



The Messenger

The Cross

The Cross. Can you turn any direction without seeing one? Perched atop a chapel. Carved into a graveyard headstone. Engraved in a ring or suspended on a chain. The cross is the universal symbol of Christianity. An odd choice, don't you think? Strange that a tool of torture would come to embody a movement of hope. The symbols of other faiths are more upbeat: the six-pointed star of David, the crescent moon of Islam, a lotus blossom for Buddhism. Yet a cross for Christianity? An instrument of execution?



Would you wear a tiny electric chair around your neck? Suspend a gold-plated hangman's noose on the wall? Would you print a picture of a firing squad on a business card? Yet we do so with the cross. Many even make the sign of the cross as they pray. Would we make the sign of, say, a guillotine? Instead of the triangular touch on the forehead and shoulders, how about a karate chop on the palm? Doesn't quite have the same feel, does it?

Why is the cross the symbol of our faith? To find the answer look no farther than the cross itself. Its design couldn't be simpler. One beam horizontal—the other vertical. One reaches out—like God's love. The other reaches up—as does God's holiness. One represents the width of his love; the other reflects the height of his holiness. The cross is the intersection. The cross is where God forgave his children without lowering his standards.

How could he do this? In a sentence: God put our sin on his Son and punished it there.

"God put on him the wrong who never did anything wrong, so we could be put right with God" (2 Cor. 5:21 MSG).

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What does this mean for you? Have you come to the place in your spiritual journey where you realize that Jesus Christ died for your sins (all acts of active rebellion and passive indifference)? Would you like to be free inwardly from all of your sin and guilt? Would you like to have Jesus Christ, your Creator, direct your life from now on? If your answer is "yes", pray the following prayer and your sins will be forgiven, your guilt will be removed and you will be filled with the Holy Spirit. And if you pray that prayer, go tell someone!

Lord Jesus, I want to know you personally. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be. Amen

Stitching with Love Ministry
meets every 1st Thursday
April 6 at 9am –12pm.

Men's Prayer Breakfast
Every 2nd Saturday of each month.
April 8 at 8 am

Sr. Saints Fellowship
meets every 3rd Tuesday
April 18 at 11:00 am



April 9, 2023 is Resurrection Day!

We will come together to celebrate Easter Sunday. Along with Christians around the world we will rejoice that the stone was rolled away, not so Jesus could escape, but that we should be let in to see the empty tomb. A crucified Jesus. An empty tomb. A risen Savior. Hallelujah!

The fear, pain, and confusion of crucifixion Friday still hovered above the followers of Jesus. Hopes have been crushed on the cross. Buried in a tomb, the Messiah was dead!

Potential deliverance from Rome slips into quiet nothingness. Then the uneasiness and silence of Saturday takes hold. A day of rest and peace is haunted by tears, anguish, grief, and shock of the painful suffering of Jesus on Friday. Sunday is on its way, but no one seems to be truly prepared for what they will discover on this auspicious day. Then Sunday dawns, and Mary Magdalene is running from the empty tomb. She rushed to tell good news to Peter and John. "Jesus is alive!"

Though Jesus had instructed His followers He would rise again from the dead, no one really believed Him. So there was no one there to wait for Jesus to emerge from the grave.

But, let us not miss the enormity of what they discovered. The tomb is empty! This is unparalleled in human history. Jesus had raised Lazarus, but he emerged from the tomb still covered in his wrappings.

Jesus' wrappings were simply lying there and His face coverings were rolled up in a separate place. Folks, the world needs to see and hear that Jesus is alive. These are credible and verifiable eyewitness accounts. Robbers would not have fooled with the wrappings. Neither would they have been

able to overpower the guards. The truth is evident. Jesus is alive, never to die again.

Then, as if the empty tomb was not proof enough, Jesus proved that He was alive when He appeared to His disciples that very first Easter Sunday night. He entered the locked room with a greeting of peace. You can almost see the pain of Friday, the silence of Saturday, and the unexpectedness of Sunday melt away from the disciples' confused hearts. They began to rejoice that He was with them. He was really Alive. He had conquered the tomb, and risen again!

Now, Jesus would begin to prepare them for His mission. They were comforted and challenged. The Father had sent Jesus into the world, and now Jesus was sending His disciples into a pagan world devoid of the knowledge of God and His Messiah.

That night, however, one was missing. Thomas. He wanted the same visible proof, and Jesus did not disappoint. It led to one of the great declarations in all of Scripture, "My Lord and my God!"

Take comfort that the Lord overcomes all our fears and doubts when we believe in Him. Because of Jesus' resurrection, new life is now possible. Looking deeper, we must also understand that the resurrection is not just an event, but the resurrection is a person.

Jesus declared, "I am the resurrection and the life." If you have new life in Christ, rejoice and join in the Lord's mission to the world. If you do not have new life in Christ, believe in the reality of Christ's death and resurrection so that you may joyfully assert, "My Lord and my God!"

Have a Happy Easter! Rejoice because Jesus is alive!!

Terry Fortner

WOMEN'S Bible Study



Ladies are invited to join us each month as we dig deeper into the bible study we started in February. "Calm my Anxious Heart: A Woman's Guide to Finding Contentment." The next gathering will be on **April 23 at 2pm**.

On **May 7**, we'll have our annual Women's Tea Party with guest speaker Andrea Lennon from ABSC. The theme for this year's tea party is, "Bloom Where You Are".

Make plans to join us for these special women's fellowships. Stay tuned for the continuing monthly bible study.

Operation Christmas Child

Let's continue to bring items to fill the boxes.

Here's the list of items requested so far:

February—hair brush, comb & toothbrush

March—small toys, cars, coloring books & puzzles

April—same as March items

Please place items in the box in the breezeway.

Each month, there will be different items we'll be asking for to fill the boxes. It's more than just the box of gifts the children receive. Children learn from trained, local volunteers what it means to follow Jesus and share their faith with friends and family. Let's share Jesus with them!

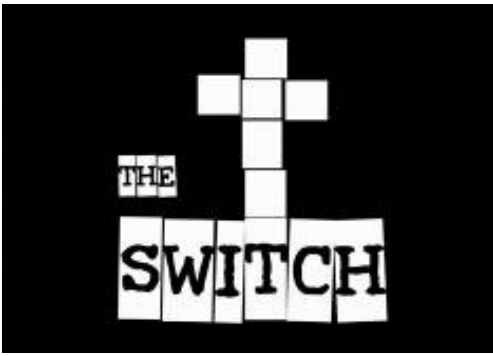


Youth, Children & Other Happenings

Weekly Youth Gatherings

Wednesday Night *Switch* Services
Music and a devotion from 6:30-7:30pm

Invite your friends and come join us!



Upcoming Events & Outings



CHILDREN'S EASTER CELEBRATION SATURDAY, APRIL 1 • 10 AM-12 PM

Come join the fun! There will be a fun craft to make, snacks, listen to the Easter story, an easter egg hunt AND a photo booth! Don't miss it!

Camp Formosa Senior Camp

June 4-9, 2023

Senior Camp is for students going into 7th grade up to 2023 high school graduates. Sign up on the sign up sheet in the breezeway or in the basement.



Save the Date!!! VBS 2023 June 11-15

We are in need of old games (can have missing pieces) and cereal boxes. Place in the box in the breezeway.

**VBS Training at Indian Head Baptist Church
Bryant, AR Saturday, May 22 at 9:00 am-12:15 pm**



Kids Camp at Camp Siloam



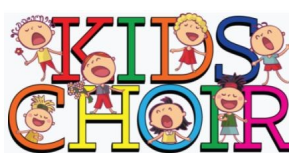
See the sign up sheet in the breezeway and sign up by **April 2** Remember to pray for our leaders and kids while they are on their retreat.

EASTER FIND

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.
- Acts 17:27 NIV



Children's Choir Practice
meets **Sundays at 6:00 pm!**
After Easter, they will take a break from practice.

April Activities

Zion Hill Baptist Church Service Times	
Sunday	
9:45 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Morning Worship
11:30 am	Children's Worship (in the Fellowship Hall)
6:00 pm	Growth Group (Fellowship Hall)
6:00 pm	Youth Bible Study (Basement)
Tuesday	
10:00 am	Tuesday Bible Study
Wednesday	
5:45pm	Wednesday Night Meal
6:30 pm	Mid-Week Services Bible Study & Prayer Meeting (3rd Wednesday is Business Meeting) GA's, RA's, Mission Friends, Youth <i>Switch</i> Service

April

1	10:00 am Children's Easter Celebration
2	8:00 am Deacon's Meeting
2	Sunday Services—Palm Sunday
4	10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study
5	5:45 pm Wednesday Night Meal & Midweek Services
6	9:00 am Stitching with Love Ministry
8	8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
9	6:30 am Sunrise Service at Sumner Cemetery
9	Sunday Services—No Evening Services
11	10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study
12	5:00 pm Nominating Committee Meeting
12	5:45 pm Wednesday Night Meal & Midweek Services
14-16	Kids going to SprOing Retreat at Camp Siloam
15	Meagan Welcher Wedding Shower
16	Sunday Services
16	12:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting
16	2:00 pm Drop in Baby Shower for Christin Treat Yarbrough at 2120 W. Cleland Road
18	10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study & Sr. Saints Fellowship
19	5:45 pm Wednesday Night Meal & Midweek Services (Bus. Meeting)
22	9:00 am VBS Training at Indian Springs Baptist Church
23	Sunday Services
23	2:00 pm Women's Monthly Bible Study
23	5:00 pm Caregiver Ministry Meeting
24-26	Springtime Jubilee Trip to Branson
25	10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study
26	5:45 pm Wednesday Night Meal & Midweek Services
30	Sunday Services—Celebrate & Praise Service



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Recent videos of Zion Hill's Sunday services can be viewed at www.zionhillcabot.com/sermons



Wednesday Night Meals



5:45—6:15 pm Cost is only \$4.00 per person to help cover food costs. Plan on joining us for this fellowship meal before Bible Study each Wednesday. You'll get fed in body and in spirit!

If you're not currently receiving email prayer requests and information updates and you would like to be added to the list, please let Karla know. You can email me at zionhillbc@gmail.com to be added to the list.