



Frankly Speaking –

# The Message of the Dogwood

by Frank Jordan

After the grays and depressive weather of winter, the announcement of spring in nature resurrects the beauty of a revived landscape. A slender tree covered by bright pink and white flowers symbolizes that resurrected spirit in the delicate dogwood. The legend of the dogwood trees, stunning in their beauty, adds to the mystique of how the unique flowers of the dogwood supposedly

came to their present form. How did a tree so delicate in structure get the brute name of dogwood? The unusual name originated due to the extremely hard wood of the branches, which was often transformed into “dags” or daggers. “Dagwood” of yesterday transformed with time to the “dogwood” of today. But the special relationship of this magnificent small tree to Jesus and

Easter is the real story to be told.

The form of each blossom to appear as a cross, according to the legend of the dogwood, tells us Christ Himself transformed the white or pink dogwood flower into a representation of the crucifixion. Each flower has two long and two short petals. Closer observation reveals the center of the outer edge of each petal has small holes where the tips of the petals are rusty on one side and brown-red on the other.

These unique petal features represent the nails or spikes that pierced the hands and feet of Our Lord on the cross. In the center of the flower is a green cluster with red stamens revealing a likeness of the crown of thorns and His blood.

At the time of our Lord’s crucifixion in the first century, the dogwood is said to have been the size of a mighty oak, with the wood firm, straight and strong. Trees were scarce in Israel then as now and thus the wood chosen by the Romans for the crosses used in crucifixions of criminals and enemies of Rome was the dogwood tree, including for the cross used for Christ’s crucifixion.

The story of the dogwood tells us that to be used in this greatest injustice of mankind greatly distressed the dogwood tree chosen for the cross of Jesus. Sensing this, the crucified Christ said to the

tree, “Because of your compassion and pity for My suffering, never again shall the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used as a cross. Henceforth, you shall be slender and bent and twisted and your blossoms shall be in the form of a cross.”

“On the outer edge of each petal there will be nail prints, and the center of the flower will resemble the cruel crown of thorns placed on My head, with bright red clusters once again recalling the blood I shed. Thus, all who see this will remember Me.”

Three days after the death of Jesus, the chief wood gatherer for dogwood to be used for crosses was told his fine dogwood trees in Israel were withering. While the tall, straight trees on inspection were dying, in their place were hundreds of smaller trees that, while useless for constructing crosses, flowered with magnificent unique blossoms that appeared to have been burned from the touch of a miniature cross.

Unbelievers say the form of the dogwood and its blooming only briefly in the Easter season are merely coincidences. Frankly speaking, I believe the dogwood is a beautiful symbol and message to the world that Easter Sunday celebrates the resurrection of Christ after the crucifixion, while symbolizing our personal opportunity for eternal rebirth from our human nature through belief in the risen Son of God.

## Fun for all at Bunny Bingo, March 28

DAYTON - It’s a fun-filled morning when Bridgehaven Children’s Advocacy Center hosts Bunny Bingo. The doors open at 9:30 a.m. on Sat., March 28, at Cedar Bayou Farms, 2466 CR 486 in Dayton. This exciting morning will include games, prizes, snacks, and plenty of family fun – all while supporting a meaningful cause.

Kids will enjoy playing 10 rounds of bingo, with the chance to win exciting

prize-filled baskets in each game. From candy and toys to themed surprises, every basket is brimming with joy! Proceeds from Bunny Bingo directly benefit the Bridgehaven Children’s Advocacy Center, helping children in need find hope and healing. Don’t miss this egg-citing day of fun and prizes! Bring the whole family for a day of bingo, laughter, and giving back.

There is still time to get involved by reserving a table or becoming a sponsor. Sponsorships from businesses and community partners who would like to be part of this special occasion are still available. Visit [givebutter.com/bunnybingo26](https://givebutter.com/bunnybingo26) to reserve tables or for sponsorships.

If you would like to volunteer for this event, please reach out to [ascruggs@bridgehavencac.org](mailto:ascruggs@bridgehavencac.org).

For additional information, contact [jmcginnis@bridgehavencac.org](mailto:jmcginnis@bridgehavencac.org). Thank you for supporting the children in our community – we hope to see you there!

## Special Easter Events

### HOLY WEEK EXPERIENCE

LIBERTY - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints invites the community to join them on Friday, March 27, at their chapel, 331 Vera Lane, from 6-8 p.m. for the following activities: an immersive Holy Week experience featuring thoughtfully designed room displays highlighting each day of Holy Week; and a hanging Easter egg hunt for all ages, intentionally designed to be accessible for individuals with special needs and those who use wheelchairs.

### RU OK? PROGRAM

LIBERTY - RU OK? is a free service provided through the Liberty Police Department to check on the welfare of senior residents who live alone or may not have someone to check on them. Personnel from the Liberty Police Department will call at regular intervals to check to make sure all is well with the resident. To sign up for the program, contact Officer Whitehurst with the Liberty Police Department at 936-336-5666 or [mwhitehurst@cityofliberty.org](mailto:mwhitehurst@cityofliberty.org). The program is offered to all senior residents of Liberty.

### EGG-STRAVAGANZA EGG HUNT

LIBERTY - Grab your Easter baskets and get ready for a really egg-citing time as the Liberty Elks Lodge host its Egg-stravaganza Egg Hunt. The fun takes place Sat., April 4, at 10:30 a.m. at the Liberty Municipal Park for age groups 0-3 years, 4-7 years and 8-12 years, with prize eggs for all age groups. Elroy the Elk will join the Easter Bunny for photos. This free community event is compliments of Liberty Elks Lodge #2019, Community Activities Committee. For information, call 936-336-3739.

### LENTEN FISH FRY

DAYTON - The Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters of St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church will be hosting their annual fish fry each Friday during Lent through March 27. They offer dine-in or drive-thru options from 5-7 p.m. each night at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 806 S. Cleveland Street. Plates are \$13 (cash/check) or \$15 (card) and include fish, fries, coleslaw, hush puppies and dessert.

### CRAWFISH BOIL AND FISH FRY

MOSS HILL - Mt. Calvary Baptist Church is hosting a Crawfish Boil and Fish Fry on Friday, April 24, from 6-7:30 p.m. The crawfish will be cooked by The Big E-Z Crawfish Catering of Huntsville. All donations will be used to send local children to summer church camp. Come enjoy a great evening of food and fellowship! Mt. Calvary is located at 2988 Hwy. 105 East (3 miles East of Moss Hill). For more information, call 936-346-6244.



### RODEO ART EXHIBITION AT LIBERTY MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

The Liberty Municipal Library invites the public, through April 3, to see LISD student artwork. The works on display are just some of the artworks entered by Liberty ISD art students into the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Art Competition in January 2026. Out of many entries for the competition, 33 LISD students’ artworks were chosen to represent the district including 10 elementary, 10 middle school, and 13 high school artworks. The artworks of Gold Medal artist Rylee Shelton and Best of Show artist Teegan Davis are also on display at the Hayloft Gallery in Houston. For more information, contact the library at 936-336-8901. Library hours are Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday, 1-5 p.m., and Saturday, 10-4 p.m.

