



Missionary Messenger

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Easter's Reminder

But about the resurrection of the dead--have you not read what God said to you, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living. When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching. ~ Matthew 22:31-33 (NIV 84)

We are about to enter the Easter season. Weather-wise we are transitioning from winter to spring. The grass is slowly turning green again, the trees are starting to bud and the flowers are beginning to show. Soon, all the birds will return and earth will be fully alive with their melodious singing. I am so grateful for this reminder of the hope that we have as believers in Jesus Christ that our earthly existence is not all that there is. Our current existence is metaphorically like winter. Our next life is like spring in which the old things pass away and something new and exhilarating takes its place.

Along with this, I have so many friends who have left this life and have moved on to their new chapter of life. These friends had a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and are no longer here on earth. Easter is a reminder to me that they still exist. I love the passage above where Jesus reminds his listeners that God is not the God of the dead but of the living. He lists Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as illustrations that they are not dead but their existence continues. God is still the God of our loved ones even if we cannot see them. This is a good reminder and it is an extreme encouragement. In a way, we are the ones who are to be pitied. We are still in our winter, they have moved on to spring!

I have so many friends who are with Jesus. I know that there will also come a time when I say goodbye to my friends and family here on earth and will go there as well. My God sees to it that I continue. This is my hope and my Easter reminder!

Looking forward to Real Spring,

Pastor Ken

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### ***Who Are We?***

**Pastor:** Ken Sistrunk 260-229-5949 (cell)  
PastorKenNMMC@gmail.com

**Elders:** Dave Jackson (vice-chairman),  
Tim Baker, Jon Gnagy

**Directors:**

Outreach: Sue Howard  
Stewardship: Tim Baker  
Worship: Jon Gnagy

**Secretary:** Joanne Sistrunk  
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## CONNECTION NOTES:

### "Lesson Assist From Nyla"

Early in March I was reading my morning devotional. Nyla, my 6 month "wonder" kitten, (I wonder what she'll do next!) was wanting to play. She saw her feather wand hanging by the door frame. It is intentionally placed high so she doesn't get it. She walked over to it. Looked up and cried. Nope. She climbed a stand and tried to see if she could get it from there. Nope. She got down and back up again. Nope. She went to the other side of the door frame to check that side out. Nope. She climbed a stand on a different wall, knocking a lamp over in the process. Nope. She even looked behind my TV which is way on the other side of the room. Nope. She finally walked out of the room and came back and stared at me. Yep. You see, it was important that she get to that wand. She was determined and she did not stop! Nyla didn't know how to get to the feather wand. She just knew it was there and she wanted it. She tried hard to do everything to get to it.

The interesting thing was the devotional I was reading was about Matthew 25, the story of the 10 virgins; a story about desire, awaiting/wanting, and outcomes, both successful and unsuccessful.

Here is the key. We know Christ is coming back. We just don't know when, we just know He is. We look forward to it with anticipation and desire! Anticipation because we get to be with Jesus. Our Hope has been made joy!!! BUT, BUT, BUT WAIT! We should have grave concern because some of those we love will miss it. They are not prepared. They will be like the foolish virgins left behind and outside.

Let's strive with Nyla-like determination to be ready. AND let's apply the same determination to encourage others to join us as we await.

Jesus, help this daughter to grow in her faith and in her determination to follow You and to bring others along with us. Father, I thank You so much for the gift we celebrate this month. Use me as You desire.

I love you, *Sue*

## CONNECTION ACTIVITIES:

### April 12, Saturday, Lunch N Craft

Spring is here! Let's get together with a spring craft. We will be making key wind chimes. I have loads of keys and things to add music to your outdoors. Our meal is taco salad. Bring your favorite add ins and join us!

### April 13, Sunday, MIS/MES Teacher and Staff Easter/Palm Sunday Good Drop

Join us during the Sunday school hour to wrap candies for the drop.

### April 14, Monday, MIS/MES Teacher and Staff Easter/Palm Sunday Good Drop

We will drop off some goodies to both schools.

### April 20, Easter Sunday

Continental **Breakfast** from 9 to 9:50a. Come and invite your friends to join us.

We will need 3 breakfast casseroles. Let Sue know if you can bring one.

Easter **Egg Hunt** after the service (11ish).

Pray about who to invite to both events and ask the Holy Spirit to move in a special way.

**Reminder:** Next Month, May 23rd is our annual year-end Teacher breakfast. We will be asking for donations of food, assistance/help, and definitely prayer. The needs will be made known closer to the time of the event. Please keep this in your mind and on your prayer list.

### Memory Verse of the Month!

*Behold, I am about to do something new;  
Even now it is coming. Do you not see it?  
Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert.*

~ Isaiah 43:19 (BSB) ~



Manchester Squires  
Watch Party  
March 29, 2025



Congrats to the  
Boys 2A Basketball  
State Champs!!!



Aha!!!

Aha!!!  
I Get It!!!

Aha!!!

We have been asking people to share their "Aha" moments.

In the hymn "He Lives", the last line says "You ask me how I know He lives, He lives within my heart". There's a lot of other reasons why I know He lives. I always thought there could be a better phrase to put there. I would have written it differently because He lives within my life and so many other things. But then thinking about it, I think it is pretty accurate. He lives within my heart because when we have our trust in Jesus Christ, He affects so many things, and that love comes from the heart. You can say your heart can rejoice in Him, put your trust in Him, and impacts your daily life with the decisions you make. It is a heart thing. Even though it is not something people can see outwardly, they can see it by what comes out of your heart.

In the sermon recently, Pastor Ken talked about Abraham sacrificing his son Isaac. Abraham told his son that God would provide. The part that got me was that Abraham had been given the promise of an heir and tried to "fix" it himself with Ishmael and another time with one of his servants. God did provide an heir, Isaac, in His own timing. It hit me how many times I try to "fix" God's timing when I need to allow God to provide the way or to show up in His own time.