

Connections

March 2024

The Significance of Easter by Matt Vorhees

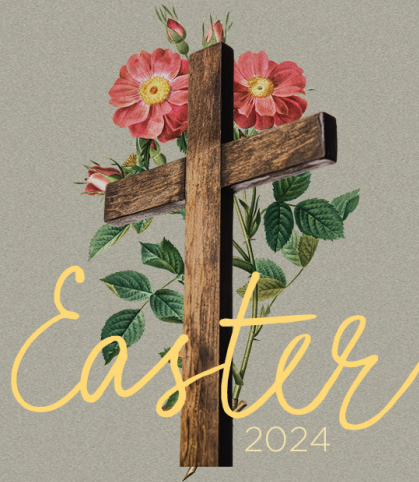
As we all know, Easter 2024 is nearly upon us. I hope you will plan on joining us for Easter Weekend on March 29 – 31. I was recently asked by Bakersfield Life Magazine to answer the question, "What is the significance of Easter?" The following was my response:

Easter is one of the most important celebrations on the church calendar. It is a time when we remember that although death is the penalty for sin and our sins nailed Jesus to the cross, death could not hold Him. Having absorbed the full wrath of God towards our rebellion, His resurrection is the assurance that our sins will never be held against us, and our eternal hope is new life with God, of which Jesus is the first fruits. Therefore, we need not fear separation from God, nor should we fear death. Because Jesus lives, we also will live. We exist in relationship now with God in a way that makes life truly worth the living, and death is not the end because we are confident of a future resurrection with Jesus one day. All of this rich truth causes our hearts to sing as we exalt the one who has beaten sin and the grave.



The entire church staff and I are continually going to the Lord in prayer over Easter Weekend. Below are a few of the things we are petitioning God for, and I invite you to join us in praying over these things.

- That what Christ did would become personal to each individual.
- Word spoken would break people's hearts
- The lie that there are other ways to salvation besides Jesus would be debunked.
- That many who claim faith could be stirred to live it out.
- People of other faiths would look at the resurrection of Christ and its reliability and turn in trust to Him.
- Our church would represent Christ well.
- Unbelievers would hunger for Christ.
- Church family would be bold in inviting the community to attend.
- People would have an increased sense of belonging and spiritual family.
- That the Holy Spirit would blow embers of faith into a flame.
- Those serving would do so as an expression of worship.
- That people who are truly hurting would experience God's peace.



Good Friday Service

Friday, March 29 @ 6:00pm
RCC South Lawn & Online

You and your whole family are invited to join us for our Good Friday Service. We'll be gathering outdoors on our South Lawn so please bring a chair or blanket to sit on.

Family Night

Saturday, March 30 @ 5:00pm
RCC South Lawn

Everyone's invited to our annual Easter Weekend Family Night. Get ready for an evening of fun including egg hunts, games, live music, and food vendors.

Easter Sunday Service

Sunday, March 31 @ 9:00am
RCC South Lawn & Online

Celebrate our risen Savior at our Easter Sunday service!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you

1 Peter 1:3-4

Cheerleaders



Our Cheerleaders group meet monthly on the third Saturday of each month from September to May. Our desire is to encourage and inspire old and new friendships for widows and mature single women. Join us and be supported as we continue to grow in our faith making disciples who make disciples, deepening our roots together.

Contact Dana Kroeker, (661) 589-9733 ext. 214 for more information.

Prayer Quilt Ministry



Can you touch a prayer? Can you pull it close and feel its comfort? You can if it's part of a Prayer Quilt.

Prayer quilts are sewn by a team of women committed to sharing the burden of others through prayer and the giving of quilts. The quilts are completed with knots tied by our praying congregation and given as tangible expressions of God's love to people with prayer needs. Anyone who is facing a special need for prayer such as surgery, treatment or a crisis illness may receive a quilt when they are sponsored by someone attending RiverLakes Community Church. The Prayer Quilt ministry is located in the Community Center at the North Entrance. Please stop by our location, tie a quilt knot and pray for those in need. To sponsor a quilt, contact Jeanne at (661) 979-1965.