



MINISTRY MATTERS

The Newsletter of Christ United Methodist Church
Owen Brown Interfaith Center, Columbia, Maryland



HOLY WEEK 101

by Rev. Angela Wells

We all kind of know the phrase Holy Week but perhaps some of us, perhaps depending on the tradition in which we were raised, are less acquainted with all this week entails. Have no fear! Holy Week 101 is right here for your convenience!

Holy Week refers to Easter Sunday and the 7 previous days—so Sunday to Sunday, 8 days total. This is the week in which we remember and retell the stories about the last week of Jesus’ earthly life. A good chunk of the gospels (ex. 35+% of the gospel of Mark) are devoted to narrating this particular week of events. When Holy Week occurs depends on Easter’s timing—so when does Easter fall in Western Christian churches? Here’s your double jeopardy question: what is the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox? And to make matters even more confusing, the Eastern Churches (ex. Greek Orthodox) follow a different rule to determine the timing of Easter—sometimes our Easters coincide, and sometimes they don’t! Don’t worry, there’s no quiz.

Explanations of Palm Sunday, Maunday Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday are the highlights of this month’s Clergy Corner!



- IN THIS ISSUE:
- Clergy Corner*
- Worship and Praise*
- Our Church Family*
- CUMC Cares*
- Fellowship*
- Going Green*
- Conference Connections*
- Participation Matters*
- Business Corner*
- Calendar*



CLERGY CORNER

Rev. Angela



Holy Week 101, continued

Palm Sunday (this year 3/29):

- Biblical event: This day we read the story of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. This story is told in Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, and John 12.
- How we commemorate: We wave palm branches and shout Hosanna like the crowds in Jerusalem did all those years ago.
- Variation: Some Protestant churches observe what is called "Palm-Passion Sunday." This is when worship on Palm Sunday covers both the triumphant entry into Jerusalem but then also continues through the passion readings (so includes Thursday and Friday). Generally the service starts out joyful and ends somber. The reason churches do this variation is because not as many people attend midweek services and yet these stories are central to our faith. It's a way of getting the whole story into Sunday mornings.

Maundy Thursday (this year 4/2):

- Biblical event: The three synoptic gospels (that's Matthew, Mark and Luke) tell of Jesus' Last Supper with the disciples. This is when he declared the bread to be his body and the wine his blood. After the meal, Judas betrays Jesus and Peter denies Jesus. Meanwhile, John, who likes to be a bit different, tells the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet.
- How we commemorate: Usually Maundy Thursday services include Holy Communion and/or foot/hand washing. Often the services are preceded by a simple meal shared together.
- Variation: Some churches call this service Holy Thursday. Maundy comes from the Latin mandatum which means commandment, referring to Jesus' command to the disciples to love one another. Whether a church calls it Holy or Maundy, it's really the same service. Hand washing has become a newer variation in an effort to keep the ritual act of neighborly care but recognize that some are uncomfortable with their feet being touched. Another possible observance is stripping the altar which typically happens at the end of the Maundy Thursday service—removing the candles, the flowers, the cloths, everything that adorns the sanctuary.

Good Friday (this year 4/3):

- Biblical event: This is the crucifixion. On the cross, Jesus said various "last words" according to the 4 different gospel writers. Often times, on Good Friday we hear a combination of those accounts as if they were one singular narrative.
- How we commemorate: Good Friday services usually include several gospel readings. They are somber and reflective in spirit. Usually the sanctuary is bare for this service with a simple cross and maybe a black cloth draping it (and/or a crown of thorns).

CLERGY CORNER

Rev. Angela



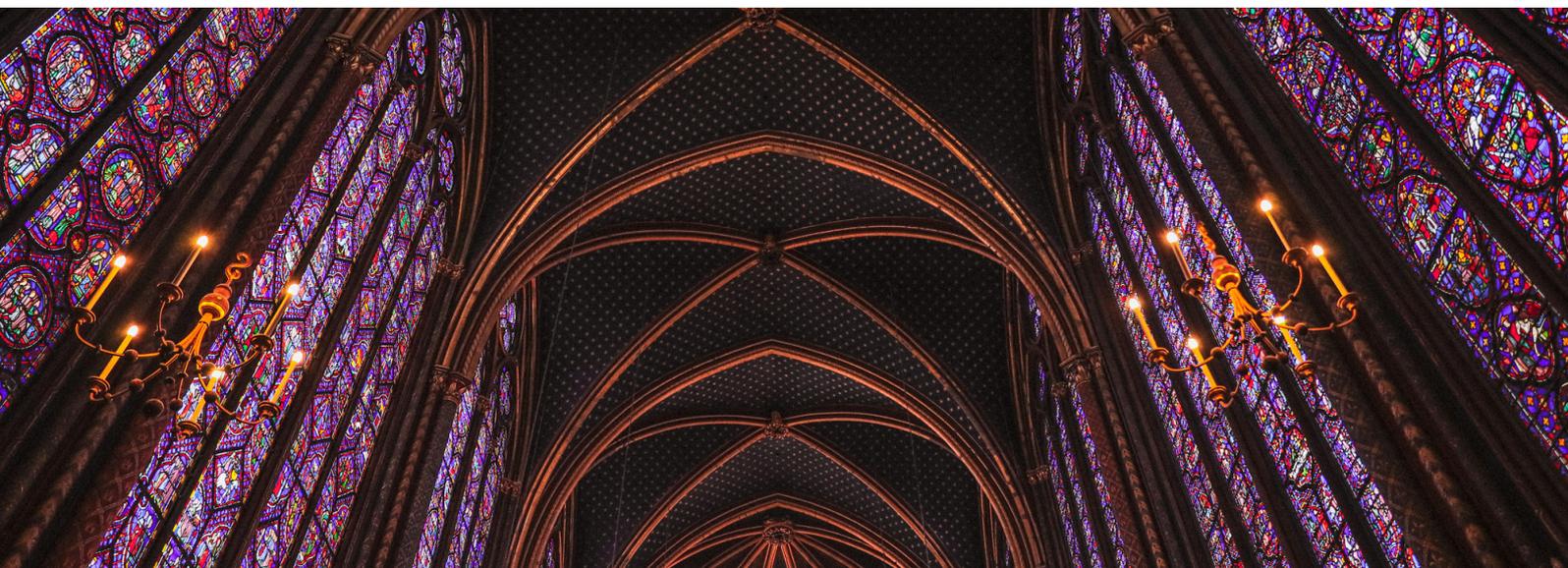
Holy Week, continued

- Variation: Many Good Friday services are considered "7 Last Words" services. This tradition is particularly strong within the Black church. These services often include 7 mini-sermons by 7 different preachers, one for each of Jesus' "last words." Some Good Friday services are called Tenebrae Services. Tenebrae is Latin for darkness. In these services, candles are gradually extinguished as the passion narrative is read from the gospel(s), usually in 16 segments. Tenebrae Services end in near total darkness, usually people leave the sanctuary in silence.

Easter Sunday (this year 4/5):

- Biblical event: All four gospels recount the resurrection of Jesus. Though they tell the story in different ways, one commonality is that it is the women who first learn of the resurrection. In John, Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene. In Luke, two "men in dazzling clothes" appear to the women with the news of the resurrection. Mark's original ending is chapter 16 verse 8 which ends with the women fleeing in terror. Later editors found that to be an uncomfortable ending so they added verses 16:9-20 to bring it more in alignment with the other gospels. In Matthew there is an earthquake and a single angel comes to share the good news with the women.
- How we commemorate: Easter services always include one of the gospel accounts of the resurrection. Typically, services include extra music with favorite hymns including "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," "Up from the Grave He Arose," and "He Lives!"
- Variation: Often churches have fresh flowers adorning the sanctuary. Sometimes there are special choir arrangements or musical accompaniment. A typical Easter greeting is the pastor/liturgist saying, "Christ is risen!" and the congregation responds, "He is risen indeed!"

So, how'd you do in Holy Week 101? Learn anything new? Remember some facts you had forgotten? Help consolidate your knowledge all in one place? In any case, I hope it was helpful. Feel free to share your follow up questions any time (angelawells153@gmail.com)!





WORSHIP

Holy Week

April 2 Maundy Thursday at Wilde Lake Interfaith Center at 6:30 pm

Join us for a Maundy Thursday meal at 6:30pm and worship service at 7:00pm with St. John United at the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center (10431 Twin Rivers Rd, 21044). We'll share in a simple meal of soup and bread together, followed by a brief service of communion and (optional) foot washing.

April 3 A Good Friday Conversation at 7pm in Sanctuary A of OBIC

See page 5 for more details. This will be a cross between a worship service and an adult Sunday School class. We'll sing, pray, and read scripture together as well as have some time for teaching and discussion. No prior knowledge necessary.

April 5 Easter Sunday at 10am in Sanctuary A of OBIC, followed by egg hunt at 11:30am

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Join us as we celebrate the resurrection on Easter Sunday at 10am. We'll sing some Easter favorites as we enjoy musical accompaniment on both piano and harp! Plan to stay after worship for refreshments and then the Community Easter Egg Hunt at 11:30am outside (weather permitting).

Easter Season Worship Series

Did you know that Easter isn't just a day, it's a whole season in the church year? During the Easter season, the 6 weeks after Easter, we will be journeying with our siblings in UMCs around the world in a shared sermon series on our new United Methodist Vision Statement. What is this new vision statement you ask? It is:

The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.

There's a lot packed into this sentence! So we're going to break it down into one phrase for each week of the series. The series will culminate in a special offering on "Miracle Sunday" May 17th to support theological education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. We'll have a chance to learn a little more about the UMC commitment to education in these locales.

- **April 12th: Disciples Formed by Jesus Christ.** Guest Preacher Rev. Dr. Taylor Denyer—who regularly worships with us on zoom from her home in Cairo, Egypt—will preach via zoom. Rev. Dr. Denyer is a good friend of Rev. Angela's and serves on the board of one of the recipient schools in Africa.
- **April 19th: Disciples Empowered by the Holy Spirit**
- **April 26th: Disciples Love Boldly**
- **May 3rd: Disciples Serve Joyfully**
- **May 10th: Disciples Lead Courageously**
- **May 17th: Disciples Transform the World** - Miracle Sunday Offering

There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

A GOOD FRIDAY CONVERSATION

**4/3
7PM**

Christ United Methodist Church
Owen Brown Interfaith Center
Sanctuary A
7246 Cradlerock Way Columbia



**Why did Jesus die? Did he “have to”? Why?
Christian tradition offers a variety of understandings,
images and approaches to these questions.
Come join mind and heart and spirit in a worshipful and
honest conversation to explore what meaning the cross
of Christ holds for you.**

Questions? Contact <angelawells153@gmail.com>



CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND



March Match: Double Your Impact Before March 31

CUMC's Endowment Kickoff is off to an exciting start, with six gifts already helping to seed our new Endowment Fund at last count. There's still time to join in.

Every gift made before March 31 will be matched dollar for dollar, doubling its impact. Endowment gifts work in two ways—supporting mission and outreach each year through a percentage of the annual earnings while preserving and growing the principal for the future.

In April, we'll share the total raised and move the funds into a dedicated Endowment account, where they will provide a lasting financial foundation for CUMC's mission and outreach.

Every contribution—large or small—is a seed of hope that will help our church flourish for generations.
Natalie Swirdovich

March Match

During our Endowment Kickoff,
all gifts received before March 31, 2026 will be matched
so your gift will have double the impact.

Give online or by check made payable to CUMC
with Endowment Gift noted in memo line.



bit.ly/4ce1K4i

www.cumcobic.org
Christ United Methodist Church
Owen Brown Interfaith Center
7246 Cradlerock Way
Columbia, MD 21045

For additional information check out the Giving tab on the [CUMC website](http://www.cumcobic.org).

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- Prayers for **Ann Singleton** as she recovers from a stroke.
- Remember **Becky Nicodemus** as she recuperates from knee replacement surgery during April.
- Remember the growing number of Howard County residents who are lacking jobs, food and medical care.
- Prayers of comfort for the **Swirdovich family** at the loss of Natalie's father.
- Congratulations to **Katie Swanson and Marc Vukotich** on their March. 20th marriage!



Luke Weston
Jeanette Rosenberger
Angela Wells
Layla Burtnick
Kristin Lederman
Rev. Douglas Fox
Catherine Messenger
Daniel Klinkenberg
Scott Zoller-Gritz
Barbara Walker



CUMC CARES

Community Ministries Matter

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES TEAM KEEPS BUSY!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! April 5th is Easter Sunday, and that means it's time again for the ANNUAL OBIC EASTER EGG HUNT! We and our UUCC siblings unite to put on this once-a-year extravaganza as a gift to the Owen Brown community. It also serves to raise our congregational profiles within that community. Please plan on stopping by from 11:30 - 12:30 after worship on April 5th to join the fun. Or maybe even volunteer to help out! Contact Kevin Swanson for more information.



Many, many THANKS to all who contributed to the Community Ministry Team's Rock Resource donation drive last month. As you probably know, CUMC is a Community Sponsor for CRES. All the raincoat & ponchos, and more raincoat & ponchos, plus lip balm, tissue packs, and hand lotion are on their way to Cradlerock Elementary School for the students who need a little something to help them through their day. Again, many Thank You's!!!

Flower Donations: Do you grow flowers in a garden? To the delight of the staff of Cradlerock Elementary and Lake Elkhorn Middle Schools, our Community Ministries team places fresh flowers each week in their 5 staff restrooms. If you'd like to donate some of your flowers for this purpose, please let Karen Ohlrich know. She'll be happy to come by to get them, or bring them to her on a Sunday. CRES staff and the Community Ministry Team are greatly appreciative for this thoughtful kindness of giving each week.



Kevin Swanson

CUMC CARES

Missions Matter

SECOND SUNDAY STOCK-UP FOR APRIL 12

I told my peanut butter it was smooth and it said "Thanks. I've been working on my spread!" That's all you need to know! Please bring in your donations of PEANUT BUTTER - SMOOTH or CHUNKY for the Howard County Food Bank. A nutritious favorite loved by all ages. We can't contribute too much! A bin will be available in the rear of the sanctuary for your generous donations! Your Missions Team appreciates your gifts.

Lillain Lehnert



COLLECTING...DONATING

Yes, CUMC asks for many things. Some like food bank items cost money; but some surplus items for specific collections don't cost donors a penny! As a congregation that has been so blessed with material resources, it seems sharing is part of our practice. Containers are available every Sunday so please consider donating:

- Used batteries: Staples gives CUMC credit for office supply purchase.
- Metal tabs from canned beverages: Ronald McDonald House gets gas credit for their vans transporting guest families to the hospital.
- Plastic drug prescription bottles: Matthew 25: Ministries puts them in boxes of medical supplies being sent to developing countries.
- Prescription Eye-Glasses: Lions Club distributes to those who cannot afford needed glasses.

FELLOWSHIP

Matters

FIRST FRIDAY

NO FIRST FRIDAY In April as that is Good Friday.

APRIL LUNCH BUNCH

SPRING INTO SPRING with Lunch Bunch on Apr.9 at the home of Judy Pittman. All women are invited for a "Spring Salad" meal. Bring a small favorite salad to share....i.e. green veggie, shrimp, fruit, tuna, Mediterranean, egg, citrus, bean, pasta, couscous and quinoa, Waldorf, spinach, Tex-Mex etc. Dessert provided. Please contact Judy by Apr. 6 if you can attend.



GOING GREEN

Matters

Creation Care

All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings."

— United Methodist Social Principles

CREATION CARE CALENDAR

In your everyday choices, you can express gratitude to the Creator and Care for Creation. Here are some suggestions for the month of April. Share these tips with your family and friends.

April

- Commute via train/bus.
- Reuse, repair, and recycle.
- Plant a church vegetable garden.
- Compost food scraps and pet waste.
- Reuse clothing to save money—and landfill space.
- Open south blinds for warmth, close to stay cool.
- Use washable tableware, not plastic or styrofoam.
- Form and support a church Creation Care committee.
- Teach church children and youth about caring for Creation.
- Email the White House to support green executive actions.



CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

Matter

Faith Leaders Advocate for Justice at MD Legislative Advocacy Day

Posted by on Mar 14, 2026 by Alison Burdett

Clergy and lay leaders from across the Baltimore–Washington Conference gathered March 11 at Asbury United Methodist Church in Annapolis for the conference’s annual Legislative Advocacy Day, preparing to meet with lawmakers and speak on issues ranging from healthcare access and gun violence prevention to immigration justice and creation care.

Issues highlighted in Burdett’s article:

- Miriam Williams, Social Action Coordinator for the Baltimore–Washington Conference United Women in Faith, highlighted the organization’s justice priorities for 2025–2028: climate justice and ending mass incarceration and the criminalization of communities of color.
- Healthcare policy was addressed by Vincent “Vinny” DeMarco, president of the Maryland Healthcare for All Coalition. DeMarco spoke about the importance [SB 987/HB 484](#), which would eliminate state tax deductions for prescription drug advertising and redirect an estimated \$24 million in savings toward healthcare programs that help Marylanders maintain coverage.
- Gun violence prevention was another focus of the day. Susan Bender, who leads the conference’s Gun Violence Prevention Social Action Team, described legislation aimed at addressing emerging firearm technologies and strengthening protections for victims of domestic violence. One bill, [SB 334/HB 577](#), targets conversion devices that can transform semi-automatic pistols into fully automatic weapons. Another measure, [SB 20/HB 83](#), the Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act, would require individuals subject to temporary protective orders in domestic violence cases to surrender firearms immediately.
- Immigration policy discussions included personal testimony from Rev. Cassy Núñez, the conference’s Hispanic/Latine and Multicultural Ministries Coordinator. Núñez shared her own experience navigating the U.S. immigration system after arriving in the country as a child.
- Environmental stewardship was also addressed during the briefings. Rev. Neal Christie highlighted legislation on behalf of the conference’s Creation Care Team to improve recycling and manage the environmental impact of large-scale data centers.





PARTICIPATION MATTERS

April 2026

Date	Events
4/1	Prayer Meeting* 8:15 p.m.
4/2	Holy Thursday Service and Meal at St. John United Church, Wilde Lake Interfaith Center 6:30p.m.
4/3	Good Friday Service at CUMC 7:00 p.m.
4/5	Easter Sunday Service* 10:00 a.m. Community Easter Egg Hunt 11:30 – 12:30
4/8	Prayer Meeting* 8:15 p.m.
4/9	Lunch Bunch 12:00 p.m. hosted by Judy Pittman, contact Judy by 4/6
4/9	SPRC* 7:00 p.m.
4/12	Sunday Service* 10:00 a.m.
4/13	Community Ministries Team* 7:00 p.m.
4/15	Prayer Meeting* 8:15 p.m.
4/16	Ad Board Meeting* 7:00 p.m.
4/19	Sunday Service* 10:00 a.m. Green Team Lake Elkhorn Clean-up 11:30
4/23	Newsletter Deadline
4/26	Sunday Service* 10:00 a.m.

*To join services or meetings connect through Zoom link on the front page of the CUMC Website: cumcobic.org

April 2026

Please find the new updated Worship Volunteer Instructions on the CUMC website at this link:

<https://cumcobic.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/volunteer-instructions.pdf>

2026	Good Friday	Easter Apr 5	Apr 12	4/19/2026	April 26
Liturgist		Lee	Daniel	Lillian	Phil
Reader		Judy Pittman	Kevin Fitzgerald	Dennis Atkins	Tracy Klink
Acolyte		Emily Walker	Miamor	Daniel	miguel
Altar Flowers		Easter		Messengers	Klinkenbergs
Tech					
Ushers 1	Warren	Phyllis	Rob	Sissy Plank	Lee Klinkenberg
Ushers 2	Kevin	Warren	Jeanette	Mike Plank	Toni Klinkenberg
Altar Set-up	Kelley	Messenger	Klinkenberg	Kelley	Ohlrich
Communion & Set-up		James	Gomez	Duggan	Kelley
Counters 1		Mike Plank	Greg Swirdovich	Delvin	Phil
Counters 2		Delvin	Becky Nicodemus	Kevin Swanson	Lee
Nursery Volunteer					
Refreshments		Rosenberger	Messenger	Klink	Kelley
Sunday School Assist MS		Kevin Swanson	Karen	Dea	Kevin
Sunday School Assist ELEM		Don James	Don James	Don James	Don James

BUSINESS CORNER

Financial Information - February 2026

Year-to-Date	Actual	Budget
Revenue	\$ 16,262.96	\$ 18,343.67
Expenses	\$ 18,784.00	\$ 21,782.32
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (2,521.04)	\$ (3,438.65)
Surplus or (Deficit) Per Week	\$ (48.48)	\$ (66.13)

Ad Board Minutes: March 19, 2026

Council of Ministries Minutes: March 11, 2026

*"All you need is love.
But a little chocolate
now and then doesn't hurt."
— Charles M. Schulz*

IT IS NOT TOO LATE!

Easter is right around the corner! We'd like to decorate the sanctuary with beautiful spring potted plants that you can take home after the Easter Sunday Service. You may also make a donation to the flower fund and we'll purchase what is needed. See Becky Nicodemus or Phyllis Kelley.

Order forms will be available March 15 on the side counter and PLEASE return by Sunday March 29th. Tulips are \$10 & hydrangeas for \$22.



ONE-DAY CHOIR: SONGS OF LOVE & RESISTANCE

Join your neighbors and allies in community as we learn and create music together to inspire and embody courage, unity, hope, and love. No experience or advance preparation needed! Just show up ready to learn and sing.

Sunday, April 26th, 5:30-7:30 pm
Owen Brown Interfaith Center
Columbia, MD, 21075

Participation is free.

Presented by:





CALENDAR

Click on the calendar to go to the interactive calendar on the website.

< > Apr 2026 📅 🗓️						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29 ● 10am W	30	31	Apr 1 ● 8:15pm F	2 Maundy T	3 Good Frid	4
5 Easter Su ● 10am W	6 Easter Mo	7	8 ● 7pm Co ● 8:15pm F	9 ● 12pm Lu 2 more	10	11
12 Second St ● 10am W	13 ● 7pm Cor	14	15 Tax Day ● 8:15pm F	16	17	18
19 ● 10am W	20 ● 7pm BW	21	22 ● 8:15pm F	23	24	25
26 ● 10am W	27	28	29 ● 8:15pm F	30	May 1	2

Christ United Methodist Church, Columbia, MD GMT-04 +

At Christ United Methodist Church, all are invited to experience God’s love, build beloved community, and pursue justice for absolutely everyone. We welcome, celebrate, and affirm the sacred worth of people of every race, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, nationality, physical and mental ability, level of education, family structure, and every economic, immigration, marital, and social status. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed; as such, we have committed to being an Anti-Racist church. At CUMC, believers, seekers, and doubters join together to grow in our love for one another, creation, and the Divine through worship, small groups, advocacy work, and mutual support as we strive to be the church God calls us to be!



Christ United Methodist Church
Love. Justice. Community.
Black Lives Matter

