



May You Be
LOVING

One Voice

Weekly Newsletter of The United Church of Phelps

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FROM THE PASTOR:

- 1 After the Sabbath, as the first light of the new week dawned, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to keep vigil at the tomb.
- 2 Suddenly the earth reeled and rocked under their feet as God's angel came down from heaven, came right up to where they were standing. He rolled back the stone and then sat on it.
- 3 Shafts of lightning blazed from him. His garments shimmered snow-white.
- 4 The guards at the tomb were scared to death. They were so frightened, they couldn't move.
- 5 The angel spoke to the women: "There is nothing to fear here. I know you're looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross.
- 6 He is not here. He was raised, just as he said. Come and look at the place where he was placed.
- 7 "Now, get on your way quickly and tell his disciples, 'He is risen from the dead. He is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' That's the message."
- 8 The women, deep in wonder and full of joy, lost no time in leaving the tomb. They ran to tell the disciples.
- 9 Then Jesus met them, stopping them in their tracks. "Good morning!" he said. They fell to their knees, embraced his feet, and worshiped him.
- 10 Jesus said, "You're holding on to me for dear life! Don't be frightened like that. Go tell my brothers that they are to go to Galilee, and that I'll meet them there."

Matthew 28:1-10, *The Message*

What an amazing passage! The death of Jesus, whose dead body was placed in the tomb on late Friday, was on the minds of the women. They knew he had died because they witnessed his death and they watched his body being placed in the tomb. Two women – vulnerable, weak, timid came to the tomb at the first opportunity they could go. What were they expecting to find? Or did they just want to be close to Jesus' body as they grieved, as people today often want to do when they lose a loved one?

What they did not expect was an earthquake caused by God's angel arriving *right where they were standing*. Notice what the angel says to them: "There is nothing to fear here....He is not here. He was raised...." This message wasn't intended for the disciples. It was intended for and given to the two Marys, who, unlike the guards, are not petrified to the point of fainting, but full of awe and amazement.

As they go back to tell the disciples the good news, they are met by Jesus who repeats the message for the disciples which the angel had given them. But before they obediently take off for the disciples to deliver the message, notice what they do: they fell to their knees, embraced his feet, and worshiped him. Kneeling is a response expressing awed reverence. Touching Jesus' feet was an intimate act done by people who knew Jesus well. Put the two acts together and we have the beginning of resurrection life lived out in ordinary people: awed reverence plus intimacy leads to resurrection worship.

When in your life has Jesus encountered you in such a surprising way that you knelt in awed reverence and clutched to him (most likely figuratively) in an act of resurrection worship. Because we must have a sense of "how can this be?" to fully embrace awed reverence. And we need to be in an intimate relationship with Jesus to fully trust and embrace Jesus and where he is leading us. There has to be a sense of surprise in our lives – for God does not respond, react, or encounter us in a way that we are comfortable with or that we expect and anticipate or that

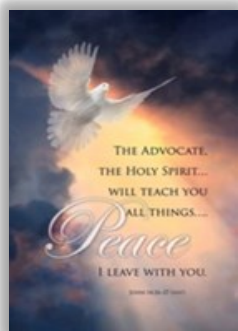
we would choose for ourselves. There is always a sense of anticipation and wonderment when interacting with our Lord.

All of us around the world are dealing with an unexpected and unwelcomed unknown called COVID-19. I have been watching God interact with various people, getting their attention like no other time in their lives, building on the gift of faith that God has given each one, and molding and making them into the people God designed them to be. It hasn't been easy to have our PAUSE button pushed, to be told that for our safety and the safety of others we need to stay home and stay safe, to go from full speed ahead to STOP or PAUSE. It is sort of like watching a movie that has us mesmerized – when suddenly, at just the best part, the DVD player stops or the internet link goes down. We are left pondering how the movie will end, where will the main characters end up, will good override evil?

We have been jolted into a new reality: a reality not planned by God, not applauded by God, but that can be used by God. A reality just as surprising to us as the angel and Jesus were to the two Marys. A reality that will change the rest of our lives in unknown ways, just as the Marys' lives were changed. An opportunity to focus on what God desires for our lives, just as the Marys were given the opportunity to refocus from grieving Jesus' death to carrying a message from Jesus to the disciples.

Where is this going to lead us spiritually? I don't know. But I do know what God yearns: a deeper relationship with each one of us; an open heart to receive the Spirit; a willingness to allow God to transform us into people we never imagined we could become. What is God doing in your life right now? Pay attention. Slow down. PAUSE and reflect.

God bless! Ellen



In Memory Of...

Donald Sabin

Given by: Alice Sabin

Pentecost Sunday May 31st, 2020



**Guess who is having a
Birthday in June:**

Carolyn Gloska – June 2

Ben Beauchemin – June 14 (85)

Sharon Peets – June 15

Lindsey Kataskas – June 19



Special Anniversary Wishes to

Andy & Carolyn Gloska

celebrating on

June 6th!!



**Wear RED Sunday –
Pentecost
Sunday, May 31st, 2020**

As recorded in the New Testament of the Bible, it was on the 50th day after Easter that the apostles were praying together and the Holy Spirit descended on them. They received the “gift of tongues” - the ability to speak in other languages - and immediately began to preach about Jesus Christ to people from all over the world who flocked to Jerusalem for the Feast of Shavuot. Christian Pentecost became not only a commemoration of the Holy Spirit's visit but also marks the birth of the Christian Church.

“ No, it's not time to begin worshipping, in-person and in groups yet, in our churches in New York. We Methodist Christians do not want any of our members to get sick and die.”

Jeff McDowell, United Methodist District Manager
Facebook post May 22, 2020



WHAT KIND OF SHORTS
DO CLOUDS WEAR?



THUNDERWEAR

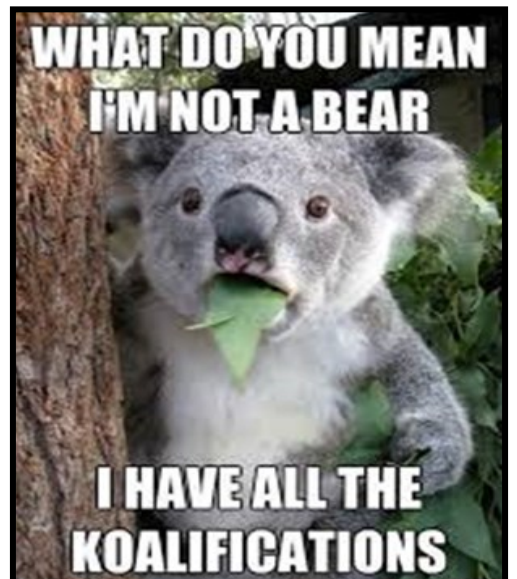
WHY DID THE
BELT GET
ARRESTED?

HE HELD UP A
PAIR OF PANTS!



**PUNS
ARE
NOT
CHEESY.
THEY'RE
GOUDA.**

WHAT DO YOU MEAN
I'M NOT A BEAR



I HAVE ALL THE
KOALIFICATIONS

The United Church of Phelps
"United in God's Love"

May 31st, 2020

Pentecost

10:50 AM

Boldface text is said in unison

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP

Spirit of the living God, visit us again on this day of Pentecost.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Like a rushing wind that sweeps away all barriers, come, Holy Spirit.

Like tongues of fire that set our hearts aflame, come, Holy Spirit.

With speech that united the Babel of our tongues, come, Holy Spirit.

With love that overlaps the boundaries of race and nations, come, Holy Spirit.

With power from above to make our weakness strong.

Come, Holy Spirit.

* SONG

Spirit #319

Refrain:

Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free,

Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

You moved on the waters, You called to the deep, then You coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep, and over the eons You called to each thing, "awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."

You swept through the desert, You stung with the sand, and You gifted your people with a law and a land, and when they were blinded with their idols and lies, then You spoke through Your prophets to open their eyes.

You sang in a stable, You cried from a hill, then You whispered in silence When the whole world was still, and down in the city You called once again When You blew through Your people on the rush of the wind.

You call from tomorrow, You break ancient schemes, from bondage of sorrow The captives dream dreams; our women see visions, our men clear their eyes, with bold new decisions Your people arise.

CONFESSION

Generous God, you send us the Spirit of courage, but we have been afraid. You send us the Spirit of truth, but we cling to our illusions. You send us the Spirit of healing, but we cannot let go of our hurts. Holy Spirit of forgiveness, come to us again: shake our hearts, set our souls on fire with your love: send us out into the world rejoicing in your power. We hold out to you all our particular burdens of guilt and sin, and we ask for your help to live the way of your justice and love. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: (from Romans 8:1-2,11; NIV)

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Jesus Christ the law of the Spirit of life sets us free from the law of sin and death.

And if the Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead lives in us, God who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to our mortal bodies through the Spirit, who lives in. Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

GOD'S WORD

Romans 15

MESSAGE

Welcome each other

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

- SONG **Spirit of God, Descend on My Heart**

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.

“Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King;
All, all Thine own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
I see Thy cross, there teach my heart to cling.
O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!

Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh;
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh:
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The baptism of the heaven descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.

PRAISE SONG

Build Your Kingdom Here – Rend Collective

Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here
We pray
Come set Your rule and reign
In our hearts again
Increase in us we pray
Unveil why we're made
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope
Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit come invade us now
We are Your Church
And we need Your power
In us
We seek Your kingdom first
We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives
For You're our joy and prize
To see the captive hearts released
The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for Heaven's cause
We are Your church
And we pray revive
This earth (We're prayin' for revival)
Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here
We pray (Change the atmosphere
Unleash Your kingdom's power
Reaching the near and far
No force of hell can stop
Your beauty changing hearts
You made us for much more than this
Awake the kingdom seed in us
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ

We are Your church
Oh, and we are the hope
On earth
Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here
We pray (Change the atmosphere, build Your
kingdom here)
Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here
We pray (Let's win this nation)