The Caravan

on the journey together

APRIL 2023

Preparing for Death; Living Our Lives

A letter from Pastor Charlie

If you knew you had to run a marathon, you would try to get in shape, right?

If you knew you had to take an important test, you would study, right?

If you knew you were going to face death, you would do what you could to prepare, right?

During this season of Lent, we've been focusing on life and death, with our "We Belong to God" series. My hope is to help us prepare for the inevitability of death - our own and our loved ones.

Along with discussing logistics like burial vs. cremation, organ donation, and advance directives, we can prepare by continuing to nurture our faith in God and the hope of the gospel.

At the conclusion of the classic little book Good Grief, author Granger Westberg writes:

> "At the time of great loss, people who have a mature faith…demonstrate an uncommon inner sense of strength and poise that grows out of their confidence that such a relationship with God can never be taken away from them. With such a basic philosophy, they can face any earthly loss with the knowledge that they still have not lost everything." (p. 86)

After the joyful "Hosannas" of Palm Sunday, we enter Holy Week, and we have three special worship services on Thursday and Friday (see page 2) to remember the Last Supper, the arrest and trial, and the death of Jesus. I encourage you to attend at least one of these services. While remembering the last days of Jesus is not fun, it's important for our faith as Christians and for our lives as mortal human beings.

At Easter, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, and we sing alleluia at the hope of abundant and eternal life. We actually celebrate this good news every week in worship.

Consistent patterns of worship, scripture, and prayer build up our spiritual muscles, to make us even more prepared for the inevitable storms of life.

Together we lean on each other, and together we nurture our faith in the God of abundant and eternal life. See you in church!

Charlie

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