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# Voices of Faith

May 2017

## From Deb's Desk

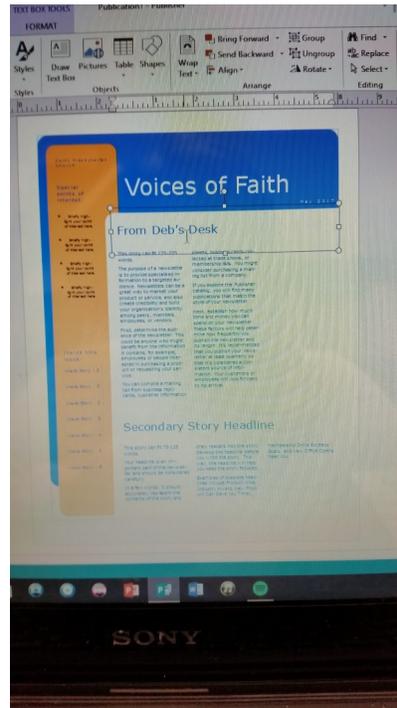
As we journey through the Great 50 Days of Easter — Easter to Pentecost — you will notice some different things happening in worship.

One of the first is that we are welcoming Rev. Catherine Neal to Faith for the first two Sundays of the great 50 days. Catherine is serving as a hospital chaplain with United Hospital System in Kenosha.

Other things will also be evident in our worship services — each week we will be using a different "Alleluia" or "Hallelujah." Our hymnal offers us many, none of them are very difficult and we can sing through some of them during the Great 50 Days.

We will also be using a different doxology or song of dedication each week. A few folks like one better than another and so we will be using several throughout this time.

Additionally, each week we will be including an Affirmation of Faith that is taken from our Book of Confessions, a part of the constitution of the PC(USA). We are using the Theological Declaration of Barmen, written during Hitler's rise to power in Germany and adopted in 1934; the Confession of 1967, written during the time of the civil rights movement, a hoped for time of



urrection and new life.

Sometimes we think of resurrection as happening only following physical death, but resurrection can happen as we break the bonds of those habits that drain us of life, those negative people or experiences that cause us pain. When we move away from those and into a new pattern of life and love, we can experience resurrection now. We can see new life blossoming in ourselves.

So throughout the Great 50 Days, allow yourself to be led by the Spirit and be renewed not only by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ but by

your own resurrection — a new outlook on life, a new relationship, a relationship renewed.

Remember, God can work wonders and does in each of our individual and corporate lives every day!

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen Indeed!

And we can be raised up too!

coming together and reconciliation; and the Confession of Belhar, written in the early 1980s, speaking out against Apartheid in South Africa, and adopted as one of our confessions at the 222nd General Assembly (2016). Given the political climate in our country, these three confessions, especially, seem relevant to us today.

While we tend to think of Lent of a time of preparation and penance leading to Easter, let us not forget that these Great 50 Days of Easter can help us reflect on the joys associated with the res-

# BAKE SALE



## Deacon News

Our Deacons are keeping busy — hopefully contacting you to let you know of things happening here at Faith and reminding you of ways you can be involved.

One way, and you all (electronic and hard copy) will receive this before it happens, is to purchase some yummy baked goods at the Bake Sale be-

ing held in conjunction with the Rummage Sale on Friday and Saturday, April 28 and 29.

A second way is to email or hand deliver recipes to either Jennifer Gallatin

[jbgallatin@gmail.com](mailto:jbgallatin@gmail.com)

or Carol Carden

[c.carden@sbcglobal.net](mailto:c.carden@sbcglobal.net)

The recipes will be included in a Deacon's Cook Book. Recipes can be of any kind: appetizers, main course, salads, desserts, holiday dishes, favorite "fellowship hour" treats — the sky is the limit. The cookbook will hopefully be ready well before the spaghetti supper in October and just in time for holiday gifts.

"...what sacrifices are we to make in our lives as individuals, as nations, and as a species, if we and the world are to be well."

## Celtic Pilgrimage

On April 20, Pastor Deb will be heading to Scotland and to the Isle of Iona. You may recall that she visited there a few years ago.

This time she will be participating in a Celtic Pilgrimage led by John Philip Newell, a Church of Scotland pastor, author, and expert in the field of Celtic Spirituality.

Each day on Iona will begin and end with the rhythm of prayer and

meditation together, either at the Abbey or elsewhere on the island. In the mornings John Philip will teach on themes related to the oneness of the human soul and the healing of creation, asking what sacrifices we are to make in our lives as individuals, as nations, and as a species, if we and the world are to be well. The afternoons will be given to hiking, conversation, and rest, and the early evenings to embodiment practices of

chant and meditative movement and further reflection on the way of transformation in our world. On at least one of the days we will walk the seven-mile island pilgrimage route together to reflect on the journey of our lives and universe.

Deb will return on May 2 and should be in the church office on May 3 (providing all goes well with US Customs in Chicago). She is using this as her study leave this year.

## Worship Time Changes — June 4

An early reminder — On Sunday, June 4, our worship time will change from 10:30 am to 10:00 am. It isn't a huge time switch but does give folks more time in the afternoon to play in the summer sunshine and still allows for those who wish to sleep in a bit on Sunday morning

time for that activity as well.

Our 10 am worship time will continue through Labor Day Week-end.



# Pentecost Offering

Each year on Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church.

Acts 2 tells the story of the Holy Spirit descending on the disciples as tongues of fire, and casts them from their place of contemplation and fear, out into the streets, preaching in languages they couldn't understand for the benefit of all the people gathered there. They told the story of Jesus and taught the people what it meant. This was the beginning of faith formation, meant to inspire and encourage all who gathered into a life-

time of faith. Then as today, the Holy Spirit empowers anyone who will receive to change their lives, to radically share, to gather across lines of difference, to join in communities of compassion and care.

On Sunday, June 4, when we gather, we will receive the Pentecost Offering. Gifts to the Pentecost Offering celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and support our congregation's efforts of faith formation in the first third of life, from childhood through young adulthood. Our congregation will retain 40 percent to be used to support

children at risk, youth and young adults in our community. The remaining 60 will be sent to the Presbyterian Mission Agency to support national initiatives of our denomination focused on helping children, youth, and young adults develop their life of faith through supportive communities, caring mentors, and faith-related nurture and service. The Pentecost Offering makes a difference for the life of the whole church and for congregations like ours.

Thank you for your support of the Pentecost Offering.



## Youth Group on the Move

The Middle School Youth Group met on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was well attended as John, Sam, Aiden, Lauren and Logan were present. After sharing lunch and some conversation we moved into our topic of the day which was "Moving Out". Whether leaving home for an overnight trip or loading a moving truck for a permanent move, youth long to know that God is present with them no matter where they go. We reflected on where God has already been involved in participants' lives when they have left home on trips or moves and considered the near future, when most will

leave their current home for work or school or else stay at home but leave their current routines and enter new worlds. We walked in the shoes of several biblical characters who left home, in the hope that as the group looks toward their own future, they are confident that God will continue to be with them. The combined (High School and Middle School Youth Groups will meet on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:30pm. Lunch will be provided. Our topic will be "What If I Don't Believe That?". Adults: If you're looking for a great time that's full of conversation and fun, please see Pastor Deb for a quick background check.

We'd love to have you join us.



"Whether leaving home for an overnight trip or loading a moving truck for a permanent move, God is with you wherever you go."

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## I'd Write for You a Rainbow — Ann Weems

If I could I'd write for you a rainbow  
And splash it will all the colors of God  
And hang it in the window of your being  
So that each new God's morning  
Your eyes would open first  
To Hope and Promise.

If I could, I'd wipe away your tears  
And hold you close forever in shalom.  
But God never promised  
I could write a rainbow,  
Never promised I could suffer for you,  
Only promised I could love you.  
That I do.

