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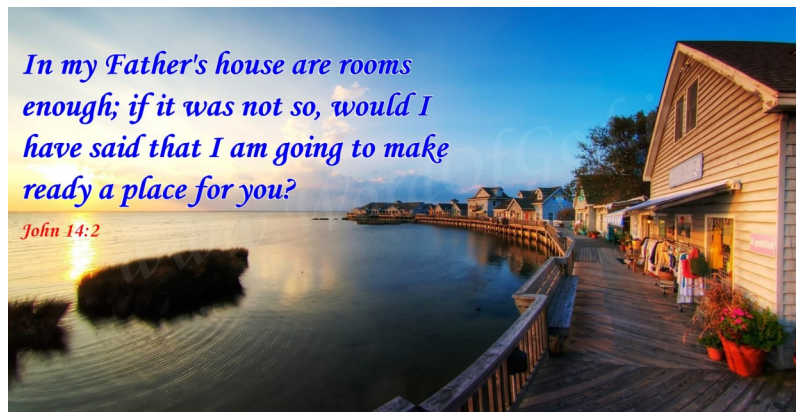


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The Good News

May 2022

PASTOR K.C.



*In my Father's house are rooms
enough; if it was not so, would I
have said that I am going to make
ready a place for you?*

John 14:2

As we continue to bask in our celebration of the Resurrection, our hearts are preparing for the next miracle of Christ—His

ascension. As we hear Jesus describe God's house as having many rooms, what do you envision in your mind about His return to Heaven? In Acts 1:1-11, the Apostle Paul writes about Christ's ascension and His promise of the Holy Spirit, both of which have tremendous impact on our Christian faith. Our study of the Scriptures and weekly worship must include both the works and character of Jesus as written in the Gospels and the ongoing role the Holy Spirit (or Holy Ghost) plays within our spiritual development.

This year, Pentecost Sunday is June 5. Let's use the month of May wisely as we look ahead to the arrival of the Holy Ghost. While the Gospel ministry of Jesus occurred in the last three years of his human life, His ascension into Heaven initiated the next phase of His holy reign. As the Scriptures referred to Jesus as our High Priest (Hebrews 2:17, 4:14), how many of you envision Him as reigning in Heaven? (Revelation 5:12-13) I want to lead you beyond the depiction of Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane to *Christ our King*—the Alpha and the Omega. Once your heart fully receives Jesus as Lord, His strength becomes our hope. Amen.



Our deepest condolences to the
family of Kristal Vezina



ERICH

On April 12, St. Paul held its monthly Consistory meeting. We decided that we will be singing again during service. We are very excited and looking forward to hearing everybody's voice again. Please remember that while we will be singing, we still encourage social distancing. We are hoping that if things progress like we hope, that we will have coffee hour starting in the fall. Please feel free to continue to wear a mask, if that is what you prefer. We want everybody to feel safe and comfortable during service. Our Constitution group has been meeting and making very good progress on updating it. One item we have been reviewing is the requirement for a co-treasurer. This person will be working with Steve Popyk. It is always a good idea that we have two sets of eyes looking at things when it comes to our finances. If you are interested, please see Steve or myself. The basket raffle was a big success. Everybody really enjoyed themselves. A big thank you to Joy for taking this project on and making it as fun as it was. The Fall raffle people are working on new items to raffle off. By the time the newsletter goes out, Easter will have come and passed. We had a beautiful service. On Palm Sunday, we had a wonderful service with the help of the kids. They really did a fantastic job. Thank you to Linda and Joyce for all their help in making that happen. We will be turning off the boilers around Mother's Day. We will be having a landscaping project coming up with planting flowers and help with mulch that we hope we can get the kids involved in and maybe a picnic afterwards. Please see Linda or I for information. Please remember if there is anything that needs attention—building, service, etc., please let a member of Consistory know, so we can address it at our meeting. Things will be changing—updates and improvements will bring us into the 21st century.





An ending and a beginning...The Ascension of Jesus appears in two of the Gospels and the book of Acts. It is the end of Jesus's sojourn on earth and, arguably, the beginning of His followers' new ministry. Scripture recounts Jesus appearing to his disciples ten times after the Resurrection, although an old tradition sets that number at twelve times. In either case, the Ascension is the final appearance of Jesus on earth. The Ascension is the transition of Jesus from

the earthly realm to the heavenly realm, in which he ascends, is literally "taken up" from earth into heaven.

Matthew and John do not include this key event in the history of Christ. In Mark, the Ascension is treated briefly and matter-of-factly, with the simple statement that Jesus is taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God (Mark 16:19). It is in Luke and Acts that we get the full "experience" of the Ascension. In Luke 24:44-49, Jesus explains to the disciples the scriptures, opening their minds to understand how he fulfills them, finally saying, "I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." (NRSV). Then he blesses them and, as he is blessing them, he is carried into heaven. They worship him, return to Jerusalem and stay continually in the temple. (Luke 24:50-53)

The account of the Ascension in Acts is different, although the result is the same. In this version, in Acts 1:1-11, Jesus does not open the scriptures to the disciples. Instead, he responds to a question they have asked him, which is whether or not this is the time the "kingdom will be restored to Israel," a common hope regarding the Messiah at that time. Jesus responds that it is not for them to know what the Father has decided, but that they will receive the "power" of the Holy Spirit, and will be his witnesses throughout the world. Here the account of the Ascension diverges even further from Luke's, for as Jesus is lifted up and a cloud takes him from their sight, two men in white robes appear, saying, "...why do you stand looking up to heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." (Acts 1:10b-11 NRSV) After this, the disciples choose one of their number to replace Judas and the familiar events of Pentecost proceed.

So in both Luke and Acts, the Ascension of Jesus ends his own direct ministry on earth and leads to the ministry of his disciples through the descent of the Holy Spirit upon them. The Ascension is possible because of Jesus's dual nature: at once both wholly human and wholly divine. After he has ascended, what then? Scripture provides that answer, too. Jesus has become a great high priest for us, one who is able to sympathize with our weaknesses, who "in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:15b-16 NRSV) The Ascension was the end of Jesus's ministry on the earth and the beginning of his high priesthood in heaven. It was also the beginning of his followers' ministry to the world, a ministry that continues today. Thus the Ascension is a key event in the history of our faith.

Dear Members of St. Paul UCC,

There is one person that comes to mind immediately from reading 1 Peter's words. My hope in writing this is to acknowledge that very amazing person that exemplifies and embodies this scripture in my life. That person is the beloved Barbara Stephens.

As many of you know, Barbara has graciously supported me, diligently visited me, humbly taught me, and wonderfully instilled the meaning of faith in my life. There are countless ways that she has been there for me and constantly gave me hope from a young age that God is so real and alive in our hearts.

I definitely do not want to sound selfish, but I cannot help but believe that God absolutely sent her to me to also become a faithful servant from her lead. All in all, I'd never ever be the man I am today without Barbara's impact on my life. To think about how it all started. A story Barbara has also flashed a smile telling.

It all started with Pastor Terri simply asking Barbara if she'd like to be there for me to help me achieve my educational endeavors. Without literally any hesitation, she accepted.

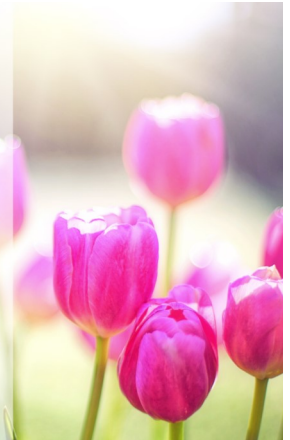
There are no words to fully describe what Barbara has meant to my life. And I also want to mention the endless other lives that she has graced and helped to such an unbelievable degree as well. She is the purest essence of what it means to be a servant of God and it has taught me to follow in that. As she has said to me numerous times, "If I can help, why wouldn't I?" So very straight forward and something she has lived effortlessly.

It is such an honor to be associated with all of you amazing people at St. Paul in any way. It has truly been life changing for me and I'll be forever grateful.

Also, thrilled to report that my lasts are really racking up! As I sit here and watch the Tigers while I write this, this is my last baseball season while here and next Tigers season, I'll be at an actual game. So moving to think about!

God bless & keep you all.

Each of you
should use
whatever
gift you have
received to
serve others,
as faithful
stewards of
God's grace
in its various
forms.
1 Peter 4:10



Ebel #752523

Newberry Correctional Facility, 13747 Co Rd 428, Newberry MI 49868



National Day of Prayer
on Thursday, May 5 at
Noon at De La Salle High
School (14600 Common
Rd). All religious faiths
are invited.

Children's Ministry



It was a very special Palm Sunday this year for the children. They did their first ever Children's Sunday as a group! They each were responsible for two parts of the service. Needless to say, they did an absolutely wonderful job! We were very proud of each and every one of them....Mikey, Tori, Amelia, and Joshua. We also got to

celebrate Amelia and Joshua's 9th birthday that very same day by singing to them in church.

With May just around the corner and warmer temperatures on the horizon, it brings a lot of new and what promises to be a lot of fun activities that we'll be planning for the kids. They were asked to give us some ideas of things they would like to do this Spring/Summer. They had some awesome ideas....scavenger hunt, tie dye shirts, chalk project with stenciling, planting of flowers in pots and buckets for our continuing landscaping project that we started last fall, project with rocks (painting them) and turning them into flowers, a couple of picnics, cleaning up around the outside of the church with some clean up of a couple of flower beds as well. Any other suggestions are welcome. Just let me know!

*My Heart
is Full*

Women's Fellowship Spring Raffle

Congratulations to all our winners—Dawn, Barb S, Bev, Stacey, Beth & Darcy!!! Thank you for the great response and participation—a good time was had by all. We were able to fundraise \$335 to go toward Women's Fellowship. What a blessing. The Michigan Basket had the most tickets. Thank you for everyone's support. See you next Spring!

Joy



Of course we are still accepting rummage!!! As I look around, I see some pretty good stuff down there, but there is still room for more. Soon, we will begin setting up and sorting and we will need help. It does not require any special talent and really not much time (we only work 2-3 hours at a time) and we always have a few laughs while we work. The rewards come on rummage day when we see some happy faces when they find that perfect something that they can't live without. Please make some time this summer to come and spend a couple of hours with us. There is always room for your helping hands.

SUE



JOYFUL NOISY
OFFERING
MAY 8, 2022



- 3 Barbara Lazzara
- 10 Clara Frangquist
- Diane Schuster
- 20 Oz Frangquist
- Esther Hornyak
- 21 Brandon Ebel
- 22 Barbara McAdam
- 23 Linda Ramsey
- 24 Joyce Karner
- 25 Gary Coleman



- 7 MIKE & LAURIE GEBERT
- 22 BRENT & CARLA GRAWBURG
- 25 MIKE & STACEY DEMARCO