

## Celebrate Jesus' Gift of Forgiveness From Sins



"Jesus did not come simply to make bad people good. Jesus came to bring dead people to life." That quote from Christian activist Shane Claiborne sums up the reason Christians celebrate Easter. Because Jesus came back to life on Easter morning, he offers his followers new life as well.

The good news of Easter is that although we're still sinners, Jesus forgives our sins when we confess them. We no longer have to be burdened with our wrongs and the guilt that accompanies them. But that can be tough to remember on a day-to-day basis—for adults as well as teenagers.

In *Group Magazine's* recent survey of more than 26,000 Christian teenagers, half of them agreed with this statement: "I've done things no one really knows about that impact my ability to feel loved by God." The first hurdle is finding someone to confess these burdens to. If your teenagers aren't comfortable talking to you about their sins, they may be able to open up to a youth leader or pastor who can assure them of God's mercy and grace.

The next hurdle is letting go of the remaining guilt. As longtime youth leader Jeanne Mayo said, "We must teach kids not only to repent from sin but to deal with Satan's harassing mind games long after God has wiped the slate clean." Past mistakes don't have to mean lifelong regret. That's a message you can share with your kids long after the Easter fanfare has quieted for another year.

### The United Methodist Perspective

Peter came to Jesus and asked, "How many times do I forgive someone who hurts me? Seven?" Jesus answered, "More like seventy times seven." (See Matthew 18:21-22.)

Jesus makes it clear that forgiveness is not to be measured or to expire. Instead, he calls us to forgive abundantly and sincerely. Forgiveness is funny: We often hold onto anger and resentment instead of forgiving, thinking this is in our best interest. But nothing can be further from true.

Forgiveness not only frees the one who offended us, but it frees us as well. Forgiveness frees us from anger's control and frustration's grip. Most importantly, forgiveness frees us to love others and better connect with people.

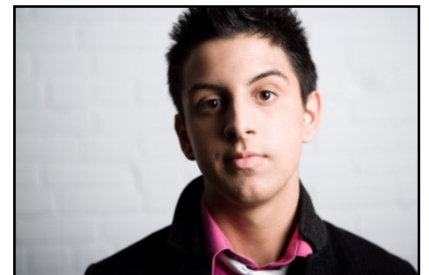
John Wesley said, "The longer I live, the larger allowances I make for human infirmities." Wesley understood that we all fall short and stand in need of forgiveness from others. This wise advice urges us to recognize this and offer forgiveness to others. Today ... now. Do as Jesus instructs Peter to do, and forgive someone who has hurt you. Free them—and, at the same time, free yourself.

—Hank Hilliard, Young People's Ministries, [hilliard@GBOD.org](mailto:hilliard@GBOD.org)



**Forgiveness sounds like a wonderful concept. But putting it into practice—and accepting it—can be challenging for people of all ages. Check out these interesting stats about forgiveness:**

- In the groundbreaking *National Study of Youth and Religion*, researcher Christian Smith asked teenagers "How much has religion helped to relieve your feelings of guilt by providing you (with) forgiveness?" Kids' responses were:
  - A lot—27%
  - Some—25%
  - A little—15%
  - None—18%



- In a Gallup Poll, 94% of respondents said they thought forgiveness was essential. But 85% said they'd need outside help to forgive someone. Only 48% of people said they usually tried to forgive others.

## Great Questions to Ask Your Kids

Spark some in-depth conversations about Easter and forgiveness by asking these questions:

1. What does Easter mean to you? How would you explain its importance to a friend who doesn't know Jesus?
2. How often should we ask God to forgive our sins? Does being forgiven wash away all your guilty feelings? Why or why not?
3. What does forgiveness feel like to you? How is it evident in your life after you've received it?
4. How good of a "forgiver" are you, and why? What makes it difficult to forgive when you know you should?



## Focus on Prayer

### PRAY THAT:

1. Your Easter celebrations will remind teenagers that God loves them and offers them complete forgiveness.
2. Your teenagers won't feel burdened by sin and guilt.
3. God will help your family members freely and frequently forgive one another.
4. The good news of Easter will give your teenagers joy and hope long after the holiday is over.

### Verse of the Month

**"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. ... So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God." (Romans 5:8, 11)**

Our merciful God made the ultimate sacrifice on Good Friday. Even though Jesus was sinless, he took all the weight of our wrongdoing on himself. Because Jesus died for our sins and rose again on Easter, we not only have the assurance of forgiveness but are God's friends who will spend eternity with him in heaven if we believe in him.

## Going Deeper

**What did Easter mean for God as a parent? Check out this devotional excerpt from Lane Palmer. To read it all, visit [SimplyYouthMinistry.com](http://SimplyYouthMinistry.com) and type in "The Heartbreak of Easter."**

At Easter, we celebrate the fact that Jesus Christ came back from the dead after paying the ultimate price for our sins. We celebrate the fact that salvation is available through trusting in the risen Savior of the world. But sometimes we forget: There was more than one sacrifice that was made on the hill called The Skull where Jesus hung on the cross and poured out his life.

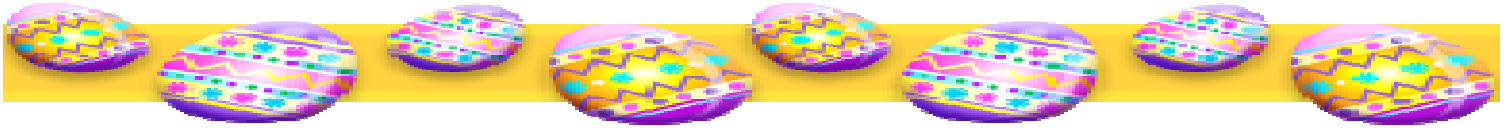
There was also a Daddy. He watched in heaven as his precious Son was spit on, insulted, tortured, and finally murdered by people who had no idea who they were killing. The heart of God the Father must have been shattered into a million pieces as the land grew dark and Jesus cried out to his Papa: "*Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!*" (Luke 23:46).

That's why this Easter you need to remember and celebrate not only the earthly side of the gospel message but the heavenly side as well: *God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners* (Romans 5:8). While we were headed for destruction—while we were selfish, sinful people, while we were clueless about the destiny of eternal souls—a Daddy chose to love us and chose to let his one and only Son be crushed by the gears of crucifixion. Let the tragedy and triumph of that first Easter convince you that you have a heavenly Daddy who loves you too much to live without you.

To consider this further, read Psalm 22. It was written from the perspective of Jesus as he was hanging on the cross. Read it and imagine how Jesus felt and how the Father felt as he watched Jesus suffer for you.



## Hudson UMC Youth Group News and Schedule!



**April Junior High and Senior High Schedule:** We have finished our Bible Study of 2 Timothy! What we will be looking at now is called, "The Red Stuff: Exploring the Words of Jesus".

- NO YOUTH GROUP APRIL 4<sup>th</sup> (Easter!)
- April 11<sup>th</sup>: Jr/Sr High Outing to Dave and Buster's!
- April 18<sup>th</sup>: Jr/Sr High Youth Group at HUMC
- April 25<sup>th</sup>: Jr/Sr High Youth Group at HUMC
- April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>: 30- Hour Famine Lock-In at Hudson UMC

BEGINS: After school on Friday

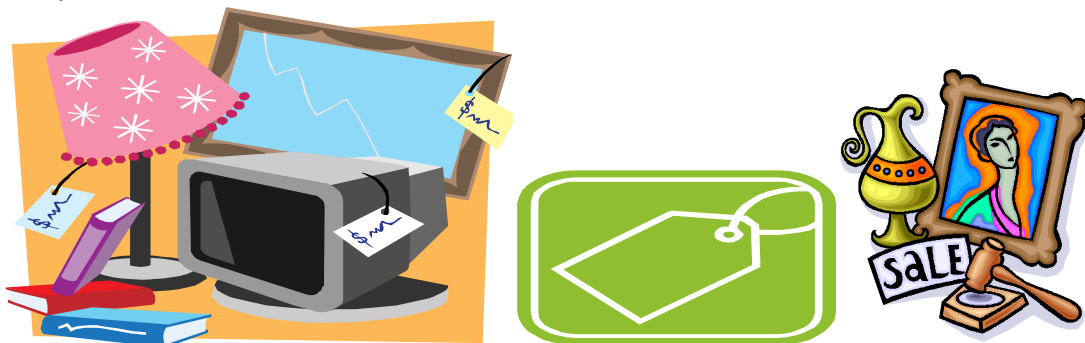
ENDS: 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>

## Attic Sale 2010!!

Attention Senior and Junior High! The HUMC Annual Attic Sale is coming up and will take place on Saturday, May 1! The set-up for the Attic Sale takes place the week of April 25<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) through April 30<sup>th</sup> (Friday). We would very much appreciate volunteers to come over to the church after school, or in the evenings, to help unload items from cars, sort and organize.

Please consider during Attic Sale week coming and spending some time with your friends at the church. It would be appreciated if you could assist after school until 5 p.m. If you are not available after school, you can volunteer to help out one night also. We are usually at the church until 8 pm each evening. If you are not available during the week, please consider volunteering on Saturday with the Concessions Cart outside with the Youth Leaders during the Attic Sale.

The Attic Sale is a very popular event and requires a lot of preparation. Once again, we would very much appreciate if you could find some time to come in during the week and/or on Saturday. Please see either Shari Barton or Sarah Hennessey if you are interested or have any questions.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2010!

VBS TEENS NEEDED! Have you ever wondered?

What was it like to live as a slave in Bible times?

How did they make mummies?

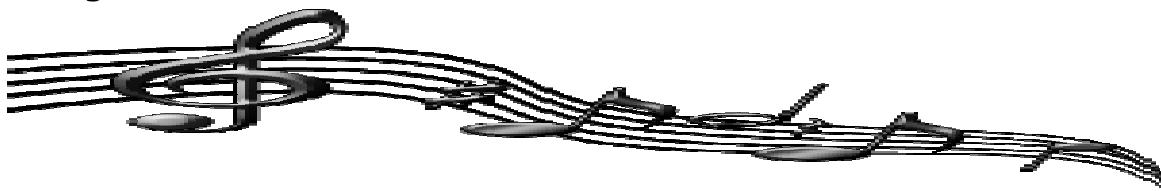
What happened to Joseph (the guy with the colorful coat)?

Find the answers to these questions and more in... **Egypt: Josephs Journey from Prison to Palace**

Unwrap the possibilities, Explore Pharaohs palace, see "real-life" dramas, play games, eat snacks

If you are interested in being a VBS Teen helper/leader please contact Shari Barton or Brenda Lightcap for information

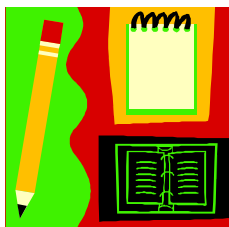
## **Aldersgate Choir!**



The next few services that Aldersgate will be singing at are: the Easter Sunrise Service on April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 a.m., on April 25<sup>th</sup> at the 9:00 service and May 2 combined with the Praise Team for the 11:15 service! Choir rehearsals will take place April: 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> from 5-6 p.m. in the Choir room. As always, THANK YOU to the Aldersgate families that take time to bring in dinners so that the choir members may fellowship together after rehearsal.

Youth Advisory Council

The next Youth Advisory Council meeting will be on Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor. Please bring your planners and Jesus-Centered Youth Ministry books.



## CONFIRMATION 2010

THE TIME IS FLYING BY; CONFIRMATION SUNDAY IS NOT FAR AWAY! OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE FOR APRIL IS AS FOLLOWS; APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>, 13<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup>. THERE IS NO CONFIRMATION ON APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup>. WE WILL RESUME CLASS ON TUESDAY, MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>. OUR CONFIRMATION BANQUET IS JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> FROM 6-8 PM AND JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> IS CONFIRMATION SUNDAY AT THE SECOND SERVICE.

### **Appalachia Service Project 2010 and ASP Auction**

All adult leader spots have been filled; we have TWO youth volunteer spots left, if you have not confirmed with Sarah that you are going, please do so ASAP! Please inform Sarah if you plan on either donating an item and/or service to the ASP Auction or if you would like to volunteer to help set-up on Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> and tear-down after the auction on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

### RADICALLY ACTIVE DISCIPLES:

Our next RAD event will be Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. All 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome and encouraged to bring a friend! We will be spending some of our time doing some light "spring cleaning" and picking up around the church. Please wear comfortable clothes that you will not mind getting dirty and see Sarah Hennessey if you have any questions or concerns!

# April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				3 – 4:30 After School Hang-Outs!		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Happy Easter! 7 a.m. – Sunrise Service 8 – Breakfast 9, 11:15 – Easter Service 10 – Sunday School	3 – 4:30 After School Hang-Outs!	3 – 4:30 After School Hang- Outs!  5-7 Confirmation Class	7:45 – 8:45 Senior High Breakfast Club at Panera	3 – 4:30 After School Hang-Outs! AND <b><u>Set- Up for the ASP Auction</u></b> (Come after school if you are available)	<b>6:30 – 8:30 Appalachia Service Project Auction!</b>	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
5 – Aldersgate Choir 6:30 – 8:30 RAD  <u>6:00 – 8:30 Jr/Sr High Youth Group outing to Dave and Busters</u>	3 – 4:30 After School Hang-Outs!	3 – 4:30 After School Hang- Outs!  5-7 Confirmation Class	7:45 – 8:45 Senior High Breakfast Club at Panera	3 – 4:30 After School Hang-Outs!		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
5 – Aldersgate Choir  6:30 – 8:30 Jr/Sr High Youth Group	3 – 4:30 After School Hang-Outs!	3 – 4:30 After School Hang- Outs!  5-7 Confirmation Class	7:45 – 8:45 Senior High Breakfast Club at Panera	3 – 4:30 After School Hang-Outs!	30 HOUR FAMINE at HUMC BEGINS: After School	10 a.m. – 30 HOUR FAMINE ENDS!
25	26	27	28	29	30	
ATTIC SALE SET-UP  5 – Aldersgate Choir  6:30 – 8:30 Jr/Sr High Youth Group	ATTIC SALE SET-UP  3 – 4:30 After School Hang-Outs!	ATTIC SALE SET-UP  NO CONFIRMATION	7:45 – 8:45 Senior High Breakfast Club at Panera  ATTIC SALE SET-UP	3 – 4:30 After School Hang-Outs!  ATTIC SALE SET-UP	ATTIC SALE SET-UP	

