

Wednesday, April 24, 2019



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Greetings,

I hope you find this devotional helpful in your daily journey.

Blessings, Pastor Dan

## Reflection: New Life

Greetings:

This past Sunday we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus, following his death upon the cross. Nothing could have kept Jesus on the cross, not the nails, not the soldiers, not the decree to crucify him. Only love... He bore the weight of all the things we have done to hurt ourselves, each other, and the creation... and yet still chooses to embrace us. The cross represents humanity's collective response to God... yet it is not God's final word.

It is one of the mysteries of the cross that we are invited to experience life through death. When we think of resurrection, why speak of death? Because certain things must come to an end: selfishness, fear, greed, pride, covetousness, isolation, self-loathing, contempt - any motivation which leads to the debasing of ourselves and those around us, even death itself. Like smoke going up a fireplace chimney, none

of it will be left.

All these things

*must* end, as they cannot exist in the fullness of God's presence. Through Jesus' coming, he has put an endpoint on it and through His death we are invited into the birth of a new creation. A new way of being together as a new community, to be a holy people, where kindness, peace, beauty, compassion, wonder, hope, joy, grace, abundance and celebration are the operatives, rather than the exception. We are called to experience for ourselves the miracle of the first day of the new creation. Let us let go of the past – and let God's Spirit transform us and our lives from actions and motivations that lead to death into new life. He is risen, he is alive!

Grace & Peace, Pastor Dan

# Upcoming Dates

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Monday: Bounty Food Bank: 9 am to Noon, Volunteers welcome.

Friday: *Bounty Food Bank* needs Volunteers every Friday for food pickup and storage help. Call 253-335-7860.

Next Sunday: Worship Service 11:00

Monthly

1st Saturday: Bethany Garden Club - 11:30 a.m.

2nd Thursday: Finance/Trustees - 6 p.m./7 p.m.

2nd Saturday: Food Bank Board Meeting - 10:30 a.m.

Food Bank Open - 1:00 p.m. ~ 3:00p.m.

**May**

11th - Ad Council 11 a.m.

A FEW PERFORMERS NEEDED! - Thank you to all that helped with "A Visit to the Last Supper: Words from the Disciples."

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## **Bounty Food Bank Item of The Week: Soup**

This week, consider adding this item to your food bank donation. Also - We are always needing plastic bags - So, if you shop where they still give out plastic bags, the food bank would love to take them off your hands.

Please keep in your prayers...

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Marjorie Leppard

Dee Baker

Laura Tippie

Liz Best

Gail Rocheleau

Mary Egeland

James & Jenifer Angus

Rev. Barbara Brown

Elaine & Jerry Ramsey

Anderson-Gammel family

Judy Egan & her family

Danielle - and family

Please continue to keep our U. Methodist church in your prayers as we reflect on what occurred at the Conference in St. Louis.