



Believing by Faith in the Resurrection

This coming Sunday, we get to join together and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. However, I'm fully aware that there are many who would consider the story of a dead, yet now alive, Savior as mythology or a fairy-tale and the faith that millions have placed in such a belief to be foolishness. Sometimes I stop and wonder what would happen for those who have rejected Jesus Christ, if they took the time to truly examine the evidence.

In his best-selling book, *The Case for Christ*, author and former atheist Lee Strobel sought to debunk the major claims of the Christian faith. Strobel sat down with several of Christianity's leading theologians and grilled them on how they actually came to believe, what was in his opinion, utter nonsense. The final result of his interviews was that Strobel came to realize that these men and women had great justification for their faith, so much so that he too placed his faith in Jesus.

While I would highly recommend that you take time to read *The Case for Christ* for yourself, I thought I would quickly share and summarize just two or three of many, many evidences given by those interviewed as to why they firmly believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- **Jesus' disciples were willing to die for their belief that He has risen.** As I once heard it said, "Liars make terrible martyrs." It would be one thing for me to give my life for something I deeply believed in, but the disciples would willingly be tortured and put to death for something they claimed to have personally seen. If the resurrection was just some made up story, do you think Jesus' first followers would have shown that kind of commitment to what they knew was a lie?
- **Women were the first to see and testify about the resurrection.** This may not seem like a big deal today, but 2,000 years ago, if you were going to make up a story that you wanted others to accept, you would NEVER have women as the primary eye-witnesses. In that day and time, women were not allowed to provide testimony in a court and their word was not viewed as reliable. Thankfully, things are different today, but the fact that women were the first to see the risen Savior and that their account was used in Scripture, lends a huge amount of credibility to the record.
- **Skeptics like Paul and James (Jesus' half-brother) were converted.** From a worldly perspective, people like Paul and James had nothing to gain and everything to lose by becoming followers of Jesus. Of course, the reality was that they had everything to gain, but most didn't see it that way. Again, with access to the first-hand information available, why would someone dedicate his or her whole life to what they knew wasn't true? The only answer is that those one-time skeptics were convinced, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that Jesus was alive.

I could go on to list many more defenses of the resurrection, just as Strobel's book does, but in the end it doesn't really matter. Why? Because the issue of being a follower of Jesus, believing in His death, burial, and resurrection, is something that will always come down to faith. *You must choose to believe.* You have the freedom to choose to believe that it's all made up; just something that people tell each other to help them sleep better at night. Or, you can choose, BY FAITH, to believe that Jesus truly was and is the Son of God, that He died on the cross for your sins, and that He rose from the tomb on the third day.

For the many of you who have already made that wonderful decision to believe by faith, then let's rejoice together as we celebrate how our lives have been made new in our Savior. However, don't forget to share that message of Good News with those who have yet to believe. "For we live by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7, NIV)

Blessings!
Pastor Greg

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Regular Schedule:	
Sunday	Wednesday
8:00 A.M. Worship	7:30-9:30 A.M. Walking Track
9:15 A.M. Bible Study	6:00-6:45 P.M. Session 1
10:30 A.M. Worship	Ignite; Children's Choirs, Small Group Study
Lighthouse Harbor Torchbearers	6:45-7:30 P.M. Session 2
5:00 P.M. Adult Choir Rehearsal	Ignite; Adult Choir; Missions; Prayer Meeting
6:00 P.M. Worship	
Activities for April 18 through May 1	
Thursday	April 18
7:30-9:30 A.M. Walking Track	
10:00 A.M. Life PLUS Bible Study	
3:30-4:30 P.M. St. Paul (gym)	
7:00 P.M. Maundy Thursday Service	
Friday	April 19
Good Friday – Building Closed	
7:00 P.M. Good Friday Service – First Steps Church of God	
Saturday	April 20
Regular A.M. Schedule – NO Torchbearers or Light House Harbor	
6:00 P.M. NO Evening Service	
Monday	April 22
7:30-9:30 A.M. Walking Track	
1:30 P.M. CARE "E" Team	
Tuesday	April 23
7:30-9:30 A.M. Walking Track	
11:00 A.M. Revelation Study	
6:00 P.M. Volunteer Banquet – Methodist United Memorial	
7:00 P.M. Bible Study Fellowship	

Wednesday	April 24
Regular Schedule	
Thursday	April 25
7:30-9:30 A.M. Walking Track	
9:00 A.M. Seed Sew-ers	
10:00 A.M. Life PLUS Bible Study	
3:30-4:30 P.M. St. Paul (gym)	
6:30 P.M. Revelation Study	
7:00 P.M. MAC Rehearsal	
Friday	April 26
6:00 A.M. Life Plus leave for Amish Trip	
7:30-9:30 A.M. Walking Track	
Saturday	April 27
6:00 P.M. BUNCO	
Sunday	April 28
Regular A.M. Schedule	
Noon VBS Luncheon Meeting	
4:00 P.M. Griefshare	
5:00 P.M. Adult Choir Rehearsal	
	YATL Meeting
	Trustees Meeting
Monday	April 29
7:30-9:30 A.M. Walking Track	
Tuesday	April 30
7:30-9:30 A.M. Walking Track	
11:00 A.M. Revelation Study	
7:00 P.M. Bible Study Fellowship	
Wednesday	May 1
7:30-9:30 A.M. Walking Track	
5:00 P.M. Wednesday Meal	
5:30 P.M. RA Races	
6:00 P.M. Missions (note change in time)	
6:45 P.M. Children's Choir (note change in time)	

Parent/Child Dedication

If you have welcomed a new child into your home since last Mother's Day, please participate in our parent/child dedication on May 12 at the beginning of the 10:30 A.M. service. Please meet Mrs. Moore in the office at 10:20 A.M. and we will conduct the dedication at the beginning of the service



OCT. 11-13, 2019

“... when my heart is overwhelmed;
lead me to the rock that is higher than I.”
Psalm 61:2

Is your to-do list out of control? God wants to take you to a higher ground. Come join us as we find His peace in the middle of the chaos.

We are looking for those interested in attending the Women of Joy “Overwhelmed” conference in Branson, October 11-13. The cost of \$169.00 (per person) includes a two night stay and conference fees with four to a room - the price adjusts accordingly. An additional fee would apply if the church takes the bus.

A non-refundable deposit of \$25.00 is due at time of reservation (by May 1) with the total due by August 28. Please let Karen know of your interest (573) 756-4654 or sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office. Visit womenofjoy.org for more information

Reminder

No evening services Easter Sunday.

North American Missions Offering

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions will be received this Sunday morning through the end of April. Our goal for this year is \$5000. 100% of the offering dollars goes directly to NAMB missionaries.

Volunteer Banquet

The Farmington Ministerial Alliance volunteer banquet is Tuesday, April 23 at 6:00 P.M. ~ Memorial United Methodist Church on Karsch Blvd.

Churches That Embrace Children

We all know of restaurants that embrace children as part of their business model. McDonalds and Burger King come to mind. CiCi's pizza is another. These restaurants understand the value of children and spend millions to ensure their business welcomes kids and parents.

Families visiting our church will know whether we embrace their kids or not. What are some key concepts for churches that want to demonstrate embracing children as part of their ministry?

- **Messy is healthy.** Children learning to take in God's Word, learning to worship, and to love Jesus are just as messy as a kids in a restaurant. There is line of dirt on walls about two feet high because little hands are dragging as kids walk the halls. Messy is healthy.
- **Value noise over perfection.** Children make noises in worship and in classes. Children cry, scream and yell. Whenever we hear a baby crying in church don't get angry because of the noise. Instead get angry at the person who is angry with the child.
- **Protect children at all costs.** Child security is a discipleship issue. We are responsible for providing a safe and healthy environment for children.
- **Promote children's ministry in multiple venues.** Check a church's worship guide, social media, and newsletter. What is in there about children?
- **Invest in KidMin.** Does a churches budget reflect children as a priority? Does the condition of our children's facilities reflect value for kids?
- **Develop understanding of your church at the level of the child.** Churches should seek out the perspective of parents, and yes even the kids themselves.

In Luke 18, Jesus *invited* the children. In Mark 10, Jesus *embraced* the children. Churches that welcome and embrace children are like Jesus. In fact, Jesus becomes angry at the disciples for discounting the value of children. We must be the church that embraces children, not just tolerates them.

Wednesday Night Schedule Change

Please note the schedule for Wednesday, May 1

5:00 P.M. – Fellowship Meal
5:30 P.M. – RA Races
6:00 P.M. – Missions (note time switch)
Ignite
NO Small Group(s)
6:45 P.M. – Children's Choir (note time switch)
Adult Choir Rehearsal
NO Prayer Group

Easter Egg Hunt

Join us Sunday, April 21 for an Easter egg hunt for - nursery, preschool, younger children and older children.

This is an exciting event for kids and parents and an opportunity to reach families and kids that do not attend church often.

Following the 8:00 A.M. service, join us in the gym as we enjoy a continental breakfast, Pastor Greg will extend a welcome to families and recognize our children's ministry workers.

Then Following the Easter egg hunts, Chuck Henson will provide a brief gospel presentation based on the "resurrection egg" resource.

We will also offer a photo session area for families to have pictures taken.

Please be in prayer for this event. Pray for our children's workers and leaders as they interact and encourage families to bring their kids to church. We want to reach as many new families as possible.

Kids Camp

We plan to attend Eagle Sky Camp in Piedmont, MO for this year's children's camp, June 17 - 22. Eagle Sky is a new non-denominational Christian camp that has very nice facilities and exciting programs and events for kids. This is a week-long camp and as a result the cost will be higher. With funds from our recent Trivia Night and from our designated kid's camp account, we will be able to reduce the cost to parents. If you would like to contribute/sponsor a child for children's camp please contact the Church office by May 1 if possible.

Senior Pictures

Attention graduating seniors! Graduation Sunday is coming soon and we are collecting pictures of our seniors for the senior video. So, please turn in 10-15 of your favorite pictures by Sunday, May 5. The funnier and more embarrassing, the better!

Youth Mission Trip Service Projects

Our students continue to look for projects to raise money for their mission trip to Cleveland, Tennessee. Do you have any spring cleaning, yard work, painting, etc? Our students would love to come and help you! Please contact Jason if you would like to have our students come and help you. If possible please give us 2 weeks' notice to complete the job.

Thank You

We express our thanks and gratitude to Helen Black for all her years of service to the Ceramics ministry. Helen helped develop and supported this wonderful ministry for several years and her dedication is greatly appreciated. With closing out this ministry the group was able to donate \$945.00 to missions.

Thank you for the memorial to the Missouri Baptist Children's Home in honor of D.R. Stroud. We appreciate it very much.

The Stroud Family, Elsie and Boys

Thank you to everyone who donated to our youth group's 30 Hour Famine! Through our Weight loss competition and our students' individual fundraising, we were able to raise over \$1,800 for starving children around the world! That amount will feed 4 children for an entire year and will help them to break out of the cycle of poverty!

Prayer List:

Alice Baw (sister of Delmar Watts)

Christian Sympathy:

- To David Rhives and family in the death of his Mother, Glenda Rhives.
- To Al Schweiss and family in the death of his Mother, Marie Schweiss.
- To Bunny Griffon and family in the death of her niece, Earlene Lietz.
- To Joyce Alexander and family in the death of her sister, Della Tucker.
- To Ruth Gollaher and family in the death of her brother, Leo Castile.

Sunday, April 14, 2019

Our Church Studying: 269

Our Church Growing:

Margaret and John Bollinger by letter

Financial Statistics for:

April 7, 2019

Budget Requirements (wkly)	\$ 18,591.00
Budget Receipts (4-7-19)	28,049.52
Requirement (wk 27)	501,957.00
Receipts (wk 27)	499,688.55
STB-BTS (from Oct)	33,275.00