



THE OPEN DOOR

Newsletter of Henderson Memorial Baptist Church

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APRIL 2019

From the Pastor...

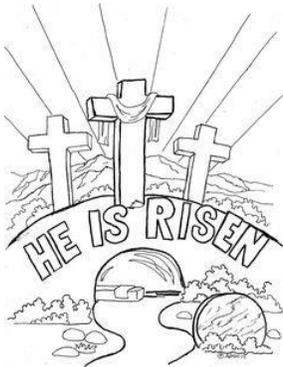
The month of April is when spring starts to get real around here. I've always waited with eagerness to hear the first songs of the peepers in the pond, around the time of Maundy Thursday. I love that sound...then the tree frogs, and of course the birdsong. I love watching the earth come alive again with new life, sound and color. Of all the seasons of the year, spring is the one I most look forward to. It occurred to me that we can only look forward to something we've already experienced in the past and want to re-experience again. If you had never experienced the coming of spring in Maine, after waiting so long through the winter, you might not feel quite as great a sense of expectation about it. And I'm thankful the coming of spring here in Maine brings such joy to so many.

For most of us Easter has a similar effect. We look forward to Easter. But, why? It's not for the Easter baskets. For me, Easter has such wonderful, triumphant music. The flowers, the people who come, the delicious breakfast we share with Summit. And the message of good news...that, no matter how bad things get in this world, Jesus has won the victory of life over death...and God's love over evil. My heart thrills at memories of Easter joy, and the expectation of being filled with joy once again every time we celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

But, just as spring means more to those who wait for it the longest, so does Easter mean the most to those who celebrate the victory after remembering the suffering of Jesus and his unending love. For this reason, I do hope you will spend some time with Jesus during Holy Week (the week before Easter). Yes, it is painful to remember what he endured on his way to the cross, but it's important to remember that what he did, he did for us. He gave his life out of love for the world. And he gave his life, so that we might share his eternal life in God's kingdom. Jesus asked us to remember him at the Last Supper he shared with his disciples in the Upper Room. As he broke the bread and shared the cup, he asked of us only this: "Do this in remembrance of me." It's the least we can do to show our gratitude for all Jesus has done for us – show up and participate in the breaking of bread and the sharing of the cup of the new covenant Jesus made possible by his gift on the cross.



On Maundy Thursday, April 18, I hope you will come to remember the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples, as we share the bread and the cup and tell the story of what happened the night he was arrested. On Good Friday, April 19, you are invited to come back to church for the Community Good Friday service, featuring the Stations of the Cross, which tell the story of what happened to Jesus on the day he died. These are very moving services that can help people who don't really know the Easter story to learn about how Jesus laid down his life in love, so we might have life eternal. If you know someone who would like to understand better what Easter is all about, invite them. On Easter Sunday morning, there will be a Sunrise Service on Voter Hill for the whole community. Our church will gather with the Summit Faith church for a delicious Easter breakfast (April 21, at 8:30 am), followed by a glorious service of Resurrection joy, beginning at 9:30. Please come and bring others to share in the joy let loose on the earth, when Jesus was raised from the dead!



Easter is our guarantee that whether life seems good or just plain hard, the victory is already assured! Therefore, we may live in the hope of always being God's children forever...and live with joy at the work God is doing in and through us to bring about his kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. No wonder we look forward to celebrating this joy every spring.

Looking ahead, let's remember that Easter is not the end, but the beginning of new life! There are other aspects of our life together in Christ that may need renewal, too. On Sunday, April 28, we will gather for the First Quarter business meeting and a Fellowship Lunch, at which everyone will help create a WISH LIST for ways our church can grow as a community of faith, and branch out to work with God at making new ministries possible.

- What comes next in terms of making our facility more accessible and inviting to people of all ages?
- How can we rebuild a ministry for children?
- How is Jesus calling us to make new disciples and keep us all growing more like Jesus?

Jesus rose from the dead to go before us always. He sends us out into the whole world to make disciples and teach them how to love as he loved us first loved by giving his life. Let's pray about where he's leading us next and be ready to follow, wherever that might be.

With grateful thanks for our partnership in the gospel . . . Pastor Susan Crane

SERMONS FOR APRIL

APRIL 7 PRESS ON TOWARD THE GOAL
 APRIL 14 PALM SUNDAY, 30 A.D.
 APRIL 21 GO AND TELL
 APRIL 28 SO YOU MAY BELIEVE

SEASON OF LENT, SEASON OF EASTER

Philippians 3:7-14 *Communion*
 Luke 19:37-47
 John 20:1-18
 John 20:19-21, 24, 26-31