

First United Methodist Church

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The Lord Has Risen! **HE HAS RISEN, INDEED!!** I hope after reading the first four words of this paragraph that you were automatically responding with what is typed in capitals and in bold. Some consider this to be one of the earliest creeds or the most basic statement of faith for the Christian Faith. The Lord has risen! **HE HAS RISEN, INDEED!** Every Easter Sunday I use this simple statement of faith to remind us all of what Easter Sunday is about...the Lord is Risen...**HE HAS RISEN INDEED!**

In fact all you have to do is look back to the Gospel of Luke to see what is likely the beginning of this statement of faith. As Luke tells it, there were a couple of followers of Jesus traveling from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Unbeknown to them, Jesus joined them on their journey and talked with them about all that had happened in Jerusalem. It wasn't until they sat down for a meal and they asked this "stranger" to bless their food. Jesus then took the bread, blessed it and broke it, and in something he said or did, those disciples eyes were suddenly opened to who was really in their midst...Jesus. And then he was gone.

Those disciples hurried back to Jerusalem, most likely unaware of all that had been happening throughout the day. They arrive in Jerusalem where some of the other disciples are gathered together, and maybe one or several of the disciples who had been in Jerusalem greeted the travelers with the hope-filled words, "The Lord is risen. Luke then records the spoken response by the traveling disciples in Luke 24:35, as they share a touch of their joy, "He has risen indeed..." I can just imagine how these two simple phrases became the first statement of faith for the followers of Jesus.

I believe it is important for us, as followers of Jesus yet today, to continue to share this simple and yet powerful statement of faith. These are the words that the Christian Faith is truly based on – that Christ is Alive and with us (and within us) yet today. These words tell the story of life overcoming death, of love overwhelming anger, and of hope deflating despair. These are words...this is a message that our world still need / especially needs today. So, don't be surprised if in the days and weeks to come you will hear me say, "The Lord is Risen!" And my hope is that I will hear the response, "**HE HAS RISEN INDEED!**"

Serving Together,

Pastor Keith

-Join us this Sunday for our Welcome In / Welcome Home Celebration as we give thanks for the hard work that has been completed with our sanctuary project. There will be a time of sharing by our Trustees and leadership about all that has been accomplished and all that helped make this project possible

-Join us for worship this Sunday at Downtown Mitchell First Church, as we continue the celebration of Resurrection Day. Did you know that every Sunday is supposed to be a mini Resurrection Celebration? Our worship service times are 8:30, 9:50, and 11:00 am. The 8:30 and 11:00 am services are in the main sanctuary. The 9:50 service is in the Chapel. We also have a Wednesday evening service at 6:00 pm in the Chapel. Join us and together we'll connect/reconnect our lives with God! Our location is 3:10 N. Rowley St. Mitchell