

**Easter Festival**  
**April 12, 2009 10:00 a.m.**

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*Our mission is to change peoples' lives  
through a relationship with Jesus Christ.*

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**~WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE~**

**Greeting of Peace**

**Opening Song**      *"Woke Up This Morning"*      **#2082**

**Lighting of the Altar Candles**

**Call to Worship**

**L:** Hear the amazing good news: Jesus Christ is alive!

**P:** **Praise God, who has lifted the veil of death and wiped away our tears.**

**L:** This is our God, for whom we have waited, that we might be saved.

**P:** **Let us be glad and rejoice in God's salvation, and the good news of peace by Jesus Christ.**

**L:** We are witnesses to the impact of Jesus' life and the saving power of Jesus' sacrifice.

**All:** **This is the day that God has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Hymn**      *"In the Garden"*      **#314**

**Opening Prayer**

God of Unexplained Mysteries and Unexpected Events, we rejoice in the good news of Easter. Good triumphs. There is healing and salvation for all people of the earth. We have at hand a promise of peace the world cannot give. May the power of Christ's presence be so real to us here in worship that we are forever changed and made whole. Amen.

**This Week at Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church**

**Offertory**      *"Because He Lives"*      **#364**

**Doxology**      **#95**

**Offertory Prayer**

We rejoice in the privilege of sharing in your work among us, O God of Hosts. May these offerings witness to all Jesus said and did, both as we gather for inspiration and growth and as we extend helping hands around the world. Empower our lives to preach more powerfully than ever words could do, for we offer ourselves with our gifts. Amen.

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**~WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD~**

**A Time for the Child in All of Us**

**Anthem**      *"Worthy Is The Lamb/Crown Him With Many Crowns"*  
Traditional Choir, Resound! and Joyful Noise

**Reading of the Word**

**New Testament**      *Acts 10: 34-43*

**Gospel**      *Mark 16: 1-8*

**Hymn**      *"That's Why We Praise Him"*      **Insert**

**The Message**      *Rev. Michele Ewers*

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**~WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE~**

**A Time for Prayer**

**Lord's Prayer**

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**~WE GO FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD~**

**Hymn**                      *“Just A Closer Walk”*                      **#2158**

**Commission and Blessing**

- L:** We have visited the empty tomb and heard again God’s youthful messengers;  
**P:** **Do not be amazed; Jesus has risen. Return to your homes; Jesus will meet you there.**  
**L:** We are witnesses to all Jesus did, in Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem.  
**P:** **Now Jesus works in our midst, and Christ lives through us today.**  
**L:** As Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit’s power, for a ministry of healing and doing good,  
**P:** **We are commissioned for our ministry. God empowers us to “go and tell.” Alleluia!**

**Closing Song**                      *“My Redeemer Lives”*                      **Insert**

**~Bringing the Light into the World~**

*Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Offertory Prayer and Sending Forth are from the book Whispers of God by Lavon Bayler*

*Other Lectionary Readings for Easter Sunday are:*

*Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24*

*1 Corinthians 15:1-11*

*John 20, 1-18*