THE MOUNTAIN VALLEY CONNECTION

11583 Mountain Valley Rd.
Rockingham, VA 22802

Nonprofit Organization
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Hear the Bell Ring?

At Mountain Valley on Sundays it is a reminder to one and all to gather and grow. Church is not a place for perfect people who know everything. It is a gathering of seekers who want to understand better and celebrate the blessings of the week!

From now to Easter, here is what we are working on….

3/ 5 Hebrews 4:12-14
Is the Bible Reliable?

3/12 Psalm 100
Why Should I Go to Church?

3/19 Scripture-Psalm 137:1-6
Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

3/26 Matthew 6:9-15
How and Why Do I Forgive?

4/2 Mark 11:1-11
Why is Jesus Special?

4/7 Good Friday, 6:30 -Colossians 2:13-14
Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

4/9 Easter Sunday, 11:00 -Mark 16:1-8, Galatians 5:22-26
Why Be A Christian?

We hope you will join us Sundays at 11:00 in person and also on ***Facebook at Mountain Valley UMC!***

Pastor Eduardo

Come join in the discussion and fun at the **Community Book Club**. Most meetings are at M.V. Fellowship Hall at 11:30. Bring a bag lunch if you would like!

March's Story March 23
Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson

April's Story April 27
The Land is Not Empty: following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discover by Sarah Augustine

May's Story May 25
Passing by Nella Larsen

Happy reading!

UMW Easter Eggs

4 oz Chocolate Covered Eggs
$5.00 per egg

Assorted Flavors: Peanut Butter, Coconut Creme, Cherry Nut, Vanilla Creme

Orders taken from March 5-26, 2023.
Delivery on Palm Sunday- April 2, 2023.

To place an order, please see Barbara Phillips or Jennifer/ Emily Beahm.

Easter Celebrations

- Maundy Thursday, Apr. 6 at 6:30
Through a powerful video, share with the disciples and Jesus in that Last Supper and experience it yourself.

- Good Friday, Apr. 7 at 6:30

- **Easter SonRise Experience**
Apr. 9 at 8:00 am **at Camp Overlook**
Be greeted by Mary Magdalene and look into the tomb to see for yourself. Offer praise and thanksgiving at the foot of the empty cross as the sun rises over the mountain.
Morning refreshments to follow.

- **Easter Sunday** Apr 9
Church school 9:45
Special Worship at 11:00
Join us for special blessings!

Equipment for Caring Moving to Lacey Spring

One of the missions Mtn. Valley supports has outgrown its space and is moving to rooms at Mt. Tabor UMC in Lacey Spring. Equipment for Caring loans medical equipment and some supplies to people in need. The move should be completed by the end of April and normal hours will resume in May. Mondays 5-7:00 pm, Thursday 9-11:00 am. Their new phone number will be 540 404-1159.

The Children's Clothes Closet will remain at Mission Central and will be expanding as well.

These are two wonderful resources for folks in need in our community. Both welcome donations of cash and supply to support their outreach.

shenandoahriverdistrict.org/mission-central

Why Believe the Resurrection

Sounds a bit extreme doesn't it? We know the laws of nature and dead is dead right? Consider these….

1. The Big Bang Theory- accepted by most scientists around the world. The Universe began in a single instant and has been expanding every since. Genesis 1: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth…, and God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. If God can do that, how hard is it to raise the dead?
2. The disciples tell the story best. They went from cowards at the arrest to far ranging apostles, telling of Jesus resurrection from death and the love and forgiveness he offers all. Most all of them died for taking that stance.

Would you be willing to die for what you knew was a lie?

3. Over recent decades, thousands of accounts of people dying and then resuscitated have come to light. Those who have these experiences share of meeting an all knowing, all loving spiritual being, often described as pure light. The phenomenon reaches across generations, geography, and religions. These people are transformed by their experience with new understanding of love and meaning for life. Their vivid experience beyond this world, brief as it may have been, continues to influence their daily lives. They know He Lives!

For more info, contact Pastor Eduardo for books, movies, and additional understanding!
540 896-3424 EduardoCarrillo@vaumc.org

Community Easter Egg Hunt

Join the fun! Get organized in the church at 9:45, Sunday, April 9th and then search the grounds for sweet surprises!

Police Report

When there is an accident or a crime, investigators question all the witnesses to reconstruct the facts of the matter. Different witnesses see things from different angles ,some missing what others pickup, and vice versa.

Following is a combined summary account from 4 testimonies of the resurrection event. You can read them in detail in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

1. Sunday, Dawn, 3 women arrive at tomb to anoint the body. Massive stone sealing tomb is already rolled away. Roman guards had fled their posts.
2. An angel present at the scene declares, "He is not here. He is risen!"
3. Women reported all to Disciples.
   Disciples skeptical- John and Peter went to tomb to investigate.
4. Corroborating stories- John and Peter saw grave clothes lying in place, but no body. Had the body been stolen the wrappings would have gone with it rather than laying in place undisturbed.
5. Disciples still not fully sure of what is going on and return to quarters.
6. First sighting: Mary Magdalene, one of the women still on scene was approached by who she thinks may be the gardener. When he calls her name she recognizes it is Jesus, himself, risen from the grave.
7. Second sighting: Two disciples walking home to nearby village of Emmaus, distressed, perplexed and mourning the day's events. Joined by a stranger who listened to their grief and then began to explain how these events had been foretold for years through the scriptures.
   The two reported inviting the stranger to eat with them in Emmaus and through his blessing and breaking of the bread for the meal, they real ized they were and had been all along in the presence of Jesus. They can't explain why but they knew with all their heart that it was so.
8. The Emmaus twosome hurried back to Jerusalem to report all to the other gathered disciples.
9. At first there was skepticism of their report, but then Jesus suddenly appeared in the room so all could see and know. It became clear to those present he was real, not a spirit. He ate with them and blessed them all before vanishing again.
10. There have been additional reports of these resurrection appearances in Galilee, outside of Jerusalem and other places as well.

For more precise detail and expanded information refer to the Bible records of the four writers mentioned above. They consider it to be very good news as do most people who have become familiar with this incredible event.

What's so Good About Good Friday?

1. In the post midnight hours of early morning, Jesus was arrested by Temple Guards. The Disciples, his best friends, deserted him in fear.
2. Still in the dark of the very early morning, he was brought before the Jewish authorities who wanted him silenced. In a rigged trial, they convicted him of blasphemy – an offense to God. Ironic, because he spent his life drawing others to faith in God.
3. Those who condemned him, then blindfolded, spat on and beat him, and threw him in a pit until daybreak.
4. As morning breaks he is dragged before the Roman Governor with a request to have him executed. Pontius Pilate did not find him guilty of wrongdoing. He offered to release him.
5. The Gathered crowd chanted for the release of another and for Jesus to be crucified. This was the Roman's most horrible, painful, drawn-out method for death.
6. He was flogged, nailed to a cross, ridiculed, taunted and died.

He did it for you!

He didn't have to. At any time He could have called in a legion of angels or simply commanded it all away.

But he came to prove His love and forgiveness for everyone, no matter how bad or distant they may be.

Christ goes to every extreme to prove, "***Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*** John 15:13

It is His hope you will accept His love and live with Him in friendship!

The Tomb Is Empty!