

First United Methodist Church

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April 14, 2017

My Dad was a huge Paul Harvey fan. I'm sure some of you can relate to that. So, I listened to a lot of Paul Harvey as a youth...and even as an adult. I was especially fond of Paul Harvey's "The Rest of the Story." He always told some interesting story with a bit of a twist or surprise ending. Then Mr. Harvey would end with his famous tag line, "and now you know....the rest of the story." There was always the unknown story or the surprise in the story that once it was known brought new insight and greater meaning to the story.

This is sort of what our journey through Holy Week is like. There's all these interesting stories happening; a parade for Jesus as he comes near to Jerusalem, Jesus showing strong emotion as he upsets tables and drives the "merchants" out of the temple grounds, Jesus telling Peter, "You will deny me." -and then it actually happens. There's the story of the last supper, Jesus praying in the Garden, the arrest, the trial, the journey through streets of Jerusalem...carrying a cross, and finally there's the crucifixion.

It's in the midst of these stories that we hear such words as; "I tell you, if the people keep quiet the stones will cry out." Or "My house will be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of robbers." Or "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." Or "This is my body...This is my blood...do this in remembrance of me." Or "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." Or "I don't know the man!" Or "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Or "Father into your hands I commit my spirit."

All of these stories – all of these words represent a piece of a greater story. But there is a surprise ending. That's what makes Easter Sunday such a joy-filled moment. That's what makes it such a powerful story!! It's the surprise ending...it's the rest of the story!! The resurrection story is what helps make sense of the rest of the stories of holy week...and so much of Jesus life and ministry.

If you think about it, Jesus earthly life is framed by the unexpected. The son of God born into this world as a human (unexpected), to his death (Expected – we all will die. But the manner of his death was unexpected), to his resurrection (Unexpected). There is a lot of the "unexpected" in Jesus' life. Yet, it is the resurrection that helps make sense of it all. It's the ultimate sign, and story, telling us of God's love...and that God is doing something different in our world so that we can see God and connect with God in a new way.

Join us tonight for the Good Friday Service at 7:00 pm in the church sanctuary. Our theme is "Sacrifice..ing" as we remember the events of this day in Jesus life from so many years ago. But be sure to join us on Sunday, Easter Sunday, to hear the rest of the story and to see the fullness of the beauty and power of God's incredible story of love for you and me.

Serving Together,
Pastor Keith

Easter Sunday Schedule – 7:00 am – Youth Led Sunrise Service! Thanks Youth!!! Easter Breakfast of Egg Bake and muffins immediately following the Sunrise Service. 8:30, 9:50, and 11:00 am Celebration Worship Services. 8:30 and 11:00 will be in the sanctuary and 9:50 will be in the Chapel. Come Join Us!!!