

# "Why He Died"

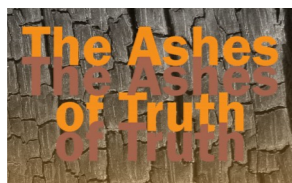
**Our Sunday morning sermon series for the season of Lent 2009 is "Why He Died"**

Why did Jesus die? Did God insist on Jesus' death? Did Satan? Was Jesus' death a sacrifice or the payment of a ransom?

These two theologies of the cross are the predominant understandings at work in orthodox Christian history.

In this series through this Lenten season, our preachers will unapologetically present a "third way" to understand Jesus: that he died because of the nature of his life and his teachings. His life led inevitably to his death, but it is through Jesus' life that humanity finds salvation and redemption, not his crucifixion.

## "Ashes of Truth"



### Ash Wednesday

February 25, 7:30 p.m.

Imposition of Ashes

Rev. Linda Butler, Preaching

Ash Wednesday is a time when we are invited to stay with the betrayals of our hopes for ourselves – the moments when we failed to hold to our commitment to the Christ who walks ahead of us on the way. We see and touch the ashes of those hopes and acknowledge and grieve our profound humanness.

## "Creche or Cross?"



### First Sunday in Lent

March 1, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Holy Communion Sunday

(John 1:1-5, 10-12)

Rev. Scott Grotewold, preaching

What was God's redemptive act – the incarnation of Godself at Christmas, or Jesus' death on the cross on Good Friday? This introduction to the series focuses on the birth of Jesus being the way God embraces the human condition – taking the worst the world could offer and wringing from it the best response.

## "Crossing Culture"

### Second Sunday in Lent

March 8, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

(Mark 8:31-38)

Rev. Jim Shirbroun, preaching



Jesus called his followers to move beyond themselves and he calls us to do the same. We, as they, are called to analyze, challenge and transform unjust strictures and structures of society, religion and government. This call to be countercultural—to cross culture—was central to Jesus' life and death and our own discipleship.

## "Cords of Love"

### Third Sunday in Lent

March 15, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

(John 2:13-22)

Rev. Linda Butler, preaching



Jesus stirs up controversy as he cleanses the temple. Jesus upset the perceived, the accepted, and the unchallenged way of doing things. Jesus, with a whip of knotted rope, says that God's hope and intention for the people does not reside in a temple. The presence of God resides in Jesus.

## "A Scandalous Conversation"

### Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

(John 3:[1-13]14-21)

Rev. Scott Grotewold, preaching



Late one night, Jesus met Nicodemus, a religious leader, and explained to him his intent and his message. What he said confronted and confounded the way the dominant religious forces had understood faith and God, law and love. Jesus convinced Nicodemus, but others found such a message – conveyed through his life – to be a threat, and it led to his death.



## Special Guest Rev. Troy Plummer



### Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 29, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Troy Plummer, preaching

Rev. Plummer is the Executive Director of The Reconciling Ministries Network, a growing movement of United Methodist individuals, congregations, campus ministries, and other groups working for the full participation of all people in the United Methodist Church. Collegiate UMC is a one of 243 reconciling congregations in the United Methodist Church.

## "Still Our Hero"

### Passion/Palm Sunday

April 5, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

(Mark 11:1-11; Mark 14:1 - 15:47)

Rev. Linda Butler, preaching



Jesus enters Jerusalem, the seat of religious and civil authority. The stakes are higher now. This final Sunday of Lent is marked by a celebratory parade, which was also a protest march. This week is holy because of love, but it is love misunderstood. Jesus is a hero, but not in the traditional pattern of heroism. He actually looks more like a victim, yet he is not a victim.

## Maundy/Holy Thursday

### Holy Thursday

April 9, 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Jim Shirbroun, preaching



Maundy Thursday, also called Holy Thursday, commemorates Jesus' Last Supper and the beginning of our sacrament, the Lord's Supper. The word Maundy comes from the Latin mandatum, which means "commandment." At the Last Supper, Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them (John 13:34). Prior to breaking the bread with the disciples, Jesus washed their feet.

Our Holy Thursday worship experience will be quiet and contemplative and will include a hand-washing service prior to Holy Communion.

## "Voices at the Hill" A Chancel Drama



### Good Friday

April 10, 8:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

With vignettes suggesting conversations held at the foot of the cross, and with the singing of familiar hymns between, hear characters struggling to reconcile this most tragic of days with the Jesus they have encountered. The drama will be presented in Readers' Theatre format.

(Persons interested in participating in the drama are encouraged to come to tryouts: Thu., March 5 (6-7 p.m.) and/or Sun., March 8 (7-8 p.m.) in the Fireside Room.)

## "Be Surprised" An Easter Celebration

### Easter Sunday Sunrise

April 12, 6:30 and 7:30 a.m.

Reiman Gardens



There will be two services offered, one starting at 6:30 AM and one starting at 7:30 AM. Both services will be held amidst the beauty of the conservatory at Reiman Gardens. This worship service uses the many gifts of the middle school and high school youth. Through music and word these youth will share the Easter message of new life.

## "Why He Lives"

### Easter Sunday

April 12, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

(Mark 16:1-8)

Rev. Scott Grotewold, preaching



If the focus of the Lenten season has been on why Jesus died, surely at Easter we proclaim why he lives! The resurrection is the fulfillment of the promise that Jesus' life is the way for humankind, that his death was not in vain, and that fullness of life is the result for those who will follow his teachings.

## Lenten Events

### Labyrinth

Saturday, February 28, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Annex Auditorium, 130 S. Sheldon

Students from our Wesley Foundation/United Methodist Student Center are sponsoring a "Labyrinth Walk."

Everyone (individuals, families, groups) is invited to experience the spiritual discipline of walking the labyrinth anytime between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Informational materials will be on hand for those to whom this is a new experience. The labyrinth may be walked in just a few minutes but each person should take as long as they like for the experience.

### Easter Breakfast

Easter Sunday, April 12, 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
Wesley Hall

Join us for this time of fellowship and respite. Our Reaching and Receiving program cluster will be providing egg casserole, baked goods, fruit, and drinks. Be sure to invite for your family and friends.

## Lenten Learning

### Way of the Child: Lent

For Children grades K-5th  
Wednesday afternoons, 4:15-5:30 p.m.  
March 4, 11, 18\*, 25, and April 1

Lent is our annual invitation to come closer to God. Way of the Child is a quiet, contemplative small group experience for children based on imagination and reverence. We will remember Jesus' life, reflect on what his life means to us, and recommit ourselves to live as Jesus taught. In order to determine space and supply needs, pre-registration required by Sunday, March 1.

Contact Dianna Nelson at [dianna@cwames.org](mailto:dianna@cwames.org)

\*Tentative Spring Break Meeting

### Uncleaned: Ancient Coins and the Lenten Journey

Thursdays, beginning March 5 (Five Weeks),  
12:00-1:00 p.m.  
First United Methodist Church (516 Kellogg Ave.),  
Abraham Room (lower level)  
Materials cost: \$5

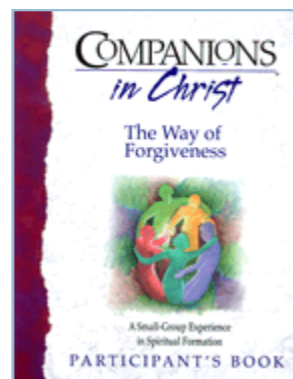
This experiential and hands-on study, which will be held jointly with our friends at First United Methodist Church, explores the cleaning of ancient coins as a metaphor for our spiritual journey. Tim Gossett, an ancient coin fanatic, will serve as the guide for the study. Participants will receive a coin cleaning kit and a genuine ancient and dirt-encrusted coin (and may purchase additional coins), as well as materials for a time of daily reflection/coin cleaning. You may, if you wish, also bring your lunch to the study. Please register for the study by emailing or calling Tim Gossett, [timgossett@mac.com](mailto:timgossett@mac.com) or 450-2858.

### The Way of Forgiveness

Freedom: this is the gift God gave to us when Jesus rose from the dead. No longer was Jesus nailed down by prescriptions of who people thought he was supposed to be. No longer was he beaten down by old laws about who and when healing was to take place. No longer was he tied down by unjust reasons for passing by victims of inequity and prejudice. Now he was free to love whom he wished to love, heal whom he wished to heal, talk to those whom he wished to talk to and forgive as he deemed forgivable. Jesus shares this freedom with us. It is a gift. Let us celebrate the gift and pass it on! Let us celebrate that Jesus has forgiven us and we are free to forgive ourselves and others as well!!

This Lent, come join in a study that will help us receive and pass on the gift of forgiveness. Join in celebrating the freedom that we have in Jesus to be all that we are created to be. Join the study "The Way of Forgiveness," a part of the Companions in Christ series, led by DCE Julie Wehner on **Mondays at 6:30 p.m. from February 23-April 13 in the Fireside Room.**

For more information contact [Julie@cwames.org](mailto:Julie@cwames.org)



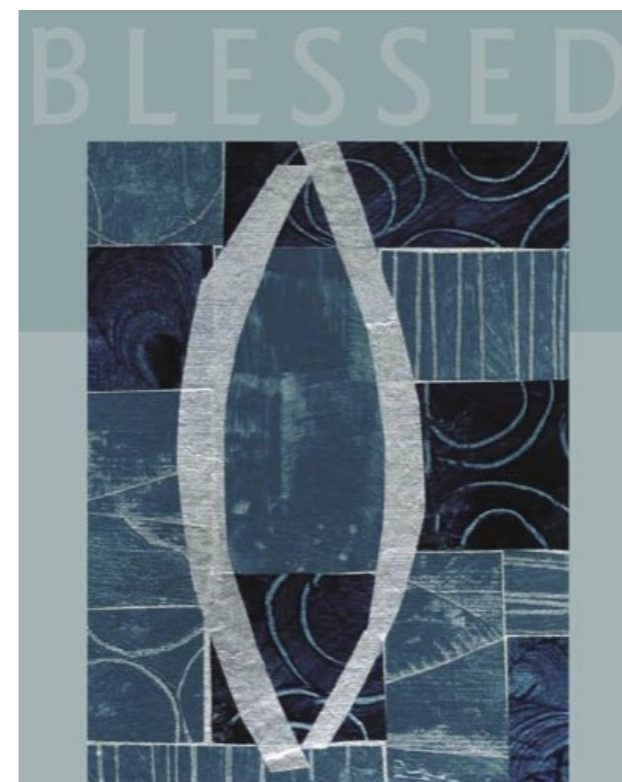
### "Blessed" Lenten Study

More than an adult study – it's a spiritual encounter with Lent

Explore seven stories of Jesus and trace his steps from his birth to his resurrection during this seven-session study. You will encounter themes summarizing Jesus' life and ministry but it also tells *our* story. Like Jesus, we are **Blessed** by God in baptism and **Challenged** to follow God's way. Like Jesus we are **Justified** and **Rescued** by God's saving power. Like Jesus, our ministry is **Fruitful** and we seek to be **Faithful** in all things. And finally, like Jesus we are anchored in the **Joyful** promise of the resurrection. As we follow in Jesus' way, we learn what it means to be truly human and fully alive.

The series will begin on **Tuesday, March 3 at 5:30 until 7:00 p.m.** and will end on Tuesday, April 7. We will gather in the Fireside Room. Each week we will share a meal together, view a DVD, pausing for conversation, use a weekly Devotional insert for group discussion and personal reflection during the week, and engage the stunning art created by Jan L. Richardson, [www.paintedprayerbook.com](http://www.paintedprayerbook.com)

Please register for this study with Rev. Linda Butler by Sunday March 1, 2009.



Coming up out of the water, Jesus saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

– Mark 1:10

# Why He Died

(The Answer May Surprise You)