

Busti Federated Church

Easter 2020

A Church for the Community

Remembrance of You...

Philippians 1:3 "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you with all joy."

Besides Boyd Matteson, I'm probably one of the most huggy person's in the church. To be honest, I've missed the "Boyd" hug, Colton Hanson buffing the top of my nearly bald head, Caitlyn Hanson picking on me like the time she slimmed my hand with Purell and seeing everyone's smiling faces on Sunday morning. Oh yeah, and the Community Friendship Time where we get to share some good treats and conversation together. I cannot speak for you, but I have to confess that I miss Church!

Sometimes we don't realize what we have until something arises that keeps us from gathering together. I am so blessed to be the pastor of the Busti Federated Church. For now, there are moments where I find myself reflecting on the different church services and events that we have done together. I love the memories that I have of all of you. Each time your faces come before me; I like the Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians "thank my God upon every remembrance of you." I feel that I might have a better understanding of Paul's feelings concerning the church. No matter what the situation is the longer we're apart, the fonder the heart grows along with the great anticipation of all of us coming back together.

There are those who say that the government has derailed the church. I don't believe that. No power on earth can derail God's purpose for His church. There are too many conspiracy theories at this time, and some of them are absolutely ridiculous. I believe there are greater days ahead for those who believe. I really believe there are greater days ahead for the church of Jesus Christ! As I pray and contemplate, my spirit is drawn to looking forward to the future when we are able to be back together again and get the BFC train all steamed up and moving forward on the track that God is leading us on.

Sure; together we're doing church in a way we never thought could possibly happen, but it doesn't change who God is and His ability to do great things. After all its EASTER!! I know that it is difficult not meeting together this great and glorious day on the Christian calendar. I feel the disappointment in not seeing one another at this time of the year. Yes, it is one of the most difficult Sunday activities to practice "Social Distancing." But the reality about Easter and for that matter every day is that the message is up front and personal. Easter is about a Savior who died on the cross, was sealed in a tomb, rose from the dead and now sits at the right hand of the Father. It's all about Jesus who paved the way for anyone who will accept His message of salvation and receive Him as Lord knowing that one day "together" those of us who are in Christ will see Him face to face.

That my friend is God's Amazing Grace. Greater days lay ahead of us, and you can count on that!

Until we meet again,
Pastor Lee

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day. Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28

I don't know what the future may hold, but I know who holds the future.

Ralph Abernathy

The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something and enter God's realm where everything is possible. He specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for His almighty power. Nothing is too small for His love.

Corrie Ten Boom

Easter Joy

Jesus came to earth,
To show us how to live,
How to put others first,
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,
That God sent Him to do;
He took our punishment on Himself;
He made us clean and new.

He could have saved Himself,
Calling angels from above,
But He chose to pay our price for sin;
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,
But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,
Like His, is just a rest.
We'll be forever with Him
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.
Help us love like you!

By Joanna Fuchs

Easter Fun Facts

- ◇ The tallest Easter egg chocolate was made in Italy in 2011. It stood at 10.39 meters and weighed an astounding 7,200 kg.
- ◇ The term Easter gets its name from [Eastre](#), the Anglo-Saxon goddess who symbolizes the hare and the egg.
- ◇ The exchange or giving of Easter eggs actually dates back to before Easter and the giving of eggs is actually considered a symbol of rebirth in many cultures.
- ◇ Peep peep... did you know Americans buy more than 700 million marshmallow Peeps during Easter? This makes Peeps the most popular non-chocolate Easter candy.
- ◇ Americans consume more than 16 million jelly beans during this holiday. That is enough jelly beans to circle the globe not once, not twice, but three times.
- ◇ Are you an ears, arms or tail person? 76% of people eat the ears on the chocolate bunny first, 5% go for the feet and 4% for the tail.
- ◇ An estimated \$14.7 billion is spent in total for Easter in the US.
- ◇ The White House of tradition of the Easter Egg Roll started back in 1878, with President Rutherford B. Hayes!
- ◇ Workers in Birmingham England, who make the famous Cadbury Creme Egg, produce more than 1.5 million egg delights a year.

Easter Offering

Many organizations are feeling the financial strain of the current pandemic and economic shutdown. Busti Federated Church has been blessed with faithful givers and we are currently on solid footing. One of the local organizations that is still working to meet the needs of those less fortunate is UCANN Ministries. Over the next couple of weeks we would like to take up a Special Easter Offering, above and beyond our normal offering, to help them. If you would like to contribute you can send a check to the church or included it with your offering, just mark it UCANN. At the end of the month we will send one donation to them. God Bless

How Can I Help???

This is a question that many people are asking as we go through this pandemic. Unfortunately, there are many people that will try to use tragedy for their gain, so here are some ideas.

The United Way of Southern Chautauqua County, Chautauqua Region Community Foundation and several other non-profits have established the Chautauqua County Crisis Response Fund with an overall goal of \$1 million.

Area non-profits will be able to apply for grants from the fund to help individuals and families with food, senior citizens' services, child care, mental health and other basic needs by visiting:
chautauquagrants.org

Other local organizations that are helping those in need include: UCAN Ministries, Love INC and St. Susan's Center. You can also connect with groups through social media that are using their skills to make needed items.

Most importantly we can all be there for each other. You can send a card with a note of encouragement or pick up the phone and just check in with someone. Generally we are a very social people and are not geared towards isolation. Together we can help each other get through this.

The Light at the End of the Tunnel

Easter weekend discussions tend to skip Saturday. We focus on Friday and Sunday. The crucifixion and resurrection command our thoughts. But we tend to ignore Saturday because nothing happened right? Far from it in fact the experiences of Jesus' followers on that Saturday can help us to understand how to live when life knocks us down.

Looking back over the past several weeks I would never have imagined experiencing everything that I have. Being asked to quarantine away from everyone to help fight a deadly enemy that you can't see but know that it's out there. When you must leave the house, taking time to consider where you will go and what precautions you will take. We can think about how life was and for the most part how it will be again but it's the unknown, the lack of control that causes stress. Depression can set in as we are forced to stay away from our families and friends. For many this experience has been a very dark time in our lives.

Going back to that Saturday the Bible doesn't tell us much. We know that Jesus was laid in the tomb prior to the beginning of the Sabbath. It is safe to assume that the eleven disciples along with other of Jesus's followers retreated to the upper room that they had celebrated the Passover only days before. I wonder what the mood was like. Were they angry, confused, guilty, scared or a combination of some or all of these? They witnessed their Master crucified and buried behind a stone. Could they be next? What would they do going forward? I would say the mood in that room was rather dark.

That Saturday was the time between the struggle and the solution; the question and the answer; the offered prayer and the answer. Saturday's silence torments us. Is God angry? Did I disappoint him? Or, maybe in your case God knows your struggling in your career, your finances are a mess, your marriage is failing, your health is declining. Why doesn't He act? What are you supposed to do until He does? What if the answer isn't what you wanted? Do you have times when you feel angry, confused, guilty or scared?

I'm reminded of a saying "It's Always Darkest Before the Dawn." It will never be any darker than it was the day Jesus died. All of hell was rejoicing that the Savior had lost. Then came the dawn. It didn't come in as a gradual lightening but one glorious flash of light as the stone was rolled away and Jesus was gone. The light at the end of the tunnel is the empty tomb. The stone wasn't rolled away to allow Jesus to leave but for us to see in and know that He had risen.

Jesus has promised all of us that same light if we simply believe in Him. During those times when you feel your life is out of control, turn over control to Jesus. Remember, no matter what happens to us in this life, as Christians we have been promised an eternity with our Lord.

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16