

Remember Good Friday

It can be so easy to shout our "Hosannas!" on Palm Sunday and our "Alleluias!" on Easter and be completely deaf to the shouts of "Crucify!" that echo from the depths of Thursday night into Friday's morning light.

We love the parade with palms waving and children shouting as Jesus rides into Jerusalem. Easter morning brings resurrection glory, fresh hope and the promise of life beyond life. But how easy it is to gloss over the days between, to forget to show up for that final supper and foot washing, then avoid all together the agony of a cross.

Why not join the glorious parade, then jump to the celebration at the empty tomb? Why go to Golgotha? It hurts too much.

We cringe, we turn our heads and cover our ears. Don't worry. Be happy. We like the cooing Christmas baby and Jesus as he gives us food from baskets loaded with bread and fish. Palms and Easter lilies are all we need. Forget the blood-stained tree.

But when we skip over Good Friday, when we let the crucifixion become a minor incident of our faith, we miss the God who was willing to enter into the depth of human hurt, to know the agony of sin and evil, to die, wretchedly, violently, crying the cry of all who have ever felt abandoned: "My God, my God! Why have you forsaken me?"

On the cross, God took on all the suffering that sin and evil could inflict. God grieved with loss beyond words. God knew how excruciating human pain could be. And God didn't have to do it.

I believe in a God who is both all powerful and all loving, a God who throughout history forgave God's people over and over again as they disobeyed God's will, turned away from God's saving grace and thought they could do it all themselves. There are plenty of ways God could have gotten humanity to pay attention, but sin being what it is, nothing would have worked.

So God, in Jesus, became one of us, loving us, showing us what living as a new creation could be. Bodies and spirits were healed. Sins forgiven. Lives made new. But God had to know that human



Carol Rahn

• From the Pulpit

sinfulness could never understand so much love, that we could never accept all that grace.

Such compassion can be dangerous. Such love a threat to the principalities and powers that ought to be in control. Such a man has to go. And God knew that would have to happen. God knew Jesus would have to die. God knew that evil would think it had won.

Yet God came to us anyway. God loved us enough to descend to any depth for our sake. God loved us enough to die. Jesus willingly went to the cross to show the extent of God's great love for us. "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

And on the cross, God showed the ultimate love, by willingly suffering and dying, never avoiding human pain and suffering, but taking it on, knowing intimately the worst a person would ever have to endure. On Good Friday, on the cross, Emmanuel, God with us, suffered and died as one of us. God's body takes in all our brokenness and pain.

There is nothing of human suffering and pain, anguish, grief or dying that God has not borne. We are claimed, and loved, and carried by a God who knows exactly what we are going through, who can say "I have been there and I am with you."

When we miss Good Friday, when we forget the cross, we miss our God, who will be, who is with us - no matter what.

Easter is the fulfillment of the promise of new life, today and into eternity. Good Friday is the promise that no matter how great the pain of life, how deep the loss, how severe the suffering, we will never have to bear it alone. No matter what we must face in this life, God is there with us, always and forever.

As Christians, we do ultimately stand at the empty tomb, knowing that God will transform the worst we must face into resurrection

hope. We are confident that God is with us ever step of the journey - marching along with us in grand parades, inviting us to feasts of the richest food, forgiving our sins, showing the way when we are lost, carrying our burdens

when they are too heavy to manage alone, blessing us in ways too numerous for us to ever recognize, let alone give thanks for.

And God is with us in our pain, sorrow, and suffering, when it hurts so very, very much. God is always with us. Always. Always.

May Easter blessings surround you, lift you, carry you, and give you the hope and peace of Christ. Always. Always.

Carol Rahn is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Colby.

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April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Dr. Curtis Cardiology	2 MRI's Cardiac Rehab	3
4	5 Dr. Rubinowitz Oncology	6 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	7 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	8 Lighter Side Weight Loss Program 5:30 p.m.	9 MRI's Cardiac Rehab	10
11	12 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	13	14 Dr. Frankum Surgery Bone Density Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	15 Dr. Saba Orthopedics	16 MRI's Cardiac Rehab	17
18	19 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	20	21 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	22 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	23 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	24 MRI's Cardiac Rehab
25	26 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	27 Dr. Miller Cardiology	28 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	29	30 MRI's Cardiac Rehab	

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SERVICES DIRECTORY

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 785-687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Schedule of church services

GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP, 2nd and Sunrise, Oakley. Pastor James Bloom, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church 10:15 a.m., Wednesday evening Bible Study and Intercessory Prayer 6:30 p.m. 785-671-4020.

COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH, 730 E. 3rd (former Jaycee's building), Pastor Bernard Heinz, 785-460-0313, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.

ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 785-462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May. Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May.

COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, 245 W. College Dr., Colby. Pastor Steve Todd. Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages. Wednesday Youth at The Rock 3:30 and 7 p.m. Sunday evening services at 6:30 p.m. on all Sundays except the 5th Sunday of every month. 785-462-8234. cdag@st-tel.net.

BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, www.colbyborean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Pastor Mark Carlton, Senior Pastor and Pastor Jason Purdy, Youth Pastor. Middle School Group Wednesday 7 p.m. at the Attic and High School Youth Group Sunday 6 p.m. at the Attic. AWANA Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the church.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Dr. Joan Harrington, Interim Pastor, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study: Sundays at 7 p.m. FC Club 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2 p.m.

COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH (Affiliated with Southern Baptist), 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 785-460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m. Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday's.

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-890-3375, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

WINONA METHODIST CHURCH, 501 Bellview Ave. Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)

To become a sponsor, call Andrea, Heather or Shaly today at 462-3963.

MINGO BIBLE CHURCH, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Intern Pastor Tom Peyton. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share!; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, 785-462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 785-462-6342, Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Podcasts of the worship services are available at the church website colbypress.org.

WESLEYAN CHURCH, 320 W. Pine - 785-462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 1145 S. Franklin - 785-460-6605, President Andy Rose, 785-460-6807; Erwin Mitchell, 1st counselor, 785-460-1952; Calvin Haverfield, 2nd counselor, 785-953-1043. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 785-462-3571.

REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC., 345N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 9 a.m., Sunday worship, 10 a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 6 p.m. Shoponline at: www.rlmregionalchurch.com.

COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 785-460-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. www.colbyumc.org

CHURCH OF CHRIST, Minister, Jarrod Spencer. 510 E. 4th, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m. www.colbychurch.com

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Lyle Knebel, 385 W. 3rd - 785-460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church at 10:00 a.m.

OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rev. Don White and Rev. Tim Llewellyn, East 5th & Country Club, 785-462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:30 a.m.; Services, 11:00 a.m. Visit us at www.trinitycolby.com.

LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH, 205 1st St., Pastor Charles Taff, 785-586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD, Joan Dingworth, Director, 785-687-2565.

REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 785-687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 785-694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Tue. 5:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study.



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