

## Food for Thought

- ❖ The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the single greatest event in the history of the world. It is so foundational to Christianity that no one who denies it can be a true Christian.  
~ John MacArthur
- ❖ Because of the empty tomb, we have peace. Because of His resurrection, we can have peace during even the most troubling of times because we know He is in control of all that happens in the world.  
~ Paul Chappell
- ❖ Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with the resurrection.  
~ Watchman Nee
- ❖ Jesus Christ did not come into this world to make bad people good; He came into this world to make dead people live.  
~ Lee Strobel
- ❖ We live and die; Christ died and lived!  
~ John Stott
- ❖ Few people seem to realize that the resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone to a worldview that provides the perspective to all of life.  
~ Josh McDowell



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!

The

# VOICE of Faith

*Speaking the truth in love*

Faith Community Church  
(an Evangelical Free church)

APRIL 2019

Volume 28 Number 4

## Living Hope

by Pastor Kevin Dick

We celebrate Easter this spring on Sunday, April 21. Millions of Christians around the world will gather to remember the events of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. For many, the basic facts are understood - Jesus was arrested, crucified, and three days later, God raised him from the dead.

It is easy to have the sequence of events memorized. Yet, we must not make Easter a one-dimensional holiday when it really is a multi-dimensional, life-transforming way of life. We come to realize that the resurrection is not just Jesus' story, but our story as well. As unique and special as Jesus' resurrection is, the New Testament writers apply its implications to our lives.

Two implications are important for us to consider. First, Jesus' resurrection proves that those who put their trust in Jesus have life after physical death. There is life beyond the grave in which our physical bodies will suffer decay. But, death for us becomes a transition point, not an ending point. When our hearts stop beating, our lungs stop breathing, and our brain waves cease to function, it is not the end. God made us to last forever. Jesus' promise in John 11:25,26 stands: "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who who lives and believes in me shall never die."

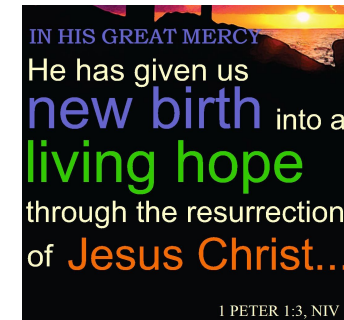
Jesus proved he could fulfill this promise by his resurrection. Otherwise, there would be no reason to believe it. If Jesus had not died on the cross and been resurrected more than 2000 years

ago, we would have zero chance of getting to heaven - no hope of an afterlife and no certainty of eternal life.

A second implication is that the resurrection shows Jesus has victory of death and sin. Paul in Romans 6:23 says, "the wages of sin is death." In our sinful and fallen condition we could never have victory over our sinful condition.

Our connection or union with Jesus through faith guarantees we can conquer sin. We are given assurance that sin no longer has absolute mastery over us. The power of the resurrection provides hope God's redeeming work conquers our sinful predisposition.

As we recall the events in Jesus' life that led up to his resurrection, let us not only remember his pain and suffering leading up to the crucifixion, the events surrounding his burial, and the amazing restoration of life by resurrection, but also the eternal truths which give us hope and certainty for our days on earth. In Easter, we see events but also truths which take us from black and white to living color in that one day. If you trust in Jesus, he will raise you from the grave, too.





# HOLY WEEK

**Palm Sunday Service**  
10:15 a.m. on April 14

**Good Friday Service**  
7:00 p.m. on April 19

**Resurrection Day Schedule**  
on Sunday, April 21  
Breakfast from 8:30 - 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service at 10:15 a.m.

*He is*  
**THE ONE**  
*appointed*  
**BY GOD**  
*to be*  
**JUDGE**  
*of the*  
**LIVING**  
*and the*  
**DEAD.**

ACTS 10:42, ESV

**A Discipleship 101 Class**  
**is offered to teens and adults**  
**each Sunday morning from**  
**9-10 in the Fellowship Hall.**  
**Hope to see you there!**



## Why buy the lie?

God can't use me! Jesus is my Lord, but you don't know what I was and how I did all those terrible things. There's NO WAY I can be used. News flash... that's a lie! Of course you aren't worthy, but that's not the issue... that was then. Bottom line: YOU **can't** look at yourself with yesterday's eyes! Yes, you were all that, but when you were saved, you became a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). That is **your** new beginning and God has a plan for you!!! But it is YOUR choice to say 'yes' to the Lord.

"For **all** have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

Well... now you know you aren't alone – we've all come as sinners. But did this reality stop God? No! So why buy the lie and believe you can't be used. I read a post that shared all the people God used and who they were. Example: King David... had an innocent man killed so he could have that man's wife. Abram... tried to circumvent God's plan by conceiving a child with his wife's servant (upon the wife's insistence). Paul, who *was* Saul,... tried to wipe out Christianity by killing Christians. There are other examples. Who are you to say that God can't use you?

If He is able to save, He is able to enable, equip us to serve. It's truly up to us to change our focus from who we were to who we can become in Him. Jesus told us...

"...Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit,..." (John 15:5, ESV)

## Be encouraged!

Carolyn's new book, *The Start (Journey of Discovering)* is now available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).  
*Challenging, thought-provoking, insightful. Use it as a personal inventory of your walk with Jesus.*



## Resurrection Man

by Sharon Meier

I talked with a man today who was dead, was resurrected, and is now an ambassador. Though I can't reveal his name, it is known to God, the angels, and increasingly to his fellow inmates.

His childhood was ravaged by abuse, neglect, and abandonment. His choices became more and more bizarre and destructive as he entered adulthood. His body is covered with scars and tattoos testifying to his hopelessness, rage, and bitterness. Everything he touched turned to dust and ashes and heartbreak. He was on the very brink of losing his mind when... when Jesus came... through a fellow inmate representing Jesus who shared with him the good news of God's saving grace and mercy. At first, he was enraged and hostile. But over time, he softened as hope was held out to him like a rope to a drowning man. The "good news" started seeping through the cracks in his hard heart and ended up as tears on his sin-stained face. The resurrected Lord Jesus Christ grabbed his dead, putrid, rotting spirit and brought him to life in a fraction of a second when he confessed his sin, his need, and his desire to be forgiven. The God-Man, who Himself rose from the dead, utilized His resurrection power on a "dead" man sprawled out on a dirty prison cell floor and brought him out of darkness into His marvelous kingdom of light.

He is now seeking out others with whom to share this "good news". His smile is radiant, his joy infectious, his fervor tempered by patience. He is truly a "resurrection man". I feel privileged to know him in his new identity as my brother. If you know the resurrected Jesus Christ, this man is also your brother, and someday you will know his name and shake his hand.

<https://www.facebook.com/PrisonFellowshipWisconsin>

## Consider the Seed

*When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn't grow into a plant unless it dies first. And what you put in the ground is not the plant that will grow, but only a bare seed of wheat or whatever you are planting. Then God gives it the new body He wants it to have.*

**A different plant grows from each kind of seed.**

1 Corinthians 15:36-38 NKJV

Can the dead come back to life? While many scientists assure us that they cannot, the empty grave of Christ assures us that in Him everyone who trusts in His saving work on the cross of Calvary will live bodily with Him forever. When modern science tries to raise doubts about the bodily resurrection of Christ, just keep in mind that science cannot even explain the miracle of the seed.

Any seed, whether an ordinary bean seed, an acorn or a coconut, is a marvel of life. Consider the oak tree. Within the acorn, weighing less than an ounce, is a tiny embryonic oak tree, enough nutrition to get the young tree started on its own and all of the coded information needed not only to direct the start of growth, but to also guide the design and development of tons and tons of tree!

If it had been up to the first plant to figure out how to accomplish this miracle [of reproduction] by trial and error, we would still be waiting for the first seed to develop! But Scripture solves this problem for us by clearly stating that God is the author of all life! Besides Scripture's clear statement on the matter, it seems most unscientific to say that the tiny, packaged bundle of life we call a seed was not carefully designed and created but came about by chance.

And as the seed in the ground shakes off its old, dry coat to burst forth in vibrant new life, let each of us look to Christ to shake off the old and decayed and allow Him to place on us the vibrant new life He gives us through His resurrection.

~ Written by Pastor Paul Bartz, Steve Schwartz and Paul Taylor  
[www.creationmoments.com](http://www.creationmoments.com)



We support four **Gospel for Asia** missionaries and their families: Daud, Dayalu, Christian, and Roghu.  
[www.gfa.org](http://www.gfa.org)



# April 2019

# Faith Community Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 6:30 PM Prayer Time meeting 7:30 PM Elder Board	6:30 PM Prayer Time meeting 7:30 PM Elder Board	6:30 PM Prayer Time meeting 7:30 PM Elder Board	Bulletin Deadline 5:45 PM Family Meal 6:15 PM Clubs & Classes 7:00 PM Closing Program	Bulletin Deadline 5:45 PM Family Meal 6:15 PM Clubs & Classes 7:00 PM Closing Program	12:00 PM Cym Reserved until 6	12:00 PM Cym Reserved until 6
Community Needs Fund Communion 9:00 AM Discipleship 101 10:15 AM Worship 12:15 PM Prison Ministry Meeting 3:00 PM Read Bible Aloud	6:30 PM Prayer Time	6:30 PM Trustee Board Meeting	Bulletin Deadline	Bulletin Deadline	8:00 AM Spring Work Day	8:00 AM Spring Work Day
Newsletter Deadline 9:00 AM Discipleship 101 10:15 AM Worship 3:00 PM Read Bible Aloud	6:30 PM Prayer Time	6:30 PM Prayer Time	Bulletin Deadline	Bulletin Deadline	Good Friday 7:00 PM Service	7:00 PM Service
Resurrection Sunday 8:30 AM Breakfast served until 9:45 10:15 AM Worship	6:30 PM Prayer Time	6:30 PM Prayer Time	Bulletin Deadline	Bulletin Deadline	5:30 PM Guys Night Out	5:30 PM Guys Night Out 
Food Pantry Sunday 9:00 AM Discipleship 101 10:15 AM Worship 12:00 PM Quarterly Meeting 1:00 PM Potluck Lunch 3:00 PM Read Bible Aloud	6:30 PM Prayer Time	6:30 PM Prayer Time	Bulletin Deadline	Bulletin Deadline	5:30 PM Guys Night Out	5:30 PM Guys Night Out
<p><b>HE ISN'T HERE! HE IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, JUST AS HE SAID WOULD HAPPEN. COME, SEE WHERE HIS BODY WAS LYING.</b></p> <p>LUKE 12:28 NLT</p>						

# April Volunteers



Date	Church Cleaning	Fellowship Time	Greeters	Ministry Highlight	Nursery	Trustee Duties	Ushers	Mowing
7	Part One: Slotman Part Two: Mansfield	Sue Mathre Heather Saylor	Erv & Mary Jones	None	Bob Meier Miah Miller	Erv Jones	Cody Erv John Ryan	Steve Hyer
14	Part One: Mathre/Fish Part Two: Saylor	Chad & Shelly Gruber	Erv & Mary Jones	Missions	Sue Mathre MaryAnn Haug	Erv Jones	Cody Bob John Ryan	Erv Jones
21	Part One: Schneider Part Two: Collins	None	Erv & Mary Jones	None	Sandy Goree Katherine Lein	Erv Jones	Cody Brandon John Ryan	Chuck Mansfield
28	Part One: Irish Part Two: Mathre*	Peggy Dick (Quarterly Meeting)	Erv & Mary Jones	Welcome	Merideth McClendon Heather Saylor	Erv Jones	Cody Brandon John Ryan	Nick Johnson