

# THE MESSENGER

April 2023



## LETTERS FROM THE PASTORS

Dear Ramsey Saints,

During Lent we have been facing the cross and watching Jesus teach a Pharisee about being born again, interact with a woman at a well who proclaimed to everyone she could find that she had met the Messiah, heal a man who had been born blind and teach him and us about "seeing" truth and then raising a man named Lazarus from the dead. We faced the cross along with Jesus only to find new birth, a welcome into the family of God, healing of our birth defect of sinfulness and resurrection after death.

During the first week of April we will re-live the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the meal of Holy Remembrance on Thursday, the crucifixion of Christ on Friday, the solemnity of Saturday as we all await the glorious joy of resurrection on Easter Sunday morning. That journey allows us to not only face the cross along with Christ but experience anew the way that that one Friday about 2,000 years ago changed EVERYTHING for the world and for us. Because of the cross, we have been changed and transformed. That is well worth celebrating.

Ramsey Church, as you read this article, remember the privilege we have to be included in God's family through the sacrificial death of Jesus. If, as you read these words, you are not certain that you are a part of God's family, the cross reminds us that we all can come, we are invited; each and every one of us. The choice is ours: face the cross and receive the forgiveness and new life it offers or ignore the cross and reject the offer made by Christ to us. In John 11:25-26 Jesus proclaims, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die." No wonder we CELEBRATE the cross!

With transforming Easter hope,

Claudia

From a Pastoral Corner

There is a hymn that reminds me a lot of my grandmother and the reason is because no matter the season of the year, she was always singing that hymn. The lyrics of the song go like this....I will share only two verses and the chorus:

"What a beautiful story of his excellent glory!  
The Savior came down, Jesus, my Redeemer.  
He was born in a manger, despised and poor,  
Man of tears and pain.

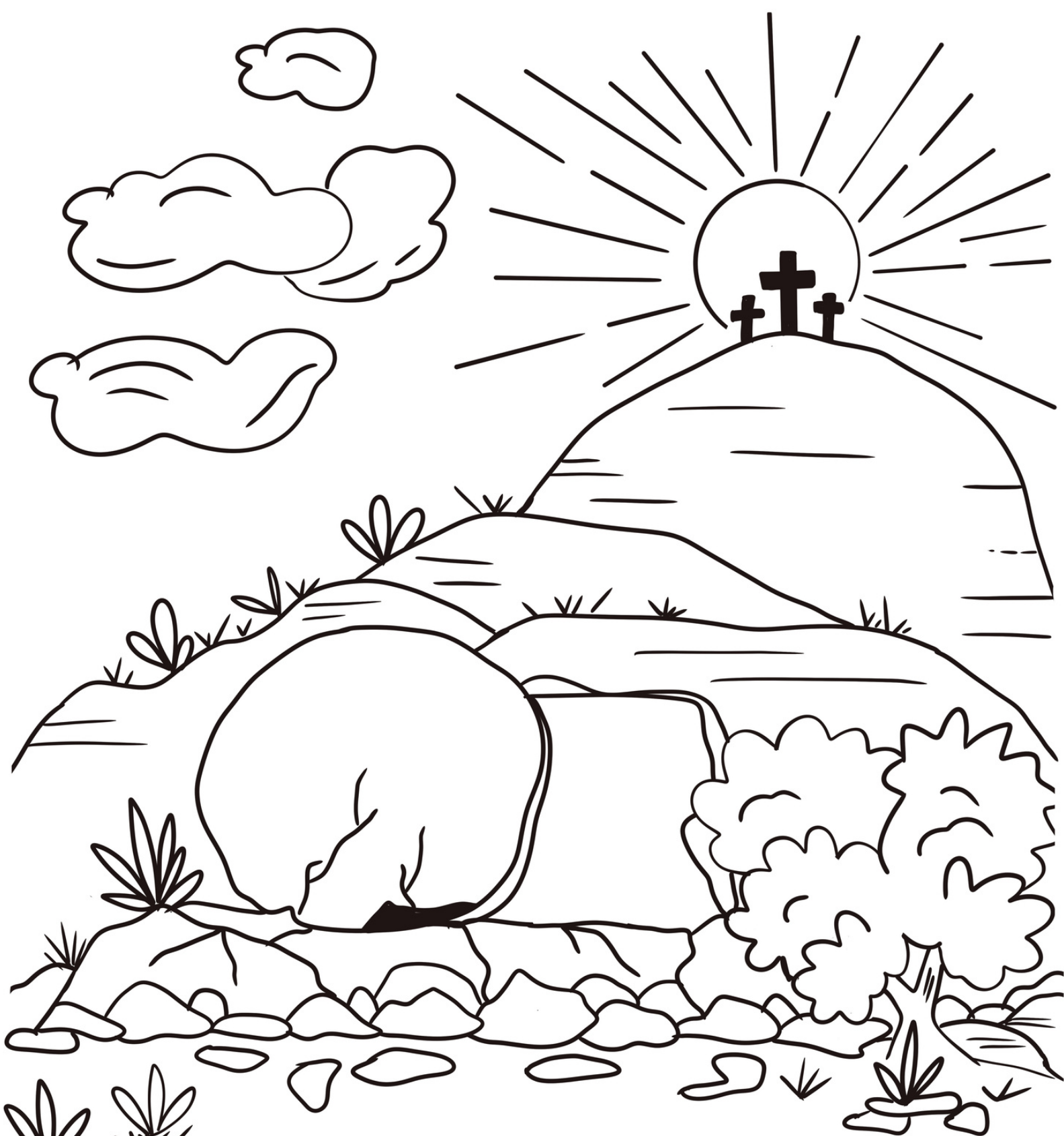
Chorus:

Oh! how much I love him! and faithful, I adore him;  
He is my life, my Redeemer;  
The King of glory came to save me,  
and to reveal myself to the God of love.  
2 What a great mystery, so incomprehensible!  
The Word became incarnate and descended into the world.  
The hidden plan was revealed to man,  
and for his tender love he lifted me up.

Now I tell you why this hymn always touches my heart every time I remember it. It does bring back memories of my grandmother and the church where I spent most of my childhood, but also because it is one of those few hymns that we sang in church not only at Christmas or Easter, but also at any other season of the year. How beautiful it is to remember the beautiful history of salvation, but it is even more beautiful to remember who it was who taught me and inherited the history of salvation. As parents or grandparents or whatever role we play in someone else's life, let's teach them to sing that hymn that tells about that beautiful story of Jesus Savior and Redeemer. Let us pass down to our second and third generation, the hymn of the King of glory who came to save us and to reveal to us the incomparable love of God. Philippians 2: 5-11 tells us the story in the same way those hymns that at some point touched our hearts while we were sitting next to some of our heroes or heroines of faith.

Peace,

Pastor Norma



For God so loved the world

that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes  
in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16



### LENTEN OFFERING

Our 2023 Lenten Offering will run through Easter Sunday, April 9. We have set a goal of \$6,000 to assess our church security, update the Tower for our youth, and paint parking spaces closest to the church. Whether you give online through Vanco or in the offering plate, please include the designation "Lenten Offering" in the note or memo section.

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### RAMSEY REFRESH

During the month of April, focus will be on the two fire escape hallways, next to the sanctuary and in the tower.

Additional area of focus will be the continued organization of the Mission Room. We have received a gift of silk flowers to integrate into our existing supply.

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### COFFEE TIME UPDATE

To all who provide for Coffee Time, there are decorative small napkins and flannel backed seasonal tablecloths in the first cupboard in the CLC storage room. (door by the sink). Please look in the labeled bins to find these times.

Keep in mind the tablecloth on the table in the lobby is used by Cara-a-van and will need to be cleaned before using it for Coffee Time. I will leave a detailed list of information for Coffee Time Providers in the corner near the steamers in the CLC Kitchen.

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### KITCHEN REQUEST

All groups who use the kitchen must clean up after using the area. Recently, crumbs and icing have been left on the floor and counters. We do not want to invite mice or to fail the health inspection. Outside groups will also be contacted with this request.



### It is Graduation season!

If you would like to have your graduate acknowledged in our June Newsletter, please submit the information below (along with a picture if desired) to the church office by noon on May 16, 2023.

Name:

School:

If college/university graduate, please list degree/major:

Plans after graduation:



## PARTNERSHIP WITH J.L. FRANCIS

One of Ramsey Church's joys is the partnership we have with J.L. Francis Elementary School on Snead Road, one mile from the church. We support them by delivering weekly backpacks with food packed by FeedMore and picked up by us and delivered to the school on Thursday mornings. This current school year we purchased school supplies, 300 reusable water bottles with their "Francis Eagle" logo for students who may not have a water bottle and last month we provided 15 new hardback books for the upcoming Book Tasting Event to promote literacy.

All of the purchases are made from funds donated by YOU -- the Saints of Ramsey. If you would like to support this partnership, you can donate to our J L Francis Fund. If you would be willing to be a driver one week for the backpack program, contact Sally Wheat (804-447-9214 / sallywheat@aol.com).



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Ramsey Church and J.L. Francis Elementary School partner together to help support our neighborhood children. On Friday, April 28th from 8:00am-1:00pm volunteers will assist with the Book Tasting Event in the School Library. To volunteer, contact Sally Wheat: 804-447-9214 / SallyWheat@aol.com.



## 55+ LUNCHEON

We would like to invite you to the 55+ luncheon on Friday, April 14 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please give your RSVP to the church office (804-276-4628) by April 10.  
Bring a friend!

"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.

John 14:27



**4/2**

Palm Sunday  
Cantata

**4/6**

7:00 pm  
Maundy Thursday  
Service

**4/9**

7:00 am  
Easter Sunrise Service

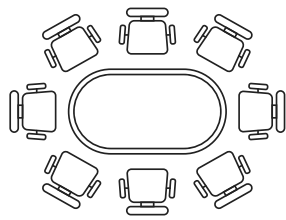
10:00 am  
Easter Sunday  
Worship Service



**GIVING QR  
CODE**

Scan the QR code above to be directed to our online giving resource!





### **LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETINGS**

All are invited to attend board meetings in person, or virtually online using ZOOM software. Please call the church office for the link. Leadership Board will meet on the following dates/times:

Wednesday, April 19, 7-8:30 PM  
Tuesday, May 16, 6-7:30 PM  
Tuesday, June 20, 6-7:30 PM  
Tuesday, July 18, 6-7:30 PM  
Tuesday, August 15, 6-7:30 PM  
Tuesday, September 19, 6-7:30 PM  
Tuesday, October 17, 6-7:30 PM  
Tuesday, November 21, 6-7:30 PM  
Tuesday, December 19, 6-7:30 PM

If anyone wishes to receive a copy of the meeting notes, please contact the church office at 804-276-4628.

Please pray for your leaders that God will provide a vision, wisdom and patience as we work through this transition year.

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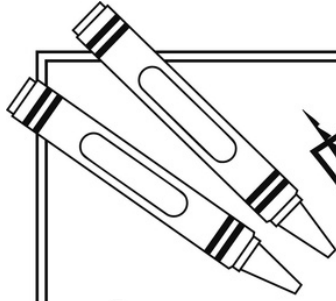


### **RAMSEY KIDS & IGNITE YOUTH**

Looking to serve as a voluntary within the Children and Youth Ministry at Ramsey? Please scan the above QR code and it will take you directly to the Online Volunteer Slip where you can fill it out online and submit!

This month there will be many exciting things that will happen at Ramsey Kids. After nearly two years, the liturgical team will be practicing and preparing a special debut in honor of their return with more details to come! Also, Ignite Worship will also restart their sessions and begin practicing new songs as we prepare to worship for Sunday School! We will begin incorporating worship and praise time within our Weekly Sunday Worship Meetings. As Spring begins, we will also be preparing more outdoor events, activities and fundraisers. Stay tuned for more information. We thank everyone for their continued support and hope that we continue to grow spiritually as we worship God as one and continue to Ignite the Light everywhere we go!





# PUZZLE

## Jesus gives us *life*

Through his death and resurrection, Jesus offers the free gift of eternal life.

*Directions: Match each clue from Holy Week with the correct image.  
If you get stuck, look up the Bible verses.*

People spread these on the road for Jesus. (Matthew 21:8)

Mary pours this on Jesus' feet. (John 12:3)

Jesus shares this with his disciples. (Matthew 26:26)

This is placed on Jesus' head. (John 19:2)

Soldiers may have used these to compete for Jesus' coat. (John 19:23-24)

Jesus carries this himself for a while. (John 19:17)

Marks caused by these help Thomas identify Jesus. (John 20:25)

While on the cross, Jesus is thirsty and is given this. (John 19:28-29)

This is rolled away from Jesus' tomb. (John 20:1)

These are used to prepare Jesus' body for burial. (Luke 23:55-56)

These remain in the tomb after Jesus rises. (John 20:6-7)

Judas betrays Jesus for this. (Matthew 26:14-15)



Answer: palm branches, perfume, bread, crown of thorns, dice, cross, nails, vinegar on a sponge, stone, spices, linens, silver coins



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Steve Atkinson	April 10
Sharon Cheatham	April 10
Norma Britt	April 13
Bayo Ogungbade	April 15
Bukola Ogungbade	April 17
Beverly Rugani	April 17
Natalie Aguilar-Vega	April 18
Mitzie Conner	April 20
Curtis Walsh	April 20
Ann T. Wiley	April 20
Patricia Person	April 24

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Danny & Norma Britt	April 7
Russell & Donna Cottrell	April 10
Randall & Sharon Sayles	April 14
James W. Jr. & Shelley Jump	April 23



# April 2023

April 2023

May 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 26	27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1
2 10:00am Worship Service 10:30am Escuela Biblica 11:00am Ignite (CLC) 12:30pm Servicio de Adoración	3 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 10:00am Neighborhood Bible 6:00pm James River Home	4 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 2:00pm McGuire Park Circle 5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 203) 6:00pm Amateur Sports	5 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 6:00pm Amateur Sports 6:30pm Generation of Dancers	6 7:00am Care-a-Van 11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 6:00pm James River Home	7 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 6:00pm James River Home School (clt)	8 8:00am TOVA Recertification (Fellowship Hall)
9 10:00am Worship Service 10:30am Escuela Biblica 11:00am Ignite (CLC) 12:30pm Servicio de Adoración	10 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 10:00am Neighborhood Bible 6:00pm James River Home	11 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 203) 6:00pm Amateur Sports 6:30pm Generation of Dancers	12 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 2:00pm Nina Woodfin Circle (Rm 203) 6:00pm Amateur Sports	13 7:00am Care-a-Van 11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 6:00pm James River Home	14 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 12:00pm 55+ (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm James River Home	15 8:00am TOVA New (Fellowship Hall)
16 10:00am Worship Service 10:30am Escuela Biblica 11:00am Ignite (CLC) 12:30pm Servicio de Adoración	17 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 10:00am Neighborhood Bible 6:00pm James River Home	18 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 203) 6:00pm Amateur Sports 6:30pm Generation of Dancers	19 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 6:00pm Amateur Sports 6:30pm Generation of Dancers	20 7:00am Care-a-Van 11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 6:00pm Latino Citizens Academy	21 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 6:00pm James River Home School (clt)	22
23 10:00am Worship Service 10:30am Escuela Biblica 11:00am Ignite (CLC) 12:30pm Servicio de Adoración	24 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 10:00am Neighborhood Bible 6:00pm James River Home	25 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 203) 6:00pm Amateur Sports 6:30pm Generation of Dancers	26 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 6:00pm Amateur Sports 6:30pm Generation of Dancers	27 7:00am Care-a-Van 11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 6:00pm Latino Citizens Academy	28 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 6:00pm James River Home 7:00pm Prayer Conference	29 10:00am Setup (CLC) 3:00pm Wedding (Sanctuary) 4:00pm Family Gathering (CLC)
30 10:00am Worship Service 10:30am Escuela Biblica 11:00am Ignite (CLC) 12:30pm Servicio de Adoración	May 1	2	3	4	5	6