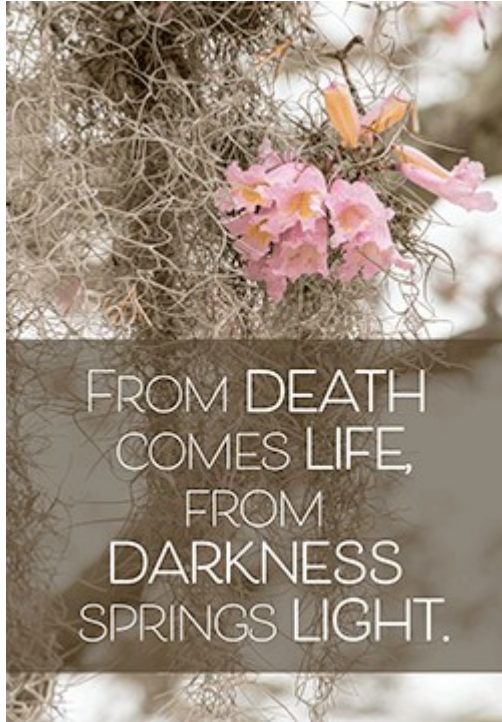


April 2025



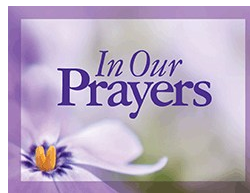
# THE SPIRIT OF BETHEL



Bethel United Methodist Church

## April Events

- 1st Glory Group and Bethel UMM
- 10th and 24th—Food Pantry
- 14th Sally Star Circle
- 17th Maundy Thursday Service
- 21st Finance Committee Meeting
- Trustees Meeting
- 23rd —Shut-in Meals delivered



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But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!?" When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible & receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment! IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL, YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL! B.I.B.L.E. simply means: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!



Spotlight on Billie Shoupe!

From Dr. Spencer Witkin

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With love,  
Faust Simons



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Love, The Harris Family



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Not the most common word in our everyday language. I have said it during church services and sung it in hymns. I've read it in the Bible and heard it proclaimed on Easter morning. I assumed saying Hosanna praised the Lord and declared his glory. But I was wrong.

Hosanna differs unexpectedly in its meaning. This word originates from Psalm 118, verse 25 and is a cry to God for help. Hosanna expresses intense emotion imploring God to save us and save us now.

When the people waved their palm leaves and laid their coats on the path before Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem, they were asking him to save them. "O Son of David, save us." Their shouts were cries for hope Jesus would free them from the tyranny of the Romans.

The Jewish people waited for centuries for the Messiah to rescue them and perhaps this man called Jesus was just the person to do the task they wanted.

They only saw their immediate need, while God has a much bigger plan in motion.

When I am stuck in the deep hole of discouragement and disappointment, I never imagine yelling, "Hosanna". My prayers for protection from fear and failure never voice this word either. When hurt drags you down and you feel lost and scared, is your response hosanna?

To me, hosanna means praise. The word reminds me to keep my eyes on Jesus, my hope, anchor, and savior. I call out to the Provider, not to my problem.

Now that I know the meaning of this word, saying hosanna becomes an appropriate response to any difficult time and dark place. Hosanna gives hope, joy, and help.

We are like those people lining the road on that Palm Sunday so many years ago. We cry for Jesus' help for our immediate need, failing to see God's bigger plan. Praise God in these time.

#### **Hosanna!"**

Lent is a time of transformation. Letting go. Drawing closer to God. It is a time for becoming intentional in our faith practices and a time of preparation, as we get ready to meet the Risen Christ.

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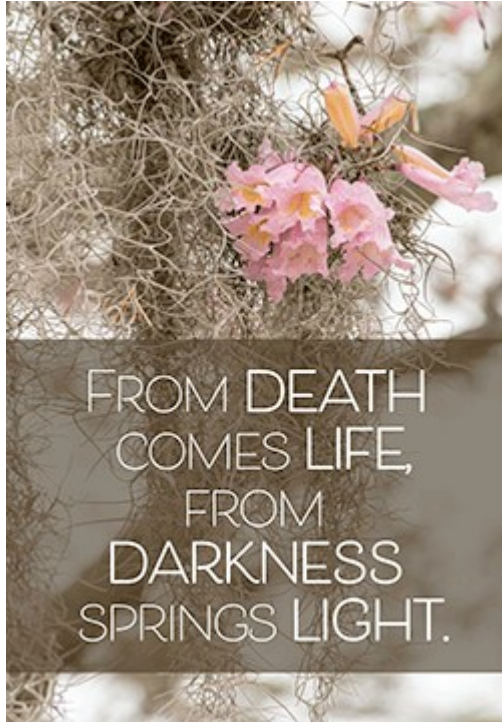
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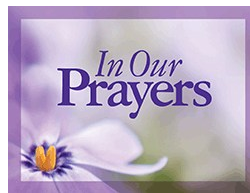
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