



April 5, 2017

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Palm Sunday Collision



William Stringfellow, a distinguished lawyer who became a very distinguished theologian and who died much too soon, was a strong critic of the church. **He was particularly feisty about Palm Sunday.** He used to say that Christians go to church on Palm Sunday because they

love a parade. A lot of preachers resent that, but I think he was partially right.

I love Palm Sunday. There is no day quite like this one, is there? If there is a better moment in the life of this church than the children's processional on Palm Sunday, you'll have to tell me! The children come down the aisle in numbers that astonish us. They fill the chancel and the Sanctuary. They disturb the normal dignity of our worship. On all other Sundays, our choirs, clergy and communion servers all line up in order. Everyone has their place.

If you've noticed, there is nothing very orderly about a hundred children waving palm branches. Although it is no small accomplishment of logistics to get them all here and lined up and in and out in a manner that lets us get on with the business of the day. However, my strong suspicion is that maybe they are the business of the day—they and the spontaneous joy of Jesus coming into the city.

Still, entirely apart from the children, there is no day quite like it in the church year. Someone once said that Palm Sunday has all the elements of a classic drama: great characters—frightened disciples stumbling

along behind Jesus, cheering crowds, conspiring politicians —and behind it all the clash of huge civilizations and religions and worldviews. And in the center—in fact, towering over it all—the figure of one man, a young man, riding on a donkey, on his way to his own death.

Hidden from our sight in all of this excitement, however, there is **another parade** entering Jerusalem at precisely the same time. And this overlooked parade leads directly to what we **know** will happen just five days later.

I invite you to our Palm Sunday worship as we hear about the **collision** of the two parades and we begin our journey through the most holy week of the year!

Pastor Gary Haller

P.S. If you missed the UMCOR Sunday offering, it's not too late to support this vital ministry. Please give today!

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Our Church Family

Our Christian Caring and Concern are shared with the following persons, known to be in the hospital on Monday, April 3: John Jennings, Ramona McMaken, Charlene Wallace

Our Prayers for Good Health are shared with the following person, released from the hospital since Monday, March 27: Pauline Porter

Our Prayers of Sympathy and Support are shared with Ken and Sara Beck and family on the death of his father, Keith Beck, on March 28. A funeral was held in Ohio.

Our Prayers of Sympathy and Support are shared with Jerry and Phyllis Evey and family on the death of his sister, Nancy Fleischmann, on March 31. A funeral will be held in our Sanctuary on Thursday, April 6 at 11:00 a.m.

Our Prayers of Sympathy and Support are shared with Paul and Jackie Keller and family on the death of her sister, Kathy Smith, on April 1. A funeral will be held in Ohio on Friday.

Our Prayers of Sympathy and Support are shared with Keith and Kris Kettering and family on the death of her mother, Freda Lay, on April 3. A funeral will be held in Ohio on Thursday.

Intercessory Prayer



The Prayer Team would like to pray for you during times of need and also to praise the Lord during times of celebration. In addition to your concerns, please let us know of any answered prayers, family members in the military returning home, births, marriages and other special events. Contact Elise Norwood (enorwood@fumcbirmingham.org or 248-646-6407 ext. 3127) or use a Prayer Request Card, available in the Sanctuary pews and the church office. Cards may be dropped off in the Prayer Request box across from the Welcome Center or in the church office.

Did You Know

....that this week's Voice of Hope message is recorded by Andy McMillan, and next week's message is by Anita Barratt. To listen, call 248-646-6407 and press 2 when your call is answered by our automated system.

....that Sunday, April 9 is the last day to order a lily to decorate the church on Easter. Please use the form in the Sunday bulletin or contact Janet Smylie (office@fumcbirmingham.org or 248-646-6407 ext. 3121). Lilies are \$20 each.

....that you are invited to join the Christian Classic Book Club for a monthly discussion of great books from a theological perspective. On Wednesday, April 12 (note date change) we will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Wesley Room to discuss *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi. There is a one-time \$10 fee, whether you attend one or all sessions.

....that we may have something you lost! Please check the Lost and Found table during the coffee hours on April 9 and April 23 to see what may belong to you. All unclaimed items will be donated to the Rummage Sale.

....that the altar flowers (\$60) are available on April 30, and the missions candle (\$30) is available on April 23 and 30. Please contact Janet Smylie (office@fumcbirmingham.org or 248-646-6407 ext. 3121) to reserve a date.



Children, Student and Family Ministries

For information about our Children's Ministry activities (Crib through 5th Grade), check out our website at www.fumcbirmingham.org, [Facebook Birmingham First Kids](#), or contact us at sheilas@fumcbirmingham.org to receive a monthly email newsletter.

Want to get the inside scoop on First Student Ministries?

"Middle School Newsletter" has info for our middle school students.

"Make Your Mark" is our newsletter for high school students.

Get your free subscription today! Sign up under "[E-News](#)" on the church website.

Congratulations!

Neil Wester was honored with the Legacy Award at the Methodist Children's Home Society Annual Dinner on March 30. Neil has served on the Board of Directors since 1986. Congratulations, Neil, on this well-deserved honor!

Kim Bowyer, Elementary Coordinator in the Children's Ministries Department, received the Outstanding Pack Leader Award at the North Star District Cub Scouts Annual Recognition Dinner on March 30. Kim has served for many years as the Cub Scout Pack Leader at Pack 1032, and we are thankful for her service.

Mark and Karla Boles were named Volunteers of the Year at Cass Community Social Services' Annual Dinner on April 1. The Boles head the Cass Task Force of our Missions Ministry, and we appreciate their work on behalf of Cass and Birmingham First.



Aging Ain't for Sissies

Baby Boomers, this class is really for you! This invaluable class, known as Aging Ain't for Sissies, addresses many of the situations we face as we grow older and how to plan accordingly. By providing resources and solutions with humor and grace, this class has helped participants forge together to make the most of this time in their lives. Our next class is Wednesday, April 12 at 10:00 a.m. in Thomas Parlor. Our own Kathryn Bartz has facilitated this group for 10 seasons, and just listening to her is something you do not want to miss. Live your best life in your later years! Call Sue Anderson Dale (248-646-6407 ext. 3160) for details.



Opportunity for Employment

Christian Life Center Receptionist.... Receptionists are the first point of connection when entering our church and are crucial when it comes to the growth of our congregation. Would you like to make some extra money while getting to know the members of our church and community? If so, we are looking for a few good people to welcome and assist guests and members as they take advantage of our offerings in the CLC. Available shifts are Monday and Thursday mornings from 6:45-12:15. Applications and job descriptions are available in the church office and on the church website. If interested, please contact Beckie Bower (bbower@fumcbirmingham.org).

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 9

Traditional Worship - 8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Gary Haller preaching

Shine Contemporary Worship - 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Dan Hart preaching

Berkley First Worship - 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Zack Dunlap preaching

Holy Week begins. Palms distributed to every worshiper.



Wednesday, April 12

Midweek Worship - 7:40-8:15 a.m.

Led by Rev. Lindsey Hall

Music, prayer, preaching and Communion.

Maundy Thursday, April 13

Worship - 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Gary Haller preaching

Our unique service of Holy Communion as we remember the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples.

Music provided by Chancel Choir.

Childcare through age four; reservations appreciated by April 9 (248-646-6407 ext. 3141).



Good Friday, April 14

Community Worship - 12:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham

Greenfield Presbyterian Church, Berkley

Concert: Handel's Messiah - 7:00 p.m.

Handel's masterpiece performed by our combined

Chancel, IXOYC and Genesis Choirs. The concert will feature selections from all three acts of Messiah, which tells the story of Jesus' life and ministry.

This concert will be approximately one hour and, in addition to the 150-voice choir, will feature professional orchestra and soloists. Bring your friends, neighbors, and the entire family to this powerful Good Friday experience as we remember who Jesus was, is, and forever will be.



Easter Sunday, April 16

Sunrise Service - 7:15 a.m.

Chambliss Outdoor Worship Center

Rev. Suzanne Walls preaching

Traditional Worship - 8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Gary Haller preaching

Shine Contemporary Worship - 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Dan Hart preaching

Berkley First - 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Zack Dunlap preaching



Shine: Palms and Prep

Join us as we encounter Palm Sunday, a day when we hear about Jesus's arrival into Jerusalem and the movement of Christ closer to the cross. We will have children in the service for the palm parade, will have some special musical guests, and will continue to explore our connection to God and Christ in this Lenten season. We hope to see you there.

This season has also been a unique time of preparation as I prepare to be away once our baby arrives. Thanks to some wonderful support from this church, Autumn and I are feeling more and more ready as the days draw closer to our daughter's arrival. While I am away there will be some great preachers in Shine! It will be a good mix of pastors, deacons, people with ties to the church, and local talent. It should be a blessing as we talk about the Living Christ. Come learn and grow from many different voices following Easter!

Pastor Dan Hart



Berkley First: Palm / Passion Sunday



Too often this time of year we move from celebration to celebration without taking time to stop and reflect at the foot of the cross.

This week at Berkley First we're celebrating Palm Sunday and also exploring Christ's passion. Join us for a unique worship experience that walks through the steps of Holy Week.

Pastor Zack Dunlap

Opportunity for Fellowship

Merry Mates....Essential Oils of the Bible were often considered more valuable than gold. We will explore what they are, how and when they were used, and how they can be safely used today. The knowledge and enthusiasm of our presenters, Melissa Hansz and her co-teacher Amy Snyder, Wellness Advocates, will both entertain and tweak your interest in familiar words in the Bible. Come on Friday, April 21 and join our friendly, diverse group of all ages, singles and couples, for social time at 6:00 p.m. followed by a catered dinner at 6:30 (\$13). RSVP to Sharon and Bob Pierce (248-364-4438 or sharonbobbierce@gmail.com) by early evening on Sunday, April 16.

Live@First Presents MSU Men's Glee Club

Michigan State University Men's Glee Club performs for the Live@First Concert Series on Saturday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. Once called the Singing Statesmen, the MSU Men's Glee Club represents one of the oldest organizations on campus. Live@First is excited to present the Men's Glee Club in our Sanctuary for the very first time! Join director Jonathan Reed and the Men's Glee Club for an evening of outstanding choral music. Tickets may be purchased at liveatfirst.org or in the church office. Adult tickets are \$25 and, as always, students get free admission.



2nd Annual Endowment Dinner

You are warmly invited to the 2nd Annual Endowment Dinner on Friday, May 12 at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. A Michigan-themed dinner will be prepared by Cass Catering, compliments of the Endowment Committee. This is not a fundraiser, but simply an opportunity to learn about and celebrate the recent work of our Endowment.



The high point of the evening will be a reflection by the Rev. Faith Fowler. She will reflect upon her life with a presentation entitled "Sentimental Journey."

All members and friends of the congregation are welcome to attend. Reservations required and seating is limited. Please RSVP in the [church office](#).

Opportunities for Outreach

Hunger Sunday.... Palm Sunday, April 9, is the second Sunday of the month, and all loose change in the offering goes to feed the hungry. Please remember to bring your loose change to add to the offering. For checks and bills, use an offering envelope and mark the Hunger line. The money donated will be credited to our Hunger Ministry, which benefits local food providers for feeding the hungry. Also, please visit the **Home Foods Table** in Fellowship Hall for delicious baked goodies provided by the Merry Mates fellowship group, with all donations going to hunger relief.



Appliances Needed.... Last week at the Brightmoor Free Store, a shopper remarked, "We finally found a house. Now we need appliances!" To make a house a home, working appliances are needed, as well as mattresses to sleep on. Now that spring has arrived, many plans are being made to remodel, downsize or move. Please consider donating what you no longer need to the Brightmoor community. We will pick them up at your convenience and thankfully give you a donation form. Please call Sharon Scripter (248-439-6345).

UMW Spring Rummage Sale Needs Your Donations! Quality used clothing, household items and furniture are needed for the UMW Rummage Sale, April 23-28. Please donate items in good working condition without rips, stains or chips. The sale incurs costs to dispose of damaged items. Visit the [church website](#) for dates, times, volunteer information, and lists of items needed and those not accepted.

Please help us keep items together during sorting:

- Safety pin or fold matching pairs together (i.e. socks, gloves)
- Mark sheet size and tape sets together
- Bag small parts of electronics or toys and tape to the item
- Box sets of dishes, glassware, silverware, etc.



To schedule a pick up of large furniture items, contact us by Monday, April 17 at umwrummagetruck@yahoo.com or call Debbie Berg (248-798-4898). **To volunteer**, contact us at umw@fumcbirmingham.org or call Lisa Lyon (248-763-8056).

Kroger Community Rewards Program.... Help the hungry every time you shop at Kroger. The need is great! It's that time of year again—time to enroll your Kroger Card for the Community Rewards Program. A portion of your Kroger spending will then support the Birmingham First Hunger Ministry programs that provide food assistance for those in need. Go to krogercommunityrewards.com and complete your enrollment today. Questions? Contact Chris Stout (stoutemail@gmail.com).

Happening This Week

Wednesday, April 5

6:15 a.m. * Arbon Dennis Men's Group
 7:30 a.m. * Word for Working Women
 7:40 a.m. Lenten Midweek Service
 8:00 a.m. Cardio Weight Training
 9:00 a.m. Parent/Toddler Open Gym
 9:30 a.m. Mat Pilates
 11:00 a.m. Singing Bowls
 12:30 p.m. Cards in the Afternoon
 12:30 p.m. * Sisters
 1:00 p.m. Senior Volleyball
 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts
 7:00 p.m. Meditation Class
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
 8:00 p.m. * Men's Bible Study

Thursday, April 6

8:30 a.m. * Lenten Study (Berkley)
 9:00 a.m. Chair Yoga (Berkley)
 9:00 a.m. Mother's Study
 9:00 a.m. Parent/Toddler Open Gym
 11:00 a.m. Nancy Fleischmann Funeral
 11:00 a.m. Stretch 4 Life
 1:00 p.m. Caregiver's Support Group
 1:00 p.m. Mahjong
 1:00 p.m. Purl Girls
 1:30 p.m. Tai Chi
 7:00 p.m. Adult Karate
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
 7:30 p.m. * Unfinished Christian Women
 8:00 p.m. Pub Theology (Patrick J's)

Friday, April 7

8:00 a.m. Cardio Weight Training
 9:00 a.m. Parent/Toddler Open Gym
 9:30 a.m. Mat Pilates
 11:00 a.m. Hatha Mat Yoga (Berkley)

Saturday, April 8

9:00 a.m. Pre-Ballet 1w/Tap
 10:00 a.m. Daddy/Daughter Dance
 11:00 a.m. Daddy/Daughter Dance

Sunday, April 9

8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship
 9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
 10:00 a.m. Worship (Berkley)
 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 11:00 a.m. * Lenten Study – Adults
 11:00 a.m. * MS Lenten Study

5:00 p.m. Genesis/IXYOC/Chancel Rehearsal
 5:30 p.m. * MS Parent Lenten Study
 6:00 p.m. Youth Group (Berkley)
 6:30 p.m. HS Youth Group
 6:30 p.m. MS Youth Group

Monday, April 10

8:00 a.m. Cardio Weight Training
 9:00 a.m. Chair Yoga (Berkley)
 9:00 a.m. Parent/Toddler Open Gym
 9:30 a.m. Mat Pilates
 11:00 a.m. Rummage Pre-Sale Meeting
 11:30 a.m. Stretch 4 Life
 12:30 p.m. Tiny Tots Dance
 12:45 p.m. * Parents of HS/College
 1:00 p.m. Front Porches
 1:00 p.m. Senior Volleyball
 5:30 p.m. Hip Hop Enrichment
 6:30 p.m. Ballet
 7:00 p.m. Adult Karate
 7:00 p.m. Monday Night Lenten Study
 7:00 p.m. SPRC

Tuesday, April 11

6:30 a.m. * Tuesday Men's Bible Study
 8:00 a.m. W.O.W. Leaders
 9:00 a.m. Parent/Toddler Open Gym
 9:30 a.m. * Tuesday Women's Study
 9:30 a.m. Women's Handbells
 9:45 a.m. C.O.W.
 10:00 a.m. W.O.W. Bible Study
 10:45 a.m. Talking Helps
 11:00 a.m. Stretch 4 Life
 11:30 a.m. W.O.W. Coffee
 1:00 p.m. Bridge on Tuesdays
 1:00 p.m. Tiny Tots Dance
 1:00 p.m. Women @ One
 5:30 p.m. Hatha Mat Yoga (Berkley)
 6:00 p.m. Compass
 7:00 p.m. Preschool Committee
 7:00 p.m. Missions Ministry
 7:30 p.m. Men's Basketball

Wednesday, April 12

6:15 a.m. * Arbon Dennis (Schoelch)
 7:30 a.m. * Word for Working Women
 7:40 a.m. Lenten Midweek Service
 8:00 a.m. Cardio Weight Training
 9:00 a.m. * GRIP

9:00 a.m. Parent/Toddler Open Gym
 9:30 a.m. Mat Pilates
 10:00 a.m. Aging Ain't for Sissies
 11:00 a.m. Aware!
 12:30 p.m. Cards in the Afternoon
 12:30 p.m. * Sisters
 1:00 p.m. Senior Volleyball
 6:00 p.m. Core Circuit (Berkley)
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #1032
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Parent Meeting
 7:00 p.m. Christian Classic Book Club
 7:00 p.m. Cub Scout Den Meeting
 7:00 p.m. Zumba (Berkley)
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
 8:00 p.m. * Men's Bible Study

Thursday, April 13

9:00 a.m. Chair Yoga (Berkley)
 9:00 a.m. Mother's Study
 9:00 a.m. Parent/Toddler Open Gym
 9:30 a.m. Prelude: 24-36 Months
 10:15 a.m. Prelude: Walkers-24 Months
 11:00 a.m. Prelude: Newborns-Walkers
 11:00 a.m. Stretch 4 Life
 1:00 p.m. Mahjong
 1:00 p.m. Purl Girls
 1:30 p.m. Tai Chi
 4:00 p.m. Spark
 4:15 p.m. Covenant Choir
 4:15 p.m. Disciple Choir
 4:15 p.m. Sonshine Choir
 5:00 p.m. Cherub Choir
 5:00 p.m. Children's Bells
 6:30 p.m. Jr./Sr. Karate
 7:00 p.m. Adult Karate
 7:00 p.m. **Maundy Thursday Service**

Friday, April 14

9:00 a.m. Core Circuit (Berkley)
 10:00 a.m. Zumba (Berkley)
 11:00 a.m. Hatha Mat Yoga (Berkley)
 7:00 p.m. Good Friday *Messiah* Concert

Christian Life Center Closed

Friday, April 14 & Saturday, April 15

***Lenten Study**

Palm Sunday

April 9, 2017



Traditional Worship

8:15, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

[Mark 1:1-11](#)

"A Tale of Two Processions"

Rev. Gary Haller

Hymns

"All Glory, Laud and Honor"

"Mantos Y Palmas"

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

Anthems

"He Comes" - Sonshine Choir

"Donkey" - Cherub Choir

"Hosanna Jubilee" - Covenant and Genesis Choirs

"Teach Me Thy Song, O Lord" - Chancel Choir

Shine Contemporary Worship

11:00 a.m. in the Christian Life Center

[Matthew 21:1-11](#)

"Triumph and Trial"

Rev. Dan Hart



Weekly Worship

10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

[John 12:12-16](#)

"Palm / Passion Sunday"

Rev. Zack Dunlap



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Gary Haller, Senior Pastor

Zack Dunlap, Lindsey Hall, Dan Hart and
Suzanne Walls, Associate Pastors

John E. Harnish, William A. Ritter and
Robert P. Ward, Pastors Emeriti



2820 12 Mile Road • Berkley, MI 48072

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Zack Dunlap, Pastor

The Liturgists are Rev. Suzanne Walls in the Sanctuary and Rev. Lindsey Hall at Shine.

The Palm Arrangements on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and placed by Dick Hameister in loving memory of his wonderful wife, Kate; Kate's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Gallina; and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. August Hameister.

The Welcome Center Flowers are placed in loving memory of Kenneth Porter by his family.

The Missions Candle is lit by Abby, Anna and Reed in honor of Jim Wilson's birthday.

Our Purpose:

To gather, nurture and equip disciples of Christ for ministry and mission in the world.

Our Core Values:

Welcome All
Put Love Into Action
Honor God Through Excellence
Embrace Bold Vision
Encourage Lifelong Spiritual Growth
Support One Another

Steeple Notes is published weekly by First United Methodist Church.

Notices should be in writing and submitted to Janet Smylie in the church office by 5:00 p.m. on Monday.