

**Easter Festival**  
**April 24, 2011 10:00AM**

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*Our Mission is to change people's lives  
through a relationship with Jesus Christ.*

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

**Opening Words**

**Opening Song**      *"Christ The Lord Is Risen Today"*      **#302**

**Lighting of the Altar Candles**

**Greeting of Peace**

**Call to Worship**      *inspired by Psalm 118:19-24*

**L:**      Open wide the way to renewed life that all may enter and give thanks to God.

**P:**      *Our prayers have been answered, and God has become our salvation.*

**L:**      Christ has risen!

**P:**      *Christ has risen indeed! Alleluia!*

**L:**      This is God's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

**P:**      *This is the day that God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

**L:**      Christ has risen!

**ALL:**   *Christ has risen indeed! Alleluia!*

**Hymn**      *"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"*      **#2088**

**Opening Prayer**

Mighty God, the earth is shaken and nothing is the same. Defeat is turned into victory; death is overcome by life; the stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. Meet us here, O God, amid events beyond our understanding. You appear to us from afar, yet touch us where we are. Your love spans time and space, yet wraps itself around us here and now. Faithful God, we come seeking the things that are from above. Amen.

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

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

*Glenn King*

**Offertory**      *"Celebrate Jesus"*      **Insert**

**Doxology**      **#95**

**Offertory Prayer**

As the women drew near to the tomb on Easter morning, ready to give care to a loved one, may we reach out with actions of care and justice and compassion. And as the women left the empty tomb and shared the amazing news of resurrection, may we witness to the life that is rising up within and all around us. Amen.

*(Children may be dismissed for a special Easter activity)*

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

**Anthem**      *"Happy Day"*      *Words and Music  
by Tim Hughes and Ben Cantelon*

**Reading of the Word**  
**Gospel**      *John 20: 1-18*

**Hymn**      *"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"*      **#2026**

**Message**      *Rev. Michele Ewers*

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

**A Time for Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

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

**Hymn**                    “*Crown Him With Many Crowns*”                    **#327**

**Sending Forth**

L:     Beyond death is abundant life.

**P:**     *We will live it.*

L:     Beyond the shadows of hatred and isolation is the light that draws us into community.

**P:**     *We will follow it.*

L:     Beyond the stone covered tomb is a dance called resurrection.

**P:**     *We will move with it.*

L:     Christ is risen!

**All:**   *Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! We will live in the resurrected Spirit of Christ.*

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

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**Bringing the Light into the World**

Call to Worship, Offertory Prayer, Sending Forth:

From *Seasons of the Spirit*.

Opening Prayer:

From *Fresh Winds of the Spirit* by Lavon Bayler.

Other Lectionary Readings

Acts 10: 34-43

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 1-11

Colossians 3: 1-4