



**BETHANY UNITED METHODIST**  
Church Office: (253) 475-7098  
email: [bethanytacomaumc@gmail.com](mailto:bethanytacomaumc@gmail.com)  
web: [www.bethanytacoma.com](http://www.bethanytacoma.com)  
5634 South Park Ave.  
Tacoma, WA 98408

Greetings,

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

Blessings, Pastor Dan

## Reflection: Witness

Greetings:

Easter has always been meaningful to me, however one particular Easter Sunday took on even more significance for me, in large part because we had six funerals at the church over the previous month and a half. That sounds strange even as I write it, yet Easter is about God's power of love over death. The first century witness of the Christian faith community concerning the resurrection was unanimous. It was not "just" a healing or, like Lazarus, a return from the dead, but something that transcended even death itself. The witness and veracity of that event empowered the early followers of Christ to attest to that fact even to point of the sword or death. Admittedly, there were early detractors and those who tried to subvert the claim; for instance, those who tried to pay off the guards and have them assert that His body was stolen. Even today, there are those who for various reasons seek to dismiss or discredit the claim. I know that it is not always easy to believe, and at times doubts may surface since we are not given the

benefit, as Thomas was, to put our fingers in Jesus's wounds. For over two thousand years the faithful have resonated to the claim that He is risen, He is risen indeed. Through His resurrection He has opened the door, for those who have fallen asleep shall awake again in His presence.

With that in mind, as we journey together this Easter season, I would ask that you join with me in a prayer that comes from our memorial services: *When all else fails, You still are God. We pray to You for one another in our need, and for all, anywhere, who mourn. To those who doubt, give light; to those who are weak, strength; to all who have sinned, mercy; to all who sorrow, Your peace. Keep true in us the love with which we hold one another. In all our ways help us trust You. And to You, with Your Church on earth and in heaven, we offer honor and glory, now and forever. Amen*

Blessings, Pastor Dan

# Upcoming Dates

---

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

18th - Ad Council 11 a.m.

**Thank you to all that prepared to be at the fund raiser - Pizza event. It will happen.**

---

## **Bounty Food Bank Item of The Week: Canned Fruit**

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...

Marjorie Leppard

Rev. Barbara Brown

Elaine & Jerry Ramsey

Liz Best

Gail Rocheleau

Mary Egeland

James & Jenifer Angus

Laura Tippie

Danielle - and family

Anderson-Gammel family

Judy Egan & her family

Tonya Dean

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