

Kevin's Korner

We're approaching the end of the Season of Easter, or Eastertide. We are coming to the end of the special emphasis on resurrection in the cycle of the church year. Resurrection is another Exodus story of God leading His people out of slavery, slavery to sin, to fear, to hopelessness, slavery to anything that separates us from God and from the resurrection life that God wants for each one of us. Have you left any lifestyles, habits or attitudes that were holding you back from the joy, peace, hope and love that we find in relationship with God? Have you found resurrection in your life this Eastertide? There is still time.

On June 8th, we'll celebrate Pentecost and begin the season of the church and the Holy Spirit, or the Spirit of Christ that empowers each of us to follow the path that Jesus showed us and taught us about, the path to the kingdom reign of God. See Jesus died to set us free from sin and death. But Jesus did not come to live our lives for us. When he ascended into heaven he left behind his physical nature, where he could be present to one person or small group at a time, and now be present to all believers who are willing to let his Spirit give us comfort and life and power and guidance. But Jesus did not come to live our lives for us, or to live our church lives for us, or be the church for today for us. It's time for us to take up our own cross or crosses, take up our mantle of service, take up our calling to love and care for all people and all of creation.

Jesus came to show us the way, to live as humans created in God's image, to live as stewards of God's good creation, to live as humans in right relationship with God and God's people. Jesus came to show us how to be the family of God on earth and gave us everything we need, including the church, in order to carry on the ministry that Jesus began. Sure, we are promised that Jesus will return and complete his ministry on earth, the work of God's kingdom, the work of his church, the Body of Christ in the world.

For about a month, we've been announcing that resurrection is happening at First Christian Church. It's been happening for some time. I've seen it in the hospitality and love offered to Shannon and myself, to our unhoused neighbors, the first of whom I met at my first monthly breakfast when you invited me to meet one of our neighbors living in the park, after pouring him a cup of coffee. I've seen it in the wrestling with our present and future ministry and stewardship of our assets and building, freeing ourselves to be Christ's church in service to God's kingdom and God's people, seniors, unhoused, our neighbors. I've seen it in the hard work with Reverend Dale Matherly, our Regional Minister, rediscovering our gifts and passions for ministry and now launching new efforts for growing our church, our ministries and our presence in the community.

There is still much to do, especially being the love of Christ in a world that is showing less and less love all the time. It is time for the church to step up and be the church that Jesus launched through his disciples and his Holy Spirit. This is the season of the church. There is no institution, no government, no other kingdom or cause, that is better suited to meet this challenge and lead God's people and all of God's good creation back into healthy and whole relationship with our God and with each other. Yes, we still have a few tasks to accomplish: complete our Identity/Mission statement; develop the Vision/Future Story for us to live into; develop new small groups for relationship building and ministry; Strengthen our worship, spiritual growth, and leadership, so "everyone has a place in the choir," and "the choir" has a growing presence of love, hospitality and welcome, throughout our neighborhood and larger community.

This is what God called that small group of Disciples together for, 145 years ago. God is still calling. How are you answering? Please pray about this! God bless you all! Pastor Kevin Identity/Mission Statement Is this what God is calling us, First Christian Church, and individuals, to be and to do? Is this who we are? Please give the Vision to Action Team your feedback, through the church office, Pastor Kevin, or one of the team members. And please thank the Vision to Action Team for their hard work: Riecke Claussen, Barbara Mitchell, Melanie and Chip Ferron, Virginia Johnson, Bruce Hinds, Bonnie Watts, William Williams, Sharon Armstrong, and Pastor Kevin.

Bless you!

Pastor Kevin