

## Food for Thought

- ❖ God proved His love on the Cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, I love you. ~ Billy Graham
- ❖ All heaven is interested in the cross of Christ, all hell terribly afraid of it, while men are the only beings who more or less ignore its meaning. ~ Oswald Chambers
- ❖ Christ is the Son of God. He died to atone for men's sin, and after three days rose again. This is the most important fact in the universe. I die believing in Christ. ~ Watchman Nee  
(Written on a note found under his pillow, in prison, at his death.)
- ❖ According to the laws of legal evidence used in courts of law, there is more evidence for the historical fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ than for just about any other event in history. ~ Dr. Simon Greenleaf
- ❖ Before we can begin to see the cross as something done for us, we have to see it as something done by us. ~ John R.W. Stott



Faith Community Church  
1110 E. Cass Street  
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821



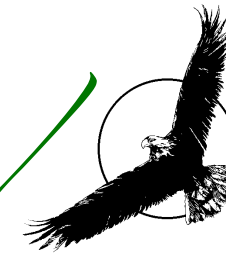
## mission

The mission of our church is to  
glorify Christ,  
proclaim the Gospel,  
reach the lost,  
and train and instruct  
Christians in the faith  
for service and daily living.

*The Voice of Faith* newsletter is a publication of Faith Community Church (an Evangelical Free church). Editor is Sharon Meier. Sunday Worship is at 10:15 a.m. Website is [www.faithchurchpdc.org](http://www.faithchurchpdc.org) Visitors are very much welcome!

If you wish to mail this, fold it in half, tape the open sides, and place a postage stamp here.

# The VOICE of Faith



Speaking the truth in love  
Faith Community Church  
(an Evangelical Free church)

Volume 27 Number 4

APRIL 2018

## The Power of Jesus' Work

by Pastor Kevin Dick

Christians around the world, including those of us at Faith Community Church, are entering Passion Week or Holy Week. The week begins with Palm Sunday which is the first day of Passion week when Jesus comes to Jerusalem riding on a donkey and the crowds welcome him as a Messianic king. This special week concludes with Easter or Resurrection Sunday. In between are momentous days for Jesus preparing his disciples for his departure, trials before the Sanhedrin and Roman authorities, and events leading to his crucifixion and death.

The four gospel writers each give an account of this week, including various details which are the same and, also with some variations. But when all is said, they all describe the humiliation and suffering of Jesus by his death, and the exaltation of his victory over sin and death through the resurrection. From these significant and meaningful events we are lead to know the truths of our salvation and the hope of eternal life.

Our services on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday will be filled with rich truths, yet it is impossible to capture all their meaning and importance. The scope of what Jesus accomplished for our salvation and meaning of the gospel can never be fully understood, but we can take lessons and applications of the events for our spiritual growth.

During the special services of Holy Week, I would like to have us focus on the importance of reconciliation. Faith Church has been through some difficult days in the past few years where conflict has been present. Reconciliation between

God and man, and reconciliation between Christians who are in conflict, find their basis from the events surrounding the cross.

The Apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:18, "All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." The basis of any attempt to have a ministry of reconciliation must come through a view of the cross and Christ's redemptive work. This is your ministry and my ministry as part of God's family.

The Transition Team has begun the process of seeking reconciliation with previous pastors and people who have left the church. The primary goal is to seek God-honoring reconciliation so broken relationships can be repaired. There are no guarantees that every past conflict will be completely resolved, but we must be faithful to do our part to follow Jesus' example and teaching.

What is ultimately at stake is the truthfulness of Christ's death and resurrection. Our salvation and eternal life rests entirely on these historical events. Our reconciliation to God and our reconciliation to other believers is based in the power of Jesus's accomplished work for us. During this Holy Week, let us embrace in fresh ways the power of Jesus' work on the cross and the hope of the resurrection which make all attempts at reconciliation possible.



### Resurrection Sunday Schedule

Breakfast served from 8:30 - 9:30  
Worship/Celebration Service 10:15



## SURRENDERED

by Dorothea Horsfall

I lift my arms up in surrender  
 as a child lifts her arms to her parents  
 for love, protection, provisions;  
 for safety, for a hug.

I lift my arms up in surrender  
 to You, my Father God,  
 who meets all my needs  
 before I need them.

Great are You in love for Your child - me!  
 I lift my arms up in surrender  
 to You, my Father God.

**Editor's note:** Dear Dorothea entered her home in Heaven the morning of March 15. Now she is praising, worshiping, and loving our Lord Jesus in person, face to face. Dorothea was a member of Faith Community Church since October of 2009. She liked to stay in the background, quietly serving through baking goodies for One Way Club, Young at Heart senior lunches, and the Community Care Clinic; sending cards; making phone calls; writing poetry; praying; giving gifts, and more. She was a loyal friend and beloved sister in Christ. She is greatly missed. The honesty and passion of her heart has spoken gently to us since the April 2012 edition of *The Voice of Faith*. We will continue to publish her work through the end of this year, Lord willing, as a tribute to this great woman of generosity, faith, love, and courage. Please pray for her family as they grieve her loss.



If my calculations are correct then this next newsletter arrives on Palm Sunday, which celebrates the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem (aside: one of the very few examples of all 4 gospels writing on an event). He is hailed by the people as the church leadership (Pharisees) looked on plotting His death.

Between this Sunday and the next one is an extraordinary week packed with incredible teachings from Jesus on the eternal and essential issues of life. The following Sunday is Easter. Easter. What does Easter mean to you? Is it as important as Christmas?

Easter is the cornerstone of our Christian faith. Why? Because if Easter wasn't, then we are still without hope! But we **do** have hope because of who Jesus was and is. John 18:27 tells us that Jesus came to witness to the truth. He invites us to come to Him (Matthew 11:28). Jesus told us in His word that He came so that we could have life, and life abundantly (John 10:10). And this only scratches the surface of what has been purchased for us.

The question really is personal - what do you think about Easter. How do you observe all that transpired and celebrate your victory because Jesus did live. Did die. Did rise again. And He continues forever. Do you remember that He did it for you? Because even if you were the only one Jesus would have done everything just for you - how does this change you? Until you internalize what Easter accomplished, you can't walk in the victory Jesus' life, death, and resurrection provides for you.

### Be encouraged!

You can read more of Carolyn's thoughts at <http://yourthoughtsandbeliefs.blogspot.com/>



## Bottled Up Tears

by Sharon Meier

It's hard for me to cry. Tears don't come very easily, and when they do, it's not very pretty! But I have come to see that tears are a true blessing.

I have witnessed many tears in prison. Some of the biggest, baddest people I've ever met have burst into tears at one time or another. They have been just as surprised and unprepared as I was! Tears of rage, grief, despair, longing, regret, fear, remorse, frustration, and best of all...repentance.

Though initially embarrassment causes some awkwardness, the end result is usually some kind of relief. Tears are God's way of flushing out toxins from our emotions as well as our eyes. Some of these emotions have been suppressed for years, building up into pressures unbearable for the strongest of us. Tears humble us, relieve us, and tenderize us (if we allow them) so that we can hear God better.

King David, a manly man by all accounts, said this to God in Psalm 56:8

*"You number my wanderings;  
 Put my tears into Your bottle;  
 Are they not in Your book?"*

It seems I have mentioned tears quite often lately in my articles for this newsletter. That's because I've been seeing them a lot. When I do, I love to share this verse that indicates that God highly values our tears. He stores them in His bottle!!! What a thought!

Jesus shed tears, angry tears, sorrowful tears, pain-sharing tears. He promises someday to wipe the tears from our eyes, but for right now, tears are a pathway to joy and peace, reconciliation and redemption, to freedom and wisdom. Let's thank God for the blessing of tears.

Lord Jesus, man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, please help me shed tears for the pain and loss of others because it helps them in their grief. Who cares if it's not pretty or neat when it's so healing and redemptive? That's the most important part by far. Thank You!

**Prison Ministry Meeting  
 Sunday, April 8, at 12:15 p.m.**

[https://www.facebook.com/  
 PrisonFellowshipWisconsin](https://www.facebook.com/PrisonFellowshipWisconsin)

## The Birth that Ended Death

*"For as in Adam all die,  
 even so in Christ shall all be made alive."  
 1 Corinthians 15:22*

People ask, "Why is there death and suffering in the world? Is this the way God wants it?" The Bible's clear answer is an emphatic "No!" The world God created in the beginning had no death, suffering or disease. When God created mankind, man knew God with a perfect knowledge and was happy with that knowledge. God and man communicated with each other more simply and easily than we can between ourselves today. This is what God wanted for man.

However, God did not create robots. He wants us to love Him, but this involves our will to do so and the choice not to do so. God warned us that choosing not to love Him, or turning our back on Him, would result in death. We have to admit that even Christians sometimes withdraw their love for God. The resulting suffering in this world is only a warning of the eternal consequences of our sin.

God came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ and died for us that our death may not be eternal. Jesus lived a perfect and sinless life and, while He deserved no punishment for sin, He willingly suffered that punishment on our behalf. His resurrection from the dead was God the Father's signal that He had accepted Christ's sacrifice on our behalf. In Christ, our death has become a mere passage to eternal life.

~ written by Pastor Paul Bartz  
 and taken from  
[www.creationmoments.com](http://www.creationmoments.com)



**Daud Murmu, Dayalu Batak  
 Christian Ashirwad, Roghu Mahapatro**

Missionaries serving  
 with Gospel for Asia

[www.gfa.org](http://www.gfa.org)

## Sacred Assembly

by Howard Slotman  
Transition Team Captain

Pastor Kevin has been leading the "Making Peace" study. In it, Jim Van Yperen has explained four types of negative responses to conflict: Passive, Evasive, Defensive and Aggressive. Within our congregation, each of us can probably identify others who have exhibited one or more of these behaviors in the past. But that is not the point. The real question is how have I responded negatively, either by action or inaction. I need to repent of those sins, claim the forgiveness that Jesus offers, and seek reconciliation with those I have sinned against. This should be simple obedience to God's Word. We are called to live out the redemptive story of God's salvation in front of each other and the world.

As members of the Transition Team, we have been identifying negative communication characteristics in ourselves along with a determination to change personally and to move the congregation in positive directions so we can be a better example of Jesus' love in this community.

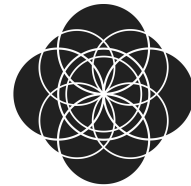
I've been asked about the responses we have received to our reconciliation activities. In general the word that comes to mind is "cordial". Not rejection nor an eagerness to return but rather a relationship in which one can meet and talk without hackles rising or defensives flying up. We will continue to focus on reconciliation at least until the **Sacred Assembly** which we are planning for **April 15th**. Other than the date, we have not planned any details of this event, so more will need to be communicated later.

After the **Sacred Assembly**, the Transition Team will transition back to a Search Committee. Much of the initial search work has already been completed so we should be able to progress fairly rapidly through the first activities of a search process. Prayer requests for the team: Emotional strength and an ability to show God's redemptive love as we work on reconciliation, and discernment in our decisions. Pray for yourself and the rest of the congregation that all of us will become proficient at speaking the truth in love as we have been commanded in Ephesians 4:15.

## Faith Kids' BIRTHDAYS!



11 Lydia Mullikin  
30 Izy Olson



QUARTERLY  
Meeting

Sunday, April 29, at noon  
followed by a potluck lunch



"THESE ARE WRITTEN  
so...that by  
BELIEVING  
you may have  
**LIFE**  
IN HIS NAME."  
JOHN 20:31, ESV



Mowing season will be upon us soon! Will you consider being on the Mowing Team from mid-April to mid-October? If so, please sign up at the Information Center or on the tear-off section of your church bulletin. Thank you!



SPRING WORK DAY  
AT THE CHURCH  
SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 8:00 - ?

Indoor and outdoor projects:  
Something for everyone to do!  
Hope to see you there!



Saturday, March 21  
5:30 - 8:30 at the church

A **Guys Night Out** is a monthly event for men who want to get together with other men and have a great time eating, playing, studying God's Word. The study is on the **Names of God** as presented by Tony Evans via DVD.

**Cost:** free will donation

**Sign-up:** You may sign up at the Information Center in the church lobby or call George Schneider to make a reservation.

## Thank You for the Privilege

by Helen J Peak

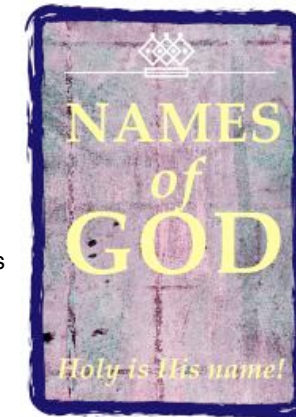
Dear Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,  
Thank you for the privilege of being Yours,  
and for the promises You have given us,  
for we know these promises are secure.

Thank You for the gift of faith in Your blood  
which was shed for us!  
We are so blessed in this great truth  
as You are the surety for our trust.

So many privileges and honors  
You give to us who believe;  
You have given us the right to know  
that all these gifts, we will receive.

Thank You, Almighty God, for the honor  
of surveying the Savior's cross,  
and giving us the knowledge that because of it,  
our salvation can never be lost.

**Editor's note:** This was penned in 2008 by my mother who will celebrate her 91st birthday this month. Though she is no longer able to write what is in her heart, she still has a voice in her poetry. I urge you to think about giving your family a written record of your love for the Lord and your love for them. It will be a keepsake for them. God keeps a record of your conversations about Him with others, and delights in them...a keepsake for Him. Check it out in Malachi 3:16-17.





### QEREN YESHA'

the Horn of My Salvation  
(rescue, deliverance)

"The Lord is my Rock and my  
Fortress and my Deliverer;  
My God, my Strength,  
in whom I will trust;  
My Shield and the Horn  
of my Salvation,  
my Stronghold."

Psalm 18:2 NKJV

# April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Resurrection Sunday 8:30 AM Breakfast 10:15 AM Worship Service 	<b>2</b> 8:15 AM Fresh Start Fitness 6:30 PM Prayer Time 7:30 PM Elder Board meeting	<b>3</b> 6:45 PM Peacemaking	<b>4</b> Bulletin Deadline	<b>5</b> 8:15 AM Fresh Start Fitness	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Communion Community Needs Fund 10:15 AM Worship Service 12:15 PM Prison Ministry Meeting	<b>9</b> 8:15 AM Fresh Start Fitness 6:30 PM Prayer Time	<b>10</b> 6:30 PM Trustee Board Meeting	<b>11</b> Bulletin Deadline	<b>12</b> 8:15 AM Fresh Start Fitness	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Newsletter Deadline 10:15 AM Sacred Assembly	<b>16</b> 6:30 PM Prayer Time	<b>17</b> Bulletin Deadline	<b>18</b> Bulletin Deadline	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8:00 AM Spring Work Day 5:30 PM Guys Night Out 
<b>22</b> 10:15 AM Worship Service	<b>23</b> 6:30 PM Prayer Time	<b>24</b> Bulletin Deadline	<b>25</b> Bulletin Deadline	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Food Pantry Sunday 10:15 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Congregational Meeting 1:00 PM Potluck Lunch	<b>30</b> 6:30 PM Prayer Time	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

*“He is not here! He is risen, as He said!”*

Matthew 28:6

## Thank you, April Volunteers!

Date	Church Cleaning	Fellowship Time	Greeters	Mowing	Ministry Highlight	Nursery	Trustee Duties	Ushers
1	Part One: Jones Part Two: Saylor	Breakfast	John & Sandy Goree	Steve Hyer	None	Not staffed	Erv Jones	John Goree Cody Saylor Todd Elfstrom Alan Olson
8	Part One: Mathre/ Fish Part Two: Goree	Chad & Shelly Gruber	John & Sandy Goree	Howard Slotman	Information Services	Heather Saylor Allison Miller	Erv Jones	John Goree Cody Saylor Todd Elfstrom Alan Olson
15	Part One: Collins Part Two: Grob	Peggy Dick	John & Sandy Goree	Bob Meier	Men	Diane Slotman Sarah Aspenson	Erv Jones	John Goree Cody Saylor Todd Elfstrom Alan Olson
22	Part One: Peak Part Two: Irish	Donna Lorenz	John & Sandy Goree	Todd Elfstrom	Outreach	Rachel Peak Bob Meier	Erv Jones	John Goree Cody Saylor Todd Elfstrom Alan Olson
29	Part One: Gruber Part Two: Mathre*	Erv & Mary Jones	John & Sandy Goree	Cody Saylor	Women	Amy Olson Cary Kann	Erv Jones	John Goree Cody Saylor Todd Elfstrom Alan Olson