll. Place a marshmallow in the center, wrap dough around it and pinch edges together.
3. Combine sugar and cinnamon. Dip each roll into melted butter and coat with cinnamon-sugar. Place in pan, seam side down.
4. Sprinkle brown sugar and remaining butter over rolls. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise 30 minutes.
5. Bake at 350 degrees until golden brown, about 30 minutes. Cool in pan.
6. As you bite into a roll, you'll see the marshmallow has melted, leaving an empty center — just like Jesus' empty tomb!

April

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|-----|----------------|
| 2 | Marge Kichline | 25 | Nancy Schantz |
| 3 | Sue Walter | | Vaughn Stoffey |
| | Rylie Maginn | 27. | Tyler Schaffer |
| 5 | Lisa Allison | | Karli Hieter |
| 6 | Mary Ellen Long | 28 | Tom Hovis |
| | Bonnie Leight | | Kevin Gollie |
| 7 | Jill Heineman | 29 | Adam Weidner |
| 10 | Kay Ruser | | |
| 11 | Adam Heineman | | |
| | Avery Koser | | |
| 12 | James Snyder | | |
| | Chris Miller | | |
| 13 | Corinne Gunkle | | |
| 16 | Ryan Schoenberger | | |
| 22 | Jan Hughes | | |
| | Sonya Dill | | |
| 23 | Dee Hutchinson | | |



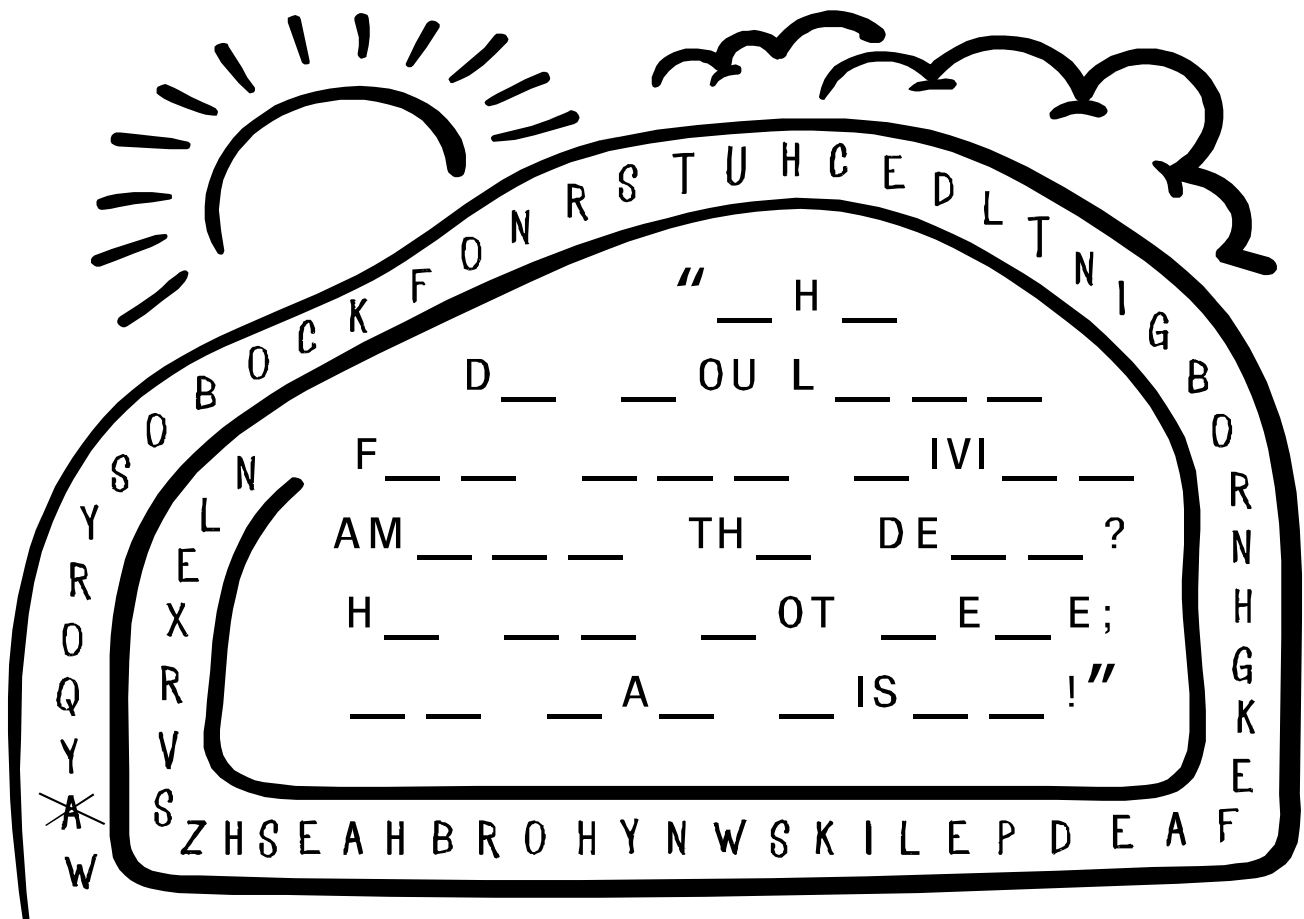
Please call the church office
with any omissions
or corrections.



EASTER MORNING *message*

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.



LUKE 24:5-6, NIV