



Bay Shore United Methodist Church

THE SPIRE

The Rev. Dr. Sungmu Lee

April 2012

April begins with Holy Week that includes Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. About two thousand years ago, on the first Palm Sunday, there was a wonderful parade. When Jesus came to Jerusalem, a large crowd was following and shouting "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

They were very excited, but Jesus did not seem excited at all. Maybe, there was different expectation between the crowd and Jesus. The Jews expected and hoped for a new king, a warrior who would release them from Rome. However, Jesus came to Jerusalem to be killed by Romans on a cross. The crowd and Jesus had totally different expectations.

We also experience different expectation between God and us. Modern Christians are worried about our situation: Many Christian churches have struggled, and as a result, they have closed their church doors. Here are some questions based on human expectation. If God is almighty, why does God let Christian churches struggle continuously? If God blesses those who come to church with wealth and health, then much more people would attend Sunday worship and their churches would thrive.

In fact, some preachers have tried this kind of sermons. They preach: The more offering you give, the richer you will be. God will pay you back as much as you dedicate yourself to the church. If you do not come to church on Sunday, bad things will happen to you. If you do not treat your pastor well, God will be angry with you. How about that?

Interestingly, this kind of sermons has worked for some Christians, and their churches have become bigger and bigger. How is it possible? Like the crowd on Palm Sunday, we humans want dramatic and exiting stories. We humans tend to follow fantasia. Yet, reality is a totally different story. We Christians suffer from illness, death of loved ones, poverty, natural disasters, broken relations, and depression. In other words, we have the same problems as non-Christians experience.

Then, why do we worship God in Christianity? The answer is that although God does not get rid of our suffering, God gives us strength and faith to overcome it. God does not put the bread on the table for us, but God gives us hope so that we may rejoice even in poverty. God does not let us win all the time, but God gives us instruction through our failure. If your expectation to God is still based on worldly things, you will be disappointed, because God's expectation to you is focused on spiritual matters.

As we begin Holy Week, let us remember that God's way is often different from our way. And let us listen to Jesus' voice and try to have the same concept of victory as Jesus has. Then, we will share the real joy with Jesus Christ, who came to Jerusalem to save all of us from sins by dying on the cross. As we believe this, we will also be resurrected with Jesus Christ. Happy Holy Week!

Sungmu Lee

DORCAS CIRCLE

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN MEETING SCHEDULE!

The Dorcas Circle will be meeting on Monday, April 2 at 10am in Fellowship Hall.

Hostesses will be Millie Kresse and Delores Bess. Last month we covered over 100 cans for the Xmas Craft Fair. In April we plan to work on clearing some Fellowship Hall cupboards and other service projects for the church. All women are invited. Christine Hoff 665-7237

PENNIES FOR PRESERVATION

The amount collected for February was \$31.00. Many thanks to all of you who are saving extra money to help preserve our church.

MISSING TABLE CLOTHS

It has come to the attention of the Dorcas Circle that 5 table cloths are missing. If you have them, or know where they are, please return them. Thank you.

LAY READER SCHEDULE

April 1	Kailey Dowd
April 6	Christine Hoff (Good Friday)
April 8	Christine Hoff
April 15	Ebenezer Enin
April 22	Greg Goodrich
April 29	Tom Wilson

APRIL THRIFT SHOP SCHEDULE

WED	4	Tom Scherer and George Mack
SAT	7	Dot Allen and Helen Wilson
WED	11	Diane Timmony and Flaye Stahl
SAT	14	Chester Hazel and Vernice Carter
WED	18	Chris Hoff and Gil Rivera
SAT	21	Dot Allen and Chester Hazel
WED	25	Tom Scherer and Debbie Williams
SAT	28	Vernice Carter and Helen Wilson

EASTER WORSHIP

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE- Sunday, April 1st, 10 AM

HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE- Thursday, April 5th, 8 PM at the Islip UMC- 350 Main Street, Islip

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE- Friday, April 6th, 8 PM

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE- SUNDAY, APRIL 8th, 10 AM

Our music director Danny has spent many hours preparing the music for our Easter services. I encourage you to attend all of these services as you prepare for Easter.

Lois Fallon
Worship Chairperson

APRIL COMMUNION

In the month of April we will receive communion twice.

Palm Sunday, April 1st & Easter Sunday, April 8th communion will be received in the pews.

NEW PRESCHOOL OPENS IN SEPTEMBER

The Trustees have decided not to renew the expiring lease with New Beginnings Pre-School, Inc., a corporation that rented space in our Church. This vote was made after numerous open and publicized meetings of many Church groups at which the issues were extensively discussed. The Trustees decision reflects a majority conclusion that it was in the best long term interest of the Church to operate our own preschool. Many other local churches do this with great success from both financial and ministry perspectives.

New Beginnings has accepted this decision and we wish them good luck. The Church leadership is now working for a civil and professional transition and plans to begin our new preschool program in September. Please pray for our Church as we undertake this challenge.

MISSIONS

The missions Committee would like to express its appreciation to the congregation for their generous donations towards the February Food Drive which was organized as part of the Church's "Call to Action" Plans. The food drive benefited the Bay Shore Food Pantry.

The congregation is invited to read letters of appreciation from various organizations the church supports posted on the Missions Board in Fellowship Hall.

Vida Owusu Missions Committee

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!

Notes from the Music Director

Wishing Everyone a Joyous and Blessed Easter!

Please join us for

Palm Sunday Service, April 1st-10:00am
Maundy Thursday Service, April 5th- 8:00pm at Islip UMC
Good Friday Service, April 6th- 8:00pm
Easter Sunday Service, April 8th- 10:00am

Good Friday-Tenebrae Service, April 6, 2012

Bay Shore United Methodist Church will observe the solemnity of Good Friday on April 6, 2012 at 8:00pm. This is a combined service with Islip Methodist Church. Please mark your calendars and join us for this important worship service on our Lenten journey together. If you have not attended in past years, I urge you to join us this year. Our combined choirs will perform a cantata (extended choral work), about the final days of Jesus. It is a beautiful choral work, with a beautiful message. Our handbells will perform, and we'll have orchestral accompaniment. Please come out and worship with us, on this holiest of days.

Chamber Choir**Rehearsals:**

Thursday April 5 th -	7:00pm -8:30pm	in the Sunday School Room
Thursday April 12 th -	No rehearsal	
Thursday April 19 th -	7:00pm -8:00pm	in the Sunday School Room
Thursday April 26 th -	7:00pm -8:00pm	in the Sunday School Room

Penataquit Handbell Choir**Rehearsals:**

Sunday April 1 st -	9:15am rehearsal (<i>Dot Allen and Kailey Dowd only</i>)
Sunday April 1 st -	11:15am - 12:15pm rehearsal for Easter and Good Friday (<i>all</i>)
Friday April 6 th -	6:30pm Good Friday- rehearsal and service (<i>Kwasi Enin, Kwaku Owusu, and Kwaku Owusus Jr. only</i>)
Sunday April 8 th -	9:00am Easter Sunday- rehearsal and service (<i>all</i>)
Sunday April 29 th -	11:15am - 12:15pm rehearsal in the West Room

Youth Choir**Rehearsals:**

Sunday April 1 st -	9:15am Palm Sunday rehearsal and service
Sunday April 1 st -	11:15am – 12:15pm rehearsal for Easter
Sunday April 8 th -	9:00am Easter rehearsal and service
Sunday April 22 nd -	11:15am – 12:15pm rehearsal for Mother's Day

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United Methodist Church of Bay Shore
107 East Main St., Bay Shore, NY 11706
(631) 666-7194
Rev. Sungmu Lee
smlee@optonline.net
(631) 666-6211
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The SPIRE April 2012