

The Beacon

The Latest at **CHRIST UMC** | MARCH 2024



The Whole Story of Easter

Rev. Eric Williams



Have you ever turned on a TV show you have never watched before but has been around for a while? You immediately love the show and start watching the older episodes to get caught up. Once you have, you soon realize that you missed so much the first time around because you didn't know the whole story. We have the same experience if we only celebrate Easter and not all of Holy Week. This year, I challenge you to attend all of our Holy Week services to appreciate the whole story of Easter.




We will begin on March 24th with Palm Sunday, which will include a Choir Cantata at our 10:15am service. On Maundy Thursday, March 28th, we will gather with Isle of Faith

UMC at their church on San Pablo Rd at 6:30pm. This service will help us to remember the events of the Last Supper. On Good Friday, both churches will meet in our sanctuary at 6:30pm for a Tenebrae service that journeys with Jesus to the cross and grave. Easter Sunday, March 31st, will include two worship services. We have a 6:45am sunrise service on the beach at the end of Atlantic Blvd. This service is open to everyone in the community and will include communion. At 10:15am, we will have our Traditional worship service with communion to celebrate the resurrection. I hope to see you there!

Blessings,
Rev. Eric Williams



March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9am Heavenly Hash 10:15am Worship in Person & Online at www.Christumcnb.org 10:30am Adventure Kids Fellowship after Worship 12pm Youth Group	4 10am Adult Bible Study	5 3pm Feed the Hungry Prep	6 10am UWF Board Mtg 10 am Preschool Chapel 5:30pm Choir	7 9am Preschool Singing 10am Christ Quilters 10am Preschool Gym	1 10am Church Women United 5pm Girl Scouts	2
10 *Day/Light Savings* 9am Heavenly Hash 10:15am Worship in Person & Online at www.Christumcnb.org 10:30am Adventure Kids Fellowship after Worship	11 10am Adult Bible Study	12 10am Circle One Mtg 10am Preschool Connection 6:15pm Operations Mtg 6:30pm Freedom Circle	13 10am Hope Circle Mtg 10am Preschool Chapel 5:30pm Choir	14 9am Preschool Singing 10am Christ Quilters 10am Preschool Gym	15	16 10am CYPF Training **Mandatory**
17 *Beam* 9am Heavenly Hash 10:15am Worship in Person & Online at www.Christumcnb.org 10:30am Adventure Kids Fellowship after Worship 12pm Youth group	18 10am Adult Bible Study 5:30pm Possibilities Plus	19 	20 10am Preschool Chapel 5:30pm Choir	21 10am Christ Quilters	22	23 11am Spring Festival
24 *Palm Sunday* 9am Heavenly Hash 10:15am Worship in Person & Online at www.Christumcnb.org 10:30am Adventure Kids Fellowship after Worship	25 10am Adult Bible Study	26 	27 10am Preschool Chapel 3:30pm Worship Design Team 5:30pm Choir	28 Maundy Thursday 9am Preschool Singing 10am Christ Quilters 10am Preschool Gym 6:30pm Service at Isle of Faith San Pablo	29 Good Friday Service 6:30pm Good Friday Service	30
31 *Easter Sunday* 6:30am Sunrise Service 9am Heavenly Hash 10:15am Worship in Person & Online at www.Christumcnb.org 10:30am Adventure Kids Fellowship after Worship						

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HEY YOUTH!

Youth Gatherings

Our Youth Group gathers bi-weekly on Sundays at noon for fellowship and service. They've been joyfully learning to serve and recently made an impact at "Night to Shine". We see emerging disciples among them, dedicated to helping others.

We're inviting 5th to 7th graders to join our supportive youth family—church membership is not required, as we welcome youth from various churches and backgrounds.

Interested in contributing to our youth's growth or know a youngster who'd benefit from joining? Let's connect! Email Hanna Thomas at helpfulhannajax@gmail.com.

FROM THE RELEASE TEAM

Ongoing Missions

Our Mission: "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:17-18

BEAM (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry) Each month we collect food for the food pantry and other special needs as requested.

Mission House (Feed the Hungry Program) On the first Tuesday of each month, volunteers prepare and deliver meals for the homeless to Mission House.

Community Kitchen (in cooperation with Beach Church) Volunteers deliver meals to the needy on an eleven-week rotation cycle.

The Release Team thanks you for your generosity in supporting the Church World Services' Blanket Program in February. We are sending \$500 toward the purchase of these much needed blankets throughout the world.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

March Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1 Joann Easterday
Jim Ransom
- 3 Victor Cymbalski
- 4 Daniel McHugh
- 6 Richard Wallace
- 7 Karen Hughes

- 13 Alessandra Card
- 16 Beth Buswell
- 19 Aaron Brunner
- 20 Eula (Mae) Jones
- 21 Ann DeVane
- 24 Jo Jo Hayward
Karen Lagitch
Kathy Wallace

DOOR-LOCKING

Security Corner

Easter is upon us, and the joy of the empty tomb and the promise of Spring is in the air. Hundreds will flock to Christ UMC for our Easter services at the beach and the church.

Even with all the joy, another church shooting tops the headlines, this time from Houston, TX. It was a senseless act of violence that left dead and injured in a place that should be immune from such violence. Sadly, houses of worship are not.

Holy Week culminating on Easter Sunday will draw the largest crowds to Christ UMC since Christmas. Your Security Task Team will again do our best to make CUMC a least likely target.

You might be thinking the Mega Church in Houston was more likely to be targeted by a person with a gun. Uvalde, TX, where a gunman entered an elementary school and killed students and faculty, was a town of just over 15,000. The communities that our members come from total over 60,000 beach residents, not counting Jacksonville.

The Security Task Team will ensure doors are locked on campus and screen people entering the church. Neptune Beach Police are on high alert for the 5 churches in our beach town. NB Police will also monitor our beach service that draws up to 600 on a fair weather Easter. They will also oversee the collection.

Wishing you a joyous and safe Easter!

Stay Alert, Stay Alive
Bob Strachan, Chairperson
CUMC Security Task Team

HE IS RISEN!

Spring & Easter Gatherings

Christ UMC will be hosting special Holy Week services along with Isle of Faith UMC. Both Pastor Eric (Christ UMC) and Pastor Will (Isle of Faith) will co-officiate Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Please read the descriptions below for times and location for each service.

Spring Festival - March 23 from 11am - 1pm **Location:** Christ UMC (400 Penman Rd, Neptune Beach, FL 32266)
An afternoon of games, egg hunt with the Easter Bunny, music, and BBQ! Bring all your friends to the perfect Saturday.

Palm Sunday - March 24 at 10:15am **Location:** Christ UMC (400 Penman Rd, Neptune Beach, FL 32266)
Celebrate Palm Sunday and commemorate Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem! Complete with palms, palm crosses, and music from the wonderful choir.

Maundy Thursday - March 28 at 6:30pm **Location:** Isle of Faith UMC (1821 San Pablo Rd S. Jacksonville, FL 32224)
A special night of worship to remember the Last Supper. We will also have a foot/hand washing experience for those who wish to participate.

Good Friday - March 29 at 6:30pm **Location:** Christ UMC (400 Penman Rd, Neptune Beach, FL 32266)
A Tenebrae service including extinguishing candles, music, and scripture to reflect on Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

Easter Sunrise - March 31 at 6:45am **Location:** On the beach at Atlantic Blvd
This meaningful service will include music and communion as the sun rises over the Atlantic Ocean. Bring your own chair or blanket if you prefer to sit.

Easter - March 31 at 10:15am **Location:** Christ UMC (400 Penman Rd Neptune Beach, FL, 32266)
This traditional Easter service will include celebratory hymns, communion, and a relevant message.

COMING UP

Messy Church

Join us March 20th, 6-7pm, for a family-friendly gathering at our church. It's a chance for everyone – friends, family, and neighbors – to enjoy fellowship and pizza while exploring the theme "Let me tell you about my Jesus". We welcome your presence and participation in making others feel at home. Interested in volunteering? We'd love your help too! There's always room for one more helping hand. Questions? Reach out to Hanna Thomas at helpfulhannajax@gmail.com or Kathy Scott at kathy_s45@yahoo.com.

CALLING ALL WOMEN

UWF March

All women are invited to join us at any of our meetings! **Circle One** will meet Tuesday, March 12, at 10am in Wilson Hall. **Freedom Circle** will meet Tuesday, March 12, at 6:30pm in Wilson Hall. **Hope Circle** will meet Wednesday, March 13, at 10am in Wilson Hall. There will be no Unit meeting this month, but we hope to see you during Holy Week events!

GRATEFUL TO YOU

Volunteer Spotlight: Paula Weisenborn

Paula is a multi-tasker with a deep passion for showing our children how to love Jesus. Each Sunday, the Adventure Kids love learning from Paula, and on the weekdays, she aids at our Preschool with music and our "preschool connection." Her role as a teacher of the Church (and all teachers) deserves so much appreciation and gratitude. Paula, thank you for all the time, effort, and sacrifice you place in teaching others about the faith that you yourself love!