



Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...
Matthew 28:19

April 11, 2021



Kernstown
United Methodist Church
Rooted in faith.
Branching out through the Spirit

At Kernstown, we make Disciples as we:
Know God
Grow in God
Sow God into the World

3239 Valley Pike, Winchester, Virginia 22602
540-667-7298

www.kernstownumc.org

Pastor Aaron Fitch 540-532-9493
afitch@kernstownumc.org

bold print = all respond

2nd Sunday of Easter
April 11, 2021

IN-PERSON SERVICE – 11:00 a.m.

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

David Landrum

Lighting of Altar Candles

Greeting

Pastor Aaron Fitch

Call to Worship

Hymn

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

UMH 304

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

Pastor Aaron

Prayer of Meditation

Psalm 133

Meditation Minute

David Landrum

Prayer for Illumination

Pastor Aaron

Scripture Reading

Matthew 28:16-20 (New Testament)

Easter Upside Down Video

Easter Anthem

Sermon

"The Great Commission"

Pastor Aaron

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn

Christ Is Risen

UMH 307

The Benediction

Pastor Aaron

Postlude

David Landrum

ONLINE SERVICE – 10:20 a.m.

Greeting / Announcements	<i>(live stream)</i>	Pastor Aaron
Prelude		David Landrum
Call to Worship		David Landrum
Hymn	<i>Easter People, Raise Your Voices</i>	UMH 304
Prayer of Confession		Lorraine Shelton
Words of Assurance		Pastor Aaron
Special Music	<i>Share the Story Medley</i>	David Landrum
Prayer for Illumination		Nick Dawson
Scripture Reading	<i>Matthew 28:16-20 (New Testament)</i>	
Easter Upside Down Video		<i>Easter Anthem</i>
Sermon	<i>"The Great Commission"</i>	Pastor Aaron
Pastoral Prayer		
Lord's Prayer		UMH 895 / Danny Aube
Apostles' Creed		UMH 881 / John Elder
Hymn	<i>Christ Is Risen</i>	UMH 307
The Benediction		Pastor Aaron
Postlude		David Landrum

Be faithful in prayer - Romans 12:12 NIV

WINCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER:

CARE FACILITIES:

Consulate Health Care: Connie Mitchell (PA)

Spring Arbor: Marietta Lipscomb (#239)

Mount Vernon Nursing Center: Virginia Ebbs

Search Group Home: Steven Dobbin

Sunrise at Bon Air: Irene Gates (#205)

Orchard Woods: Phyllis Baker

Lynn Care: Rosalie Wehn (Mimi's grandmother)

UPCOMING SURGERIES: Russell Parrish – kidney stone on 4/19;
Marcy Cormier – cataracts on 4/20

SYMPATHY: Long/Ruckman families; Shirley Dick & family;
Walker/Richards families; Tisinger/Chapman families; Ruth
Bennington & family; Perry/Martin family; Bill Tharpe & family

MILITARY: CPO Tiffany McMahan; MMN3 Seth Anton; LTC Tom
Crowley; Jared Castro, ROTC

OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS: Pastor Aaron, Cooper, & Elise;
Leathia Conrow; Pastor Clay Knick – lymphoma; Hannah Henshaw;
Margo Cross; Margaret DeMayo; the Wilsons; the Gordons; the
Burchards; Marshall Carper; Lloyd Henry; Judy Allen; Jeanne Newlin
& Janie Slater; Peggy Gillich; Polly Look & family

Missionaries: Gregg & Jayne Yarian; Pastor Michael & Lupe Geiss

Local Missions: VAN (Valley Assistance Network), The Winchester
Rescue Mission, Lord Fairfax Food Bank, C-CAP

At Home: Bryan Hartley, Pat Price, Jean Snider, Mary Kathryn Clark,
Tina Weagley, Florence Roman

Weekly Prayer Requests

April 4

Betty Lou Langager; Marshall Carper; Marcy Cormier; Lawton MacDonald; Frank Moore; Hayley Moore; Evelyn Jennings; Phyllis Baker; Debbie & Russell Parrish; Marietta Lipscomb; Mark & Pam Lipscomb

March 28

Bill Tharpe & family; Lisa Dawson; Peggy Gillich – lung cancer diagnosis; Lawrence, who is homeless; Rich Lichvar; Simone Poulin (Danny Aube's aunt); praise for Helen Fitch & Steve Spurr both getting good reports at the heart doctor

March 21

Katie Teets; Loretta (Marcy Cormier's sister); Paul Rinker; Polly Look – cataracts surgery; Pastor Phil Brumback; all the pastors who are packing and preparing to move; Beverley (the Markleys' daughter)

March 14

Darlene Beaune; Connie Sine; Robert Crowe; Helen Weir (the Wilsons' cousin); family of Lewis Hitt; Mary Walker (Nellie Snoots' sister); Chris Dolsen; Pusateri family on the loss of their 15-year-old son; David Donohoe (Charlie's son); Carolyn Carney's best friend; unspoken prayer requests; family of Evelyn Perry

***If you would like for us to lift up a prayer request, please call the office at 540-667-7298 or email us at, csteele@kernstownumc.org. We also have prayer request slips in the pews you can fill out and place in the offering plate. These names will remain on this list for four weeks.*



Announcements

IN-PERSON WORSHIP – In-person worship is going back to 10:20 a.m. starting on April 18! Also, remember you no longer need to register with the church office to attend in-person worship on Sunday mornings – just show up! All other guidelines that we are required by the Virginia Conference to follow remain in place at this time: you must wear your mask at all times while in the church, plan to affirm your health at the door with the entry greeter, the seating usher will seat you, no singing (but hopefully soon!), and always practice social distancing. We also plan to resume communion on the first Sundays, using pre-packaged communion cups. See you in church!

ONLINE WORSHIP – Starting on Sunday, April 18, the online worship service will be a live-stream of the 10:20 a.m. in-person worship service, and not the pre-recorded service.

IN-PERSON COMMITTEE MEETINGS - As of April 1, 2021, Kernstown UMC will be open for church committees to meet in-person in the fellowship hall. The Committee Chair will need to contact the church office in advance to reserve their date/time in order to avoid scheduling conflicts. For the meeting, each committee will be responsible for setting up the fellowship hall with proper social distancing and for sanitizing the space after the meeting. As with worship services, masks must be worn at all times while in the church building and attendees will have to affirm their health per the Health Poster upon arrival. We *cannot* use the kitchen, and *no food* may be brought in or consumed during meetings. At this time, Sunday School classes will *not* be permitted to meet on *Sunday mornings*, but those classes and other KUMC small groups will be permitted to meet during the week in the fellowship hall – just call the church office to reserve your date/time. If you have any questions, please contact Lorraine Shelton, chair of the Healthy Church Team, at 540-771-8301 or lorraineshelton0566@gmail.com.

UMW MEETING – United Methodist Women will meet on Tuesday, April 13, at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

DISTRICT UMW UMCOR PROJECT – The UMW are sponsoring UMCOR **School Kits** and **Hygiene Kits** during March, April, and

May. The list of items required for each type of kit was included in the April newsletter. Bring your items and/or completed kits to the church – there is a box in the mission room.

MEN'S CORE GROUP MEETING – The Men's Core Group will meet on Tuesday, April 13, at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – Church Council will meet on Thursday, April 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Submissions for our May newsletter are due next Monday, April 19, at 12 noon.

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP – The Women's Study Group will resume meeting on Tuesdays, starting next week on April 20, at 1:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We will pick back up with Chapter 7 in the Disciple study manual.

WANTED: KUMC OCC PROJECT LEADER -

We are still looking for someone to be the OCC Project Leader for Kernstown UMC congregation. The Project Leader will plan, promote, facilitate, and coordinate the collection of shoebox gifts throughout the year among the KUMC congregation. Interested in learning more? Check out our OCC page on our website – there is a short video at the bottom of that page about the Project Leader position. If you feel a calling to spearhead this project for our church, please contact **Bob Greatorex (540-662-3137 or greatorex@yahoo.com)**.



CALENDAR OF OPPORTUNITIES

April 11 through April 18

Sunday, April 11

- 10:20 a.m. Worship (online)
11:00 a.m. Worship (in-person, Sanctuary)

Tuesday, April 13

- 10:00 a.m. UMW meeting (FH)
7:00 p.m. Men's Core Group meeting (ZOOM)

Wednesday, April 14

- 1:00 p.m. Intercessory Prayer with Pastor (Live Stream)

Thursday, April 15

- 7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting (FH)

Sunday, April 18 – Native American Ministries Sunday

****10:20 a.m. Worship (in-person, Sanctuary / live streamed)**



SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF April 11th:
Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; and John 20:19-31

Prayers
April 11, 2021

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, walk in the light.

People: We walk together as children of light and love.

Come, gather in the love of God.

We gather together as children of light and love.

Come, live in the unity of God's Holy Spirit.

We live together as children of light and love.

Prayer of Confession

You know us so very well, Christ Jesus. You know our doubts and our questions, and You love us enough to welcome such doubts and questions. You know our fractures and divisions, and You love us enough to invite us to forgive one another and live in unity. You know the shadows that tempt us, and still You shine Your light within, inviting warmth and welcoming us back to Your path of peace and love. Thank You for loving us and for inviting us on the journey of love. Help us embrace this journey, that we may walk in the light, and live in unity together. In Your gracious love, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

God is faithful in love and grace, making our confession welcome and cleansing for the soul. Rejoice! We are children of light. Even when we falter, God's love is strong enough to bring us back to the light of forgiveness and grace.

The Blessedness of Unity. A Song of Ascents.

- 1 How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
- 2 It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
- 3 It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.

Prayer for Illumination

God of light and love, open our hearts to Your message of unity. Open our minds to the light of Your wisdom. Open our lives to the call of Your Spirit. Reveal to us Your holy presence, as we listen and learn this day. In the Name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

The Benediction

Go forth in peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

E A S T E R UPSIDE DOWN

skitguysstudios

Easter Anthem

Genesis 1:26-28, 1 Corinthians 15:6, Matthew 28:16-20, Genesis 12:1-3, Luke 2:8-11

God's design for all people everywhere always has been to experience a full life of blessing from the hand of God. Before the world was turned upside-down by the effects of sin, God created the heavens and the earth and everything within it right-side-up for His glory and our benefit. From the very beginning, God intended for people to experience His blessing through His gift of life. This life of blessing was meant to take place in a right relationship with their Creator God as people chose to live on God's terms. This life that God described as "good" was envisioned to be "good news" for everybody. On the sixth day of creation recorded in Genesis 1:26-28, we read how it was God's desire for everything to be right-side-up and in good standing before God.

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth...'" Genesis 1:26-28

Everything started right-side-up until the world got turned upside-down in Genesis 3. This was the part of the story when the serpent's deception first impacted Eve and then Adam. Instead of continuing to enjoy the blessings of God through a life lived on God's terms, they decided the allure to "be like God" from eating the forbidden fruit was worth striking out beyond the boundary of God's blessing. This was the moment everything in Eden that had been created right-side-up got turned upside-down. Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve's disobedience of God's clear boundaries given to them. The Fall of humanity hit with a thud. The blessing of life as God intended was turned upside-down with a curse leading to death. And the rest of the story of God portrays how God works to make all that was turned upside-down through sin, right-side up by a Savior.

At the cross, Jesus made the final way for the curse of sin to be reversed through His perfect sacrifice as he suffered and died. Joe Aldrich begins his book, [Life-Style Evangelism](#), with an illustration that helps show just how unique God's plans to turn things that were upside-down, right-side up once again and for all time:

The angel Gabriel approached [Jesus] and said, "Master, you must have suffered terribly for mankind down there."

"I did," He said.

“And,” continued Gabriel, “do they know all about how you loved them and what you did for them?”

“Oh, no,” said Jesus, “not yet. Right now, only a handful of people in Palestine know.”

Gabriel was perplexed. “Then what have you done,” he asked, “to let everyone know about your love for them?”

Jesus said, “I’ve asked Peter, James, John, and a few more friends to tell other people about Me. Those who are told will, in turn, tell still other people about Me, and My story will be spread to the farthest reaches of the globe. Ultimately, all of mankind will have heard about My life and what I have done.”

Gabriel frowned and looked rather skeptical. He knew well what poor stuff men were made of. “Yes,” he said, “but what if Peter and James and John grow weary? What if the people who come after them forget? What if way down in the twenty-first century, people just don’t tell others about you? Haven’t you made any other plans?”

And Jesus answered, “I haven’t made any other plans. I’m counting on them.”

God had done his part in sending His Son Jesus to do what nobody else could have done for all of humanity. After Jesus walked out of the tomb on Easter Sunday morning, all that had been turned upside-down by sin, once again, was turned right-side up. The sinless Son of God willingly laid down His life as the perfect, substitutionary sacrifice that paid in full the price for the sin of all people on the earth. Jesus made the only way for people living lives turned upside-down by sin, to be turned right-side-up through a new relationship with God through Him. This, indeed, was and is good news!

A group of women was the first to hear from the risen Jesus and start to understand this good news that He alone had conquered sin, death, Satan, and hell. It was time to celebrate and spread the word to the world that a life of blessing was available once again because of what Jesus had done. It was finished on the cross, but new life was just getting started because of the empty tomb.

Over the following forty days after Jesus’ resurrection, He appeared to over five hundred people (1 Corinthians 15:6), including the remaining eleven disciples who had shared the Last Supper with Him. Somewhere between twenty and thirty-five days after that first Easter Sunday morning, Jesus met on the side of a mountain in Galilee and gave those present a plan for what needed to happen next. Everybody everywhere needed to hear the good news that God’s blessing of life turned right-side-up through salvation, and forgiveness of sin was available because of what Jesus did. Everybody everywhere now had the opportunity to become disciples, or followers, of Jesus. What an incredible plan that would take all the existing disciples to spread this good news and make more disciples all over the world God had created. This plan, known today as the Great Commission, was what Jesus was counting on His followers to do.

The Great Commission plan is recorded in Matthew 28:16-20.

“**16** Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. **17** And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. **18** And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:16-20

The Great Commission was about taking the good news of what it means to be made into a disciple of Jesus to every person on the planet. It was Jesus who had been given all authority in heaven and earth who in turn, delegated this authority to His followers to “Go” to “all nations.” This, too, echoes back to what God had in mind all along since the beginning. Being made into a disciple meant people being saved from their upside-down lives of sin that separated them from Holy God and the life God always desired them to experience. It was the life of blessing God had described back in Genesis 1:28.

“And God blessed them.” Genesis 1:28

Not long after the Fall in Eden, a scene of more sin was described in an episode of humanity’s story called *The Tower of Babel* found in Genesis 11. People tried to build a tower to Heaven and thus make a name for themselves. That kind of temptation is closely kin to “become like God” that the serpent deceived Eve and then Adam with back in Genesis 3. When God had endured enough of the arrogance of humanity at the “Babel building project,” God dispersed the people over the earth and confused their communication with many languages. However, in the next chapter, we see God making another step towards bringing blessing to the dispersed nations as another person was commissioned to “Go” and bring God’s blessing to those across the earth, just as he and his family would be blessed. This person’s name was Abram.

“Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. **2** And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Genesis 12:1-3, (emphasis mine)

This promise of God is known as the Abrahamic Covenant. In this covenant God makes with Abram (later called Abraham), God instructs him to do the same thing Jesus instructed His disciples to do in the Great Commission: “Go!” It is through the going that God does once again to Abraham what God did when humanity first was created in the Garden of Eden: “And God blessed them.” (Genesis 1:28) Now, God plans to extend the blessing He gives to Abraham and his family to all the families of the earth, as Abraham “goes” and distributes the blessing from God that had been given to him.

Since the first pages of God’s story that is recorded in the Bible, God’s heart has been to bless all the families of the earth through the blessing God gives to those who are called to be blessing distributors. Another name for “blessing distributors” could be “givers of good news.” The good news leads people to experience the blessing

of God through a right relationship with Him that makes all things new and turns life right-side up. Whether it was Abraham back in Genesis 12 or the disciples of Jesus on a Galilean hillside in Galilee in Matthew 28, there is a commission to “go” to “all the families”... “Go” to “all nations” ...and bring blessings of God’s life and salvation that lead to right-side-up existence in relationship with Holy God.

The plan Jesus gave to the disciples to “make disciples of all nations” is the echo of God’s plan that was announced on the night Jesus was born.

“**8** And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. **10** And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. **11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:8-11 (emphasis mine)

The good news of God always was intended to be “for all the people”... “for all the families of the earth”... “all nations.” It is a crazy-sounding upside-down plan that only a right-side-up God could dream up and fulfill. The only thing left to do is for all the disciples of Jesus to tell all the people...all the families of the earth...all nations...that the God who created them has a life of blessing just waiting to be received and experienced.

What are we waiting for? It’s time to “Go” and share the good news of God’s blessing to everybody everywhere!