

April 11, 2023

COMING UP AT UCF!

***10:00AM Sunday, April 23 Special Earth Day Service**

3:00PM Sunday, April 30 Spring Pops Concert; Beneficiary: *IFW Refugee Resettlement

UPDATES FROM OUR BAPTIST BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN UKRAINE SEND EASTER BLESSINGS

Beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord, friends and partners!

Ministers and churches of the Ukrainian Baptist Union sincerely congratulate you on the Great Day of Christ's Resurrection. We are again celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord in the conditions of war. "... but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 15:57)

All chaos, fear and uncertainty are conquered by the Resurrection of Christ! His power can tame all suffering, harm, and human injustice. "For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead the living." (Rom. 14:9)

The great family of God! We sincerely thank you for your prayers and great sacrifice for Ukraine during the war. Your support is necessary and tangible - God strengthens us through you and gives us strength to help the wounded people and tortured souls.

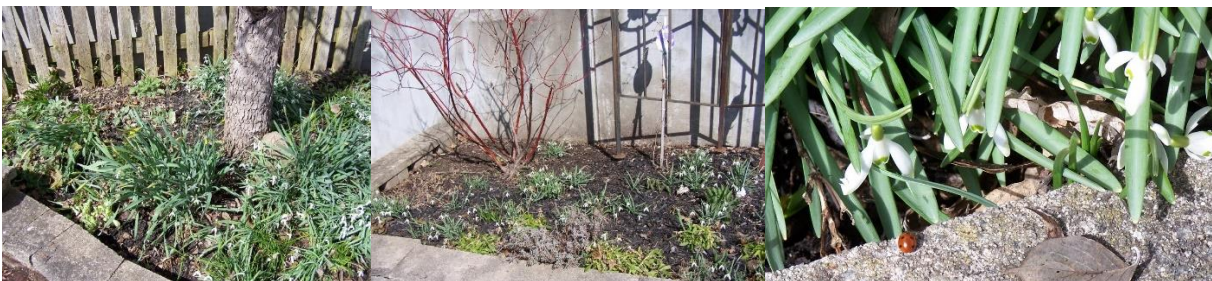
We have the great joy of unity with all of you through the Crucified and Resurrected One, who gave your hearts a lot of love for Ukrainians. In our prayers, we thank the Lord for your service.

CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! I wish everyone victory and peace in Christ,

Valerii Antoniuk, President, Baptist Union of Ukraine

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST AND IN THE EARTH!

Memorial Garden – pics courtesy of Dick A



Witch Hazel, crocus and snowdrops in Martha's garden



*Trudy's amaryllis blooming under her
Peggy Martin Climbing Rose*



*Andrea's and Steve's
Grape Hyacinth*



Janet's crocus and Eranthis



*Sue's paper flower
Bougainvillea wintered
indoors*



It bloomed!



*Sarah C says her spring garden is shy.
These popped up this week
in her sister's garden*



Pass-a-Long Plants Create Friendship Gardens

Many sent in pics of their Lenten roses (hellebore). Lovely signs of spring in CNY, they often bloom under the last of the season's snow. They also recover quickly from later frosts. All of these happen to be transplants from my garden.

Some years ago, someone introduced me to the idea of friendship gardens –full of plants gifted from others. Throughout the gardening season as I tend my plants, I think of those who sent plants my way. I know from whom my Lenten roses came, transplanted from my garden in Cincinnati, as I do with regard to my lungwort, some ferns and Hosta, Japanese anemone, Solomon's Seal, feverfew, echinacea (coneflowers), red echinacea, crocosmia, balloon flowers, NY asters, and rudbeckia (black-eyed Susans), among others. I even know who brought the potted miniature rosebush from Wegman's as a hostess gift which has become one of the happiest bloomers in my garden. For me, as for many, gardening is a meditative experience. When it occurs in a friendship garden, it also becomes a prayerful moment of thanksgiving for the people whose names are brought forth.

We have many gardeners in our congregation. We have different micro-climes and garden plans; some choose to use native plants only. Besides being economical (especially since it doesn't appear Trinity's plant sale will be returning any time soon) passing along plants can expand the richness of our gardening experience in unimagined ways. If you would like, I will create a "Gardening Group. Send me a note saying you wish to be included. Then, we can make one another aware of plants to share. Your only "contractual agreement" is that you PROMISE NOT TO HIT REPLY ALL and respond ONLY TO THE ONE OFFERING PLANTS.

From the Gardens of

*Linda**Memorial Garden**Andrea's and Steve's**Marti**Janet**Donna**Beth*

THIS WEEK'S THANKS

*Congo Care from the Ken and Lois for the lovely Easter basket

*Sarah C., Kim C. Janet P. and Cindy R. for their Holy Week home communion services.

*April 8 Coffeehouse bakers: Shirley A. Penny A., Charlette A. Arlene C., Linda E., Sandy M., Janet P., and Mary Jane W.!!

*Jon Bergman for obtaining a "sock" for the pulpit microphone; also known as a pop filter. You may recall that for the last few weeks we have had to choose between popping when I spoke or low volume. We don't know how or when, but the sock had disappeared from the pulpit mike.

THIS SEASON'S THANKS – PAYING IT FORWARD IN EASTERTIDE

At our annual meeting, Jenny J. offered a "riff" highlighting all the things that needed to happen, the people and other resources needed to make them happen, just so we could worship on one Sunday morning. We would have to schedule two meetings to detail all the people needed to make Lent and Easter happen. I am not going to try to name names, and I may even miss some activities that made it all happen: opening the doors, deicing the steps, shoveling the snow, programming the heat, spring cleaning the gardens, rehearsing and offering music, choosing, directing, educating, playing, singing, signing, ringing, formatting, printing, organizing, preparing slides, advertising, welcoming worshippers, serving as liturgists, presenting minutes for mission, collecting and counting the offering, banking, keeping records, paying the bills, repairing, taking out the trash and recycling, cleaning, baking, serving, setting tables, setting the Table, putting up and taking down tables and chairs, washing dishes, teaching, studying, decorating, de-decorating, redecorating, streaming, visiting, sending cards, serving home communion, running the coffee house, researching, motivating and doing mission ...

If you don't know at least one person who has done each of these things, do ask. In the next few weeks, you won't be anywhere where you don't have to opportunity to thank or be thanked for making a contribution to our worshipping and serving experience of the past few months. Make it a goal to say thank you on each occasion.

An Eastertide Challenge

Eastertide is the six-week season between Easter and Pentecost when the Church intentionally continues to celebrate the resurrection and the new life it makes possible. Many of you know that one of my positive Lenten spiritual disciplines is to write a note of appreciation on every day in Lent. As I reflect on people with gratitude, it is a practice that brings a smile to my face every single day. Gift yourself with a smile once each week in Eastertide, sending a note or email of appreciation to someone who made our season rich and full.

THIS WEEK'S CONCERNS

*War in Eastern Europe

*The people in the south and mid-west hit by brutal windstorms