



# St. Stephen's E-NEWS

WHERE GOD IS SEEN, LOVE IS FELT, LIVES ARE CHANGED.

April 7, 2023



On a beautiful Palm Sunday morning, Father Howard Hess, Vicar of St. Stephen's, assisted by Eucharistic Minister Adam Ballintoy, begins the 10:00 a.m., Palm Sunday service in the Grove. Fr. Howard began his sermon that morning by reminding worshipers that the celebration of Easter takes on new significance if we mark the many events commemorating Christ's journey during that week. Schedules for services - and other events - on Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter are included in this newsletter.

## GOOD FRIDAY, HOLY SATURDAY, AND EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES

### Good Friday, April 7

**The Seven Last Words**, a three-hour service commemorating the last words of Christ, begins at noon. Traditionally, the words - phrases said by Christ during the crucifixion - are taken from all four Gospels.

**The Good Friday Liturgy** begins at 7:00 p.m. Bishop Brian Cole will join us at St. Stephen's for this service.

*Both Good Friday services will be live-streamed.*

### Holy Saturday, April 8

**A Holy Saturday** service will be held at 9:00 a.m. in the St. Alban's Chapel.

**The Great Easter Vigil** will begin in the grove at 7:00 p.m. with the kindling of the first fire of Easter. Worshipers are encouraged to bring bells to ring during this observance.

### Easter, April 9

St. Stephen's will Celebrate Easter on April 9 with **Festal Choral services** at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. *The 11:00 a.m. service will be live-streamed.*

Also this Sunday are an Easter brunch at 9:45 a.m. and Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 a.m. *See page 2 for details.*

Service Bulletins for each of the services that will be live-streamed will be available to view and download from the [St. Stephen's website](http://www.ststephens.org).

## INGATHERING OF MITE BOXES ON EASTER SUNDAY

Please bring your Mite Box(es) to either Easter service. Boxes are ingathered during the services.

## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CLEARFORK OUTREACH THIS MONTH

St. Stephen's plate collections on Sundays April 9, 16, and 23, will support the church's annual Clearfork children's learning camp in Claiborne County, TN, an outreach ministry that helps children learn skills and access resources to help them thrive.

The Outreach Committee urges you to consider donating generously to this ministry to help St. Stephen's provide resources, food, and other materials needed by the Clearfork community.

Plate contributions on these three Sundays can be made by cash donations, or by writing "Clearfork Ministry" in the memo line of donations made by check.

### About Clearfork

This year's camp will take place the week of June 5 and will offer various activities

[See Page 2 for More E-News](#)

ranging from educational programs to outdoor recreation and games.

The ministry is centered at the Clearfork Community Institute in Clairfield, TN, a once-busy Appalachian coal-mining

*Continued on Page 2*

## WEEKLY PRAYERS

WE PRAY FOR PARISH MEMBERS

Mary Jeanne French

Arthur & Sharon Frost, III

Robert & Jonnie Gallinger

Carol & Walt Gardner

*Please keep these people in your prayers.*

**Reminder:** The church offices will be closed **Good Friday, April 7, and Easter Monday, April 10.**





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April 7, 2023 | Page 2

## SUPPORT FOR CLEARFORK MINISTRY THIS MONTH

*Continued From Page 1*

community that has seen disruptions from changes to the nation's energy economy. Additionally, the status of a federally funded meal program that benefits Clearfork is currently unclear.

The Clearfork team also invites you to volunteer for camp and other activities as part of this rewarding ministry. Please email Carol Gardner at [gardnerwc73@gmail.com](mailto:gardnerwc73@gmail.com) for more information on volunteer opportunities.

The team is proud to provide this program but cannot do it without your financial support. Your contribution of funds, time, and talent can make a big difference in the lives of children and families in the Clearfork community.



Community members and St. Stephen's volunteers gather at the Clearfork Community Institute for the 2022 day camp. Undesignated loose offerings on Sundays April 9, 16, and 23, will go to support St. Stephen's ongoing ministry to the community's children. You may also designate offerings made by check by writing "Clearfork Ministry" in the subject line.

## PARISH LIFE, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PLAN EASTER ACTIVITIES

This Sunday, Parish Life is sponsoring a Brunch from 9:45 -11:00, between the 8:30 and the 11:00 a.m. services. This will allow all of us to come together to



celebrate, regardless of which service we attend. It will also allow our wonderful choir, musicians, and clergy an opportunity to recharge between services!

An Easter ham will be provided, as well as juices and coffee. Please bring your favorite brunch dish--either sweet (pastry, coffee cake, etc.) or savory (quiche, hash brown casserole, breakfast casseroles, grits, deviled eggs, etc.)--to share with our parish family.

Children should not forget their Easter baskets! Christian Education will also hold the annual Easter Egg Hunt beginning at 10:00. a.m.

Join us! It will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the joy of Easter!

*The Daughters of the King*

*Saint Agnes Chapter*

*Invites to Tea*

*The Ladies of St. Stephen's*

*Sunday, April 23, 2023*

*Parish Hall, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.*

*RSVP*

*Sign-up Sheets in*

*Parish Hall | Narthex | Hospitality*

*Center*

*Or Online at This [Link](#)*

*Hats - Optional*