



EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 9 - 7, 8:30 & 10:30 AM

Easter Sunday is a Family Worship Day with Children's Sermon in the service. Nursery is available.

All are encouraged to bring flowers to adorn the cross on the lawn at the main campus.

7:00 AM - Sunrise service at Bald Ridge Marina

8:30 AM - Easter Worship Service

9:45 - 10:15 AM - Easter Breakfast

Please bring breakfast items you wish to share. Ham biscuits and coffee will be provided for a donation to help offset the cost.

10:30 AM - Easter Worship Service



EASTER FLOWERS

Flowers for the sanctuary on Easter Sunday may be purchased for \$15 in honor or memory of friends and loved ones. Order forms are available at the Information Desk in the narthex.



FAMILY EASTER SCAVENGER HUNT MARCH 29-31, 1 PM TO 7 PM APRIL 1, 2, 9 11 AM TO 6 PM

Together with your family, join us for the Easter Story Scavenger Hunt as you walk through the incredible story of Jesus' Life, Death, and Resurrection. Once on the church campus, follow signs for Scavenger Hunt instructions. NO CHARGE. Questions, email cperkins@cfumca.com



PATHWAYS TO GENEROSITY

Pathways to Generosity is an intensive four-week spiritual emphasis Cumming First United Methodist Church will engage as we begin our season of Lent.

MONDAY - FEBRUARY 20

All are asked to start reading "Practicing Extravagant Generosity" by Bishop Robert Schnase as a personal and/or family devotional.

MONDAY - FEBRUARY 27

All are encouraged to immerse this emphasis in prayer that God may use this time to change our hearts and lives and to build a deeper climate of generosity in this community of faith. Specifically, each one is asked to pray "God, where do You want me to be in my giving?"

SUNDAY - MARCH 19

All will be given the occasion to estimate our giving to God through the church as we seek to reflect God's generosity to us. This is an estimate of giving realizing that life changes and what we sense God is calling us to do now may change in the future as circumstances change for the worse or for the better.



LENT AND EASTER 2023



CUMMING FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH



ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22 – 7-10 AM & 6:30 PM

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season in the church year known as Lent. Lent is a time to prepare for the celebration of Easter.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith.

The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. The Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. This practice is the historic focus of Ash Wednesday observance and it gave the day its name. It is tradition to save some of the palm branches from the previous Passion/Palm Sunday service and burn them ahead of time to produce the ashes for this service.

Ashes will be available in the sanctuary between 7:00 and 10:00 AM for all who wish to drop by before your day officially begins.

The Ash Wednesday worship service begins at 6:30 PM.



FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

LENTEN FAMILY ACTIVITY

During the 40 days of Lent, your family can engage in prayer, activities, and projects to help you grow closer to each other and to Jesus. These will be available for pick up in the Children's Worship Pod/Sanctuary Question: children@cfumcga.com

PRESCHOOL SUNDAY – MARCH 26 – 10:30 AM

We celebrate the ministry of the preschool to over 350 students as they minister to us through song.



PALM/PASSION SUNDAY APRIL 2 – 10:30 AM

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week when we remember the final week of Jesus' life beginning with the waving of palm branches as the people did upon Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and ending with the Crucifixion. We are reminded how quickly the atmosphere turned from shouts of "Hosanna" to shouts of "Crucify."

The "Passion Story" (the narrative of this final week of Jesus' life) will be told through scripture and music.



HOLY WEEK TRIDUUM APRIL 6, 7, 8 – 7:30 PM

The word "Triduum" (pronounced TRID-oo-um) is a Latin term meaning "three days." The service begins on Holy Thursday with the Eucharist and stripping of the sanctuary; it continues on Good Friday with the service of Tenebrae and Meditations on the Cross. It concludes with the announcement of the Resurrection on Saturday evening or early Sunday morning. Although it occurs in three different time periods it is one service. Just as the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus is one action separated in time.

MAUNDY THURSDAY – APRIL 6 – 7:30 PM

The English term "Maundy" comes from the Latin word *mandatum*—hence the English word "mandate," or commandment. In John 13:34, Jesus says, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another."

Eucharist – Although Eucharist means "thanksgiving," the tendency has been to experience the bread and the cup as an occasion for deep sadness. However, we must read the story backwards and not forget that this is not Jesus' last meal. Between the supper in the upper room and the heavenly banquet, many meals are shared by Jesus and his followers. Therefore, we give thanks to God for taking what might have been just a sad farewell and transforming it into a way of revealing the presence of the Risen One.

Stripping the Altar – This action conveys the humiliation of Jesus as his clothes are stripped from him. The bare worship space sets up the visual contrast of Good Friday, when the space is bare, and Easter when the same space will be arrayed with flowers, candles, paraments and vestments.

GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 7 – 7:30 PM

Why "Good?" – We have emphasized the seemingly senseless human suffering of Jesus rather than the purposeful humiliation of God through which redemption comes. We fail to read the story backward. Friday has been observed as if Sunday had never come. "Good Friday" is also "God's Friday." God was in control at Calvary. The crucifixion of Jesus was a working out of divine intention with a view to the salvation of an otherwise doomed creation. God is in control at the cross, as the One who directs the course of events. Therefore, we gather to rejoice in the purposes of a Creator who willingly suffers for the creature. Our response is to do what Jesus did: to offer ourselves for the world, particularly by intercession. How best can we present to the world the redemption of God, both by word and by deed? On this day, the Church prays for the entire creation for which Christ died.

Tenebrae – Tenebrae means "shadows." The most significant feature of this service is the gradual extinguishing of the lights and candles in the room and on the altar. The bare altar and unvested furnishings emphasize the starkness of the events recalled. Candles represent the apostles and all followers of Christ. The large candle is the Christ candle from our Advent wreath. The dramatic high point occurs with the complete darkness and the loud noise, or *strepitus*, at the death of Jesus.

HOLY SATURDAY – APRIL 8 – 7:30 PM

(Meet outside by the fire)

The Great Easter Vigil – In Jewish time keeping sunset begins a new day. Remember from Genesis how it reads, "There was evening and there was morning." Thus, this service begins any time after sunset on Saturday. It is appreciated most by those who have attended regularly throughout Lent and especially the entire Triduum. This service consists of four parts; (1) Service of Light, (2) Service of the Word, (3) Baptism and Reaffirmation, (4) Eucharist.

Paschal Candle – The name (Pasch) comes from the Hebrew word "pesah," meaning deliverance or Passover – thus connecting the Resurrection to the Exodus. It is the largest candle ever used by the church and symbolizes both the pillar of fire that led Israel by night and the risen Lord who stands among us at Easter. This candle remains lit near the Communion Table throughout the season of Easter. After Easter, it is lighted at funerals and baptisms symbolizing freedom from death and sin