

PLYMOUTH  
CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF  
CHRIST  
BURLINGTON, WI

VOL XII, ISSUE IV  
APRIL 2017

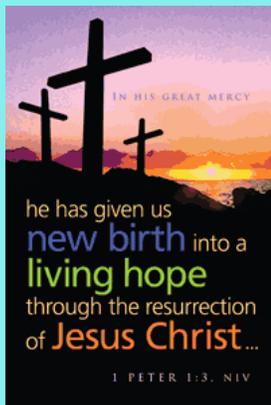


Special points of  
interest:

**Book Study**

**New women's group  
forming!!**

**See Holy Week Schedule**



**Inside this Issue**

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# The Plymouth Epistle

*A Newsletter for the Members & Friends of Plymouth Congregational UCC, Burlington, WI*

## **WORDS FROM WANG – “Salutation of the Dawn”**

To say that the members and friends of Plymouth Church have had their share of grief is an understatement. For the past 6-8 months we have lost some very dedicated and loving/loveable people; gone from our midst but never forgotten and never gone from our hearts. When I meet with families to make preparations for the funeral or memorial service of a loved one I always remind them that, in spite of their sadness and pain, the day we gather to celebrate the life of their loved one is an Easter Service. For in every death of a faithful person there is the promise that the dawn of a new day is upon them and upon us.

And this faith gift was made possible through the life, death, and resurrection of the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, Jesus Christ. In the coming weeks we will hear the familiar biblical texts that help us remember the telling tales of Christ's final journey on earth before he went to prepare a place for us; whatever that may look like in our own minds and spirits.

On April 16<sup>th</sup> (Easter Sunday) we will hear the final sermon in my Lenten series; *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our...* (blank) culminating with *Love*. Most Lenten sermon series end on “the night Jesus was betrayed” (the Maundy Thursday story following “the last supper”). However, I felt it was important to carry that theme through the dawn of Easter morn and to focus on the love that grounds us and carries us forward through all things; especially through the reality of mortal death; that “thing” that we have become all too familiar with in recent days and months. Am I right? I know I am.

I look forward to walking the final weeks and days of this holiest of holy seasons with each and every one of you and as always, consider it an honor to be your “shepherd” as we refer to this pastoral office I assume. And I can only say to keep the faith and never forget to be thankful for what God has done for you in sending us Christ the Redeemer; the Savior of the World. And as we walk through this world may this “*Salutation to the Dawn*” (a pre-Christian times writing) be part of our theme and creed for living out our days.

Look to this day! For it is life, the very life of life.  
In its brief course lie all the verities and realities of your existence;  
the bliss of growth, the glory of action, and the splendor of beauty.  
For yesterday is but a dream and tomorrow only a vision.  
But today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness,  
and every tomorrow a vision of hope.  
Look well, therefore, to this day! Such is the salutation of the dawn.  
- Kalidasa (2500 BC Sanskrit)

And as always, I hope to see ya' in church. Pastor Bob

## Worship Opportunities for April

### April 2– 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

**Scripture:** Ezekiel 37:1-14

**Sermon Theme:** “*They’ll Know We are Christians - by Our Faith*”

**Note:** The Sacrament of Holy Communion

### April 9 – Palm Sunday

**Scripture:** Matthew 4:1-7

**Sermon Theme:** “*They’ll Know We Are Christians - by Our Service*”

### April 13 - Maundy Thursday

**Worship at 7:00**

**Note:** Service will take place in the dining room downstairs.

### April 14 – Good Friday

**Joint Worship at 7:00pm** (hosted by Burlington United Methodist Church)

### April 16 – Easter Sunday

**Sunrise Service at 8:00** **NOTE** time change!

**Traditional Service: 10:00**

**Sermon Theme:** “*They’ll Know We Are Christians - by Our Love*”

### April 23 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Easter/ Earth Day Observed

**Scripture:** Psalm 8, Job 12:7-10

**Sermon Theme:** “*The Real E.P.A.*”

### April 30 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Easter

**Scripture:** Luke 24:13-35

**Sermon Theme:** “*Recognizing The Living Christ*”

### May 7 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter

**Scripture:** Acts 2:42-47

**Sermon Theme:** “*Having the Goodwill*”

**Note:** The Sacrament of Holy Communion

## BOOK STUDY CONTINUES

Also as part of our Lenten offerings Pastor Bob is leading a book study. The text we will be exploring together is not your typical Lenten theme or topic though the chosen book is as relevant and inspirational as any other book we might consider; not to mention it **will** give us all cause for spiritual reflection and introspective thinking.

The book is *Torn: Rescuing the Gospel from the Gays-vs-Christian Debate* by Justin Lee. It is a fact that the more we study together and seek understanding the better we will all be, and the more open minded we will become, as Christians regardless of our personal views on controversial matters. Open minds and open hearts are always the key to peacemaking and bridging all that divides us as human beings. Not to mention, that’s just one more way they’ll know we are compassionate Christians.

Remaining sessions: April 2 & 9 at 8:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room; completing the book prior to the 9<sup>th</sup>. If you have not obtained the book you can through Amazon at: (<https://www.amazon.com/Torn-Rescuing-Gospel-Gays-vs-Christians-Debate-ebook/dp/B0076DFG5S>). It is available in paperback, hard-back, Kindle formats.



### **PLYMOUTH PRAISE IN WORSHIP – April 23 (Earth Day Focus)**

Even the April fools know the value of the arts in worship and beyond. Those who sing always pray twice in the midst of church life and within.

“Plymouth Praise” is a group of singers and players who lead with a more contemporary style of worship music and do so typically on the 4th Sunday of the month. With our typical rehearsal time falling on Easter Sunday this year we will formulate a plan to get music out ahead of time but only come together to rehearse the day we lead worship; but a little earlier than usual. Okay?

**April 23 @ 8:30 - Rehearsal with 10:00 worship to follow.**

We always welcome new singers or players. Come help us make a joyful noise.



March was a short month for LOGOS, but we enjoyed our time together. We had a Bake Sale which brought in \$250.00!! We now have enough money to sponsor our student from Haiti! Thank you to all that brought baked goods, and a special thank you to Scott Wilson for donating the ham. I think everyone enjoyed a delicious ham sandwich and dessert after church on that Sunday. :)

I can't believe that we are in our last month for LOGOS for the year!! April came SO quickly!! We have 3 more LOGOS left; April 5th, April 19th which is Jump Up Night for all the 1st graders that will be joining us next year at LOGOS, and then our Farewell Celebration on April 26th. It's been a great year!

I hope everyone has a wonderful Easter and you take advantage of your time off with your family.

Blessings,  
Nikki Burd  
Children's Ministry Director

## **BURLINGTON COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST**

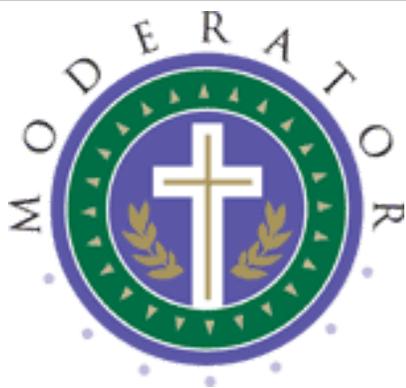
**May 4th at Veterans Terrace**

After taking a year off, Pastor Bob is back on the planning team for the annual community prayer breakfast. Elsewhere in this issue of the Epistle is a poster highlighting the information regarding this year's event. Hopefully, we are sending a strong message to the Burlington area that, as churches of varying backgrounds and traditions, we are able to cross boundaries that we may unite in support of and prayer for our community and country; this is part of the traditional *National Day of Prayer*.



Community  
Prayer  
Breakfast

We, at Plymouth are committed to filling two tables (16) with members and friends of Plymouth Church so **please notify (and pay) the church office if you are interested in attending**. If we exceed that number we will add on to our total, of course. The \$10 fee covers breakfast and expenses for the event. As the poster states, BASD superintendent, Peter Smet, will be speaking about his faith and calling as a key leader in our community and how his spiritual life sustains him in his role as an educator. The event begins at 7:30 a.m. and will conclude before 9:00. Refer questions to the church office or Pastor Bob.



### FROM THE MODERATOR.....

As we head into the final quarter of our church's fiscal year, we have a number of important things to complete yet. Let me share a few of those things to keep you up to date..

We have some very important positions to fill for the upcoming 2017-2018 year. Those positions include finding candidates for: Vice Moderator, Church Recording Secretary, and two positions on Pastor Parish Relations. Anyone interested in volunteering for one of these positions should contact me.

The Employee Relations Committee will be conducting staff employee reviews soon. A proposed budget for the next fiscal year is being worked on. Logos is close to wrapping up another successful year. The carpet replacement in the church should be completed soon after the Easter season ends.

Meanwhile, the Opening and Affirming meetings and "Torn" book study sessions will continue as we head toward making a decision this fall. And with Holy Week and Easter services coming soon, it's a very busy time for Pastor Bob.

I'm certain that I've forgotten to mention something but my message here is really this: the church can use everyone's help so please consider volunteering to fill one of the leadership positions for next year. Please pray for our existing leaders, that the Holy Spirit will guide all of us in our decisions and actions.

I wish everyone a very Happy Easter. Let us look forward to the Easter message... "Jesus Christ is Risen...He is risen indeed!"

Ron

### All Church Potluck

**Sunday, April 23**  
**Immediately following worship**

**Bring a dish to pass and join us**  
**for food and fellowship!**



## Mission News:



## JOIN GOD'S GALS (GG)

Curious about what GG is all about? Recognizing a growing need for support, love, and comradery for all women in our church, the Mission Team is reaching out to try to fill that void with the formation of **God's Gals**.

**Who can join?** Any woman in our church and their friends.

**How can I find out more about God's Gals?** On Sunday, May 7, please plan to attend a salad luncheon after the service. Bring a salad to share and your ideas on how often the group should meet, activities, guest speakers, projects, etc. – THE SKY IS THE LIMIT! All suggestions are welcome.

**GOD'S GALS** will be a comfortable environment to express your needs, concerns, and to make new friends or to renew past friendships.

The Mission Team is excited to get started and looking forward to seeing each & every one of you at the salad luncheon in May. If you can't make it that day, we will make sure that future meetings will be posted on the church calendar and in the Sunday bulletin. A Facebook page may be established at some point in the future too.



April collection item:

Sewing kits and small tools such as tape measure, Small hammer, pliers, screwdrivers etc.



### Mark your calendar!!

After worship on May 7th we will have a New Member meeting. If you would like to become an official member of Plymouth Church, please call the church office (763-6890) and let us know if you will be attending the meeting. New members will be received into membership during worship on May 21st.

**ONA 2017** *“Just Being Christian Does Not Make One Open and Accepting”*

As we continue to explore together we have noticed several common themes (and questions) arising with regard to our possibly becoming an open and affirming church (accepting to all regardless of sexual orientation). One of those themes is “assuming” we already are ONA by virtue of our being a UCC church and/or even that **because we are Christian** we accept all people. Hmmmm.

Please be reminded that how we interpret being “Christian” is problematic given the broad range of definitions and varied traditions of what it means to be “Christian.” In his book, *Torn*, Justin Lee on first coming to terms with being gay went to his (conservative) pastor to seek counsel and his pastor said he could have gay thoughts and still be welcome in his church but once he acted on them **he would no longer be included**. This is just one example among thousands of how the Christian faith has been used to justify discrimination against (and even demonize) homosexuals. In other words, the Christian church has contributed to the problem and thus (we the progressive) have a special responsibility for its solution.

It is estimated that 10% of the population in this country identify with the LGBTQ culture. That’s 28 million people which is reason enough to see how we can improve the way LGBTQ people are treated as fellow human beings. Regardless of our own personal feelings, we ought to, as a faith community, be concerned that these people are treated with the same respect to which all people are entitled. Not to decide to specifically include LGBTQ as among those welcomed into a community of faith will be assumed to mean that they are excluded.

Simply put, many baptized Christians who identify with LGBTQ have been betrayed, scorned, rejected, and humiliated by some Christian community somewhere and therefore do not trust the church to welcome them. **They need to see some visible and unambiguous sign of welcome in a local church before they will risk becoming involved again. It’s not enough to assume we are all inclusive and welcoming just because we think we are by virtue of being Christian. We need to express it and do so in a public way.**

Thanks to those of you who have made an effort to attend our recent listening sessions. A lot of good conversation has come out of our time together. **PLEASE IF YOU HAVE NOT ATTENDED, OR READ THE INFORMATION PROVIDED, OR READ THE BOOK *TORN*, PLEASE MAKE AN EFFORT TO DO SO. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU ARE ENGAGED IN THE PROCESS!!!!!!!!!**

**Question Box:** It’s actually a “Question Bucket” (thanks to Christine Schultz who made it). There is a rainbow colored bucket located in the church parlor for submitting thoughtful and respectful questions regarding the ONA process and the colorful arena that is the LGBTQ reality. Any and all questions will be addressed to the best of our abilities at the next scheduled listening session. You can identify yourself or remain anonymous.

**Next ONA Listening Session #3 – April 30 @ 11:30-12:30 (in the sanctuary)**



### Game Day – Saturday, April 15th

Game Day will take place as usual on April 15 -- the day between Good Friday and Easter.

That night, starting at 6pm, we will have a special non-Easter movie event...

Filmmaker Christopher R. Mihm (and family) will be at the church to host a showing of Chris's new film...WERESQUITO: NAZI HUNTER

In this Rondo Award 2017-nominated film, horrific Nazi experiments have left a surviving American WWII soldier with a terrifying condition: at the sight of fresh blood, he transforms into a man-sized, blood-sucking killer insect! Refusing to let his affliction destroy him, he instead commits himself to using his "powers" for good—by finding the people responsible and bringing them to justice!

Chris will also talk about his new upcoming film, and answer all questions. He will also have copies of his films, trading cards, and other merchandise for sale. Do not miss this once-in-a-lifetime event!



**Please join our community on**

**National Day of Prayer**

**May 4, 2017**

**Veterans Terrace**

**589 Milwaukee Ave.**

**Burlington, WI**

**Continental Breakfast will be served**

**Guest Speaker: Peter Smet, BASD Superintendent**

**Guest Musician: Danen Kane**

**Prayers led by local pastors**

**Registration begins at 7:15 am**

**Event is 7:30am – 9:00am**

**Feel free to bring a non-perishable food item to be distributed to local food pantries.**

**\$10 per person or Table of 8 for \$75**

**Reservations MUST be made in advance**

**RSVP to Plymouth Church office**

**by April 24, 2017**



[www.NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG](http://www.NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG)



- 1 - Lee Freeman
- Joel Graham
- Jacob Szemborski
- 3 - Natalie Stier
- 4 - Betty Peterson
- 5 - Bernard Yanke
- Justus Brenner
- 6 - Bill Schellpfeffer
- 7 - Bill Meinel
- 9 - Jack Wightman
- 10 - Mike Springer
- 13 - Debbie Witte

- 15 - Mary Lou Nebinger
- Josh Wang
- Ashton Campbell
- 18 - Lois Hahn
- 19 - Marilee Hoffman
- Amber Iselin
- 20 - Dave Hill
- 21 - Dick Pieters
- Tristan Post
- 23 - Betty Anderson
- Scott Wilson
- Jill Albrecht

- 24 - Dick Peterson
- 25 - Avery Peterson
- 26 - Max Lindell
- 27 - Debbie Pieters
- Pam Peterson
- Marissa Post
- 28 - Marge Harder
- Deb Lindell
- Sawyer Wightman
- 30 - Gladys Bublitz
- Finn Peterson

**Special  
Congratulations  
to  
Gladys Bublitz  
who celebrates  
her 97<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
on  
April 30<sup>th</sup> !**



- Dave & Kim Kerkhoff – April 1
- Dennis & Jill Witte – April 5
- Brad & Jenn Brenner – April 12

- Jon & Betty Anderson – April 16
- Scott & Meghan Peterson – April 18
- Randy & Kim Wessinger – April 18

Otilio & Tasha Escobar — April 30



Thank you to all the wonderful people at Plymouth Church who sent so many beautiful cards in my time of sorrow.

- Bernie Yanke

A belated thank you for the delicious plate of cookies given to me on Valentines Day. Thank you to all of the bakers. The cookies were tasty. And I especially enjoyed visiting with Marlene Peacock that day.

Thank you to all.

- Pat Sandstrom

# ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, May 21st immediately following worship**



**Fair Trade Coffee Project – This month’s sale will be on April 16.**

- Organic Tamari Roasted Almonds — \$5.00 per package
- Equal Exchange Teas - \$3.00 per package
- Regular Whole Bean and Ground Coffee — \$7.00 per bag
- Decaf Whole Bean and Ground Coffee — \$8.00 per bag
- Regular Flavored Coffees — \$8.00 per bag
- Hazelnut Decaf — \$9.00 per bag
- Hot Cocoa Mix — \$6.00 per can
- Equal Exchange Large Chocolate Bars — \$2.50 each

**We also have Women’s Bean Project items:**

- Soup Mixes - \$5.50 each
- Cookie Mixes - \$5.00
- Iced Tea Mixes - \$3.50
- Dip Mixes - \$3.75
- Chocolate Covered Espresso Beans - \$5.75

**Sharing Sunday — 1st Sunday of every month — All items go to Love, Inc.**

Love’s food pantry continues to need your help!

The following non-perishable food and other items are greatly needed:

- |                                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| canned fruit, canned vegetables, soup | deodorant             |
| toothpaste, toothbrushes              | mouth wash, shampoo   |
| hair spray, hand soap                 | tissues, toilet paper |
| feminine hygiene products             | diapers (all sizes)   |
| canned spaghetti                      | macaroni, cereal      |
| brown sugar, sugar                    | jelly, peanut butter  |
| mayonnaise, mustard, catsup           | laundry detergent     |
| disposable razors                     | dish soap             |



Monetary contributions are always accepted. Just place your check in the offering plate or mail it to Plymouth Church.

**Blood pressure screening - April 9th**

Blood pressure screening will take place in the Fireside Room following worship.



**Plymouth Children’s Center receives funds from grocery stores:**

Plymouth Children’s Center collects grocery receipts from Richter’s Marketplace. They receive 1% of the total on the receipts. Richter’s Marketplace receipts require a *Funds for Friends* sticker on the back. There is a blue box on the table outside their office door that you can put the receipts in.



**Flowers for Sunday**

If you would like to supply flowers for the altar on a Sunday, please sign up for a date on our Flower Chart. It is located by the door in the parlor that leads to the nursery. Look ahead to important dates in your life that you would like to commemorate by providing flowers for our church service. We thank Marty Baker for the exquisite arrangements she has been providing for the past several months. We have truly appreciated her gifts of time and talent!!



Thank you for your continued support.



SUNDAY	April 2	April 9 Palm Sunday	April 16 Easter	April 23	April 30
DEACONS	<b>April 2:</b> Betty Peterson- Bread Dick Peterson, Pam Moersfelder, Carolyn Schoneck				
USHERS	Dick & Betty Peterson Wayne Jenson	Tim & Kay Burd Steph Eveland	8:00am 10:00am	Tyler & Becky Daniels Barb Freeman	Bob & Jackie Kastengren Deb Lindell
LITURGIST	Pam Moersfelder	Paul Gander	8:00am Kiffie Scott 10:00am Steve Picazo	LOGOS Kids	Jamie Edwards
FELLOWSHIP SERVERS	Gidget Brown Kathy Pieters	Betty Peterson Ev Price	None Needed	None Needed Potluck	Keith & Sue Krumholz
AV OPERATOR	John Kranich	Dave Snyder	Jamie Edwards		
NURSERY CARE	Ellen Gyger Steph Rediger	Nikki Burd	No nursery care	Betty Peterson	Ev Price
ACOLYTE	Raegan Rediger	Gibson Souther		Gibson Souther	Josh Katzman



**“Ladies Lunch Bunch” April 5th  
Pine Street Café**

Come for fun and pleasant conversation.  
 Order from the menu and pay for your own lunch.  
 If you need a ride, call the church office at 763-6890.

**Deadline for the May issue of *The Plymouth Epistle* is :  
 Friday, April 21st Thanks, Beth**

**PLYMOUTH UCC STAFF**

Rev. Robert E. Wang, Minister - 262-308-4180  
 Beth Picazo, Secretary  
 Stephanie Eveland, Financial Secretary  
 Nikki Burd, Children’s Ministry Director  
 Jeffrey Hughes, Custodian  
 Marty Baker, Wedding Coordinator  
 Diane Olson, Organist & Bell Choir Director  
 Jamie Edwards, Choir Director  
 Lisa Carnahan, Choir Accompanist



**PLYMOUTH CHILDREN’S CENTER  
 ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Sara Trewyn, Program Director  
 Phyllis Hancock, Assistant Director

**REV. ROBERT WANG, MINISTER**

**OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesday-Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
 If possible, please call ahead to make sure  
 Pastor Bob is available

**PLYMOUTH UCC OFFICE HOURS**

Beth: Monday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
 Fridays, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
 Steph: Monday – Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
 Church Office: 262-763-6890  
 Web Site: [www.uccply.org](http://www.uccply.org)

Email: [Plymouth@PlymouthUCCBurlington.org](mailto:Plymouth@PlymouthUCCBurlington.org)  
 Minister Email: [Minister@PlymouthUCCBurlington.org](mailto:Minister@PlymouthUCCBurlington.org)  
 Financial Secretary Email:  
[steph@PlymouthUCCBurlington.org](mailto:steph@PlymouthUCCBurlington.org)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Notes:</b> There will NOT be a breakfast on Easter Sunday between our 2 worship services. Worship will be at 8am and 10am.						1
<b>2</b> 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee & Conversation	3	4 7pm Choir	<b>5</b> Noon – Ladies Lunch Bunch 5pm LOGOS 6:30pm Bell Choir	6	7	8
<b>9 Palm Sunday</b> 8:45am Bell Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee & Conversation 11:00am Blood Pressure Screening	10	<b>11</b> 10:30am A.S.A.P. 7pm Choir	<b>12</b> 6:30pm Operating Council Meeting 6:30pm Bell Choir	<b>13</b> 7pm Maundy Thursday Service	<b>14</b> 7pm Good Friday Service at United Methodist Church	<b>15</b> 11am Game Day 6pm Movie Night
<b>16 Easter Sunday</b> 8:00am Sunrise Service 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship NO Sunday School Fair Trade Sales	17	<b>18</b> 7pm Choir	<b>19</b> 5pm LOGOS Jump Up Night 6:30pm Bell Choir	20	21	22
<b>23</b> 8:30am Plymouth Praise Rehearsal 10:00am Worship – LOGOS Sunday 10:15am Sunday School 11:00am Church Potluck	24	<b>25</b> 10:30am A.S.A.P. 7pm Choir	<b>26</b> 5pm Final LOGOS 6:30pm Bell Choir	27	28	<b>29</b> Jubilate Novum Concert
<b>30</b> 10:00am Worship - Baptism 10:15am Sunday School 11:00am Coffee & Conversation 11:30am ONA Listening Session						



**PLYMOUTH  
CONCREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
124 W.  
WASHINGTON  
STREET  
BURLINGTON, WI  
53105-1478  
262-763-6890  
262-763-6802 FAX**

**ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED  
DATE MATERIAL  
PLEASE DO NOT  
DELAY  
APRIL 2017  
EPISTLE**

*We hope you like our monthly newsletter. It is such a great communicator of happenings at our church. However, if you no longer wish to be on our mailing list, please notify us by either mail, telephone (262-763-6890) or email - [plymouth@plymouthuccburlington.org](mailto:plymouth@plymouthuccburlington.org).*



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE for Holy WEEK

- ◆ April 9 – Palm Sunday  
Service at 10:00am
- ◆ April 13 – Maundy Thursday  
Service at 7:00pm
- ◆ April 14 – Good Friday  
Service at Burlington United  
Methodist Church at 7:00pm
- ◆ April 16 – Easter Sunday  
Sunrise Service at 8:00am  
Traditional worship at 10:00am