



To God be the glory, great things He hath done;
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the lifegate that all may go in.

Fanny J. Crosby

THE GIVING TREE

You may be familiar with the book, "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein. It tells the story of a tree that gave and gave of itself. The tree gives its apples and gives its shade. The tree gives its branches to help make a house for the boy that has grown up next to the tree. Then a boat is made from the tree's trunk. At the end of the book, the tree has given all of itself and finally sits only as a stump. At that time, the tree finally offers a seat for the boy who has now grown up and is an old man.

Late in November of last year, a living Christmas tree was put in the Nave Lounge at the start of Advent. We asked the congregation to help cover it with socks, gloves, and hats for the Topeka Rescue Mission during December. The practice of using living Christmas trees has become less common because of allergens, the mess of the needles, and the fire hazard with lights. The tree we used has slowly died, and the needles have fallen off.

During the season of Lent, Joe Montague helped me remove the branches from our once living Christmas tree, and all that remains of this once living tree is the trunk. From the trunk, we have made a cross.

And just like that, it is a **living** tree again, a cross. This rugged, prickly cross is like our faith in the world. Some may not think it looks good or fits in with the rest of our life. Many will just look on and judge. Many will see something that is better off left alone or left for dead.

Well, Jesus was left for dead for three days, but that wasn't the end. He shows us what power the love of God has in our world.

On Easter morning, the cross will begin a transformation. In Jesus' time, the cross meant death and pain and judgement. With Christ's love, it transformed from a symbol of death to a symbol of life.

God bless you, Easter People, as you walk as Children of the Light.

*Peace,
Pastor Jenny*

We gather together to celebrate the story of Christ's divine love for all humanity. Consider those in your life who do not have a church and who need to hear of His love this Easter season.



MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 29

Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY, March 30

Church Office Closes at Noon

Worship Services at 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

EASTER SATURDAY, March 31

8:00 p.m. – Easter Vigil Service

EASTER, April 1

8:30-9:45 a.m. – Easter Brunch

9:15 a.m. – Easter Egg Hunt

10:00 a.m. – Easter Festival Communion Service