



April 2020

*“We exalt God above all by evangelizing, equipping
and embracing all nations.”*



“The angel said...‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He is risen, just as He said.’”

Matt 28:5–6

“Don’t be afraid.” How reassuring are those words the angel declared so many years ago. And how relevant? Facing a crisis—the Lord crucified—the disciples were sinking, again. Life’s apparent limits, its dangers and unknowns were threatening to capsize them.

I wonder if the angel’s words woke a memory; if hearing that familiar phrase stirred their consciousness with recollections of similar storms. A dark night on a rough sea facing threatening waves, the disciples saw what they believed was a ghost walking on the water, only to discover it was Jesus. His first words to them were, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid” (Matt 14:27). On another occasion the squall arose as the master slept. That time, they freaked out saying “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!” And “He replied, ‘You of little faith, why are you so afraid?’” (Matt 8:25–26)

Why were the disciples fearful? What need did they have for such sentiments? In the first storm the master had slept as they fretted. In the second, He’d walked on the waves themselves. In both cases the disciples had allowed their senses to dictate their response. And as the senses were physical, it is no wonder they felt fear. In fact, it was a right response when confronted by the threat of physical harm, even

death. And yet Jesus declared, “Do not be afraid.” How could Christ call for confidence in the face of peril? How could He chastise His followers for fear when such emotions were only natural? I believe the answer is given us in the event the women encountered at the tomb, the empty tomb.

Christ’s resurrection revealed His power over death, the victory of the supernatural over the natural. Jesus’ defeat of death demonstrated the reality of things unseen. When we look at the world through the eyes of faith, we see what Elisha saw and what his servant could not. We see how “those who are with us are more than those who are with them” (2 Kings 6:8–23). We see how death is not the end nor the future unknown.

Immanuel, as we face uncertain days fear is a natural response. But hear the word of the Lord, “Do not be afraid.” Our God has defeated death and given us life by grace through faith in the Son. May our supernatural confidence be on full display before a world held captive to fear!

Rejoice!

Pastor Andrew



Coffee Fellowship

Coffee is available in the Fellowship Hall before Sunday School every Sunday. Please join us!

GREETERS SCHEDULE

Mary Cox
Mike Cox
Carrie Shehan

NOTE: Please alternate door positions weekly.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

There will not be a Men's Ministry Breakfast in April or May but will resume in June.

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

You will be notified when the following activities will resume:

Dinner will be served at 5:30. Be sure to sign up for the dinner and to take a turn in providing a dessert. The Discipleship class, Youth, RAs, GAs and Mission Friends will begin at 6:15.

Menus will be listed in the bulletin when church activities resume.



The deadline for submitting items of interest for the **May newsletter** is April 22. Please observe this deadline.

IMMANUEL ON MISSION

We are thankful in this unexpected season that our convention has in place missionaries to serve those in great need in so many places. Please pray for those serving across the nation and around the world as things change almost daily for everyone.

Our missions partners have expressed praise for answered prayer and thanks for the support of their church partners. Please take this opportunity with restrictions keeping us at home to remember James and Sarah. They report, "As ministry can't continue the way we were doing, pray for wisdom and simple obedience in what we can do. Pray for more hearts to be open and that this pandemic will bring about much

growth in His Kingdom." Also, pray for Paul returning to the family as they remain in the States indefinitely, and for our faith partner East Salisbury Elementary closed with staff and families at home. ESL classes have been cancelled with many students experiencing unemployment, and Ocean City Baptist church is planning for an uncertain Summer season.

For each of us, this time poses great challenges, so we pray for peace and opportunities to express the hope that we have in a Risen Savior however celebrated this Easter Sunday. "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures..." (1 Corinthians 15: 3-4). It's all about the Gospel!

WMU

Mali People Group

The Mali people are our church adopted unreached people. Please pray for them to come to salvation through Jesus Christ!!

Spring Retreat

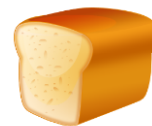
WMU has decided to cancel the Ladies Spring Retreat and will plan something later in God's timing.

Easter Offering

The theme this year is I Corinthians 15:3-4. "*For I passed onto you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures . . .*"

God calls us to pray, give, and go!! There are still over 273 million people in North America who do not know Christ. Immanuel's goal is \$3,500. Please pray about your participation in helping to reach this mission field. As of this writing, the amount given is \$2,067.00.

World Hunger



Please continue to deposit coins in your Bread Banks at home until church resumes, which will be the next collection date.



GAs

The Girls in Action group is a program for girls ages 6 through 12 sponsored by the WMU. The girls meet each Wednesday evening from September through May.

Each month we study a missionary who serves in North America or throughout the world. We study Bible stories, learn Bible verses, make crafts, play games, pray, and learn about the culture of the community in which the missionary lives.

In addition, each girl is working in her "GA Journey" throughout the year. This program awards 8 badges for each growth area completed and a star to indicate the level of work.

The GA girls support the Shoebox ministry, the Lottie Moon Christmas offering, and the "Pure Water, Pure Love" ministry every year. The photo above shows the girls holding one of their recently completed projects. Pictured left to right are Alaine Shockley, Anna Heslop, Tabitha Morgan, and Elinah Nyoni.

Mission Cry (CRI) Bible collection

Jason Woolford of CRI sees value in each Bible and knows how far just one copy of the Scriptures can go. On average, a book is read by 20 people during its lifecycle, he says. That means, at a minimum, providing one Bible means exposing 20 people to the Gospel. But in some parts of the world it can go even farther than that. For example, "When you look at a pastor of a church in Uganda or Kenya or the

Philippines, or Bangalore, India that gets a Bible from us, you're talking about congregations of church plants [where] sometimes even the pastor doesn't own the Bible," Woolford says.

Please ask people to share from their bookshelves that are filled with Bibles and Christian books. Once collected and received, those materials are sent around the world, sowing God's Word into the lives of those who cannot afford it. Please consider donating gently used Bibles and materials in the boxes provided for this year's Bible drive.



We extend our deepest sympathy to **Rosa Bean** and her family in the death of her brother and her son Stephen, who passed away on February 29. Our prayers are with the family.

Also, we extend our condolences to the McKelvey and Shockley families in the death of Ron's mother Edna, who died on March 2 at the age of 92. Our thoughts and prayers are with this family as well.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Don and Cindy Bennett in the death of her father, Marion J. "Hoss" Ennis, who passed away on March 23 at the age of 95. Our prayers are with you.



To our brothers and sisters at Immanuel Baptist Church:

The McKelvey and Shockley families would like to express our thanks for all of your gestures of love and sympathy at the passing of our mother/grandmother/great-grandmother, Edna McKelvey. We so appreciate the beautiful flowers, as well as the many cards, kind words, and (especially) prayers.



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Medical Needs

Bounds, Amy
Bratten, Bill

Jordan, Kevin
Simpson, Joyce
Stimson, Marlyn

Long-Term Needs

Cheek, Virginia – Genesis
Muenster, Cindy
Powell, Missy
Straub, Marge – Wicomico N. H.



APRIL

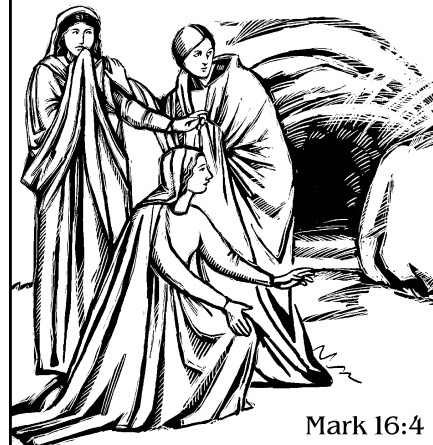
- 8 Laura Culver
- 9 Cheryl Moore
- 11 Amanda Wootten
- 13 Rebekah McKelvey
- 15 Elinah Nyoni
- 19 Linda Webster
- 26 Linda Lewis
- 29 Cindy Muenster
- Kane Nibblett
- Amy Bounds



A PRAYER FOR EASTER

Lord,
 Thank you for spending 33 years with us;
 For announcing Love from the high heavens;
 For introducing Love in an obscure manger setting;
 For living Love in a family framework;
 For sharing Love with the poor and deprived and diseased;
 For showing Love to the unlovable and unloving;
 For letting little children feel Love in your arms;
 For suffering on a cross because of Love;
 For loosing Love upon the world to take up residence in us;
 For your Love that will not let us go. Amen

They saw that the stone ... had already been rolled back.



Mark 16:4