

# BEULAH BEACON

## DARKNESS TO LIGHT

By Pastor Daniel Chun

Every Easter, we host an Easter Sunrise Service where the church is invited to come and worship while the sun rises. Although I am not particularly sure how the tradition of having a sunrise service was formed, the Sunrise Service that we have is so beautiful. (Despite how tiring it is to wake up that early) There's something very special about the sunrise and witnessing it. It's not surprising that many people around the world would occasionally wake up early in the morning to travel to a peak to see the sun rise.

For Christians, the spiritual significance of the sun rise is that light shines over darkness. Growing up with a Korean-Christian spirituality, a common practice in the Korean church is dawn morning prayer. Members of the church would devote their mornings to go to church and pray to start the day. As the body of Christ gathers to pray each morning, we would witness the sun would rise bringing light into the world.

I had the pleasure but also suffering to be a part of morning prayer services. I would wake up at 5am while it was still dark out and head to church by 6am. As worship and prayer finished roughly around 7 am, I would start heading home seeing the sun rise beautifully. As the sunlight would beam at me, I would weirdly feel my body being rejuvenated despite having to wake up early.

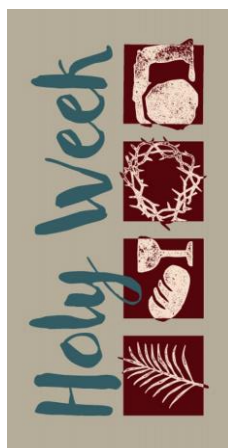
I believe as Christians, the sun rise is a powerful symbol of God's gift of light for us. It is both literal and spiritual. God provides light through the sun physically, but God's light is also spiritually over us as through the Good News, darkness is no more. Watching the sunrise is a daily reminder that God shines His light over the darkness of this world. And especially as we get ready for Easter which is only a week away (depending on when you read this), let us get ready to say the famous declaration that represents God's gift of light over our lives: HE IS RISEN!

1 John 1 would say 5 *"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."*

Easter is upon us! So first, I would highly encourage us to join our Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30am on April 9th, 2023. And as we do, let us give praise to God for the wonderful gift of light that shines over us physically and spiritually.

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON

**PALM SUNDAY**

April 2  
at 8:30 and 11:00

PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

April 6  
at 7:00 pm

PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON

**GOOD FRIDAY**

April 7  
at 7:00 pm

PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON

**EASTER SUNDAY**

April 9  
at 6:30 am and 11:00 am

# MUSIC NOTES

By Deborah Wenrich

I have chosen two songs for the April Beacon. They are “Ain’t No Rock Gonna Shout for Me” and “Hallelujah Chorus”.

**Ain’t No Rock Gonna Shout for Me** is arranged by Lloyd Larson. What would it have been like to see Jesus riding on a donkey’s colt into Jerusalem? How many people joined that parade? The Pharisees were meticulous interpreters of the Torah and observed strict spiritual practices. They weren’t very happy to see Jesus, they saw him as an extremist, upsetting the political order and calling them out on many occasions. The Pharisees are annoyed by the disciples, the crowds, and they call for Jesus to rebuke them. Jesus answers that if the crowds were silent, that the rocks would cry out.

The refrain is:

Rocks keep silent! Jesus comes to set me free.  
Rocks keep silent! Jesus reigns in victory!  
Rocks keep silent! Jesus reigns in majesty.  
Ain’t no rock gonna shout for me!

We are reminded in this refrain, that if we don’t praise the Lord in all that he came to do and is doing, that the rocks will take our place.

Steven Pierce: Ain’t No Rock Gonna Shout for Me Day1, Weekly Broadcast Peter Wallace host, 14 April, 2019 [https://day1.org/weekly-broadcast/5d9b820ef71918cdf20042e8/steven\\_pierce\\_aint\\_no\\_rock\\_gonna\\_shout\\_for\\_me](https://day1.org/weekly-broadcast/5d9b820ef71918cdf20042e8/steven_pierce_aint_no_rock_gonna_shout_for_me)

**Hallelujah Chorus** was written by George Frederick Handel as part of his Messiah oratorio. George F. Handel was born February 24, 1685. He received music lessons before his 10<sup>th</sup> birthday from a local organist. His mother was responsible for his spiritual training and his father, who was a surgeon insisted that he study law. He was able to pursue his musical career after his father’s passing when he was in college. At the age of 17, he was a church organist. By the age of 19, he had mastered most of the orchestral instruments and was well on his way to becoming one of the world’s greatest composers.

George F. Handel wanted to write something that would last and lift everyone’s spirits. He spent a season in prayer and took the words of several scriptures that were arranged and compiled by his friend Charles Jennings. After twenty-three days, he was victorious in writing the Messiah, an oratorio that became the most widely performed musical in the world. His greatest fame came from a concert performed in Dublin, Ireland on April 13, 1742. A great crowd was in attendance along with King George II of England. When the choir rose and Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah filled the auditorium, the King was so moved that he jumped to his feet. The whole audience did the same. From that day onward, whenever the Hallelujah Chorus is presented, all audiences stand.

In the hours before his death, Handel said “I want to die in the hope of rejoining the Good God, my sweet Lord and Savior on the day of his resurrection”. In the Messiah’s lyrics are these words: “And he shall reign for ever and ever, Hallelujah! King of Kings and Lord of Lords, forever!

Story behind the song: Hallelujah Chorus Lindsay Terry, 3 Dec, 2015  
<https://www.staugustine.com/story/lifestyle/faith/2015/12/04/story-behind-song-hallelujah-chorus/16257427007/>

# THIS MONTH’S COMMUNION OFFERING

The April Communion offering is split between two nonprofit organizations.



<https://endhunger.org/>  
(Information taken from  
the Society of St. Andrew’s website)

The Society of St. Andrew brings people together to harvest and share healthy food, reduce food waste, and build caring communities by offering nourishment to hungry neighbors. They envision a world in which physical and spiritual hungers are met through God’s grace and abundance in Jesus Christ.



<https://shalomfarms.org/>  
(Information taken from  
the SHALOM FARMS website)

Everyone deserves healthy food. Shalom Farms is a nonprofit working together to build healthy communities by growing and sharing healthy food. The food they grow is distributed through their network of programs and partnerships in communities where access to healthy food is limited. “Shalom” is a Hebrew word often translated as “peace.” However, its meaning goes beyond just the absence of violence or oppression, to suggest the active presence of health and happiness, and an understanding that this wholeness and well-being belongs to everyone. For Shalom Farms, it represents their hope that all people in our community, and even the land and plants themselves, can be in a whole and thriving relationship together to support a healthy Richmond.

# THE MONTH IN REVIEW

**Beulah Tea:** The annual Beulah UWF tea on March 18 was very successful. This event was used to raise money for Safe Harbor, an organization located in Henrico county. They serve survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking in Central VA, being the ONLY organization for human trafficking in eastern Virginia. Our guest speaker was very informative and energetic, sharing details of their support and counseling services. The information shared was educational, and gently shared. What a blessing we received knowing that we were able to contribute to such a worthy cause! How precious to know that we are in some way helping a person – male or female, any age – survive and move forward from human trafficking and/or domestic violence.

We had 45 people attend – ages ranging from 10 to 80's. The table decorations were beautiful ranging from music to classic tea settings; from ocean to seasonal settings; and even included outdoors/hunting settings for the men that attended. The selections of food were great, varied, and delicious. There was much laughing and talking at each of our 10 tables. If you missed us, please plan to attend next year.

**Bell Festival Trip:** On March 24 and 25, the Bells of Praise had an awesome time at Area III Virginia Festival. Beulah will be hearing music selections from the festival on Sunday, May 21 and Sunday, June 11.

**Confirmation Class Trip to Bible Museum:** On Saturday, March 25, the confirmation class visited the Museum of the Bible located in Washington D.C. The experience was both educational and fun.

**Springdale:** On Sunday, March 5, the Bus ministry returned to Beulah. On the first Sunday of every month the church Van will visit Springdale at Lucy Corr to pick up residents to attend the 11 am worship service. There were several people who had not been able to attend church since before COVID.

On Tuesday, March 28, Pastor Don led the Springdale Bible Study at it's new time of 10:30 am on the fourth Tuesday of the Month. The Springdale Bible study provides communion and a time of worship for senior residents at Lucy Corr who would not otherwise be able to attend Church.



## THE UPCOMING WORSHIP MEALS ARE

- 04/06 United Methodist Men (*Maundy Thursday*)  
Flounder, Coleslaw, Mac & Cheese, and Texas Sheet Cake
- 04/12 Youth (*Fundraiser for Youth Mission Trip*)  
To be determined
- 04/19 Wesleyan Stratton  
Grilled hot dogs with all the fixing, baked beans, coleslaw, and homemade deserts.
- 04/26 Crusaders (*Fundraiser for NOW*)  
BBQ, coleslaw, baked beans and desert

## SHERBOURNE FOOD PANTRY

During the month of April, the Sherbourne Food Pantry is asking for donations of canned fruit and vegetables. The benefits of most canned fruits are that they contain the same amount of nutrients as fresh and frozen produce. Fruit canned in water or its own juices is healthier than those canned in syrup, but any canned fruit will be accepted. Donations can be left on the wire rack by the Information Center or in the white after-hours donation cabinet in the Breezeway.

# BIBLE READING CHALLENGE



By Barry Iglehart

[root-cellar.org](http://root-cellar.org)

## APRIL READING

01	1 Thessalonians 1	16	Sunday (Catch-up day)
02	Sunday (Catch-up day)	17	2 Timothy 1
03	1 Thessalonians 2	18	2 Timothy 2
04	1 Thessalonians 3-4	19	2 Timothy 3
05	1 Thessalonians 5	20	2 Timothy 4
06	2 Thessalonians 1	21	Titus 1
07	2 Thessalonians 2	22	Titus 2
08	2 Thessalonians 3	23	Sunday (Catch-up day)
09	Sunday (Catch-up day)	24	Titus 3
10	1 Timothy 1	25	Philemon + Hebrews 1
11	1 Timothy 2	26	Hebrews 2
12	1 Timothy 3	27	Hebrews 3
13	1 Timothy 4	28	Hebrews 4
14	1 Timothy 5	29	Hebrews 5
15	1 Timothy 6	30	Sunday (Catch-up day)

I was asked to work from Easter favorites... of course I like jellybeans and chocolate bunnies. Peeps not so much. My brother, I think, even liked the black jellybeans, and for reason I don't. Anyway, he found out our pastor's wife really, really, really liked them. So, for several years he went through his basket, mine, too, maybe, and pulled out every last black jellybean he could find. Just for her.

Other memories are there for Easter, more favorites than not... the music the singing, the flowers! Some of them were actually on the altar as well as the ladies' hats and coats. One Easter memory was in a "past life" and on a bridge over the river in Alderson, West Virginia, at sunrise. The girl had just bought a lovely sundress, just for Easter. What can you do but laugh?... Windchill does not begin to describe the "breezy" conditions that morning.

How many of us got new clothes, suits or dresses for Easter as we grew up? Oh, the finery, getting all gussied up! Scripture tells us that we'll be clothed anew in and on that day. Even before then our spirits will be renewed and refreshed. Jesus Himself tells us that Solomon himself was not arrayed like the flowers of the field. All the joy and celebration that surrounds the day. EASTER! He will work with us; but, I feel like God wants us to worship Him exactly like that, in joy and celebration, and in thankfulness!

So, what's my word for this time? Celebration! The Hebrew is "khagigah", from the word "khag", and rooted with the English words feast and festival(!). And that would be my very favorite part of Easter, fro all the memories, the celebration... of Spring, of life of joy, of the resurrection, of Jesus! Shalom uv'racah chaverim, peace and blessings my friends! Amen!

## STRAW POLL

Following an official 30 Days of Discernment (March 5th - April 3rd ) we (all members of Beulah UMC) will gather for an official vote (a straw poll) to test the opinion and determine whether Beulah UMC will move forward into Phase 2 of the Disaffiliation process toward a final and deciding vote. This straw poll is not the final vote, however, is the determining vote as to whether Beulah UMC moves forward to a final vote to disaffiliate.

The Straw Poll will take place on Tuesday, April 11th from \*4:00 pm to 7:30 pm in the church Sanctuary and will include all members present and will require a simple majority to move forward- remember, members must be present to vote.

### STRAW POLL SCHEDULE: \*Please note time changes

- \*4:00 pm Doors open – check membership and receive ballot.
- \*4:30 pm Prayer, Overview, and voting begins.
- 7:30 pm Voting Closes – No ballots will be handed out after this time. Ballot boxes will be removed and ballots will be counted by the Discernment team.
- 7:45 pm Results announced in Sanctuary.

# WOMEN PREACHERS IN WESLEY'S DAY

By Barbra Tuttle, Beulah's UWF Chair

Have you ever heard of Sarah Crosby? Mary Bosanquet? Sarah Mallet? Did you know that Sarah Crosby began to preach in the Methodist Movement in 1761 with John Wesley's approval and is considered to be the first woman to be called a Methodist preacher? Mary Bosanquet is credited with persuading Wesley to formerly authorize women to preach in public in 1771, even though they had not been allowed to preach in a church the year before because the parishioners had heard that Methodist women were preaching. Sarah Mallet began preaching in the 1780's and preached for 55 years, despite facing opposition after Wesley's death.

These are just three of the many women whose calling was recognized by Wesley because he saw that their preaching was bringing people to Christ. Not surprisingly, the women were not accepted everywhere, and after Wesley's death in 1791, the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the majority Methodist Movement in England, banned women from public preaching in 1803. Nevertheless, many women continued to preach, and they were not prevented by some of the male church leaders.

The Methodist General Conference did not give women full clergy rights until 1956. However, because the UMC appointment process allows congregations to have a say in who is sent to them, there are still UM churches who will not accept a female pastor. To our credit, Beulah UMC is not among them.

## UWF MISSION WITNESS

The Daily Prayer Guider is published annually by United Women in Faith. It invites us to pray as one people responsive to God's call to relationships of caring, connecting and healing in a world of uncertainty in all but the love of God. Each month we share a testimony from a person in mission for Christ through the United Methodist Church.

### Scripture for the Month

Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad!  
Philippians 4:4

### Witness

God has used some moments of joy to reassure me in my calling as Regional Missionary in Mozambique. One such moment happened in February 2020 during the Training for Transformation Refresher Course in Maputo, Mozambique. Members of Team Mozambique were demonstrating what they had learned in a session with 20 United Methodist Women Society members from Maputo. To my surprise and joy, I saw one of the leaders using something I had taught with her own class. Later in the training, I learned how a leader delegated an important job to someone else. She told me, "...for the sake of team work, as you had taught us." One more joyful moment is tied to the flourishing relationships forged and demonstrated in the love and loyalty of my Mozambican team members as they stood by me in difficult and frustrating times during the training. This brought great joy to my heart. My joy spring from the fact that the little teachings served a much deeper purpose than those originally intended. Not only had God taken the little I had done and multiplied it, but those moments stand out as treasures of joy meted out to each of us, as God's spiritual family in Mozambique.

- Catherine Mudime Akale, United Methodist Women Regional Missionary serving in Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Angola and ecumenically

### Prayer

Please pray for international missionaries serving in Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Greece and Guatemala and our United States missionaries serving in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Kentucky.



## 2023 VBS

Vacation Bible School is coming closer and closer! (Tuesday, June 20th - Friday, June 23rd) And we are happy to announce that the Registration for VBS 2023 - Hero Hotline is OPEN! Please go to <https://www.beulahumc.org/VBS2023> to find the Registration Form! You may also find the registration form on the Facebook Event Page. If you know of any students in will be in Elementary School as of Fall 2023, share with them the great news about VBS!

## BEULAH'S BEST

Beulah's Best will meet **Tuesday, April 18**, at 10:00 am in the Fellow Hall. Sharon Robertson and Deborah Wenrich will be providing an in prompt to Hymn session so bring a friend and be ready to sing!

## A MATTER OF BALANCE

The Senior Ministry is hosting the Senior Connection's class *A Matter of Balance*. This 8-week class emphasizes practical strategies to manage falls. You will learn to: view falls as controllable, set goals for increasing activity, make changes to reduce fall risks at home, and exercise to increase strength and balance. This class is open to anyone concerned about falls or interested in improving balance, flexibility, and strength. The classes on Thursdays from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, April 20 through June 1. To register for this free workshop, contact Kathy Brown by phone (804-343-3004) or email (kbrown@youraaa.org).

## THE CARD MINISTRY

The card ministry sends cards to members of the military and first responders. If you have a family member who is military or a first responders, and you would like them included in this ministry please contact Beth VanDenBerg at 804-304-0812.

## THANKS

**To: Beulah Friends**

**From: Emma Bradley**

Thank you all so much for your calls, visits, food, and cards after my stroke. You have just showered me with attention, and I appreciate it so much. Thanks also to those of you who graciously came and took me to doctor visits and to church. Words just aren't adequate to express my gratitude. I love you all so much. It is heavenly to be cared for with such love.

**To: Beulah Family**

**From: Suzanne Davis**

Thank you for the cards, prayers, and kind words of support, which was extended to my father and my self, after the passing of my "stepmother" Fay Marshall. It is through these things we felt comforted and were reminded of the love of Christ.

## BIRTHDAYS

### APRIL

02 Hilda Taylor  
05 Charles David Dudley  
07 Jerry Lane  
Karen Tatum  
10 Jack Lunsford  
12 Elaine Johnston  
Olga Leon  
15 John Kuti  
16 Leonard Lancaster  
Allie Malone  
17 Connie Beck  
18 Nancy Goff

19 Jerome Skaggs  
Carol Zimmerman  
21 Cathy Roberts  
25 Cheryl Duffy  
Donald Vaughan  
27 Melanie Akoi  
29 Theresa Meadows

### May

04 Theresa Buckner  
05 Mary Anne Huband  
06 Don Gibson

## APRIL CALENDAR

- 01 Easter Egg Hunt
- 02 **Palm Sunday**
- 04 Hugging Hearts
- 05 **Maundy Thursday Service**
- 06 **Good Friday**  
Youth Lock in
- 09 **Easter Sunrise Service**  
**11:00 am Easter Worship Service**
- 10 **CHURCH CLOSED**
- 11 Finance Meeting  
Mary Farmer Circle of Love  
Rebekah Fellowship  
Straw Poll Vote
- 15 Altrusa Tea
- 16 UWF Sunday
- 18 Beulah's Best  
Prayer Shawl Ministry  
Hugging Hearts  
UMM Dinner and Meeting
- 19 Beulah Pool  
Wesleyan Stratton  
VBS Meeting
- 20 Matter of Balance
- 21 Historical Society
- 25 Springdale Bible Study  
Prayer Meeting
- 27 Matter of Balance
- 28 **Centenary Kitchen**

## REOCCURRING WEEKLY

- Sunday** 8:30 Worship  
Sunday School  
11:00 Worship  
Children and Youth Bells  
Youth
- Monday** Card Ministry  
Men's Bible Study  
Discerning the Voice of God  
Bells of Praise Rehearsal  
Scouts
- Tuesday** Cub Scouts
- Wednesday** Staff Meeting  
Wednesday Worship Meal
- Thursday** Beulah Land Quartet  
Family Group Night  
First Touch Sports  
Girl Scouts  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal