

From: FCCV (fccv@snet.net)
To: fccv@snet.net;
Date: Thu, April 5, 2012 2:26:26 PM
Cc:
Subject: Pastor's Weekly Email

"If I were to come to church only once a year, I should choose Easter. Easter is a better choice than Christmas. Christmas doesn't have death in it, not at its very center anyway, and if you are going to go to church once a year, church should have death in it. Christmas does have animals and presents and babies and stars. These are all splendid things. And Christmas has birth. But Easter has death and rebirth. Birth is essential, but for our spiritual journey, death and rebirth are far more consequential." -
Forrest Church

Spiritual Maturation---at points in each of our journeys, we grow spiritually and I believe a major step in maturing spiritually comes when one's enthusiasm and hope for Easter grows larger than that for Christmas. It usually takes a few experiences with grief and death for one to realize how deeply our hearts hunger for God's presence in our lives. But when we get there, our hearts yearn for those opening notes of "Christ the Lord is risen today" in ways that dwarf our hearts' yearnings in earlier years for a new bike, iPod, or baseball glove.

May this Easter be for you a time when you can sense, taste and experience death and rebirth in your daily lives and routines so that the glory of a new day, alive, can empower you to know life eternal, here and now, now and forever.

Pastor David

+++++

Last Sunday, our festival day began with the voices of our Cherub Choir and the children's procession of celebrating the palms. Together, we re-enacted the triumphal entry with shouts of Hosanna and the waving of the palms. During the service, we were blessed with the music of the Little Bells, our children's bell choir, and with the Carillon singers joining with the Sanctuary Choir for the morning anthem. The morning's message focused on the ways in which Jesus embraced moral authority in response to the merciless military might of the Roman Empire in the hopes that we can follow Jesus in the living of our days.

This Sunday, Easter Sunday, our worship will be enhanced by the Joyful Noise Bell Choir, who will be playing several numbers throughout the service, the Sanctuary Choir joined by the Carillon Singers, and a brass trio of church members (James Montlick, Erin Diette, and Peter Melander). As has been the practice in recent years, the service will conclude with the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus. Those who are familiar with this majestic piece of music are welcome to join the choir in singing it. Extra copies of the score will be available.

The morning message for Easter will focus on the life-giving tension between facts and faith.

Easter services in the Sanctuary will be held at 9 and 11 am.

+++++

A sunrise Easter service will be held at 6:15 am in the Memorial Garden . Joseph Tobin will be leading this

service which recalls the events of that morning sunrise that changed the world. Following the service, light refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall.

+++++

On Friday, April 6, the Sanctuary will be open from 12-3 pm. Joseph Tobin will be hosting this sacred time apart. All are invited to stop in during this time for reflection and prayer. Devotional materials will be available and sacred music for this holy day will be played.

+++++

On Monday, April 9, our former pastor, the Rev. Dr. Peter Brenner, and his wife Bonnie, will be returning to FCCV. At 7 pm that night, the 250th Anniversary Committee is hosting a book signing. Rev. Brenner has recently completed a memoir of his early life entitled Behind the Smile, Orphaned by Hitler's Madness. Refreshments will be served and Rev. Brenner will share some stories from his book. Copies will be available for purchase.