

EASTER PEOPLE

“So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.” Col. 3:1 - 4

I recently read the story of Alan Tibbels. He is a resident of Sandtown, which is a low-income neighborhood on Baltimore’s west side. Sadly, Sandtown is mostly known for its open drug traffic, high crime rate, and until recent years, derelict housing. In 1987 Tibbels, a white man, moved his all-white family into this African-American community. His plan was to become a permanent neighbor to people in need and to begin a project of serious community development. This was going to mean, among other things, rebuilding rundown housing, creating safe

day-care programs, and offering basic health care to local residents.

Tibbels has been very successful, and if that isn’t remarkable enough, he is also a quadriplegic, the result of a basketball accident from many years before. When asked how he sustains his purpose and drive in life given his disability, he cites his favorite Bible verse from 1 Corinthians 15. The apostle Paul wrote, *“Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”*

This verse inspires Tibbels to pursue all sorts of challenging goals despite true physical adversity. He says that since, in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, *that means new possibilities are placed upon us. . . and therefore, new capabilities are given to us.* Likewise, the passage in Colossians I cited at the beginning of this article, makes a similar assumption – that not only Christ was dead and raised, but that we have also been raised with Him. Like I said in a recent sermon, we are Lazarus. In this same passage, Paul goes on to say that those who are alive in Christ are to cloth ourselves with particular virtues, His virtues, which he calls “putting on the garments” of Christ.

What that means, in essence, is that we are to be serious about living the resurrected life He has given us. It means we are to organize our days with a certain conduct in mind, and make our decisions and choices informed and inspired by His identity and ministry. Paul says that petty, legalistic rules are not what

the resurrected life is about. No, where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. It is out of our love for Christ and our gratitude to Him that we live more and more like He did. That also involves a renouncing of all forces that defy God, a renouncing of any activity that would draw us away from God in Christ, and a renouncing of any “form of life” that isn’t patterned after Him – as we live to do His will and His work.

Of course, without Christ, without His Spirit within us - leaving our old sinful nature behind is impossible - but with Him, **nothing** good is impossible. Galatians 2: 19 – 20 says this: *“I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me** – and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by **faith** in the Son of God, who loved me and delivered Himself up for me.”* His life in us overcomes our old sinful nature. And I love this promise from Phil. 2: 13: *“For it is God who is at work in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”* He promises to help us to *want to do His will* as well as to do it. There is also this verse which is the favorite of so many Christians: *“I can do all things through Christ, who gives me strength.”* Phil. 4: 13 So we remember: *“Christ died for all so that those who live would not continue to live for themselves. He died for them and was raised from death so that they would live for Him.”* 2 Cor. 5: 15 - 17

So may we live as the Easter people Jesus has made, and is making, us to be, to His glory and the growth of His kingdom! Amen!

I love you! Susan

APRIL 2026 CALENDAR

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS: AA at 7 p.m. in the Rakestraw fellowship hall

EASTER MONDAY, April 6: Church office closed

WEDNESDAYS:

Community Bible Study from 11 a.m. to noon. *No Bible study on 4/15.*

Choir Practice at 5:30 p.m.

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

PICKERS & FIDDLER'S BLUEGRASS & GOSPEL MUSIC FEST

Saturday, April 11 from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the fellowship hall (and every 2nd

Saturday of the month). We'll have some fantastic bluegrass and gospel musicians playing the best of their repertoire, and delicious refreshments too - all free of charge. **Invite your friends!**

COMMUNITY MEAL

Thursday, April 16 at 5:30 in the Rakestraw fellowship hall.) Invite your friends and neighbors, and everybody come on out for a fine meal and great fellowship. The meal is free of charge and for EVERYONE.

QUARTERLY CHURCH BUSINESS MTG.

Sunday, April 19 after the worship service in the fellowship hall. Lunch will be provided.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, April 20, at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room (and every 3rd Monday.)

DEACONS' MEETING

Tuesday, April 21 at 7 p.m. in the conference room (and every 3rd Tuesday.)

FEED AMERICA FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Tuesday, April 28, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. at the Light Electric Building, 24A Governor Stanley Hwy. (and every last Tuesday).

There is a worship service beforehand at 9:00 a.m. and a lunch, free of charge, is offered at 11:30 am at the same place. All are welcome.

SPECIAL APRIL EVENTS

HOLY WEEK 2026

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, March 29 at 11:00. We will go with Christ from His triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the cross.

WALK THE PRAYER LABYRINTH

Monday – Wednesday, March 30 – April 1 from 9:00 to 12:30 in the Rakestraw fellowship hall. Come at your own convenience to use our prayer walk (labyrinth) outlined on the floor of the fellowship hall. It's a very special experience.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Thursday, April 2 at 6:00 p.m. in the Rakestraw fellowship hall. We will remember Jesus' last night with His disciples

as we wash one another's hands (He washed the disciples' feet) and take communion together. We'll also especially remember His **commandment** that we love one another as He loves us. This is where the word "maundy" comes from – the Latin word for mandate or command. Finally, we will have a time of prayer using the labyrinth.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Friday, April 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Join us as we remember the final hours of Christ's passion in this service led by members of our church family.

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 5

Potluck Breakfast in the Rakestraw fellowship hall at 9:30 a.m.

Easter Service at 11:00 a.m. – a beautiful celebration of Christ's resurrection with glorious music and the flowering cross.

PBBC FISHING RODEO

Saturday, April 18 at Bones Farm.

We will meet in the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. No end time for this event has been specified.

The rodeo is for all ages and is free of charge. It is open to church members and regular attenders. Everyone who is planning to fish needs to bring their own rod and bait. The lake will be stocked with trout, and any fish that are caught may be kept. Children must always be supervised by an adult. Everyone should bring lawn chairs for their group and/or a picnic blanket. You'll also need your water and snacks, a cooler for your fish, and you may wish to bring a deck of cards or a game. A hot dog lunch with water will be provided free of charge.

REPORTS ON PAST EVENTS

CHILDREN'S EASTER PARTY

We give thanks to God for a wonderful children's Easter party on Saturday, March 28! We had the Easter Bible story and activities, crafts, and Easter egg hunts for both our younger and older children, as well as 2 bouncy houses, a pizza lunch, and a visit from a very special guest, the Easter Bunny! Best of all, though it was a chilly and windy day for egg hunts, we were thrilled to have 30 children, 26 parents and 10 church volunteers – a total of 66 - sharing in this event. Many of the children and parents came to us through our Little Angels Early Learning Center. Special appreciation goes to Donna Anthony for organizing this event, as well as to those 10 volunteers who helped with set-up, tear-down, the various activities, and crowd control.

HEADS UP! MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026

LOCATION: Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church, 120 Old Bassett Hgts. Rd.

FOR AGES: 3 years to children who just finished 5th grade

DATE: Saturday, June 6th (One-Day VBS)

TIME: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

GENERAL THEME: the circus, and particularly the strong man

TITLE AND BIBLE THEME: “STRONG IN THE LORD”

BIBLE STORY: David and Goliath - 1 Samuel 17: 19 – 51

SPECIAL GUESTS: Animals from Infinity Acres!

SIGN UP: through the church office (276-629-5394) or Little Angels ELC reservation form

Leaders are always needed to take our older and younger groups from activity to activity, as well as to direct the different activities. Speak to Donna Anthony if you would like more information or want to be involved. The children will be placed in older and younger groups to have the Bible story, a craft, music, recreation and lunch. Please be looking for the announcement of a planning meeting and be looking around your house for things that might serve as good props or decorations. If you do have anything, please put your name on it and set it aside to bring to church on Friday, June 5 - our VBS set -up/decorating date. Especially, think of the children in your life (neighbors, relatives, friends), aged 3 to 5th grade who you could invite!