



Jesus answered

*“My kingdom
is not
of this
world.”*

JOHN 18:36, ESV

**First Church of the Brethren
730 Church Street, Eden, NC April 13, 2022**

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



EDEN, NC

Doug Diamond – Pastor

I can't remember all the details of this story, so I'll make up the ones I can't recall. Years ago, my sister-in-law, Gail was singing at a wedding. Like me, Gail grew up in a Church of the Brethren. But the wedding that she was singing at was in a Catholic church. Not a big deal. I am a pretty ecumenical kinda guy, and besides, my mother grew up Catholic so any wedding or funeral that I went to on her side of the family was Catholic. What I remember from Gail's story, though, is a remark from the priest.

It seems the priest decided to give some "wise" counsel to those who may be making a trip to the store between the wedding ceremony and the reception. He suggested that a good gift would be a cross. Now, not one of those empty crosses, like non-Catholics use, but a good, legitimate crucifix, one with Jesus still on there.

Now, again, I am not anti-Catholic. I obviously don't think a lot of what they do, profess, etc. exactly lines up with scripture, but I leave that between them and God. But what about this crucifix? Thank you, but no thank you for the advice, Mr. Priest. I will keep my empty cross. I know Jesus was there. I know that he hung there and died for my sins. But the power of the cross is Jesus' dead body being brought down off of that cross, that same dead body being laid in a tomb and Jesus

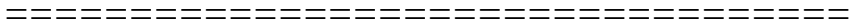
busting out of that tomb, alive and victorious over death and sin!

As we approach Easter, that is the celebration that we have at our fingertips. A celebration of lives saved, hope restored, broken people healed, and the gates of hell chained shut to those who have been washed clean in the blood of Jesus Christ. As we gather for communion on Maundy Thursday, carry the cross on Good Friday, gather around the empty cross at Sunrise Service and finally worship our Risen Savior as the choir presents their cantata on Easter morning, may we not lose sight of our Risen Savior. He is risen indeed!

In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'"

Then they remembered his words.

Luke 24:5-8



Complete victory

At the cross, evil is conquered as evil . . . because God turns it back upon itself. He makes the supreme crime, the murder of the only righteous person, the very operation that abolishes sin. The [maneuver] is utterly unprecedented. No more complete victory could be imagined.

—Henri Blocher, *Evil and the Cross*

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Pray Without Ceasing

Eugene Barton, Lucy Bradford, Carolyn Combs,
Melissa Dalton, JT Hale, Barbara Janney, Tania Martin,
Salem Nelson, Marie Priddy, Aaron Roach, Jutta
Shelton, Roger Shockley, Patsy Underwood, Leon &
Gail Walker, Danny Whitley

Thinking of You

Lemmie Joyce

District Prayer Request

Pray for Kathleen Pinard, who began as Program Director for Camp Bethel in Fincastle, Virginia on March 15, 2022. Let us pray that the ministries of Camp Bethel will be enhanced and multiplied for the glory of God.

Don't forget to join us for Holy Week activities!

- Maundy Thursday – 7 pm Bread and Cup Communion
- Friday -Cross Walk 11 am & 5 pm (Meet at O'Reilly's)
- Sunday – 6:30 am -Sunrise Service and Easter breakfast
11 am – Easter Choir Cantata

The Witness Commission will be collecting food for the Rockingham County Food Drive during the month of April.

This drive benefits 8 local agencies including Cooperative Christian Ministries, Hands of God and the Salvation Army Food Pantries in Eden and Reidsville. Please help them meet their goal of 50,000 pounds of food. Any nonperishable food will be accepted, but **recommendations for the week of April 17th are: pastas (Chef Boyardee, macaroni and cheese, pasta salad mixes, spaghetti sauces, spaghetti, macaroni, Ramen noodles).** There are boxes by the church entrances for you to place the items you wish to donate.

Thank you for all your donations!

Why Friday is good



To participate in the sacrificial life and death of Jesus Christ is to live already in his kingdom. This is the essence of the Christian message, the heart of the Good News, and it is why the cross has become the chief Christian symbol.

A cross of all things — a guillotine, a gallows — but the cross at the same time as the crossroads of eternity and time, as the place where such a mighty heart was broken that the healing power of God himself could flow through it into a sick and broken world. It was for this reason that of all the possible words they could have used to describe the day of his death, the word they settled on was “good.” *Good Friday.*

—Frederick Buechner

Upcoming Birthdays

April 14: Doug Diamond

April 15: Carrie Calkins

Happy Anniversary

April 14: Mark & Gina Williams

April 20: Mike & Lisa Harris

