

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This is not the Lenten Season we had imagined. We gave up so much more this year than in any other year most of us can remember. We gave up dinners out, strolls through stores, movies, plays, school concerts, sporting events, family visits, and so much more.

Although we wish we could celebrate its end with a triumphant celebration in the sanctuary with choirs and flowers and people dressed in their Easter best we cannot. But, we will celebrate on Easter morning, but not all in one space as we have for other Easter days.

Here's what you need to know: closed church doors will not stop the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Closed church doors will not stop the Alleluias, and they will not stop the triumph of life over death and light over darkness. Closed church doors will not stop our church from proclaiming Easter hope during the COVID-19 crisis, when our whole community and our entire world needs to hear hope so desperately!

The mission and ministry of our church didn't stop when we got the word that we needed to close our doors to slow the spread of this disease. In some ways, the demands of our mission field became more challenging! We are needed now more than ever! We continue to serve more and more meals out of the Community Soup Kitchen. Trish continues to find creative ways to connect with our kids and families. The Worship and Tech teams have created meaning services and developed skills they NEVER knew they would need. Ministry continues.

This church needs your financial support now more than ever too! Many of us find ourselves in a very different financial situation than we were when the year began; but if you are able, as much as your able, continue your financial support to keep being a witness of hope to our congregation and community.

Wouldn't it be an awesome testimony of hope if our Easter offering this year matched or exceeded what we received last year? This year's Easter offering will go a long way for our church to offer ministry to those in need due to this crisis.

Please either mail your offering to the church marked special gifts, "Easter Hope Offering" or donate through our on-line giving option at mcindianaumc.org.

You are in my prayers every day as I pray through our membership list, and I hope I'm in yours.

In Easter hope,

Pastor Nancy

Resurrection

Long, long, long ago;
Way before this winter's snow
First fell upon these weathered fields;
I used to sit and watch and feel
And dream of how the spring would be,
When through the winter's stormy sea
She's raise her green and growing head,
Her warmth would resurrect the dead.

Long before this winter's snow
I dreamt of this day's sunny glow
And thought somehow my pain would pass
With winter's pain, and peace like grass
Would simply Grow. The pain's not gone.
It's still as cold and hard and long
As lonely pain has ever been,
It cuts so deep and far within.

Long before this winter's snow
I ran from pain, looked high and low
For some fast way to get around
Its hurt and cold. I'd have found,
If I had looked at what was there
That things don't follow fast or fair.
That life goes on, and times do change,
And grass does grow despite life's pains.

Long before this winter's snow
I thought that this day's sunny glow,
The smiling children and growing things
And flowers bright were brought by spring.
Now, I know the sun does shine,
That children smile, and from the dark, cold grime
A flower comes. It groans, yet sings,
And through its pain, its peace begins.

by Mary Ann Bernard

Holy Saturday 7:30 PM

While we have not traditionally done an Easter Vigil, this might be the time. This is a special service of readings and psalms that move us from the First Garden (Eden) to the Second Garden (The Empty Tomb). This will be on **Zoom** at 7:30 pm. Invitations will be sent out Saturday morning.

Easter Sunday 9:30 am

On Easter we will share in the **Celebration of the Resurrection at 9:30 AM via Facebook live.**

Ministry is happening! Stay in touch, stay safe, and we will soon see one another face to face. Until that happens we will continue to have Zoom meetings at 7pm on Tuesdays & Thursdays. Just to touch base and have communication with one another.

Shalom, Pastor Nancy



The Local TV Station channel 99 shows our church service Wednesday's at 2:30 pm , Friday's at 4:30 pm, & Sunday's at 7 pm

Some of you might remember a time when you got all "dolled up" (quoting my grandmother) and had the new outfit, hat, gloves, shoes and purse. Maybe you had sister and brother outfits that matched. You might have gone to church so proud of how you looked. I hate to admit it - but I was always so excited to see everybody, and to show off what I was wearing. Those were fun times.

Now we have times to look forward to - maybe we read our Bibles more, sing the Easter hymns we remember. Please know that we don't have to dress up this year, we just have to remember that Jesus died for us.

Thank you all for being a part of our church family. If you need to talk to someone - I will be glad to call you or email you - just let me know. judycommers@gmail.com or call my cell phone - 219-363-0103

Take care,

Judy