

First United Methodist Church

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“Keep your hands and arms inside the car at all times and remain seated throughout the ride!” This is how my first real roller coaster ride started. That was the announcement that came blaring over the speakers as the roller coaster began to move. The roller coaster authorities didn’t have to worry about me violating either of those rules on this ride. I was terrified!! As I said a moment ago, this was my first REAL roller coaster ride ever! If it wasn’t for this cute girl named Nancy (Yes, that Nancy...now my wife) that was with me and who was really excited to go on this ride, I probably wouldn’t have done it. But there I was, my heart was racing, my stomach was in knots, my hands were in a death grip on the bar in front of me. I was just hoping to survive the next two minutes!

I always think of that experience this time of year, in part, because it was on our Sioux Fall College Spring Break Choir Tour that I rode this roller coaster. So, it was this time of year that it actually happened. But I also recall this memory in this season because I wonder if how I felt in that uncertain moment as the roller coaster car jerked into motion, was how Jesus felt as he approached the final week of his earthly life, what we now refer to as Holy Week?

Think about it, the triumphant entry into Jerusalem with people singing his praises and waving palm branches, Jesus seeing the temple being misused from its intended holy purpose, the closeness of being with his disciples and celebrating the Passover, praying in the garden and feeling so alone, the arrest, the trial, the beating, the journey to “the hill...” Talk about a roller coaster ride of emotions and experiences!!

This coming week there will be a number of special services designed to help each of us make the journey of Holy Week with Jesus. It won’t be the same roller coaster ride for us that it was for Jesus, but hopefully the worship experiences will help us reflect on and see the meaning this season has for each of us and for our journey of faith today. Below is a listing of our Holy Week Worship Opportunities

- **3.24.18 - Palm Sunday** – 8:30 and 11:00 am Worship services in the main Sanctuary.
The children will process and sing at both services. Adults will also be invited to join in the processional of waving palm branches.
- **3.28.18 – Wednesday Midweek Worship** – 6:00 pm in the Chapel.
A casual worship experience. This will be a celebration of Palms.
- **3.29.18 – Maundy Thursday** – 7:00 pm Worship in the main Sanctuary
“Come to the Table” – Remembering/Celebrating the Last Supper
- **3.30.18 – Good Friday** – 7:00 pm Worship in the main Sanctuary
“Come to the Cross” – Remembering/Reflecting on the meaning of Christ’s death
- **4.1.18 – Easter Sunday** – 7:00 am Sunrise Worship – in the main Sanctuary
8:30 & 11:00 am – “Come to the Tomb” Easter Celebration
Communion will be offered at the 8:30 and 11:00 am services.

Come join us, as together we experience Holy Week and Jesus’ incredible journey of LOVE!

Serving Together,

Pastor Keith

YIKES!! It really is hard to believe it’s already Holy Week, and Easter is just a week away. This Sunday you’ll have the opportunity to order an Easter lily for our Easter Worship. The cost is \$13. The lily can be in memory or honor of a loved one. There will be a Lily Table in the Johnson Gathering Area where you can purchase and dedicate your lily for our Easter Worship Celebration.