

Resources for Devotion and Prayer for Holy Week and Easter

Looking for some resources to help deepen your faith this Holy Week? Try these:

- **Easter Egg Hunt During Physical Distancing**

This is a great resource for families and people of all ages, using materials that you have around your house, from UMC Discipleship:

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/adaptable-easter-egg-hunt-for-families-during-covid-19>

- **Holy Week Devotional**

A day by day scripture passage, song text, and reflection for each day of the week, from UMC Discipleship:

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/selah-devotional-holy-week-2020>

- **SOAPY Bible Study for Holy Week**

What Supplies Do I Need? Bible; Journal/notebook & pen or note app. What Do I Do?

⇒ Set aside 10-15 minutes each day for devotion and prayer time

⇒ Get your Bible, etc. and settle in someplace fairly comfortable and as quiet as you can find, or wherever you are, just go for it!

⇒ Take a couple of deep breaths, close your eyes, and ask God for openness to hear what God is saying to you today

⇒ Follow the SOAPY method for reading and reflection:

S Scripture: read the Bible passage for the day slowly & carefully

O Observation: in your journal, record observations about the passage; questions, ideas; what is the lesson for you?

A Application: how do these words apply to your life?

P Prayer: write a prayer to God concerning this passage and your life

Y Yield: what do you need to surrender to God for this lesson to become alive in you?

What Are the Readings for This Week?

Monday, Apr 6: Mark 11:12-25

Tuesday, Apr 7: Mark 11:27-33

Wednesday, Apr 8: Mark 12:1-11

Thursday, Apr 9: Mark 14:12-25

Friday, Apr 10: morning John 13:36-38

evening John 19:38-42

Saturday, Apr 11: morning Hebrews 4:1-16

evening Romans 8:1-11

Sunday, Apr 12: morning John 1:1-18

evening John 20:19-23



April 8, 2020

DOUGLAS AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EASTER EDITION
COURIER

501 S Douglas Avenue ♦ Springfield, Illinois 62704 ♦ 217-546-4631 ♦ daumc@douglasavenue.org

Worship Through the Three Great Days: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter Sunday

We encourage you to join in a spirit of continuing worship, meditation, prayer and celebration as DAUMC comes together to remember Jesus's journey to death on the cross, and through to resurrection life for us and the whole world. Join DAUMC at www.facebook.com/DouglasAveUMC for these powerful worship experiences:

- **Maundy Thursday, Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m.** - the word "Maundy" means commandment; during this worship experience we will experience Jesus's command to "love one another" through the ritual acts of hand washing and sharing in the meal of Holy Communion. **Special Preparations:** please have some bread / crackers / a baked good, and juice / water / beverage with you to participate in Holy Communion during this very special worship experience. You will also be invited to participate in "hand washing", so access to soap and water or hand sanitizer will be helpful.
- **Good Friday, Friday, April 10 at 7:00 p.m.** - on Good Friday, we remember Jesus's death on the cross, and the way he both saves us through and

models for us sacrificial love. This powerful worship experience will follow the ancient service of Tennebrae or "shadows" with the Bible story, and candle extinguishing. **Special Preparations:** have a candle with you that you can light and extinguish for this worship experience.

- **Easter Sunrise Meditation, Sunday, April 12 at 6:30 a.m.** - on this first worship experience of Easter, we will greet the new day and celebrate Jesus's conquering of sin and death with resurrection life.
- **Easter Festival Worship, Sunday, April 12 at 10:30 a.m.** - join with your church family throughout the community and the world for this celebration of resurrection life in Jesus Christ, with special music, the Easter story, and sharing together in Holy Communion. **Special Preparations:** please have some bread / crackers / a baked good, and juice / water / beverage available to you to participate in Holy Communion during this very special worship experience.

Be Part of the Easter Parade—Submit Your Picture!

We can't wait to share a wonderful Easter worship experience with you, streaming on Facebook on Sunday, April 12 at 10:30am. We would love to see YOU as a part of our Easter Sunday Parade! Please take a picture of you and anyone else in your household with the "Alleluia Butterfly" (the coloring pages are enclosed) or with any other Easter item you'd like to share. We really want to include as many people as possible, whatever your age - please don't be shy! **Important Notes:** Photos only—no videos. You may shoot in landscape (wide) or portrait (narrow) orientation. Send your photos by 5 p.m. Friday to Mark Schmidt at meanderpike@gmail.com. Please contact Mark at the above e-mail with questions. Thank you for participating!

Worship Videos Now Available on Web Page

In addition to being streamed to our Facebook page, recordings of online worship will now also be available on the DAUMC web site: www.douglasavenue.org. We hope this makes it possible for more of our church family to join in worship!

Worship, Learn, Connect, Pray and Play During Social Distancing!

Connect and grow in your faith as our DAUMC ministries continue to reach out in new ways while folks are staying close to home.

- **Sunday Worship** - Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook. DAUMC continues to broadcast an amazing worship experience through Facebook. Gather 'round for an engaging, prayerful, hope-filled worship experience. Following worship, the video will remain available on our Facebook page, as well as on the DAUMC web site: www.douglasavenue.org. We can't wait to connect with you this Sunday!
- **Wednesday Circle Worship** - Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. on Facebook. Our final gathering for reflection and prayer to finish out this season of Lent, is this Wednesday, April 8. Following worship, the video will remain available on our Facebook page.
- **Share Your Prayers** - What better way to connect right now than by praying for one another and for our world. Let us know your joys and concerns, for prayer with our pastors and Prayer Team - reach Pastor Meredith at revmeredithbrown@gmail.com or call/text 872-221-2545, Pastor Margaret Ann at majessup@msn.com or call/text 217-891-0208, or to the church office at daumc@douglasavenue.org.
- **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** - Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. via video and phone conference. Join in while we finish reading and discussing "The Walk" by Adam Hamilton, and for camaraderie and prayer. Beginning after Easter, join in a new study TBA. For links and phone numbers to participate, contact Pastor Meredith at revmeredithbrown@gmail.com, call/text her at 872-221-2545.
- **NEW! "Coffee Hour with Women of Power"** Online Bible Study - Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., or 6:00 p.m. Join in a time of study with powerful women of the Bible, discussion, sharing, and prayer - bring a cup of coffee, a Bible, and an open heart! Pick your time, and contact Pastor Margaret Ann for links to participate, majessup@msn.com, call/text 217-891-0208.
- **Opportunities With Children** - connect with DAUMC on Facebook for all kinds of ways to grow, laugh and learn during this season of social distancing. "Resurrection Eggs" everyday at 2:00 p.m. through April 12 with Lauri Clemmer, Children and Youth Ministries Director; "Stories with Lauri and Laud," on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:00 p.m. for a great story and prayer; "Song Break" with Pastor Meredith on Monday and Friday afternoons; and watch for mailings of special activities. *If you have not received a "snail-mail" in the last two weeks for your kids, please contact Lauri Clemmer immediately at lauri.clemmer@gmail.com.*
- **Youth Group Bible Study Online** - Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. Middle and High School aged youth are reading through the Gospel of Luke, having fun and meaningful discussion, prayer and connection. To join in and for video links, please contact Curtis at revcurtisbrown@gmail.com, or contact the church office.

Thank You for Your Giving to DAUMC - Online Option Available!

As our ministries continue to grow in new ways right now to connect with and share the love of Jesus Christ throughout our neighborhood and world, your financial tithes and offerings to the ministries of Douglas Avenue United Methodist Church continue to be incredibly important. Your gifts pay the staff, support new ministries here and around the world, and maintain the facility that houses powerful, life-changing work, even when we are not gathering in-person for worship. Thank you for your generous contributions.

There are several ways to give:

- New Online Giving Page at www.douglasavenue.org. Just go to the webpage, click on the "Donate" button, and fill out the form; this can be set-up as a recurring gift, too.
- Through your financial institution's on-line "bill pay" (often a free service) that you can also use to set-up a regular, recurring gift.
- Set-up automatic withdrawal through DAUMC's financial institution, Marine Bank. Please e-mail or call the church office for the forms.
- Mail your offering to DAUMC, 501 S. Douglas Ave., Springfield, IL 62704.

If you need help or advice, please contact us directly in the church office, 217-546-4631, daumc@douglasavenue.org, or Pastor Meredith, revmeredithbrown@gmail.com.

Easter Offering for Local Mission

During this time of uncertainty due to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Douglas Avenue United Methodist Church continues to be a beacon of light in our city, acting with generosity toward those around us. This is a hard season for many people, so please know that if you're unable to financially contribute, we wholeheartedly understand and are deeply grateful for your continued prayers of support. They truly matter.

The Mission Committee would like the 2020 Easter offering to go toward supporting **Wooden It Be Lovely** (WIBL), a program close to the hearts of us all. The program was unable to have their Spring Showcase sale or other normally scheduled fundraisers because of COVID-19. The women continue to be paid because they are not eligible for unemployment, and additional financial stress could be extremely detrimental to their sobriety efforts and bring additional challenges to their already difficult lives. WIBL hopes to receive short term relief from the CARES Act, but there remains a significant financial deficit. We want to continue to love and support the women of WIBL the best we can, and we are proud of the strength and courage they've shown over these recent weeks.

The Mission committee would also like to use a portion of the offering for the **Pastor's Discretionary Fund**. This will enable us to provide for an additional meal to be served at the Springfield Overflow Shelter, and some of these funds will also be used to help care for those in our area that come to us with additional needs and requests for assistance.

To contribute to the Easter Offering, please use the online giving page at www.douglasavenue.org, use your on-line bill pay or mail your contribution with "Easter Offering" in the memo line to: DAUMC, 501 S. Douglas Avenue, Springfield, IL 62704.

We know that times are uncertain, and we also know that God is present with us on this journey still. This virus has changed many things, but it cannot change how we love and care for one another.

Peace be with you always,

Bekah and Joe Johnson,
Mission Committee Co-Chair Persons

Hands-On Worship: Bake Bread for Communion

As we celebrate Communion together this Maundy Thursday (April 9) AND on Easter Sunday (April 12) via Facebook video, you will want to have available to you some form of bread / cracker / baked good to eat. **You may find it meaningful to bake your own bread as a form of prayer and hands-on worship this week.**

You can certainly use a bread mix from the store. You can use a sourdough starter. No yeast? No problem - make a soda bread, or scones, or muffins. Feel free to use whatever ingredients you have on hand. It doesn't have to be perfect - **God will show up anyway**. The point of this process is to be in the kitchen, to put your hands to work and to allow your preparation process to be a prayer. So get baking! Before putting your bread or baked good into the oven, say this prayer:

*Holy God,
Your last meal was an ordinary meal—
Simple bread and juice, nothing fancy;
And yet, it was holy.
It was holy because all were welcomed at your table—
Even the one who would betray you.
So today we prepare our own bread as a form of prayer.
And in our kneading and mixing,
In our measuring and waiting,
In our recipe-card-reading and taste-testing,
We remember you.
As these ingredients mix,
May our hearts mix with yours. And as this bread rises,
May our awareness of you rise. And as this bread is
shared, May your love be shared.
With hope and gratitude we pray, Amen.*

(resource adapted from Sarah Are,
www.sanctifiedart.com)