

Note from the Pastor:

We are in the middle of Holy Week looking toward the Cross and before we know it... EASTER and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ will be here! "Christ is Risen! Christ has risen indeed!"

These past 40 days were to be instrumental in getting us to think about our commitment to being witnesses to Jesus' way. If we think about how many individuals have taught us about Jesus and shared their faith with us, we realize how much we have been impacted by the love and mercy of Jesus Christ. After the ascension of Jesus his followers were called into action to build God's church and share the good news of Jesus resurrection. Their lives were changed forever. We too, are called to do the same and our lives are changed because of it.

I am reminded of Jesus' response to his mother, Mary, on the day that she finally found him after losing track of him in Jerusalem. When she asked him, "What in God's name have you been doing?", Jesus replies "Why are you looking for me? Didn't you know I had to be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:41-52) As followers of Jesus let's include our Father's business in our lives.

There is a vision for this congregation in the years to come and this vision includes God's call for you to be a part of it. We need you to help be a part the congregation God wants Spirit of Hope to be. Achieving our goals is going to take work – spiritual, mental, and physical work. We will need to think about our ministries in light of how they will get us to where we want to be, which is nowhere we have been before. This means shaping our lives around the people we want to reach and not only the people we already have in our sanctuary chairs.

Jesus sacrificed his life for our grace filled lives and God's church. Can we sacrifice some time in order to be all things to all people? That is a hefty goal, but we can try to do what it is God is calling us to be and do. Yes, we will take one step at a time and that begins with us being filled with the Spirit. Feeling the Spirit reinforces we are on the pathway of being , serving and living not just as church members but as disciples of Jesus.

How will we be ready to help new people grow into discipleship once they connect with Christ? Well, this is where we trust our Father and our Father's business to love God's world and to go make disciples. Jesus knew even at an early age that this was His business... may it be realized... it is our business too. AMEN!