



## *Easter and Beyond*

I firmly believe that Easter is the most important day of the year for us as Christians. This Sunday, April 16, we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Hallelujah! He is Risen! Jesus is Alive! In Easter, we celebrate the fact that Death does not get to have the last word! We have a hope and an assurance of New Life that lasts beyond this life, but which begins in this life. Without the resurrection, we would have no hope and no faith.

When Jesus rose from the dead, it set into motion a series of events which would ensure that the work of Jesus would continue forever into the future, here on earth as it is in heaven. Just 50 days later, on the Day of Pentecost, the Church was born and the people of God were set into motion. Here we stand, some 2,000 years later, on the shoulders of those who have gone before us.

I want to be sure to remind all of us that our Easter celebration does not end on Easter Sunday. Rather that's just the beginning! With that in mind, I'm looking forward to having a special time to speak with you on **Thursday, April 20 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall**, as I share thoughts about our future. We're calling it "**An Evening with the Pastor**" and there will be a dinner available from 5:30-6:30pm for a small cost of \$3 per person (\$10 max per family).

During this special visioning meeting, which is open to anyone in our congregation, I would like for us to consider the way that God is calling the Church of today into mission, especially in parts of the world like ours which are changing so rapidly. I would also like for us to consider how our local congregation, located right here in Orrville, Ohio, might best organize itself to carry out the mission of Jesus as we enter a new phase of our congregation's life cycle (aka, 'stage of life').

I am very optimistic about what God has in store for us as we look ahead. I hope you will make plans to attend not only our Easter worship services (see reminder in this email), but also to be part of "An Evening With the Pastor" on April 20.

Wishing You the Hope of the Resurrection!

*Pastor David*

April 13, 2017