



## *In Between the Weekends*

*A Weekly newsletter from Rogersville UMC*

*April 8, 2020*

Dear Church Family,

It is true! At the direction of the Bishop we will remain closed until at least the end of April. Short term, that means we will not be worshipping together on Easter Sunday. Even though we came up with some creative alternatives, we will not be celebrating Easter at the church this year. We are disappointed. We had such a good plan. A story about disappointment:

Long ago in the forest, there were three tall trees. One day, the three were having a conversation about their dream for the future.

The first tree said, "I want to grow taller and stronger, and I want a man to chop me down and make a beautiful bed of my trunk, so a great king can sleep on me."

The second tree said, "I want to grow taller and stronger, because I want a man to chop me down and make a big yacht of my trunk, so a king can sail on me and go around the world."

The third tree said, "I don't want anyone to chop me down. I want to be the tallest and the biggest tree in this forest, so everyone can admire me."

Each of the trees had a different dream and each agreed to pray that God would make each their dreams come true.

One day, a man came and chopped the first tree. The first tree was excited. He thought his dream was finally come true. But when the man found the quality of the tree trunk was not very good. So instead of making a bed, he made a manger, where the cattle would eat grass and hay. The first tree was very disappointed to see what he had become. His dream was shattered.

Another day, a man came and chopped the second tree. The second tree was excited. He thought his dream was finally come true. But when the man found the quality of the tree trunk was not very good, he didn't make him as a yacht, instead he turned the tree trunk into a fisherman's boat, simply for fishing. The second tree was very disappointed to see what he had become. His dream was shattered.

A man chopped the third tree. The third tree was very disappointed and got terribly sad. He was so sad that his trunk rotted. The man couldn't make anything from the tree trunk, so he disposed of the tree. The tree was useless. The third tree was very disappointed to see what he had become. His dream was shattered.

Each were disappointed. Their prayers were not answered. Yet...

When the time was right, a husband and his pregnant wife found room in a stable. They weren't able to find any other room to stay and the wife gave birth to her first born child and wrapped him in swaddling and laid him in a manger.

When the time was right, the boat was caught in a violent storm. The wind blew and the sea roared and all the people in the boat were scared. Then one man stood up and said , "In the name of My Father, I command you to stop!" And soon after that, the storm stopped, and the sea was calmed. And everyone in the boat was safe.

Later, an innocent man was sentenced to death. He was tortured and beaten, and crucified. The wood to make the cross came from the trunk of the third tree.

Nothing happened exactly the way they had planned, however....The first tree, even though, he didn't end up as a beautiful bed as he had wished, the - the king of kings slept in him.

The second tree, even though, he didn't end up as a big yacht as he wished for, carried the king of kings across the sea.

The dream of the third tree did come true. To this day we remember an Old Rugged Cross on which the prince of glory died. And we cherish that cross. It stands as a reminder of God's love and grace.

Just a reminder, when we are disappointed, when life doesn't go the way we want or wish, "all things come together for good for those who love the Lord."

*Loving you all, praying for you all,*

*Pastor Carol*



**Come, Now is the time to Worship!** We are live streaming Sunday Worship at 11:00 on Facebook every Sunday Morning. Live streaming allows you to participate by adding comments. For those new to Live streaming, your presence is noticed and your Facebook icon show up, however, **Your face is not shown. You don't have to get out of your pj's or comb your hair, you can literally come just as you are.** Enjoy a second cup of coffee, an omelet, a slice of toast, no one will ever know.

# HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday 6:00 p.m. You will need a bowl of water

*Servant of All*

Good Friday 3:00 p.m.

*On a Hill Far Away*

Easter 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service

*Early in the Morning*

11:00 a.m.

*He's Alive*

All services are live streamed on our Facebook page: Rogersville UMC

If you miss the live stream, you can watch later on our Facebook page, webpage or Youtube.





**Prayer Concerns:**

Darby Bethea, Jerry Ezell, First Responders, Medical Workers, those in nursing homes and hospitals. Those suffering from fear, anxiety and depression, our community and country as we go through this period of isolation.,

Remember during this time of staying home, one way to send your tithes and offerings is through text. Send the amount of your donation to 1-256-487-7862 for a secure link. You can also mail your check to the church. Thank you and stay safe.