



## April Newsletter addition

Dear Friends,

What a rewarding month March has been. A good number of the congregation has faced into the reality of our situation. After Tuesday, we will have a path to follow God that will involve either change or closure. While I wish we had the final results of that discussion, we do not. You will receive a letter in the week after Easter to inform you of the path.

While this is a difficult time, let me remind you it is also Holy Week. Nothing that we attempt is nearly as difficult as what Jesus did for our sake. Jesus was willing to walk the “Way of the Cross” for our sake. The result was not foreseen. The disciples were in despair. Hope seemed gone forever. Then, God brought about a new thing, the resurrection. We never need despair again.

We do not know what our new life as a congregation will look like. However, I promise you one thing that I have not a single doubt about: God will go with us. What we need to do along the way is to ensure that we are in touch with God’s great power.

Holy Week is a great time to get back in touch with God’s power. It is a time to come and be a part of our worshiping community. It is a great time to re-affirm our faith.

It is a great time to invite someone else to come along with you. Often people will go to church on Easter when they will go no other time. “Sure, I will come along” – but their expectation is that this is as far as it goes. A good beginning I would say. Then you need to take the next step. “Easter felt great? Why not come back with me, next week?” “But,” your guest might say, “I am religious, well really spiritual. Why would I need the church?”

Is this the question that Christians dread because we do not know what to say? Why do you need the church? There are plenty of other things to do in our culture. Why go to church? It is so intuitive to us, that we often do not have a good answer.

Why go to church?

1. To reconnect with God in a community setting
2. To hear God’s word proclaimed, so that “I” have to interact with it
3. To form an ongoing relationship to Jesus Christ.
4. To share with others in the holiness of community and praise God in music, liturgy and sacrament.

5. To keep from making whatever I want to be “god” and worshiping the one true God.
6. To experience community - that family feeling we get.
7. To help serve and save the world.

Here are seven ideas right off the top of my head. What might your reasons be? If it is only because that is what we have always done, then we need to talk. There is something much deeper going on than just familiarity.

I have included in this newsletter two very important documents. First is the summary of what has been talked about in our Tuesday night discussions. It is good work by the congregation, but easy to learn about.

The second document is an article from the Alban Institute about tending to the holy. If we are to get through these next couple of years, we will definitely need to tend to the holy. The article is written about clergy, but is equally true about laity. Read it carefully and think about your sense of the Holy. Think about what you need to have a deeper sense of God, the God of our history, our present and our future. The God of the resurrection.

What can I do to tend the Holy? If nothing else, **start a prayer life** or increase your prayer life. Even a 30 second prayer is a good beginning. Try thinking of God three times a day. Hey, don't we eat three times a day? You could pick up an “Upper Room” and read it at breakfast every day. It only takes about 5 minutes, but 5 minutes that may make your day a whole lot easier. Sing a hymn or praise song while driving to work. Email your pastor.

So three things this week,

**INVITE** someone to Easter Sunday.

**READ** carefully the summary of the discussions and the article about tending the holy.

**START** something new to keep you in touch with the Holy.

The church really is about God. Let's be in touch with that Holy Presence that is yearning to be closer to us. Then we will be able to face, even the way of the cross.

*Rev. Peggy*