

Daffodils

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed--and gazed--but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

William Wordsworth



For God so
loved the
world that
he gave his
one and only
Son, that
whoever
believes in
him shall
not perish
but have
eternal life.

John 3:16

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No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT ZION?

www.zionuccsteubenville.com



IN OUR CIRCLE OF PRAYER

Bill Bertram, Marlene Rhueff, Steve Panyi, Doug Lewis, Judy Neiderhiser (John Diekmann's sister-in-law), Toots Ross, Shirley Valuska, John Luscher, Daniel Edwards
➤If you would like to be remembered in prayer or know of someone who would appreciate being included in this list, please contact the church office.

PASTOR COY

If you would like to meet with Pastor Coy, please make an appointment with the church office at **740-282-1793**. If you would like to get a hold of Pastor Coy directly, his cell number is **330-301-0551**.

NOW LIVESTREAMING!

We're now livestreaming our church services on you tube. Check us out! Zion UCC Steubenville <https://youtube.com/@zionucc6794?si=EnSIkaIECMiOmarE>

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday, March 28, at 12:00 Noon we will have a service in the sanctuary. We will have a brief worship. Afterwards we will have a light luncheon in the social hall. John Diekmann and Joyce Coy are preparing soup, sandwich, and dessert. There will be a free will offering to cover cost of the food.

If you are planning on coming, please call the church office at 740-282-1793 or John Diekmann at 304-312-6622. We appreciate your letting us know of your intentions.

EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWERS

If you would like to place on memorial flower on the altar for Easter, there is an order form in this newsletter. This year we have **lilies, hyacinth, and tulips** for **\$14** apiece. All orders are due by **March 24, 2024**.

Let us love

not in word or speech,
but in truth and action

1 John 3:18

Pastor's Pen

Easter: A Good Time to Forgive

Easter, the cross, is a good reminder of why we should do everything we can to forgive. Knowing that Jesus suffered such extreme pain and death because He loved us can be a motivating factor in our willingness to forgive. Matthew 6:14 explains why forgiveness is key to fulfilling our faith: Jesus forgives us our sins so we should be willing to forgive others. "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you."

Forgiving others doesn't mean that the hurtful act was right or that it never happened. Forgiving others is accepting that something bad happened but we are willing to move forward and let go of the negative emotions. Forgiveness is a deliberate act and choice to pick joy and have peace with the past. Forgiving others can be liberating and can help you feel the love of Christ in your life. It takes a lot of time and mental energy to dwell on the pain of past hurts and grudges. Letting go of the past frees your mental energy to focus on things that bring you joy and peace. As you recall about the Easter story Jesus was willing to forgive the very people that were killing Him.

So where are you today in this year's Easter Story? Are you imprisoned by past hurts? Do you spend more time thinking about someone that hurt you? They may have gotten over it, may not even know what they did. Even if they are a person who you would choose not to hang around with, forgiveness frees you even if it does not help them. Their forgiveness is their responsibility. It is between them and God. You are responsible for the relationship you have with Jesus. If you look for the good in that person or people, it will help you to see their potential to change for the better just as Christ sees this potential in you. So, I am asking you. Are you going to follow Jesus? Are you going to start forgiving as you would like to be forgiven? Are you going to walk your own path with Jesus and not follow the group of negativities that surrounds a lot of people in our world today? It is good to always remember that though unworthy we can be forgiven. Even all the people there that day in the city yelling "Crucify Him, Crucify Him" many Easters ago. Lord give us strength to forgive and ask for forgiveness for ourselves.

Peace to everyone,
Rev. Walter Coy