

get connected

We connect people to Jesus and equip them to be his disciples.



The Cross and the Resurrection

By Pastor Nate Crandall

“Nothing is more central to the Bible than Jesus’ death and resurrection. The entire Bible pivots on one weekend in Jerusalem about two thousand years ago. Attempts to make sense of the Bible that do not give prolonged thought to integrating the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are doomed to failure.” (D.A. Carson, Scandalous: The Cross and Resurrection of Jesus)

Over the past few years I have increasingly felt led to emphasize, celebrate, and magnify that weekend in Jerusalem. The Lord has impressed on my heart that we needed to make more of a big deal of the cross and the resurrection than we had been as a church. Carson’s quote pinpoints the reason why. If we are going to grasp the Bible, we need to give prolonged thought to the cross and the resurrection. We need to set aside time every year to allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us the realities of the cross and the resurrection that we have not yet fully understood. In short, we need to make this weekend a big deal because it is the biggest deal!

This year we are adding the experience of celebrating the Passover to our remembrance of the cross and the resurrection. The Passover prophesied of the Lord’s sacrifice on the cross, and as we experience it, I know that

the Lord will give us greater insight into his glorious plan for our redemption. It was during the Passover celebration that the Lord instituted the Lord’s Supper, and as we share in the meal, participate in the traditions, and hear the words of the Haggadah, I know that we will be blessed even more as we remember Christ’s death and resurrection. I encourage you to consider coming to the Passover Seder on Thursday night, April 17th. You can find more details in the article by Renee Sanford on the next page of this newsletter entitled, “Celebrate the Passover with Your Church Family.”

I hope that you clear your schedule so that this year you can experience the impact of the cross and the resurrection in a new way.

Passover Seder

Thursday, April 17th
5:30-8:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 18th 6:30 p.m.

Resurrection Celebration Service

Sabbath, April 19th 10:30 a.m.

Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 20th 6:00 a.m.
Carl and Cindy Greene’s
11313 E County Rd MM, Avalon

April 2025

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Celebrate the Passover with Your Church Family

by Renee Sanford

“Let all who are hungry come and eat. Let all who are in want come and celebrate. May it be God’s will to redeem us all from evil and from all slavery.” (Traditional Jewish Seder Greeting)

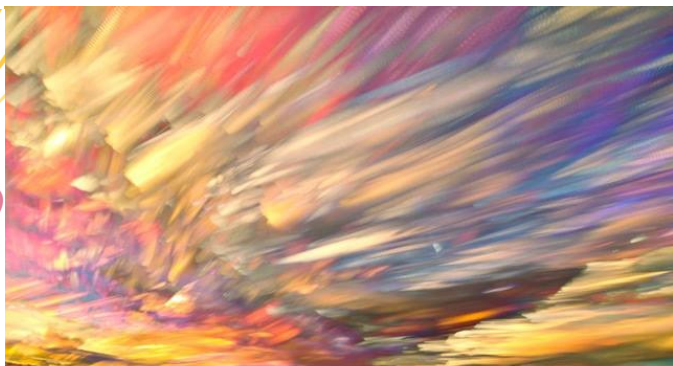
Thursday, April 17, we’ll be celebrating Passover at church with a full Seder – including a 3-course meal and highlights of Jesus’s Last Supper. It was at Passover that Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper, and you will be blessed to experience the symbolism in Passover which points to Christ’s sacrifice on the cross for our redemption. We’ll recall the Exodus from Egypt and highlight the events of the Last Supper that Jesus spent with his disciples. When did he wash the disciples’ feet? When did he pass the bread to Judas? There will be joyful parts and somber parts – singing, scripture, friends and food.

Please sign up in the Welcome Center or by contacting the church office. Signing up is essential so we know how much of the traditional foods to prepare – Matzah Ball Soup, Beef and potatoes. Chocolate Matzah dessert. We’re asking \$5 per person to cover the food costs. (\$2.50 for little ones – Passover is a very child-friendly celebration). We’ll start at 5:30 and hope to be done by 8:30. You can also sign up to help with set up, food preparation and clean up. Jesus makes many invitations.

Come to me all who are thirsty. All who are hungry. Take this bread – it is my body. This year, YOU are invited to come to a Passover celebration. It will make a profound beginning to the sequence of Good Friday, Resurrection Sabbath and Easter Sunrise opportunities. Jesus said he longed to celebrate Passover with his disciples – we long to celebrate it with you!



The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, *“This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”* In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, *“This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”* For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.



Camp Wakonda 2025

by Pastor John Pethtel

For the last 75 years, we have used our property on N. Klug Road, called Camp Wakonda, as a “place to grow” for children and adults alike. We look forward to more growth this year as we announce our summer camping schedule.

Our camp work day is scheduled for May 4. There will be opportunities to help prepare for our camping season and improve the camp property (outside and inside). A sign up sheet should be available in the Welcome Center during the month of April. If you have any questions, please see Brandon Crandall.

Camp Discover (grades K-3) will be held in the afternoons from June 23-27.

Intermediate Camp (grades 4-6) will be held from July 6-11.

Camp Collision (grades 7-12) will be held from July 13-20.

If you have thought about helping at these camps, we would

love to talk to you. It is our dedicated staff volunteers who make our camps happen. We want you to join us.

Forms for camp participants and staffers should be available on our website (our preferred method) with some paper copies available in the Welcome Center beginning April 5.

We are also looking forward to our Worship @ Wakonda service on June 28.

If you have any questions about Camp Wakonda, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor John.



Camp Wakonda 2025

Camp Discover

(grades K-3)

June 23-27

Intermediate

Camp

(grades 4-6)

July 6-11

Collision Camp

(grades 7-12)

July 13-20

**Registration
opens April 5th**



Camp Counselor Applications

Are you interested in serving as a counselor at Camp Wakonda this summer? Camp is a very special place. Each summer we see God’s powerful presence move in the hearts of the campers as well as the staff. If you have a personal relationship with Christ, you are invited to submit an application to show that you are interested in serving at one of our overnight camps. Applications are available in the church Welcome Center and on the website, theconnecting.church/wakonda.

Thank You Lord for Camp Wakonda!

by Renee Sanford, Prayer Coordinator

How blessed we are to have Camp Wakonda! A beautiful, peaceful place that serves our families, our church and our community year-round. As the summer camping season approaches, it's a perfect time to focus our prayers on Camp Wakonda.

PRAISE

- How beautifully your creation is revealed at Camp Wakonda!
- How present your Spirit!
- How glorious the truths you reveal to your people!
- You are good – all the time. All the time, you are good!

THANKSGIVING

- Thank you, LORD, for Camp Wakonda!
- Thank you for all the lives impacted!
- Thank you for providing the resources needed year after year!
- Thank you for the spiritual legacy of Camp – our heritage of lives changed.

CONFESSION

- LORD, there is so much work needed to ensure a glorious camp season and

to keep the camp operational all year.

- We confess that we have not always done our fair share and have let others carry the load.
- Forgive us, and guide us in what we each are called to do this camp season.
- Give us joy in serving others.

PETITION

- Please provide the needed staff for the camp season.
- Guide all the preparations and planning.
- Let all the administrative tasks run smoothly.
- Keep Camp Wakonda a peaceful, welcoming place.
- Fill the season with faith, fun and friendship.
- Keep everyone safe, physically and spiritually.

INTERCESSION

- Please provide spiritual protection for Camp Wakonda.
- We lift up all who come to Camp Wakonda.
- Call young people to camp and remove any obstacles they face.
- Give us direction and

boldness to invite campers – especially from unchurched families.

- Open campers' hearts to the gospel.
- Let there be healing, spiritual growth and salvation.
- Make the worship times powerful and sweet.
- Help campers remember and put into practice all they learn.
- Continue to grow God-centered relationships after camp.

Thank you, LORD, for hearing our prayers for Camp Wakonda. May this camp season give you glory!



CAMP WAKONDA



Work Day at Camp Wakonda

Sunday, May 4, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Contact Brandon Crandall for details of outside projects and Doneta Osborn about any inside projects.

Many hands make light work. Hope to see you there.

April Adventures at Awana

by Angie Mullen, Director of Children's Ministries

The last 5 weeks of our 2024-25 Awana club year are packed full of exciting and engaging opportunities for our clubbers to learn more about God's love and his amazing plan for their lives! And there are opportunities for all of you to join us on these adventures. Here's what's coming up in April:

Spring Missions Project:

Each spring we seek a way for kids to reach across the world to "love your neighbor as yourself" by sharing a portion of what God has given them. While details about the project we will be raising funds for are unsure as this is being written, we know it will be helping children somewhere in Africa with some needs that we take for granted here in Milton. We always encourage our clubbers to look for small tasks or chores they could do to earn a little cash to



donate to this cause. Maybe you have a job just right for an Awana clubber you know. Murray our Missions Monster will come out from hibernation, ready to be fed their coins and paper money each week in April. Everything Murray "eats" will be donated to this Spring Missions Project.

Family Easter Celebration:

There is no greater celebration than the resurrection of our Savior! What Jesus did for us on the cross and his resurrection 3 days later is the reason we meet each week at Awana. We think it's worth a special celebration with our family! **On Wed., April 16th,** all Awana family members and our church family are invited to join us for this special Easter service designed to glorify God with kids in mind. Our service will be held in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. Please join us! (If we have 50 or more people join us, our kids will

earn a CONFETTI PARTY to celebrate – something they have been working towards all year. You can help them.)

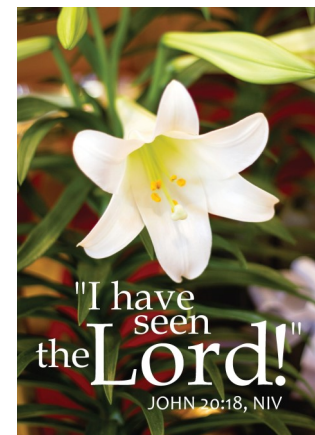
T&T Overnight: All T&T Clubbers, 3rd-6th graders, are invited to an overnight experience at Camp Wakonda on Sat., April 26 at 4:30 pm – 9:00 am on Sunday. We'll do many of the typical Camp Wakonda activities: a hike, campfire, camp games, and more. An Awana favorite, Christian illusionist Mr. Hulstrom will provide our lesson that night. We're thankful for many Awana staff and Collision youth who will be there to lead our clubbers in this overnight experience at Camp! Clubbers must turn in forms by Wed., April 16.

And save the date: **Awana Awards and Recognition Night** is Wed., May 7th. Everyone is invited to come and celebrate our clubber's accomplishments. Our celebration will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

God Is Real, continued from page 8

seen people freed from demonic oppression (experiences that were way more dramatic than this one), and I've also witnessed miraculous physical healings by the Holy Spirit. I'd be happy to share with anyone who wants to hear these stories since they ultimately serve to glorify Him.

God is real. The Holy Spirit is real. And Jesus, my Lord and Savior, is absolutely who he says he is. If you're struggling with unbelief or skepticism, I encourage you to ask God to reveal himself to you. Please know that you are very loved by a very real Heavenly Father.



Self-Sustaining Project in Uganda

by Linda Lyke

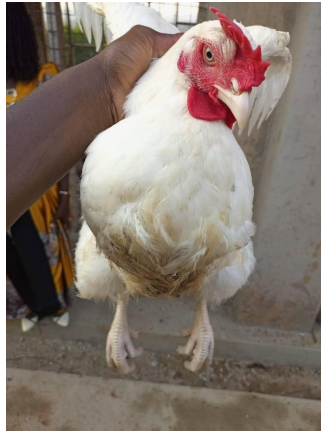
For a number of years, the SDB Churches in Uganda have collaborated with the Wisconsin organization, Children's World Impact (represented by Mike Hoffman of our church) and the SDB Missionary Society for the self-sustaining project of raising chickens to provide jobs and income for local Ugandans, especially widows.

The first brood of chickens, which will provide poultry meat, are ready for market. The second brood of chickens are egg layers, and are not quite to maturity yet.

This project has been a long time in the making from finding land to purchase, workers to train, a well that was dug and much more.

So it's exciting to see this project almost at the income earning stage.

Thank you Jesus for bringing all the players and resources together!



GIFTS Ministry

Psalm 34:3 *"Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together."*

Our spring week to serve at the GIFTS Homeless Shelter took place the week of March 17th. We graciously thank you for all the effort you made to bless the men living at the shelter in Janesville. It's not just a safe, temporary home for them, it's an opportunity to hear about Jesus, set a plan of action for a new life and provide resources and coaching to move ahead in their life. They cannot do this without local church support. The food you donated food, and time and love to serve the meals are appreciated!

Summer Missions Scholarships

Summer missions scholarships are available to anyone participating in a short-term missions trip, including Koinonia. Please contact the Church Administrator for more information or for a scholarship form.



Pasta: Tomato/pasta sauce, spaghetti, diced tomatoes, sloppy joe sauce, canned pasta, tomato paste

SDB Visiting Instructor Program

by Pastor John Pethtel



will be sharing with The Connecting Church-Milton SDB on April 26 during the Sabbath School time and worship service.

Make sure to save the date (APRIL 26) to hear what God has laid on their hearts to share with us!

After leaving us, they will be traveling to the eastern United States to share with SDBs in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania before returning home.

This year marks the second occasion that we will be welcoming two pastors from Africa for the Visiting Instructors Program sponsored by the SDB General Conference and the SDB Missionary Society.

Pastor Canaan Phiri from Malawi and Pastor John Ryakitimbo from Tanzania will be in Wisconsin from April 22-May 2. While they are here, they will visit with children from our AWANA program, teens from Collision Youth Ministry, SDB pastors and leaders from around the country at The Summit, and they



Pastor Canaan Phiri
from Malawi



Pastor John Ryakitimbo
from Tanzania

BABY SHOWER



April Shower!

We will be showering Shanny (Snyder) Ayres with love and gifts for her soon to be born baby on Sunday, April 13 at 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Shanny and Micah are registered at Amazon and Target and due in August.

Please come and enjoy some fellowship, treats, and a good time!

God Is Real *A Testimony by Jen Dutcher*

Two weeks after I felt compelled to write up a specific testimony, I was in church when I just about "fell out of the pew" hearing the children's message and sermon since both covered specific elements of my testimony. It was then I knew I had to share it.

For as long as I can remember, I have always believed in God and loved Jesus, but as a young teen, my faith hit a stumbling block. I struggled with the credibility of the Israelites' story in Exodus. It made no sense to me how these people could have turned their backs on God, and only a few short months later, after witnessing all of those amazing miracles when they departed Egypt. I thought (albeit naively) , "If I had proof that God was real like the Israelites did, I would never sin again!"

During my senior year, I attended a Christian youth retreat at some campground up north where the theme was on the occult. On the last night, there were around 20 of us high school students sitting in a circle in the middle of the lodge sharing stories, when suddenly there was a startling shift in the atmosphere. Something evil had entered the room. And when I say "evil", it is the absolute definition and description of what evil can possibly be and feel like. It radiated a pure vile and wickedness, unfiltered hatred, absolute anger, and

extreme fear. The grotesque and terrifying presence was so strong and overwhelming, it was nearly tangible.

No one said anything, but I could tell by looking around the circle that everyone felt it. A few younger students started crying. Our counselors, Pastor Rod and Camille Henry, knew what was happening. They had once been missionaries in the Philippines and were no strangers to spiritual warfare. (Sidenote: Rod Henry, who has since gone home to be with our Lord, wrote a book titled *Filipino Spirit World, a Challenge to the Church*. It's a good read.) Recognizing we were under a demonic attack, our leaders calmly instructed us to pray.

I bowed my head and said the shortest, most desperate prayer in my life, "God, please make this go away!" I instantly felt a cool, soothing breath in my face. My eyes popped open to see who did that! But both kids next to me had their heads down. Accompanied with the breath was an overwhelming, euphoric peace that washed over me. I felt the evil presence pushed back. I sat there in disbelief thinking, "Did that just really happen?!"

A few moments later, I felt the evil closing in on me again, and I again I prayed, "God, please make this go away!" Once more, I instantly felt a cool breeze in my face, along with an ultra-intense peace that saturated my entire being. It was an ultimate peace that

felt infinite, a heightened sensation way beyond anything in the natural human experience. I felt the evil presence pushed back and forced out.

Knowing I was going to remember this experience for the rest of my life, I looked around the lodge to see if there was a ceiling fan or floor vents, any sort of physical explanation for the breeze that I felt, but there was nothing. Plus, I *knew* it was God because of the supernatural euphoric peace.

I later shared this story with my pastor, George Calhoun. He smiled and asked me if I knew what the Holy Spirit's name means in Greek (pneuma) and in Hebrew (Ruach). I didn't. He explained that the names translate as breath and wind. That's exactly what I felt, a breath, and a breeze.

That night at a weekend retreat, I felt the physical manifestation of the Holy Spirit, twice, as well as his supernatural peace. (Jesus even refers to him as the Comforter!) *That* was my "parting of the Red Sea" moment. I got my proof. And although I no longer doubted the existence of God, did I, do I, still sin? Yup! Unfortunately. So it was a humbling experience as well.

Since then, I have had and/or witnessed firsthand, over a dozen other supernatural experiences. Having served on a few deliverance teams, I've

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Dana George
- 2 Gary Groelle
- 5 Jon Cruzan
- 6 *Randy & Marcy Kersten*
- 6 Tim Lawton
- 11 Corbin Kersten
- 13 Marcy Kersten
- 15 Elizabeth Lawton
- 15 Ellie Bornemann
- 16 Melissa Lade
- 16 *Jim Bendig & Dana George*
- 17 John Harris
- 19 *Jim & Linda Lyke*
- 21 Lindsey Call
- 24 Isaac Harris
- 29 Mickey Johnson
- 29 Pam Adams

April Bulletin Board

Scripture Memory Program

Each year, the SDB General Conference elects a new president. That president, as part of their duties, chooses a theme the coming year, including a list of Scriptures which fit with their theme! This year's Conference President, Tom Davis from Marlboro, NJ, has selected "Shouldn't It Be Obvious" as his theme for our sessions in 2025 in Kenosha.

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

Psalms 1:1-2 ESV

*Hiding
His Word
in my heart*

Men's Chorus

Rehearse April 12 & 19
Rehearsal at 8:00 a.m.
Singing on April 19th

Ladies Sit 'n Sip

Tuesday, April 8
9:00 a.m. at Sharla's.
Ladies are invited to come for a time of relaxing and fellowship!

April	
2	Club – Mission Project Kick Off
9	Club
16	Club – Family Easter Celebration
23	Club
Sat. 26	T&T Overnight – 4:30 –9:00 a.m. Sunday
30	Club – Last Night of Club
May 7	Year End Awards and Recognition Night



April Children's Church

April 5
Unit 26: Session 1
Jesus was Anointed
Matthew 26; Mark 14; John 12

April 19
No Children's Church Resurrection Sabbath
Children will stay with their families for the worship service.

April	
2	4:30 Bible Study – The Ice Shantea 6:30 Collision
7	Roller Skating w/ Koinonia Youth Ministries
9	4:30 Bible Study – The Ice Shantea 6:30 Collision
16	4:30 Bible Study – The Ice Shantea 6:30 Collision
23	4:30 Bible Study – The Ice Shantea 6:30 Collision
30	4:30 Bible Study – The Ice Shantea 6:30 Collision



Focus on Funds

as of February 28, 2025

General Fund Balance	\$30,062.91
Cash at Mem. Fund	\$27,530.44
Feb. Undesignated Inc.	\$22,341.58
Feb. Total Income	\$27,165.50
Feb. Budgeted Expenses	\$22,261.54
Denomination Giving YTD	\$ 255.00
Capital Campaign Fund	\$ 6,524.38

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																
		1 7:00 Scouts	2 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study 4:30 Youth Bible Study 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision	3 7:00 Prayer for Outreach—zoom	4 8:00 MACCIT	5 9:00 Sabbath School 10:30 Worship and Children's Church																
6	7 8:00 TOPS 9:00 Classical Conversations	8 9:00 Ladies Sit 'n Sip – Sharla's 7:00 Scouts	9 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study 4:30 Youth Bible Study 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision	10 7:00 Prayer for Outreach—zoom	11	12 8:00 Men's Chorus Rehearsal 9:00 Sabbath School 10:30 Worship – Communion																
13 2:00 Baby Shower for Shanny Ayres	14 8:00 TOPS 9:00 Classical Conversations	15 7:00 Scouts	16 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study 4:30 Youth Bible Study 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision	17 7:00 Prayer for Outreach—zoom 5:30 Passover Seder	18 GOOD FRIDAY 6:30 Service	19 <i>Resurrection</i> SABBATH 8:00 Men's Chorus Rehearsal & Singing 9:00 Sabbath School 10:30 Resurrection Celebration Service																
20 6:00 Sunrise Service – Greene's EASTER	21 8:00 TOPS 9:00 Classical Conversations	22 7:00 Scouts	23 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study 4:30 Youth Bible Study 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision	24 7:00 Prayer for Outreach—zoom	25	26 9:00 Special VIP Sabbath School 10:30 Worship KWIK TRIP Cards available after the service																
27	28 8:00 TOPS 9:00 Classical Conversations	29 7:00 Scouts	30 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study 4:30 Youth Bible Study 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision	<p style="text-align: center;">Sabbath Sunset Times</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">April 4</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">7:26 p.m.</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">April 5</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">7:28 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">April 11</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">7:34 p.m.</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">April 12</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">7:36 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">April 18</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">7:43 p.m.</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">April 19</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">7:44 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">April 25</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">7:51 p.m.</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">April 26</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">7:52 p.m.</td> </tr> </table>			April 4	7:26 p.m.	April 5	7:28 p.m.	April 11	7:34 p.m.	April 12	7:36 p.m.	April 18	7:43 p.m.	April 19	7:44 p.m.	April 25	7:51 p.m.	April 26	7:52 p.m.
April 4	7:26 p.m.	April 5	7:28 p.m.																			
April 11	7:34 p.m.	April 12	7:36 p.m.																			
April 18	7:43 p.m.	April 19	7:44 p.m.																			
April 25	7:51 p.m.	April 26	7:52 p.m.																			



**April
2025**

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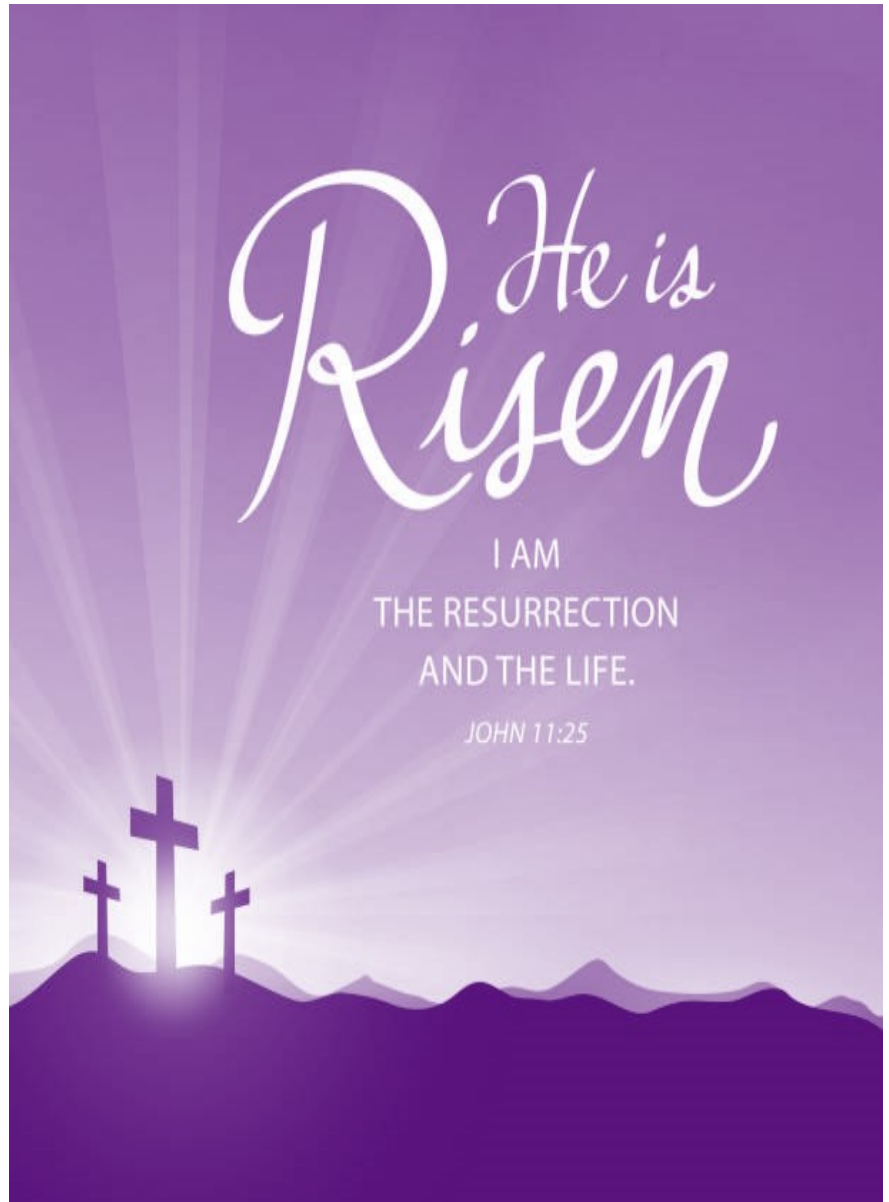
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Online Worship

Our Sabbath morning worship service is available **live** on our YouTube channel. Go to <http://TheConnecting.Church/WorshipOnline> for the link. We are also posting links to the sermon notes on that same page.