



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Risen Lord and Savior,

As we approach this glorious Easter season, my heart is filled with gratitude for each of you. This is the time when we remember the greatest victory in history — the triumph of life over death, light over darkness, and hope over despair. The empty tomb reminds us that no matter how heavy the stone in our lives may seem, God’s power can roll it away.

My heart is drawn to the image of the stone that sealed the tomb of Jesus. It was large, heavy, and seemingly immovable — much like the burdens we sometimes carry in our own lives. Easter is about removing stones.

For some, the “stone” may be grief that feels too deep to heal. For others, it may be fear, doubt, broken relationships, or the weight of past mistakes. These stones can block our hope, dim our joy, and make us feel trapped in darkness.

When Mary and the other women approached the tomb after Jesus’ death, they saw an amazing sight. They expected to see the stone still hiding the tomb, and they needed a way to enter the resting place of their beloved Master. The stone represented a barrier to their goal: to anoint the body of their beloved Master with spices. I’m sure their hearts were still downcast as grief flooded their spirits. “Who will roll away the stone?” they asked one another.

These women were obviously not strong enough to remove it themselves. Some sources say the stone, which rolled along a carved-out “track” in front of the tomb could have weighed more than a ton. How could the women anoint Jesus’ body if the stone blocked the entrance? Imagine the women’s shock when they “looked up” and saw that the stone was gone. Who moved the stone? The gospel of Matthew answers with “an angel of the Lord.”

Easter is all about removing stones. When those barriers disappear, hope emerges from the other side—new life in Christ. But remember, it is God who specializes in stone removal. Whether you are looking for a way in or a way out, Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). Jesus’ death and resurrection opened the door to new life. The “stones” that imprison us or block our path have no power to destroy us. There is only One who can roll away your stones and bring joy, new life, and freedom through Christ.

And God still moves stones. On that first resurrection morning, the stone was rolled away — not by human strength, but by the power of God. The empty tomb declares that no obstacle is too great, no burden too heavy, and no situation too hopeless for Him to transform.

This Easter, I invite you to bring your “stones” to the Lord. Lay them at His feet in prayer, trusting that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in your life today. Let the light of the risen Christ flood into the places that have felt sealed off for too long.

Let us gather together this Easter Sunday to celebrate with hearts full of praise. Bring your family, invite a friend, and come expecting God to move in a powerful way. Together, we will lift our voices in worship and rejoice in the hope that never fades.

Easter prayer: Today, we bring before You the stones in our own lives - stones of worry that block our peace, stones of grief that shadow our joy, stones of guilt that keep us from Your light. By Your power, move them, Lord. Let Your resurrection hope break through our darkness. Let Your love open the way to new beginnings. Let Your Spirit breathe life into what we thought was lost. This Easter, may we walk in the freedom of the empty tomb, carrying not the weight of stones, but the light of Your victory. Amen.

Easter Blessings,

Pastor Becky

Enclosed you will find an offering envelope for an Easter giving. If you feel led by God to share a portion that is more than your regular offering, please use this envelope. Thank you.

Our Holy Week schedule is as scheduled:

March 29: Palm Sunday worship will be held at 8:15 am and 10:45 am.

April 2: Maundy Thursday service at 7 pm.

April 3: Good Friday service at 2 pm.

April 5: Easter sunrise service will be held at 7 am with a light breakfast to follow. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL. A Traditional combined service will be held at 9:45 am.

Palm Sunday 10:45 service will be streamed as usual. We will also stream the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. **The Easter service will be streamed at 9:45 instead of 10:45.**

To watch the services live, if you are on Facebook, like our page Reynoldsville First Methodist Church and you will receive a notification that we are live. If you are not on Facebook, you can go to our website at www.reynoldsvillefmc.org to watch the service after it ended. You can also go to YouTube and search Reynoldsville First Methodist Church to view the service after it has ended.