

THE COMMUNITY CONNECTION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR
BROWN ST. UMC

RESURRECTION

By Pastor Ryan

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Have you ever been asked by someone - or asked someone yourself - if you believe the resurrection really happened as written? I've heard many arguments on both sides - and even some from somewhere in the middle - over the years. Lately, I've been thinking that maybe we jump a little too far ahead with that question. Maybe we should be asking "do you believe that resurrection can happen?"

If you Google the definition of "resurrect," the Oxford Dictionary will tell you that it means "to restore (a dead person) to life," or "to revive the practice, use, or memory of (something); bring new vigor to." Those definitions leave space for anything to be resurrected, not just someone who has physically died. Humans whose lives are at rock bottom can be resurrected. Communities and relationships can be resurrected.

The Oxford Dictionary will also tell you that "resurrect" is a verb, an action. Something needs to be resurrecting the human life, the community. But what is that something? It's probably not the snap of your fingers or harnessing lightning to make an electric current a la Frankenstein's monster.

If you ask me, it's not just something but multiple things: it's belief and hope. To borrow from Alcoholics Anonymous, it's the belief that a "power greater than us can restore us to sanity." The belief that we, other people, communities, programs are important and have value. It's hope for a future that is better, the belief that change is possible.

Whether you believe in it literally or figuratively, Jesus' resurrection gives us an example of this. God believes that human life - that our lives - has value, so he sends Jesus, who teaches humanity to believe and hope even beyond his resurrection. Jesus' teachings show us the importance of believing that others matter, of creating community. His death and resurrection show us that there is hope beyond despair, that we, too, may rise out of darkness and death and be given a new life.

So to answer my question above, yes. I believe that resurrection can happen because I've seen it. In the way the lives of those struggling with substance abuse are changed. In the birth of new connections from sharing a meal in the Fellowship Hall.

As we celebrate Easter, I hope you start to notice resurrection in your own life. May you have hope and belief in God's love for you and know that you can be resurrected into new life.

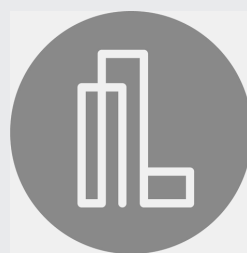
Monthly **Mission**

LAFAYETTE URBAN MINISTRY

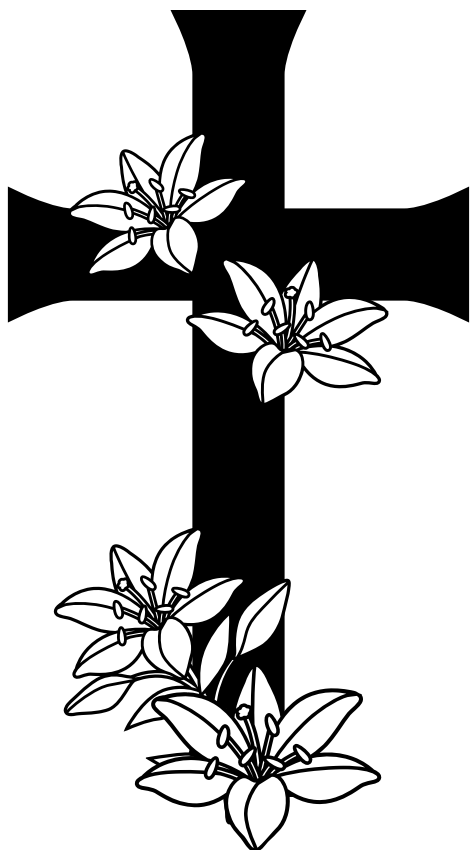
Our mission collection for the month of April is Lafayette Urban Ministry. LUM provides food, housing, and other resources to families and individuals in need within our community.

Monetary Donations

To give a monetary donation, mark your envelope "mission" and place it in the collection plate. Or, visit brownstumc.org/give and type "mission" in the memo line.



**LAFAYETTE
URBAN
MINISTRY**



EASTER WORSHIP

4/2 - Palm Sunday

9:00am - Brown St. UMC
10:30am - Congress St. UMC

4/7 - Good Friday

7:00pm - Congress St. UMC

4/6 - Maundy Thursday

6:00pm - Brown St. UMC

4/9 - Easter Sunday

9:00am - Brown St. UMC
10:30am - Congress St. UMC

FAMILY DINNER - TUESDAYS @ 5:30PM

Menu:

4/4 - Easter Dinner (ham)

4/11 - Meatloaf

4/18 - Breakfast (pancakes)

4/25 - BBQ Pork

Want to help? Check the Chapel for sign-ups to provide food, host a table, set-up, clean-up, and more! Questions? Reach out to Maia at info@brownstreetumc.org.



GRIEF GROUP

Sundays at 1:00pm, Congress St. hosts a grief support group, led by a licensed counselor. No matter what you're grieving, the loss of a loved one, a divorce, loss of a job, or any other cause of hurt, you are welcome to come and join this group. Questions? Contact Pastor Ryan.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Kerry Hardesty
- 1 - Lore Blinn Gibson
- 3 - Don Baumis
- 5 - Tom Ferguson
- 5 - Tiffany Hardesty
- 19 - Jason Swank
- 22 - Nicolette Elliott
- 25 - Nancy Eberle

ANNIVERSARIES

- 26 - Lyle & Roz Rupp





On Saturday, April 1st, a team of volunteers from Home with Hope, Brown St. UMC, and Purdue University installed new handicap accessible raised beds in our garden!

On Saturday, April 15th at 10:00am, we will have another work day to prepare the beds for the season and to begin planting our first crops. We would appreciate your help; all are welcome!

Questions? Contact Sandy Leill or Mary Jo Bartolacci.



GET CONNECTED. STAY CONNECTED.

FAMILY DINNER ON TUESDAY NIGHT:

Our February Family Dinners will be on:

April 4th, April 11th, April 18th, and April 25th

If you would like to help with this evening of fellowship, contact Maia Gibson for ways to help!

PIZZA WITH THE PASTOR:

Join Congress St. and Brown St UMC for lunch on Wednesdays!

Each Wednesday we gather for a casual lunch at Pizza Hut on Farabee Drive in Lafayette at noon. Everyone is welcome to join us!

SACRED SILENCE:

Join Pastor Ryan in the Brown St. sanctuary on Thursdays at noon for a 20 minute time of prayer/meditation. Whatever prayer practice works best for you is welcome.

We end with a very simple observance of Holy Communion.



OUR STAFF

Ryan Traeger
Pastor

Charis Vander Plaats
Director of Worship

Maia Gibson
Administrative Assistant

Sean Lutes
Director of Community Outreach

CONTACT US

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Sunday Worship:

Join us in-person in the sanctuary or on Facebook Live at
<https://www.facebook.com/BrownStreetUnitedMethodistChurch>

Sunday mornings at 9am.

**If you're interested or able to receive this newsletter via email,
please let Maia know by emailing her at
info@brownstreetumc.org.**

rwtraeger@gmail.com

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