



Jesus LIVES!

*He rose again the third day
according to the scriptures. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:4*



Spring 2025

Dear Friends,

The other day I was awe-struck by a beautiful sunrise at the end of our street. The sunrise made me think of Easter mornings when I was a child. Bright and early (at 5:15 a.m. or so), I would bound out of bed, get dressed in my warmest clothes and climb into our car with my family. We would drive to the top of Middlefield's Lyman Orchards, and strangers and friends would worship at the Easter sunrise service. Together the gathered people would admire the sun rising over the trees, shout "*Alleluia!*," sing, pray and listen to the words of my pastor.



I remember Easter as being a church day filled with family, friends, food and faith. To this day, I am thankful for those Easter mornings when I would watch the sun rise over the trees, reminding me that even on the darkest days the morning will come.

In a few short months, Easter morning will come, and hopefully we will see a beautiful sunrise to remind us of God's beauty and love. I believe we are called to share God's beauty and love with one another and the world, and one way we do that is by giving generously to our **Easter offering**. The money we receive in donations is what goes out into the world. Our gifts will be divided between the ecumenical development and relief program, **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)**, and a \$3,000 donation to **Manchester Area Conference of Churches**.



The OGHS theme for this year is "*Be the Light.*" Through the United Church of Christ and other ecumenical partners, our resources of love are deployed across our nation and all around the world. When OGHS dollars are allocated to the United Church of Christ's Wider Church Ministries, we immediately respond to a variety of global and local concerns by providing advocacy, sustainable development resources, short and long-term disaster recovery support and assistance for refugee and asylum seekers. Our children are collecting their money and will bring their OGHS boxes back

to church on Palm and Passion Sunday. We encourage you to bring some change and bills to help the children fill their boxes on that lively Sunday morning!

As part of our Easter offering, we will be giving \$3,000 to Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC). MACC began over 50 years ago with 14 founding churches who laid the foundation for MACC to begin service to a community in need. MACC's mission of building partnerships to break cycles of poverty in our community is done through their community kitchen, community food pantry, community outreach and emergency services and community thrift store. Building connections and community is very important to MACC and to us here at First Church! We are a member



church of MACC, and we volunteer on a regular basis. It is with deep gratitude that we make a donation to MACC, knowing that they are living out our call to share God's light and love in the world.

When you give generously to our Easter offering, you know that throughout the year your dollars are being used immediately, directly and responsibly to help people in need near and far. Please make your check payable to "First Church" with the memo line, "Easter Offering," or give online by scanning the QR code or going to our website at www.glastonburyfirst.org and selecting the Easter Offering tab under the Give Now button.



Each day as the sun rises, we have the opportunity to "Be the Light" for others. Lea Morris wrote a song called "Be the Light."

*There is always a light – when we are ready to see it
There is always a light – when we are ready to be it
To see the light, to be the light, to raise our eyes in the dark of night
[To climb this hill, together we will].*

Friends, let us "Be the Light" in the world by giving generously to our Easter offering.

Easter blessings,

Kate